

PAKISTAN



LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME



Background

It has been the hallmark of Alight's endeavours to protect and strengthen local communities by harnessing knowledge & local resources. Alight believes that the empowered communities are always in a better position; not only to protect themselves but to support their families, promote social cohesion, sustain livelihood, ensure peaceful coexistence and rebuild their lives.

Alight ensures community-based approach in all its programs aimed at uplifting, sustainable livelihood, empowerment and protection of communities it serves. It engages communities meaningfully and substantially through consultation & participation in its programs that affect them and play a leading role in their economic and social transformation.

Alight believes in helping communities rebuild their lives by co-designing solutions and promotion of social cohesion that leave a meaningful impact on their lives. The solutions are best possible when rooted in challenges and as per the needs of the benefitting communities.

Community-based livelihoods programs bring more meaningful and sustainable livelihoods outcomes by strengthening and streamlining local resources & capacities through identification of knowledge, skills and resources gaps in consultation with target communities.

Focused on innovation and quality service delivery with geographic diversification, Alight is recognized as the partner of choice for the Government of Pakistan in livelihood, education, health, protection and socio-economic empowerment programs.

Challenges

According to the United Nations Development Programme, over 80 percent of the world's population lives in countries where income differentials are widening with the passage of time while the poorest 40 percent of the world's population account for only 5 percent of the global income. On the other hand, the richest 20 percent account for 75 percent of the world's income.

The situation is not much different in Pakistan where following factors directly or indirectly are affecting livelihood of the communities;

- Conflicts
- Governance issues
- Unemployment
- Over-population
- Unskilled labor
- Inflation
- Poverty
- Illiteracy
- Disasters (natural/manmade)

Approach

Alight's Livelihood Program is aimed at providing sustainable livelihoods to communities through multi-pronged strategies,

approaches and practices with community mobilization being the key component of its implementation strategies at all stages to achieve economic growth. Mobilisation enables communities to identify their interest and resolve concerns in line with their religious, cultural and traditional context. Alight acknowledges that communities are frequently extremely resourceful and it helps in encouraging collective thinking/action, acceptance of interventions and improves their coping strategies thereby ensuring sustainability.

The most marginalized households are helped in protecting their productive assets through food security, youth skill development, job creation & placement, vocational training, livestock, agriculture inputs provision, entrepreneurship and cash for work incentive. Assistance is provided in market-led vocational and technical skills development and job placement through linkages development.

Alight keenly observes Pakistan's progress against SDGs, specially SDG 1, 2 and 4 which are directly linked to livelihoods.

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 4: Quality education



SDG 4 Targets adopted by Alight

4.3 Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education including university.

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparity in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for vulnerable including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.



Programmes

Alight works to build healthy communities as it forms the core of its vision for social transformation as it promotes livelihoods and economic well-being of the most deprived segments of society. It advocates and acts to support them becoming more resilient by building on their existing human, physical, financial, natural and social capitals.

By forging partnerships with a range of partners comprising village committees to the government agencies, Alight helps build means to improve local communities knowledge, skills and capacity for a positive change. Alight's livelihoods program encompasses the following:

1. Youth Skill Development Program

1.1 Afghan Youth Skill Development Program

Alight partnered with Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad, to conduct a youth skill development programme in 2015. It provided Afghan youth with opportunities to acquire technical and entrepreneurial skills to generate sustainable livelihoods. The programme offered training to paramedics including Operation Theater Assistants (OTA), Medical Technicians (MT), Community Midwives (CMW), Renal Dialysis Assistants (RDA), Radiology Assistants (RA), Dental Assistants (DA) and Medical Lab

Technicians (MLT). During two years' Youth Skill Development Program, as many as 108 youth graduated and trained in seven medical disciplines;

S.#	Discipline	M	F	Total
1.	Medical Technician	19	0	19
2.	Radiology Assistant	1	5	6
3.	Dental Assistant	10	9	19
4.	Community Midwife	0	17	17
5.	Medical Lab Technician	19	0	19
6.	Operation Theatre Assistant	19	0	19
7.	Renal Dialysis Assistant	9	0	9
Total		77	31	108



All these trained youth were granted Government of Pakistan-accredited diplomas while 30 youth were provided financial assistance, 72 percent succeeded in cross border placement services in Pakistan & Afghanistan, 45 graduates placed on jobs, 30 new startups established while 65 percent reported 60 percent increase in their family income.

1.2 Gaamzan Youth Skill Development Program

Alight joined hands with Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) aiming to achieve the goal of providing employment opportunities. An AIOU certified skills development program has been launched under the project Gaamzan. The purpose of launching skills training program, was to help the marginalized communities to tackle challenges being raised by vicious cycle of poverty and become self-sustaining.



In the first phase, two marketable skill development courses on (1) Masonry (2) Sewing and Stitching introduced. Where a total of 91 youth and adolescents enrolled and graduated from these two courses. This is a success story of Alight, that after training on sewing and stitching an enterprise has been developed in which 25 women entered into an Enterprise named as “Chuk Phutuk Enterprises” (CPE). Legal documentation is under process for registration of CP Enterprise Gilgit under companies/Firm Act. Ltd., through equal share deposit. This woman based (owned and managed) enterprise is helping the female group to lay foundation to start their own business providing quality production and services in the following skills,

1. Sewing Center
2. Sewing and Supply of School Uniforms
3. Handcraft
 - a. Woolen products
 - b. Sharma/carpet waving

2. Vocational Training

In order to equip communities with technical skills as per local and international demand, Alight has developed partnership with Government Technical Vocational Education and Training Institute (TVET) professionals in Balochistan.

- Alight's TTC Pishin facility has been catering TVET needs of Afghan refugee and host community



- Alight bears the running cost of technical and vocation center by providing master trainers
- 120 refugee and host community youth imparted technical trade skills which are accredited by Trade Testing Board, Government of Balochistan
- On the basis of market assessment, 120 males trained in masonry and as many in mobile repair work along with provision of necessary toolkits

- Technical Training Board-accredited certificates awarded to 240 successful graduates
- 60% (72) of the graduates were engaged in part time work while the training graduates showed an 18% increase in their monthly income.



3. Numeracy & Entrepreneurship Training

All the trainees of vocational trainings were also taught a module on numeracy & entrepreneurship training. Four skills centers for women are operational in Balochistan where they learn embroidery, needle work, handicraft, basic numeracy/accounting and entrepreneurship skills in a safe and enabling environment.

Beneficiaries undergo two phases of training in a group of 15. The first phase lasts for two months basic skills training (three hours per day). After completing basic training course, graduates receive a starter kit for income generation based on relevant skills learned. The second phase is a two months product development & entrepreneurial coaching course (one hour daily).

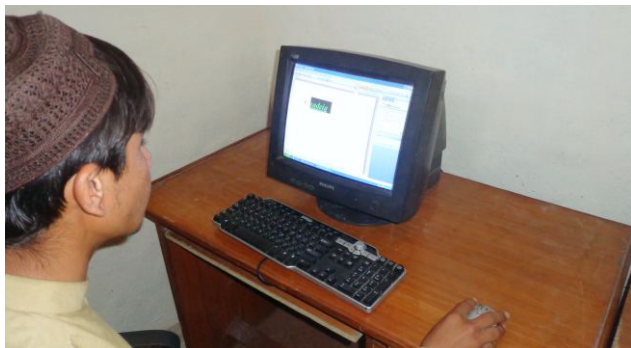
Participants also learn about basic entrepreneurship with sessions on basic numeracy, business plans, operating a small scale business, marketing channels and collective savings schemes. Alight assist women to market their products by exhibiting products at provincial exhibitions.

- 120 Afghan female graduates imparted numeracy and advance entrepreneurship skills trainings and provided with basic equipment needed to start small business activity
- Linkages developed between men nominated to represent women's groups and different vendors/shops to promote the women's products

4. English and Computer Learning Courses

Apart from technical skills training, Alight also arranges basic English learning and computer courses for communities youth.

Alight imparts computer training to students in three to six months courses in basic English and MS Office, wireless networking, software installation and basic trouble shooting. As many as 240 youth have been imparted basic English and computer learning courses training along with linkages development for placement of jobs.



5. Marketable Skill Training Courses

Alight carries out a series of focused and interrelated activities in livelihood programs such as career counseling, CV writing and job placement support. Internships and on-job training is also imparted to graduates in certain cases to improve likelihood of wage their employment. Alight programs link graduates of skill training programs with employers in relevant industry and professional associations like chamber of commerce and industries, nursing councils, etc. so that they could get a job. Alight offers following marketable skill training courses in Business Development Plan, Customer Relationship, Market Behavior, Entrepreneurship, CV Writing, Job Searching and Linkages Development.



6. Self-Employment & Start-ups

Alight imparts livelihood training to the youth and women in marketable trades, which lead to their self-employment. These trades range from medical technology, carpentry, mobile repair, agriculture & organic farming, livestock, dress designing and handicraft. Alight emphasizes practical entrepreneurial and business planning skills all along with traditional training. These skills, along with linkages to microfinance opportunities and technical assistance through Alight's various programs, maximize

self-employment opportunities for these trainees. So far Alight has provided startup kits to 555 graduates of youth skill development and vocational training graduates.

7. Agriculture & Livestock

Alight employs and partners with agricultural experts from soil and seed to plant genetics and value chain development, provision of agriculture inputs and livestock for income generation activities to make communities self-reliant. As the part of its efforts, Alight launched Post Disaster Economic Recovery Project in Awaran, Balochistan in February 2014 to mitigate suffering of earthquake affectees and rebuild their lives by offering livelihood opportunities through livestock management, restocking, vaccination and vocational assets delivery.

Alight also launched community awareness raising program and cash-based transfers for food and nutrition security in Pishin, Balochistan. The project comprised training in nutrition and food security issues, infant and young child feeding, dietary diversification and cash-based transfers to address immediate food and non-food needs of 2,739 households (27,390 beneficiaries) in 41 target villages of six union councils of district Pishin.

8. Market Linkages & Access to Financial Institutions

Skills, knowledge as well as financial support is needed for entrepreneurship and trainings in order to empower the communities. Alight links deserving entrepreneurs with financial institutions, financial service providers, development agencies and private sector companies. Alight helps communities access interest free loan from Akhuwat and other such market players.

9. Awaran Earthquake Victims Support

Awaran district in Balochistan was devastated by earthquake in 2013. Alight along with its partner organization Al-Khidmat Foundation identified the female beneficiaries in accordance with set criteria.

As many as 110 vulnerable women were identified and they were granted sewing machines to sustain their livelihood.

Program Highlights

1. Youth Skill Development Program provided Afghan youth unique opportunity to generate livelihoods through a training program on medical technologies in Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University.

2. Arranged a carpentry skills training program where graduates were provided government-accredited certificates and toolkits.
3. Arranged mobile repair, agriculture and livestock training program in Quetta where trainees were provided government-accredited certificates and toolkits to earn their living.
4. Ran a cash for work program in Jaffarabad where 15 water channels were de-silted after floods.
5. Launched a kitchen gardening training program for females and the trainees were given seeds and kitchen gardening toolkits.
6. Arranged a four months basic English learning course for youth in Pishin to improve their communication skills and get job placement.
7. Arranged computer learning skills program for youth.
8. Arranged an exhibition to showcase 100 women entrepreneurs products and linkages development.
9. Four months multi-skills training program for refugee women in Quetta.
10. Imparted livestock rearing training to communities members and distributed over 1,000 goats amongst the participants.

Beneficiaries

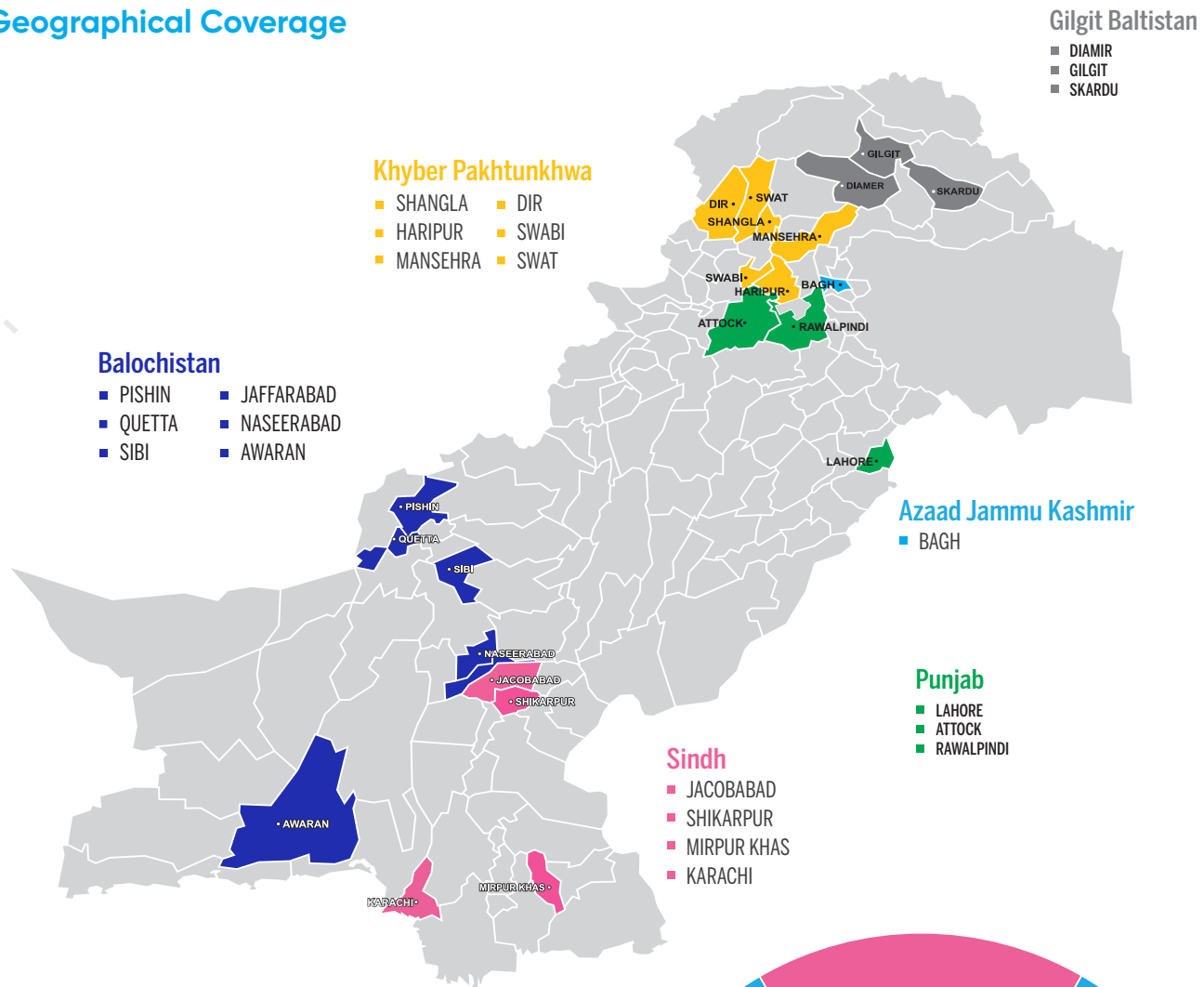
- Beneficiaries **47,699** (24,918 Males | 22,781 Females)
- Individuals provided with government-accredited certificates
319 (263 Males | 56 Females)

- Individuals provided with start-up kits
435 (138 Males | 297 Females)
- Individuals enrolled and received computer certificate
228 (197 Males | 31 Females)
- Cash for work programs beneficiaries **5,920**
- Cash for training program beneficiaries **1,123**
- Families provided with livestock **952**
- Livestock rearing training imparted **952** individuals
- Females who received sewing machines after training **290**
- Females who received advance training in embroidery **180**
- Carpentry training and toolkit provision **60**
- Mobile repair training and toolkit provision **60**
- Basic English learning course **120** individuals
- Livelihoods support groups formed **46**
- Wheat seed provided **1,000** Families
- Agriculture input provision **1,800** Farmers
- Skill development training imparted
199 (143 Males: 56 Females)
- Youth placed on job **43**
- Entrepreneurs engaged in literacy/numeracy classes
228 (197 Males | 31 Females)

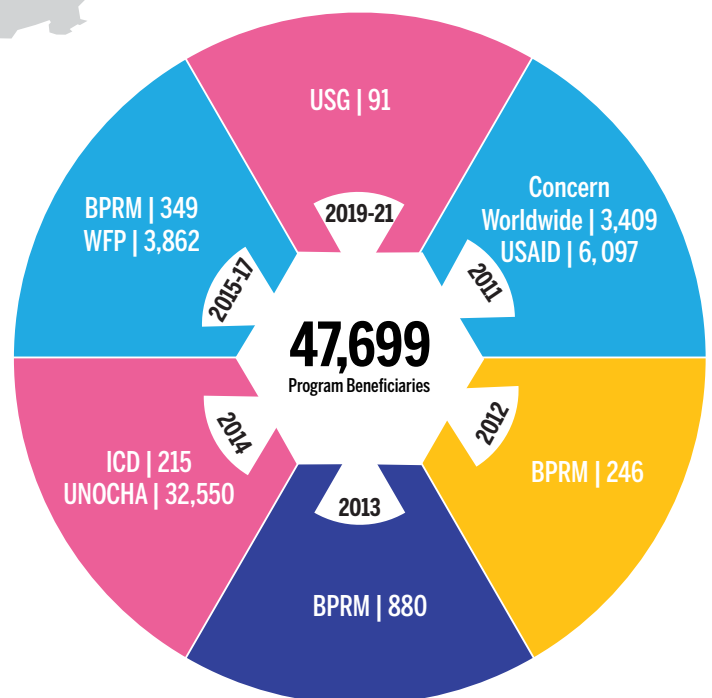
Projects Completed

S.#	Title of Project	Geographical Coverage	Donor	Duration	
				From	To
1	GAAMZAN-Improved Access to Quality Education in Gilgit Baltistan	Gilgit Baltistan	USG	1-Oct-19	30-Sept-21
2	Developing Healthcare Skills for Employability for Urban and Rural Afghan Refugees in Pakistan	Pakistan	BPRM	1-Aug-15	31-Jul-17
3	Community Awareness Raising on Food and Nutrition Security Through Cash Based Transfers (CBT)	Pishin, Balochistan	WFP	1-Oct-16	14-Jun-17
4	Post Disaster Economic Recovery Project	Awaran, Balochistan	Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD)	1-Feb-14	30-Apr-14
5	To improve the food security and livelihood status of the most vulnerable and food insecure population affected by floods 2013	Jaffarabad, Balochistan	UNOCHA	19-Nov-13	20-Feb-14
6	Community based comprehensive health services and livelihoods opportunities for Afghan refugees and host communities in three refugee camps	Pishin, Balochistan	BPRM	1-Sep-12	31-Aug-13
7	Provision of emergency WASH to reduce risk of water-borne diseases	Khwaza Khela and Shamoza, Swat	Concern Worldwide	27-Dec-10	30-Apr-11
8	Emergency Relief and Transitional Assistance for Flood Affected Pakistanis	Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sibbi (Balochistan), Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Mirpurkhas (Sindh)	USAID-OFDA	1-Oct-10	31-Dec-11

Geographical Coverage



Beneficiaries of Livelihoods Programs



Partners



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