

ECI Quarterly NEWSLETTER

(April - June 2024)



PREAMBLE

Welcome to the second quarter edition of the ECI Newsletter. This quarter has been an exciting and productive period for ECI, marked by significant progress across a diverse range of projects and initiatives.

ECI spearheaded the Rise Digital Project for BSR and collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a crucial Digital Skills Project. These efforts underscore our commitment to leveraging technology to drive sustainable development and empower communities. Training and capacity-building were also high on our agenda. We conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) program for the Legal Aid Society, focusing on agripreneurship for the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA). This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to foster entrepreneurial skills and enhance legal awareness among local communities.

Under the banner of KASB, we proudly launched a Ramadan and EID Charity Drive, reflecting our dedication to social responsibility and community support. Additionally, our Green Energy Solutions division made strides with the installation of solar panels, contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

One of the most significant initiatives this quarter was the initiation of a two-week campaign on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), aimed at raising awareness and providing support to those affected by this condition.

Our team has also been actively engaged in numerous internal and external meetings with clients, alongside participating in several networking events. These interactions have been pivotal in strengthening our relationships and expanding our collaborative efforts. As we reflect on these accomplishments, we are motivated to continue our journey of innovation, sustainability, and community engagement. Thank you for being a part of our story.



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Project in Focus!

Capacity Enhancement of Factory Workers on Financial Health

BSR (Business and Social Responsibility), an organization that collaborates with a global network of leading companies dedicated to creating a balanced and sustainable world, has partnered with ECI in Pakistan for the Rise Digital project. This initiative focuses on empowering textile factory workers, particularly women, with better financial literacy.



In the second quarter of 2024, BSR-ECI activities took place at M.G Apparel in Multan and Interloop in Faisalabad. These activities included:



The project activities are now gearing up at YTML and Al-Karam in Karachi. At Nishat Chunian in Lahore, the project concluded with an endline survey and a closing meeting.

TOT on effective facilitation, Financial Literacy and Digital Learning



The Legal Aid Society (LAS) is a non-profit dedicated to connecting marginalized and vulnerable individuals with justice services, focusing on creating a safe environment for Religious Minority Communities (RMCs). To empower trainers in Sindh and Punjab with enhanced facilitation, financial, and digital literacy skills, LAS has engaged Empowerment thru Creative Integration to conduct a three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) program.

Production and Dissemination of Awareness Raising Content on Child Online protection for Children, Caregivers and Educators



The joint effort between UNICEF's Child Protection Section and ECI aims to tackle child protection issues in the digital environment. Over a year, this initiative targets adolescents aged 10 to 17, developing and distributing tailored content for children, caregivers, and educators. The primary goal is to create two comprehensive training packages promoting safe and responsible internet usage. The project involves meticulous piloting and testing of training materials in Islamabad, Peshawar, and Khanewal, followed by the training of 15 proficient trainers in Islamabad. These trainers will then train groups of 20-25 facilitators across various locations, ultimately reaching 210 facilitators nationwide. ECI plays a crucial role in training UNICEF partners and providing monitoring and coaching assistance. Having successfully submitted the inception and desk review report, ECI has also completed and submitted training manuals and handbooks. Additionally, ECI conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) for its trainers in preparation for the upcoming pilot testing phase.

Trainings on Digital Skills and Establishing Job linkages for the Youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

UNDP has initiated a comprehensive project under the Sustainable Development Programme (SDP) to provide digital skills training, partnering with ECI. The project target districts include Nowshera, Charsadda, Tank, D.I. Khan, Khyber, South Waziristan, North Waziristan, and Peshawar. The initiative aims to train 2,300 young individuals in digital skills to enhance their employability. Additionally, 350 participants will receive on-the-job training or internships for practical skill development. The project includes activities such as an opening ceremony, 54 mobilization sessions, short and long courses, a boot camp, and a job fair, culminating in a closing ceremony. An opening ceremony at the Marriott Islamabad marked the project's launch, attended by USAID, UNDP, Government of Pakistan, ECI, and IT industry experts. Trainings have begun, with 229 participants trained so far (141 males and 88 females).



Provision of the Technical Assistance to SMEs

The PAIDAR programme is designed to support the Government of Sindh in executing its poverty reduction strategy by fostering economic development, enterprise creation, and job generation to increase the incomes of poor women, men, and youth. It aims to improve public service delivery, enhancing access to vital services like water, electricity, healthcare, and education to uplift living conditions and reduce expenses associated with poor service access. To achieve these goals, the programme provides technical assistance, capacity building, and financial support to micro and small enterprises in Rural Growth Centers (RGCs) to mitigate COVID-19 impacts and promote business development. It also contributes to building and upgrading public infrastructure to directly enhance livelihoods and support business growth. ECI, under this project, will provide Technical Assistance (TA) to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Thatta, Badin, Tharparkar, and Larkana. This assistance includes training, capacity-building, awareness campaigns, documentation guidance, and technical expertise to help SMEs develop their business ideas into comprehensive applications for the PAIDAR SME Business Development grant window.

Community outreach for migrants under Centers for Migration & Development (ZME) program

The Centers for Migration & Development (ZME) program by GIZ is being implemented globally, including in Pakistan. Partnering with the Ministry of OP&HRD and its affiliated departments (OPF, OEC, and BE&OE), the initiative aims to support individuals engaging in regular migration for work and training, voluntary return, and sustainable reintegration. The program's objectives are to raise awareness about the legal processes and rights of migrants, inform communities about the dangers of irregular migration, and enhance access to support services for prospective migrants. It focuses on areas in Punjab (Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Bahawalnagar) and KP (Kurrum Agency, Chitral, Hangu), targeting a project audience of 70% male and 30% female. ECI under this program will design and conduct community outreach activities in these districts to educate isolated communities about the legal frameworks, rights of migrants, and the risks associated with irregular migration. These awareness sessions will empower communities with knowledge to promote safe and informed migration practices, ultimately improving access to support services and resources for individuals and families planning to migrate.

Provision of HR Support for Nutrition International's Maternal and Newborn Health and Nutrition Project

ECI is providing essential HR support for the Maternal and Newborn Health and Nutrition project by Nutrition International. This project, spanning five months from April 2024 to August 2024, aims to enhance the delivery of crucial health and nutrition services to mothers and newborns. ECI's role includes recruiting, training, and managing healthcare professionals and support staff, ensuring that the project is equipped with skilled and dedicated personnel. Through this support, the project seeks to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates, improve nutritional status, and bolster the overall health and well-being of mothers and their newborns.

Designing of Agriculture and value chain Manuals

Empowerment thru Creative Integration was contracted by GBRSP to design 16 training manuals, crafted in both English and Urdu. These manuals were developed for the Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme (GBRSP) under the Economic Transformation Initiative (ETI). Launched in 2015 and co-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), ETI aims to bolster agricultural incomes in the region. ECI's manuals focus on crucial aspects such as increasing agricultural production, introducing high-value cash crops, and facilitating access to local markets.

Material Development and TOT on Agripreneurship and Life skills

ECI has been awarded a significant contract by SMEDA to develop comprehensive Agripreneurship materials aimed at fostering agricultural entrepreneurship and enhancing soft skills essential for managing agribusinesses and then to conduct the TOT's. Under this contract, ECI has successfully developed the said material and later conducted two 4-day Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions-one in Karachi and one in Quetta-with a total of 58 participants trained (50 males and 8 females). These TOT sessions were integral to preparing local trainers in Sindh and Balochistan to deliver standardized Agripreneurship training effectively.



KASB Ramadan and Eid Drive: Nourishing Hearts and Celebrating Joy



During the holy month of Ramadan and the subsequent Eid celebrations, ECI, under the banner of KASB, initiated a compassionate drive to support the needy. This initiative included the distribution of ration packages to provide essential food supplies to underprivileged families.

Harnessing Green Power: ECI's Solar Panel Installations

ECI's Green Energy Solutions initiative has successfully installed solar panels for a variety of clients, advancing sustainable energy adoption. ECI's dedication to green energy underscores its commitment to environmental responsibility and empowering clients with renewable energy solutions.



Shining a Spotlight: ECI's 2-Week PCOS Awareness Campaign

ECI launched a comprehensive 2-week PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome) awareness campaign, featuring interviews with medical experts including gynecologists, psychologists, and physiologists. This initiative aimed to educate the public about PCOS, its symptoms, and management strategies. By engaging healthcare professionals, ECI sought to provide valuable insights and support to individuals affected by PCOS, promoting awareness and fostering informed healthcare decisions within the community.



Joyous Connections: ECI's Eid Celebrations





Meeting with KPEC Peshawar



Monthly Progress Review Meeting



Meeting with Representative of Kerk in Actie



Meeting with Representatives of Agahe Pakistan



Monthly Progress Review Meeting with UNDP