



TRANSFORMING LIVES

PICTORIAL INSIGHTS OF CENTRAL ASIA POVERTY
PROGRAMME (CAPP) IN GILGIT-BALTISTAN AND CHITRAL



2024



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2016-2024

AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (AKRSP)

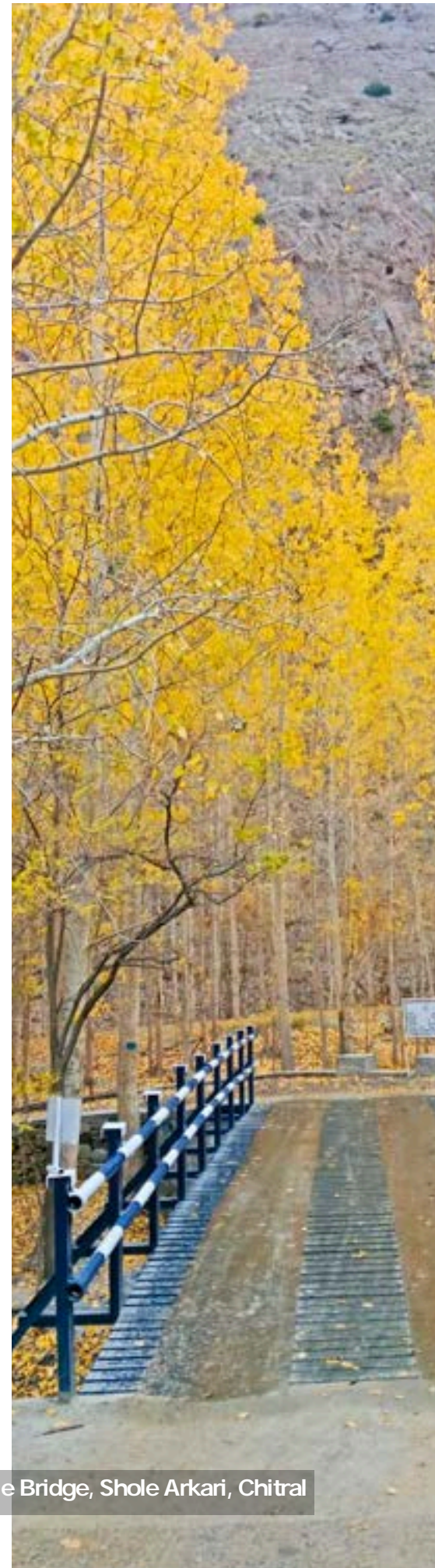
PREFACE

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is a pioneering rural development non-profit organisation, established in 1982 to help improve the quality of life of the local communities of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. AKRSP's approach is community-led and encourages equitable social and economic development in the region. AKRSP's success has led to the replication of the programme and its development models in Pakistan and many other parts of the world.

AKRSP's interventions have resulted in transformative impacts across the programme area; however, many remote and underserved valleys still face challenges due to spatial poverty, limited access to resources, and inadequate infrastructure. The Central Asia Poverty Programme (CAPP) was designed in 2016 as a strategic initiative specifically aimed at bridging the socio-economic gap for communities living in isolated areas. The current target areas include several valleys in Chitral- Rech, Arkari, Upper Yarkhoon, Lower Yarkhoon, Khot, Garamchashma, and others. In Gilgit, the programme focuses on Chipurson, Shimshal, Ishkoman, Immit, Silgan, Gulaghmuli, and other valleys.

Under CAPP, AKRSP has implemented various activities across several thematic areas, Agriculture and Food Security, Enabling Infrastructure, Clean Energy, Complementary Poverty Initiatives. These targeted efforts are designed to empower communities and foster sustainable development, ensuring that even the most isolated areas can progress towards a better quality of life.

This pictorial book celebrates the resilience and determination of the local communities and the stories of collaborative efforts, empowerment, innovation, and hope and the unwavering spirit of the communities to uplift their lives.



Steel Jeepable Bridge, Shole Arkari, Chitral

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the compilation of this Photobook under the Central Asia Poverty Programme (CAPP). This endeavour would not have been possible without the collective efforts and dedication of numerous individuals.

Our sincere gratitude goes to Mr. Jamil Uddin, General Manager AKRSP, for his support and encouragement. We are thankful to AKRSP's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team, led by Mr. Waseem Abbas, for their invaluable support. A special mention goes to Mr. Ejaz Hussain, M&E Specialist, whose guidance and expertise were instrumental in bringing this product to fruition.

We acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Project Manager, Mr. Hassan Alam, Regional Programme Managers (RPMs), and the field team in implementing the interventions that contributed to the programme's success. We also extend our gratitude to the photographers for capturing the essence and impact of these interventions.

Finally, we extend special thanks to the communications team, which led the compilation of this product. Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Manager Communications, provided valuable editorial direction, while Ms. Ponum Humza compiled and designed this Photobook with great skill, supported by Mr. Nadeem Haider, Communications Fellow, in finalising the product.

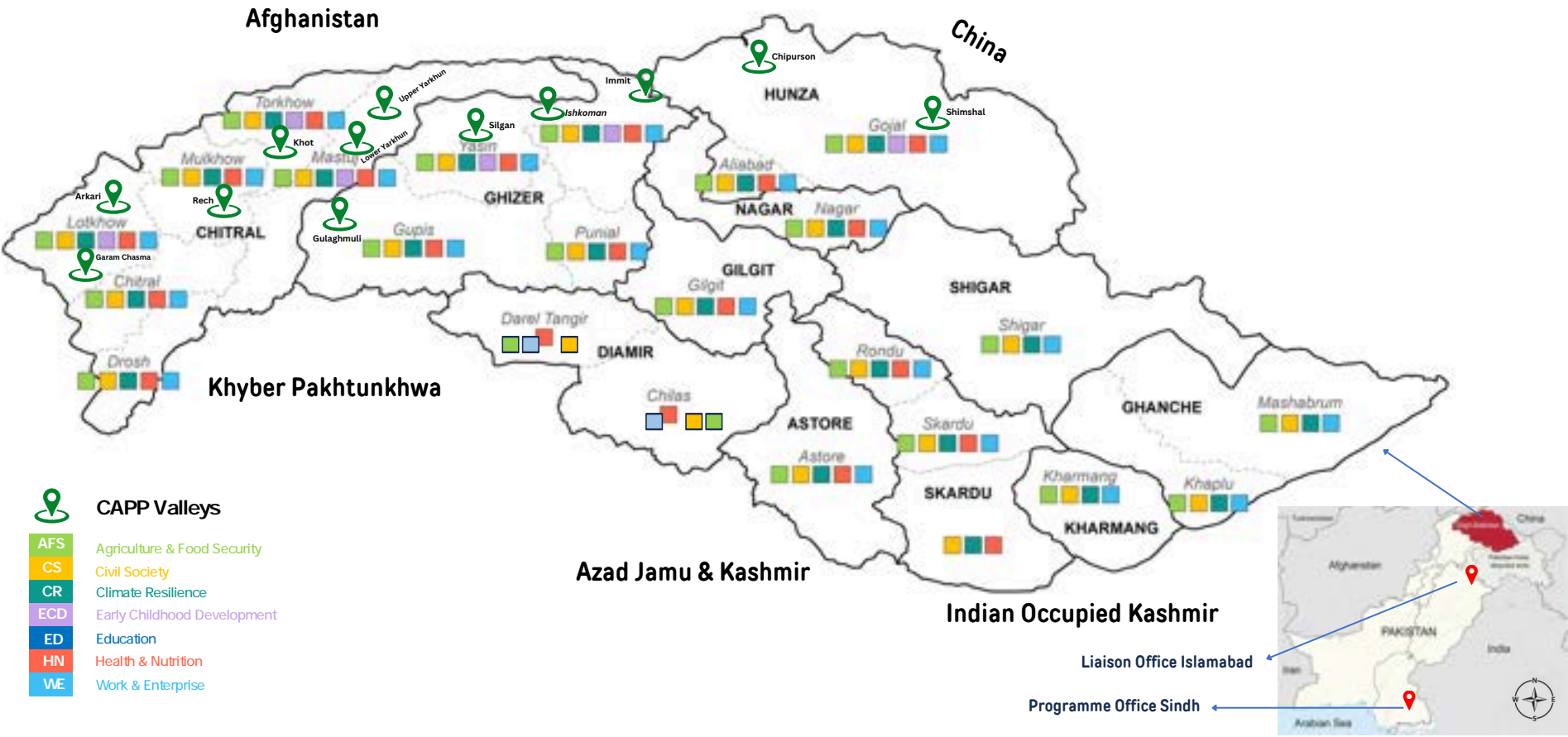
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AKRSP PROGRAMME AREA





Broghil Valley Road, Upper Chitral



Handrap Link Road, Gulaghmuli Phander



Empowering Local Participation for Sustainable Development
Community Dialogue in Barsat, Ghizer for Construction of Irrigation Channel

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AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY



This component was designed to enhance household per capita income by strengthening the agriculture sector. This was achieved through farmer training, the provision of essential inputs, and investments in agribusiness to boost the production of commercial crops. The majority of the population in the CAPP programme area depends on agriculture, livestock, and related sectors for their livelihood and food security.



1.6 Million Forest Trees



1 Million Fruit Trees



552 Land Development Projects



148 Passive Solar Greenhouses



82 Irrigation Projects



Beneficiaries
(Estimated)

AKRSP
1982-2024

997,500

CAPP
2016-2024

292,012





Improving Livelihoods and Food Security
Passive Solar Greenhouse in Immit, Ghizer





Umalsat Passive Solar Greenhouse, Yasin Ghizer

AKRSP has supported 500 local farmers across Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral in establishing passive solar greenhouses. Among these, 148 were established under the CAPP, benefiting 1,036 families directly. These greenhouses enable families to grow vegetables year-round, ensuring access to fresh produce even during harsh winters. This not only improves household nutrition but also provides an opportunity to sell surplus vegetables, generating additional income.



Passive Solar Greenhouse, Langer Khot Chitral



Passive Solar Greenhouse, Herkush Phander



Passive Solar Greenhouse, Shimshal, Hunza





Enhancing Livelihoods and Food Security: AKRSP Provided Livestock & Poultry to Deserving Families



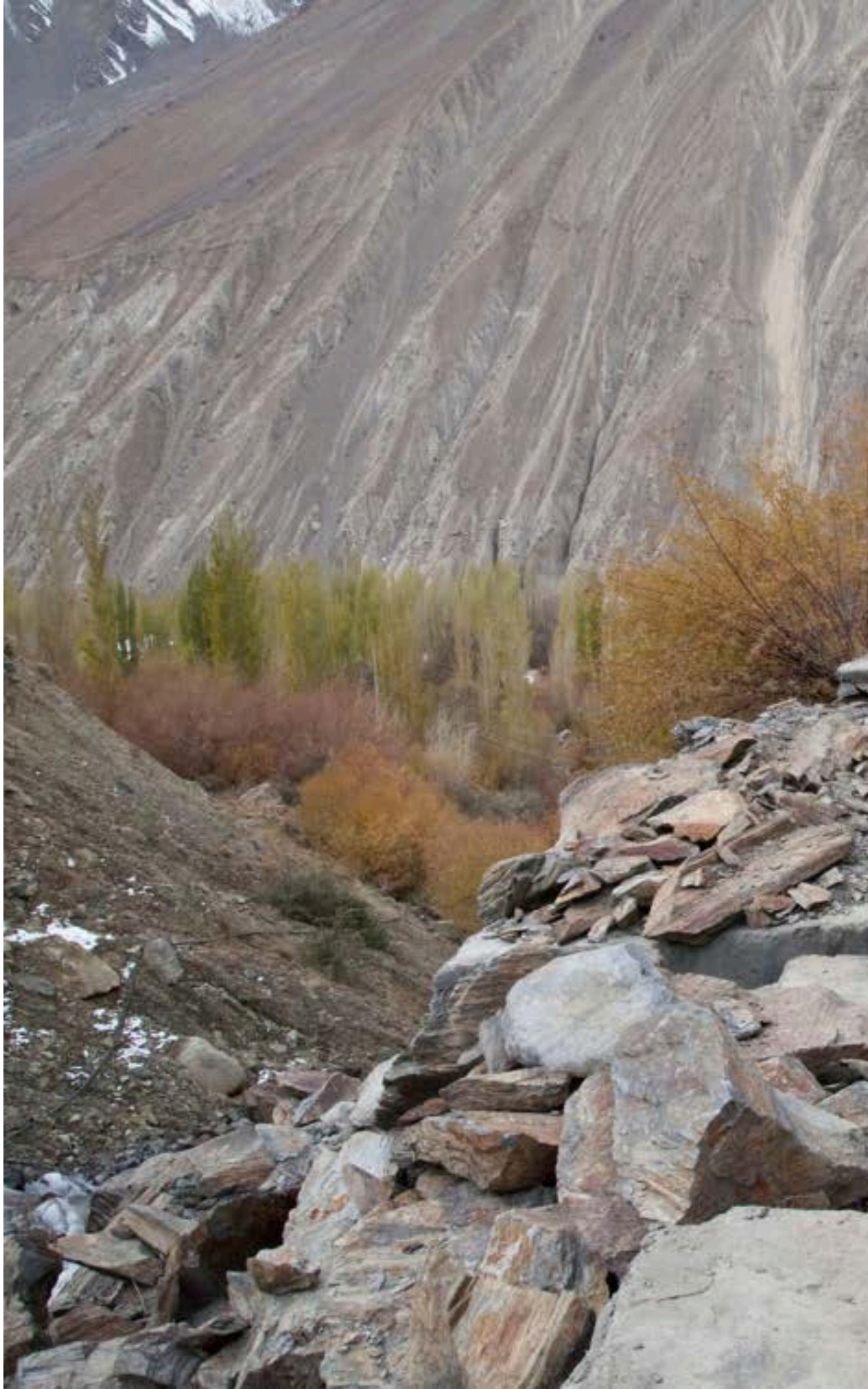


Enhancing Agricultural Productivity Through
Demonstration Plots and Input Support





Reshit Pipe Irrigation, Chipurson Hunza





Sorech Rech Irrigation Channel, Chitral

AKRSP has benefited over 206,535 individuals through the construction of new irrigation channels, the rehabilitation of existing ones, and the installation of sprinkler, drip, and siphon irrigation systems, as well as solar-powered irrigation solutions. These interventions have played a vital role in converting barren land into arable land and improving the overall efficiency of irrigation systems. Among the beneficiaries, 66,584 individuals have directly benefited from these initiatives under the CAPP.



Upgradation of Khot Arkari Irrigation Channel, Chitral



Bilhanz Irrigation Channel Ishkoman



Barsat Irrigation Channel Gulaghmul Phander



Rech Dasht Irrigation Channel Shimshal, Hunza



Commercial Model Fruit Orchard, Parabak Garamchasma, Chitral



AKRSP has supported local communities in planting over four million fruit trees across Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. Among these, over one million have been planted under CAPP, benefiting more than 3,703 households. This initiative also includes the establishment of 71 fruit orchards.



Plantation in the Command Area of CAPP
Irrigation Channel in Barsat, Ghizer



AKRSP has supported local communities in planting 47 million forest trees across Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral to mitigate the effects of climate change and contribute to ecosystem restoration. Among these, 1.6 million trees have been planted under CAPP in the project-targeted areas of Gilgit and Chitral, benefiting 27,662 households. These areas are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and the plantation efforts not only help combat deforestation but also play a crucial role in enhancing resilience against climate-related challenges, such as soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and extreme weather events.



Connecting Communities: Kishmanja Bridge in Brogil, Chitral



ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE





Foot Bridge Yishkuk, Chipurson Hunza



Ishkanwarz Jeepable Bridge, Broghil Chitral

As part of its objective to improve connectivity and enhance access to basic services and economic opportunities, AKRSP has constructed various types of community infrastructure, including bridges, roads, and the installation of chairlifts in the CAPP valleys. These infrastructure developments have directly connected 70,644 individuals in these remote valleys to the rest of the areas, facilitating mobility, access to markets, education, and healthcare. By opening avenues for progress and prosperity, this initiative has significantly contributed to improving the quality of life and fostering socio-economic growth in the programme area.



47 Link Roads



33 Bridges



5 Valley Roads



2 Chairlifts
(Manual)



Beneficiaries
(Estimated)

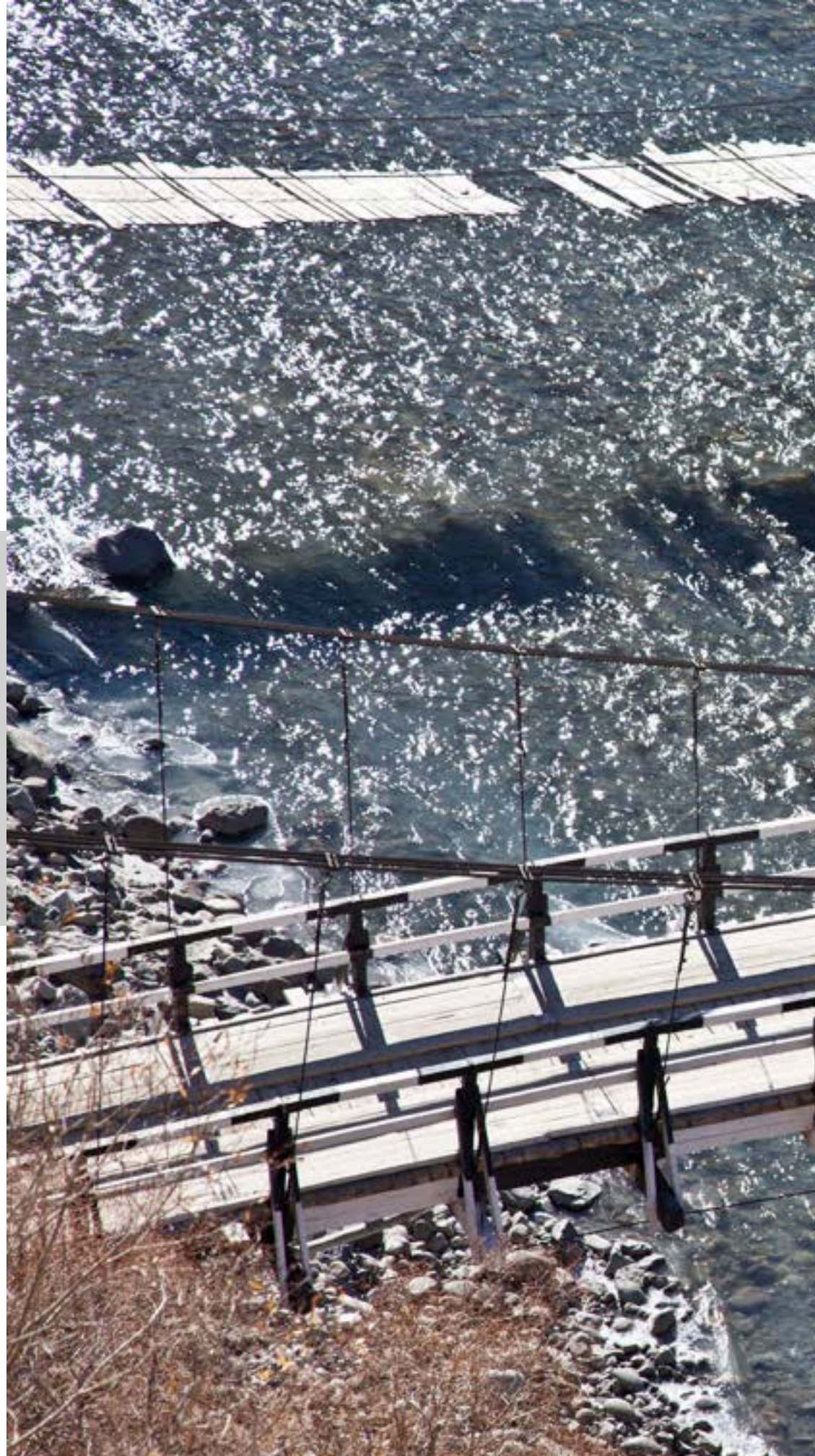
AKRSP
1982-2024

918,624

CAPP
2016-2024

70,644

Under the CAPP, AKRSP has constructed and rehabilitated 33 bridges in underserved valleys to enhance food security, improve transportation, and ensure access to essential resources. These interventions have directly benefited 26,796 individuals in the intervention areas.





Reshit Suspension Bridge, Chipurson Hunza

Before



After



Burakot Silgan Suspension Bridge Yasin, Ghizer



Khill Suspension Bridge, Chipurson Hunza



Deeryar Silgan Link Road, Yasin Ghizer



Shalli Link Road, Arkari Chitral



Gamalti Darkut Link Road, Yasin Ghizer



Handarap Link Road, Ghizer

Under the CAPP, AKRSP has constructed 47 link roads and 5 valley roads in the programme valleys, significantly improving connectivity between these remote areas and the broader region. This initiative has benefited 42,224 individuals by addressing critical challenges faced by local communities. It has streamlined the transportation of goods, facilitated the mechanisation of farming practices, improved livelihoods, and contributed to economic development.



Chikar Road, Upper Yarkhun Chitral



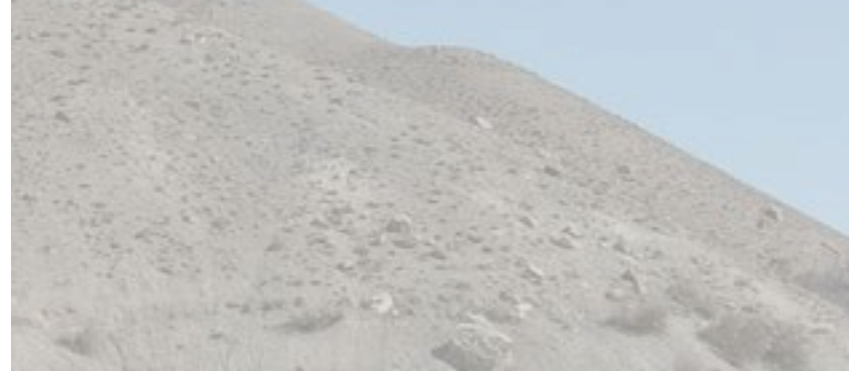
Baharabad Link Road, Ishkoman Ghizer



Murdan Dok Link Road, Chitral



Kishmanja-Pechuch Broghil Valley Road



Clean Energy



This component aims to address the energy crisis by constructing and upgrading micro-hydropower units to provide sustainable and reliable energy solutions. AKRSP has installed 434 micro-hydropower plants (MHPs), generating 33 megawatts of clean energy. Among these, 20 new plants were established, and 17 were rehabilitated and expanded under the CAPP.

AKRSP received the prestigious Energy Globe Award for its rural electrification project in Chitral, Pakistan. The award recognises innovative and sustainable initiatives that tackle environmental challenges while supporting local communities.



20 Micro Hydropower Plants (MHPs)



17 MHPs Rehabilitation & Extension

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
|  | AKRSP | CAPP |
| | 1982-2024 | 2016-2024 |
| | Beneficiaries 262,685 (Estimated) | 74,935 |





Kankhoon Micro Hydropower Plant, Upper Yarkhun Chitral



Sorech Micro Hydropower Plant, Rech Chitral





Mogh Micro Hydropower Plant, Chitral





Borth Micro Hydropower Plant, Ishkoman Ghizer





Umalsat Micro-Hydropower Plant, Silgan Yasin





Gems Cutting & Polishing Centre, Immit Ishkoman



Complementary Poverty Initiatives



The objective of this component is to increase household incomes by fostering income-generating activities across multiple sectors through skills development, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities for youth. This strategy empowers young people, enhances their skills, and improves living standards, particularly in remote areas.



1,572 Employable Skills



500 Internships & Education



94 Enterprise Development



63 Art & Music



5 IT Spaces



Beneficiaries
(Estimated)

AKRSP
1982-2024

CAPP
2016-2024

17,263

2,979





Reshit Early Childhood Development Centre, Chipurson Hunza



Garamchashma Chitral IT Centre, established under the CAPP and EU-CS & Youth Project





Mohsina Shopping Centre Puchung Khot Valley, Chitral



Zoodkhun Quilt Making, Chipurson Hunza





Ghazi Uddin Mechanic Shop, Garamchasma Chitral



Stone Drilling in Chitral



Mobile Repairing Shop, Mbreh Rech, Chitral



Gems Cutting Centre, Immit Ishkoman



Three Sisters Tailoring & Garments Centre, Chipurson Hunza



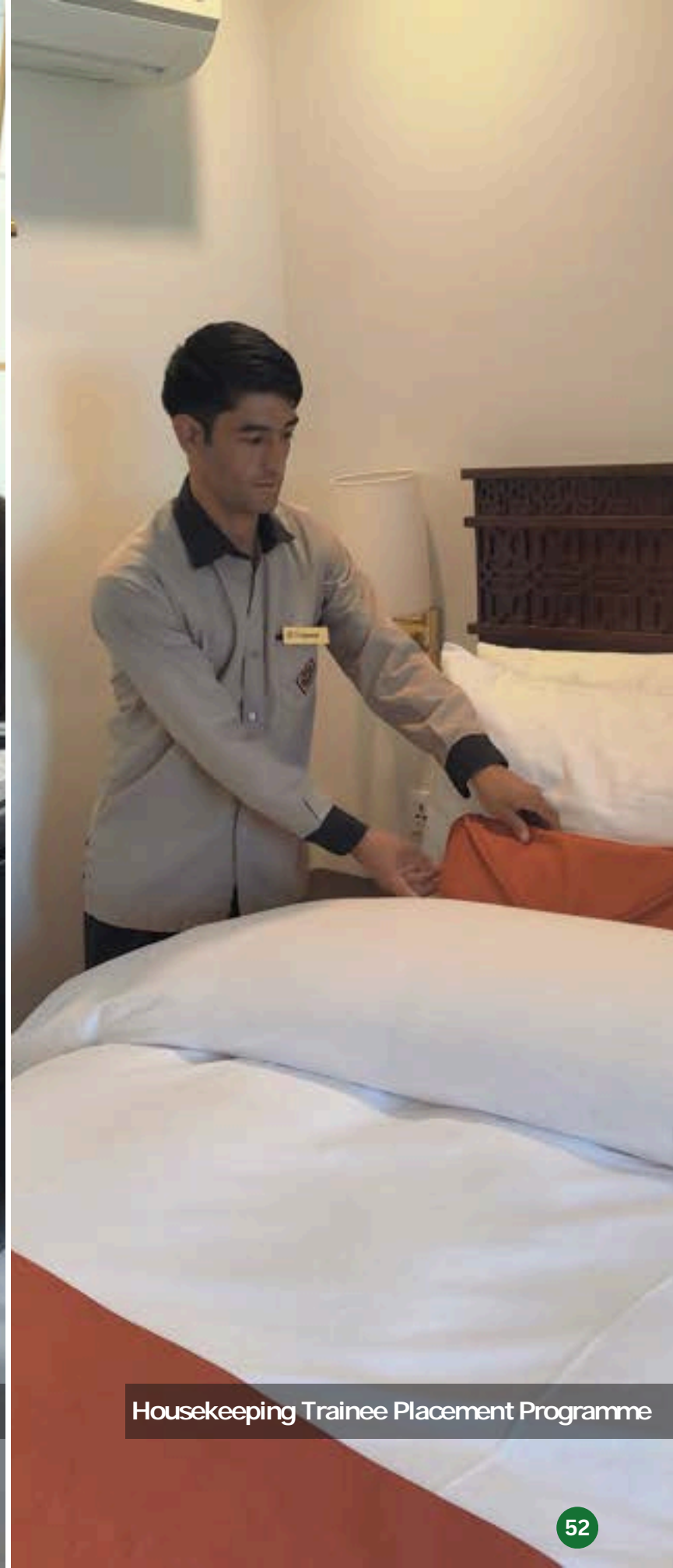
General Store, Ghizer



Puncture Shop, Lotgaz Yarkhun Chitral



Front Office Training Programme for Youth



Housekeeping Trainee Placement Programme



Hospitality Management Trainees



Customer Service Representatives

ABOUT AKRSP



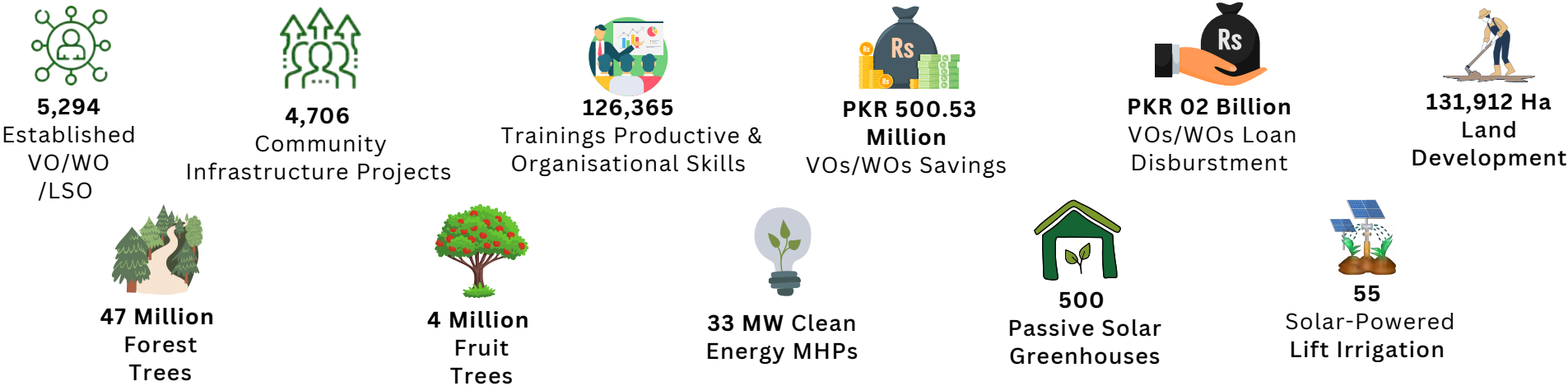
The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is a pioneering rural development non-profit organisation, established in 1982 to help improve the quality of life for the local communities of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. Registered under the Companies Act, 2017 with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), AKRSP’s approach is community-led and encourages equitable social and economic development in the region. AKRSP has been working across all 10 districts of Gilgit-Baltistan and two districts of Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). In 2024, AKRSP expanded its programming to Sindh, further extending its impact and continuing its mission of improving the quality of life for rural communities across Pakistan.

AKRSP works across several key thematic areas to foster sustainable development and build resilience in the communities it serves . These thematic areas include agriculture and food security, health and nutrition, education, early childhood development, civil society, work and enterprise, and climate resilience. By integrating these focus areas into its development interventions, AKRSP aims to create holistic, community-driven solutions that address the multifaceted needs of the local communities.

AKRSP has been at the forefront of improving livelihoods in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral for over four decades, working in close partnership with the Governments and local communities.

AKRSP’s success has led to the replication of its programme model across Pakistan and in the region. Its approaches have shaped further collaborations led by the Aga Khan Foundation in other countries, such as Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, and Mozambique.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS





Historical photograph of His Highness the Aga Khan, the founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network, meets with the locals of Jaglot to discuss the projects of AKRSP in the area in May 1983



Historical photograph of His Highness the Aga Khan, the founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network, visiting AKRSP projects in Teru, Gilgit, in 1987



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