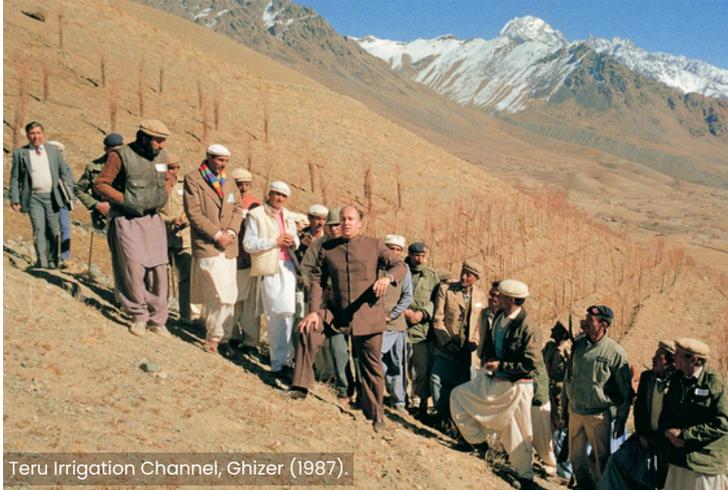




The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)

Empowering Communities — from Mountains to Coasts



Teru Irrigation Channel, Ghizer (1987).



Software Technology Park, Hunza (2024).

AKRSP's development journey reflects continuity and innovation — advancing its early natural resource management interventions and responding to emerging needs.

Who We Are

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is a non-profit organisation, established in 1982 by the Aga Khan Foundation, to improve the quality of life of local communities in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. In its early years, AKRSP focused on enhancing incomes in rural areas, and currently, with the support of the government and communities, it works to improve the key elements of the quality of life of local communities.



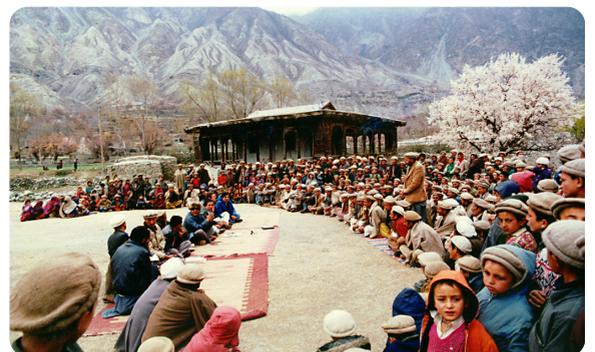
From Northern Mountains to Southern Coasts

Where We Work

AKRSP has been working in nine districts of Gilgit-Baltistan and two districts of Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). It expanded its programmes to the Diamer district of Gilgit-Baltistan in 2022 and to the coastal districts of Thatta, Sujawal, and Badin in Sindh in 2024.

What We Do

AKRSP implements a range of integrated, innovative, and gender-sensitive programmes under seven thematic areas. A cross-cutting emphasis remains on building sustainable assets to address spatial poverty in remote and high-altitude areas, while ensuring the inclusion of youth and both women and men in development process.



First Community Dialogue Held in Sherqilla, Ghizer (1982)

Agriculture and Food Security

Promoting regenerative and climate-smart agricultural practices to contribute towards sustainable livelihoods and food security.



Under this thematic area, AKRSP focuses on improving access to knowledge, skills, technology, agricultural inputs and markets; promoting regenerative agriculture for soil health and climate resilience; expanding passive solar greenhouses in single-crop and high-altitude areas; and building and rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure.

Civil Society

Cultivating an inclusive, competent, and sustainable civil society ecosystem to drive sustainable development, which ensure inclusion of youth, women, and marginalised group in the development process.



AKRSP strengthens local institutions by building the capacity of civil society organisations, linking them with local government, and helping identify and support marginalised households. It also promotes Community-Based Savings Groups (CBSGs) for women in remote areas to enhance inclusion and self-reliance.

Climate Resilience

Building climate resilience through awareness, capacity-building, afforestation, and adoption of clean energy solutions.



Communities across the region face the impact of climate change. In response, AKRSP promotes community-led actions through large-scale afforestation, promotion of clean energy, and adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. The programme also supports green businesses and organisations and enhances climate awareness among local communities to foster long-term environmental resilience.

Early Childhood Development

Supporting parents, government institutions, and civil society to ensure the holistic development of children under the age of eight.



AKRSP supports the establishment and improvement of ECD classrooms and works to enhance the professional capacities of teachers, health workers, and relevant officials. The programme also focuses on promoting social and behavioural change through parents, caregivers, and communities to create nurturing environments where every child can thrive.

Education

Promoting social accountability and addressing service delivery gaps, particularly in remote areas, in collaboration with the government and relevant civil society actors, to improve access to and the quality of education.



AKRSP works to enhance the professional capacities of teachers and improve basic facilities in schools to create better learning environments. The programme also supports children's enrolment and holistic development by engaging civil society and strengthening the capacities of parents and School Management Committees for effective school governance and community participation.

Health and Nutrition

Fostering social and behavioural change in maternal and child health, nutrition, and the physical and mental development of adolescents, in collaboration with government institutions and civil society.



This thematic area promotes public health and positive behavioural change for improved maternal, child health, and immunisation. The programme focuses on enhancing the capacities of Lady Health Workers and other frontline health staff, establishing Adolescent Friendly Spaces (AFSs) to impart essential life skills, and strengthening community awareness for healthier, more resilient families.

Work and Enterprise

Promoting economic growth by fostering entrepreneurial mindset through START – اپنا کاروبار and equipping youth with marketable skills.

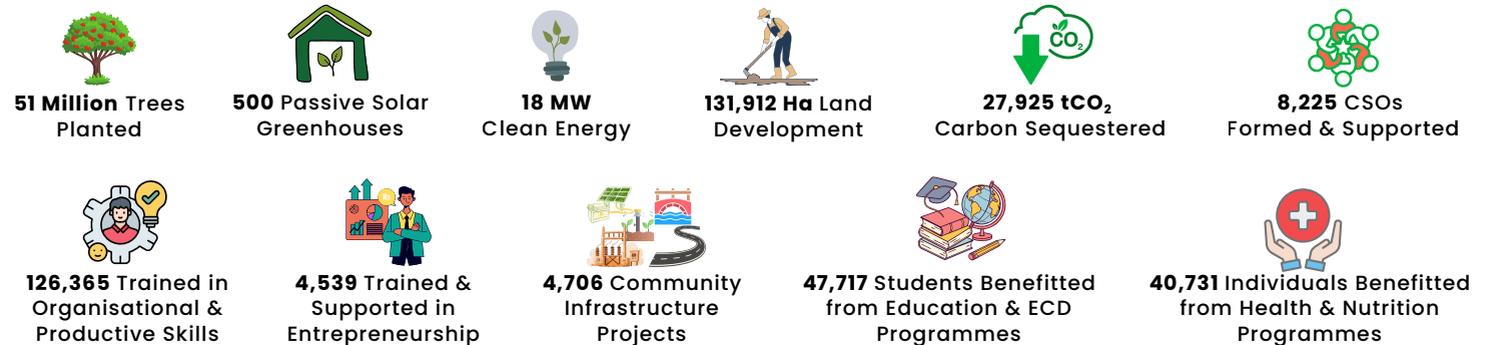


AKRSP promotes economic growth by fostering an entrepreneurial mindset through the START-اپنا کاروبار Programme and empowering youth with market-driven skills through employer-led training. The programme also focuses on developing a tech ecosystem through digital hubs, aligning with the Future of Work by offering internships, fellowships, and apprenticeships, and strengthening market systems by establishing women's markets to enhance economic inclusion.

AKRSP Approach & Philosophy

AKRSP's community-driven approach focuses on mobilising and strengthening civil society participation. Rooted in the belief that people have the will and potential to improve their lives but lack organisation, skills, and capital, AKRSP helped form village and women's organisations (V/WOs) to plan and manage their own development. This participatory model has evolved into Local Support Organisations (LSOs), and AKRSP is now working with broader civil society groups, sustaining its commitment to community-led development.

AKRSP Key Achievements



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