



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2023-24



SEPTEMBER 2024

Economic Infrastructure



Overall Outreach

Over 104,464 Households

Economic Infrastructure:

Over 54,208 Households (8.6% Poor Households, 2% Women Headed Households)

Value Chain: 50,256 Households (69% Men, 31% Women, 29% Youth)



Support Services for Value Chain Development



Program Accomplishments - Key Highlights from July 2023 to June 2024

• Overall Program Achievement:

- Initiation of infrastructure activities in leftover six district (Gilgit, Hunza, Nagar, Skardu, Kharmang, and Shigar).
- The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) financing was integrated in the Annual Workplan and Budget for the financial year 2023-24.
- Commencement of activities under AICS financing.
- Engagement of Gilgit Baltistan Rural Support Program (GBRSP) on Value Chain component.
- Start of land measurement activities on Irrigation & Land Development sites by Gilgit Baltistan Board of Revenue (BoR) - a milestone towards documentation and legal titles for beneficiary farmers.
- Preparation and Approval of Annual Work Plan and Budget 2024-25
- Approved of 52 new infrastructure schemes (16 ILD, 35 FMR and 01 bridge) by the Programme Coordination Committee (PCC).
- 28 schemes (8 ILD & 15 FMR) identified exclusively to implement under AICS financing. The Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) initiated for selected schemes.
- Work on GB Water and Road Master Plans and Operations & Maintenance Policies started.
- Two joint support and supervision Missions of IFAD and AICS held to support program, evaluate progress, and provide necessary support on the initiation of the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme.
- Held 03 Program Steering Committee meetings, 03 Programme Coordination Committee meetings and 07 RCC meetings across the regions, including 03 in Gilgit, 02 in Baltistan, and 02 in Diamer.
- During the period, 19 staff members were recruited for various vacant positions, including Director Finance & Admin, Manager Gender & Poverty, and other positions.

• Infrastructure Development:

- Overall 160 out of 251 schemes completed (77 ILDs, 73 FMRs, and 10 bridges - 7 RCC and 3 wooden bridges) benefiting 40,000 households.
- Initiated physical work on 53 schemes including 21 ILD, 27 FMRs and 5 bridges during this year.
- Land development of 12,537 acres (33% of total command area 37,810 acres in 77 completed schemes).
- Payback collection of Rs. 51.9 million from 40 ILDs.

• Value Chain Component:

- Work around 7 deliverables including institutional strengthening of VACs, revolving fund management, common asset financing, agriculture education, technology, and innovation, launching and management of PCGS initiated under GBRSP contract.
- 50 Agri Tech Fellows recruited and placed in selected Government schools of Gilgit-Baltistan to impart agriculture education, agribusiness, nutrition, technology, and innovation among secondary and higher secondary students.
- Competitive grants were announced for progressive VACs and 4Ps.

• Agriculture Extension:

- Conducted 83 training events including Farmer Field Days, Pre and Post harvest Handling, Processing and Pest Management benefiting 2,421 farmers and staff (1,358 men and 1,063 women)
- Established 19 new private nurseries in all three regions.

• Agriculture Research:

- Seed potato multiplication process continued at all level -Tissue Culture, Model Farms, and in the field with selected VACs and communities. Under contract growing with Kissan Agriculture Cooperative Society Nasirabad, Hunza 205 bag of seed potato of Lady Rosetta were distributed among 37 farmers while in Bagrote, Gilgit 246 bags of 25 KG each was distributed. 60 MT seed potato production is expected from this initiative.
- Produced 8,700 in-vitro plants, and 52,000 mini-tubers.

• Land Titling:

- Gilgit Baltistan Board of Revenue (GBBoR) initiated land measurement and documentation processes for 5 ILDs encompassing 4,029 acres. Of these, land measurement has been completed on 3,329 acres, including 3 schemes. The process is ongoing for 2 schemes.

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MAJOR EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

World Water Week Celebrated in Shigar

On September 2, 2023, the Regional Coordination Unit Baltistan, in collaboration with WWF Pakistan, organized World Water Week at Blind Lake in Shigar. The event aimed to address environmental hazards and promote water conservation through nature walks, clean-up drives, art competitions, and interactive sessions. Notable activities included the installation of willow mesh dustbins and involving differently abled students in water conservation initiatives. ETI-GB's participation was appreciated.



Seminar on Integrated Pest Management in Gilgit

The Integrated Pest Management section of the Agriculture Extension Department, Gilgit organized a day long seminar on Pest Management on September 14, 2023, in Gilgit. 45 women farmers from five Village Agriculture Cooperatives (VACs) attended the seminar which was aimed to enhance knowledge on pest management to safeguard agricultural produce and improve livelihoods.



GB Investment Road Show, Islamabad

On October 12, 2023, an Investment Road Show was held in Islamabad organized by the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan. ETI-GB participated, highlighting investment opportunities in agriculture and land development to attract potential investors. The event was participated by national and regional traders, investor, private companies, donors, organizations and government officials.



Briefing to the Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan

On November 6, 2023, ETI-GB briefed the Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan, on the programme's progress and its impact. During the briefing, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of ETI in transforming barren lands and boosting the agricultural sector in Gilgit-Baltistan. He highlighted that improving the quality of life through agriculture is essential in GB. The Chief Minister noted that the land ownership issues under ETI had been resolved and advised the project to focus on remote areas with large barren lands to enhance economic activities.



IFAD Implementation Support Mission, Islamabad



IFAD carried out a Support Mission on Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) from 29th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024 in Islamabad. Management of ETI-GB and GBRSP participated in the Support Mission. IFAD engaged a Rural Finance Specialist with the Programme to finalize the characteristics and modalities of PCGS. The Mission visited several commercial/microfinance banks and the State Bank of Pakistan to discuss the issues about access to finance through formal channels and leveraging the PCGS being implemented by the Programme to ensure formal financial services available to the rural farmers of Gilgit Baltistan.

International Mountain Day 2023, Islamabad

On December 11, 2023, International Mountain Day was celebrated at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad with the theme "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems." His Excellency Mr. Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan, served as the Chief Guest. The event's opening ceremony, titled "The Colors of Ice: Preservation, Promotion, and Emotions," took place at the PNCA. Mr. Aziz Ahmed Jamali, Secretary Finance for the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, represented the GB government and highlighted ongoing collaborative efforts with the support of the Italian Government and its development agencies, including the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). ETI-GB presented short documentaries and displayed its publications.



Briefing to the Additional Chief Secretary(Development), Gilgit-Baltistan

On September 16, 2023, Capt. (R) Mushtaq Ahmed, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) and Secretary, Planning & Development Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, visited the ETI-GB office in Gilgit. During the visit, the Program Coordinator, ETI-GB provided a detailed presentation on the program's achievements over the past seven years, ongoing activities, and future plans.ACS(Dev.) GB commends the collaborative efforts of ETI-GB and all implementing partners, along with relevant line departments, in driving economic transformation in Gilgit-Baltistan.



20th Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of ETI-GB

The 20th meeting of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) of ETI-GB took place on September 18, 2023, chaired by the Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan held at the Chief Secretary's office in Gilgit. The meeting focused on various agenda items related to the ETI-GB program. Attendees included the Additional Chief Secretary (Development) and other PSC members. The Programme Coordinator provided an overview and progress update, and several key proposals were discussed and approved, including partnerships, project extensions, and rehabilitation efforts.



Career Fest Gilgit-Baltistan, Skardu

From September 22-24, 2023, the Gilgit-Baltistan Career Festival was held at the Boys Degree College, Skardu. ETI-GB's stall provided career counseling, awareness and program orientation. The ET stall attracted attention from notable figures including the Chief Secretary and Force Commander, who were briefed about ETI-GB's initiatives and career opportunities in agriculture. Youth took keen interest in ETI-GB stall.



Mainstreaming Agriculture Education in Government School through Agri-Tech Fellows

ETI-GB and its partner, GBRSP, are implementing a training program to mainstream agriculture education in 100 selected government schools in Gilgit-Baltistan. The program involves 50 young agriculture graduates, who will teach topics such as agri entrepreneurship, value chain development, modern agriculture technology, mountain farming, nutrition, food security, sustainable agriculture production systems, and good agricultural practices. The program aims to promote a sustainable future for Gilgit-Baltistan by fostering a deeper understanding of agriculture among students. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 14 June 2024 between the School Education Department, GB ETI-GB, and GBRSP to ensure successful program execution.



A Delegation from IFAD Funded KP-RETP Visits ETI-GB

A delegation from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Economic Transformation Project (KP-RETP) visited ETI-GB on January 15, 2024. The session facilitated opportunities for the exchange of experiences and best practices, strengthening the commitment to future collaboration. A field visit was also facilitated by ETI-GB to various VACs and 4p Projects of the programme.



Irrigation and Land Development Day, Celebrated at Ghazitang, Ghanche



On February 14, 2024, ETI-GB celebrated the completion of an 11 km irrigation scheme in Ghazitang, Ghanche. The event, attended by local households and the Deputy Commissioner, emphasized innovation in agriculture and the importance of corporate farming. Large number of farmers planted fruit and forest plants on the newly developed lands.

Training Workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management and Sustainable Agriculture Facilitated by AICS, Islamabad



Five day training workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Sustainable Agriculture was held at the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC) in Islamabad. The training addressed challenges related to water management and agriculture, fostering energy and water efficient irrigation techniques, designs and implementation of schemes in the region. 17 engineers and specialists in rural infrastructures, design, GIS and other technical aspects involved in the ETI-GB Program attended workshop.

Autumn Plantations in Ghizer and Land Development Day in Ramgat, Astore



On 24 November 2023, ETI-GB launched autumn plantation drive in Ghizer, benefiting three completed irrigation schemes. Hundreds participated, planting trees in Gahkoch Bala, Hasis, and Hatun Batoli. On February 29, 2024, ETI-GB, in collaboration with the Forest Department, undertook plantation and land development activities in Ramgat, Bunji, Astore. The event saw active participation from community members and highlighted concurrent land development.



Joint Supervision Mission of IFAD & AICS

The Supervision Mission was carried out during 12-25 May 2024 in the field, with the main objective to assess the overall progress of the project; progress against agreed actions and recommendations of the 2023 Supervision and implementation support missions; identify key challenges for a successful exit strategy and sustainability of the project interventions and propose agreed solutions to overcome these; assess financial progress and coherence of the AWPB for the current financial and calendar year; and review and assess the quality of procurement both at PCU/RCU and community level.

Field visits were conducted in 8 districts, where discussions held with project beneficiaries, staff, the GBRSP, and relevant government departments. AICS joined the mission on 19 May 2024.

Inception Meeting - EIA of Infrastructure Schemes Executed under ETI-GB



On March 22, 2024, an inception workshop was held to discuss Environmental Impact Assessments for infrastructure projects by AICS financing, focusing on sustainable practices in project development.

ETI-GB's 21st PSC Meeting Held in Gilgit



On June 4, 2024, Program Steering Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mr. Abrar Ahmed Mirza. The Meeting was attended by the PSC members. The forum reviewed ETIGB performance and expressed satisfaction over the overall performance of the programme. Important decisions were taken after extensive discussions on the issues on the agenda of the meeting.



On September 26th, 2023, an IFAD portfolio workshop was held in Islamabad, where the Programme Coordinator, ETI-GB provided participants with updates on the programme achievements, and results of ETI-GB interventions in the region.

Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Visits ETI-GB Scheme in Gulapur



On September 26, 2023, the Honorable Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (KA&GB) Mr. Babar Hayat Tarrar visited the Zhigo Daas Irrigation and Land Development (ILD) scheme in Gulapur, District Ghizer. The Deputy Programme Coordinator (DPC) of ETI-GB, along with community representatives from Gulapur village, warmly welcomed and briefed the Secretary regarding the achievements of ETIGB. The Secretary planted a fruit tree to mark the start of the autumn plantation drive initiated by the community on the newly developed land.

Community Management and Skill Enhancement Training for 10 SMTs of Diamer Region



The ETI-GB Social Mobilization Team Diamer held a two-day training in Chilas on Dec 6-7, 2023. 18 participants from 10 SMTs and VACs attended. The training focused on community management and skill enhancement, aiming to bolster community capacity and sustainable development. Participants learned about ETI-GB's interventions and the upcoming extended phase (2022-25). The Regional Programme Coordinator presented on the vital role of Village Agriculture Cooperatives in land development and sustainable growth. Experts from the Agriculture Department Diamer and the Aga Khan Rural Support Program shared valuable knowledge and perspectives with the participants.



4th National Suspulo Festival, Kharmang

Held on October 28, 2023, in Pari, Kharmang, The 4th National Suspulo Festival celebrated the Suspulo apple - a special apple variety only grown in Kharmang District of Baltistan. The event was jointly organized by the Agriculture Department and ETI-GB, focused on promoting Suspulo apples and related products both locally and internationally.

Kissan Mela 2023: Skardu & Ghulmet Nagar



The Kissan Mela was organized on November 1-2, 2023 in Skardu and November 4-5, 2024 in Ghulmit Nagar. Supported by VACs and ETI-GB, the event aimed to promote agricultural practices and local products, drawing large participation from stakeholders and dignitaries. Syed Mehdi Shah, the Governor, Gilgit-Baltistan, graced the occasion with his presence.

Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan Visits ETI-GB Infrastructure Schemes in Shigar



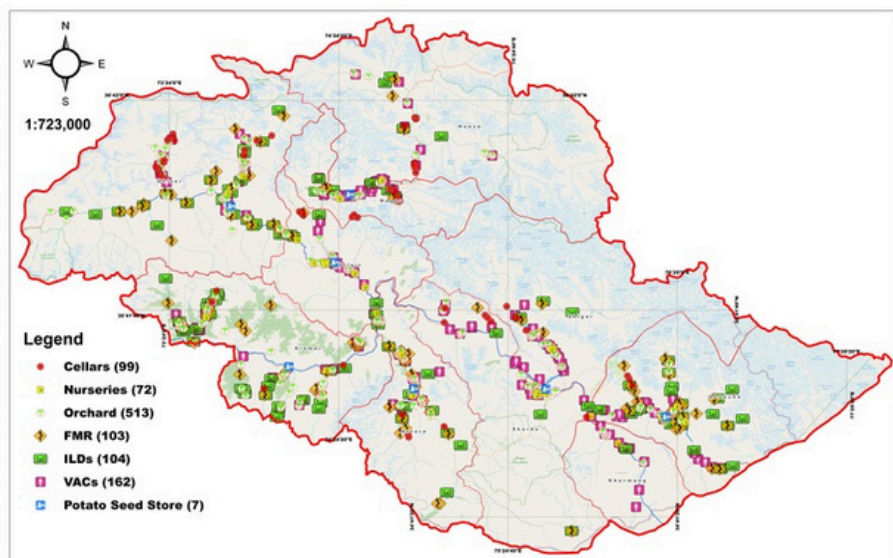
On January 13th, 2024, Mr. Abrar Ahmad Mirza, Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan, along with the Commissioner of Baltistan Division, Deputy Commissioner Shigar, and other officials, visited ETI-GB's ongoing irrigation channel and road projects at Ghorcho Thang in District Shigar. The ETI-GB regional team, WM&ID, district officials, and community members provided a detailed update on the project's progress. The Chief Secretary praised ETI-GB for its significant contributions to the region's development.

Agreement Signed with GBRSP

On December 21, 2023, ETI-GB and GBRSP signed the agreement in Gilgit. This agreement focused on establishing and strengthening VACs, providing business development services, and integrating agricultural education through the placement of Agri-Tech Fellows.



ETI-GB Geographic Coverage



ETI-GB's Contributions SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



International Women's Day 2024

ETI-GB participated in International Women's Day celebrations, highlighting progress towards gender equality and supporting rural women through value chain development and expanded land holdings. The Gender and Poverty Section participated in 16 days of activism, supporting the Global campaign against violence against women.



Training of Agriculture Field Staff

ETI-GB conducted an awareness session on gender sensitization and mainstreaming in agriculture from June 5th-7th, 2024, focusing on gender, youth, nutrition, and environment.



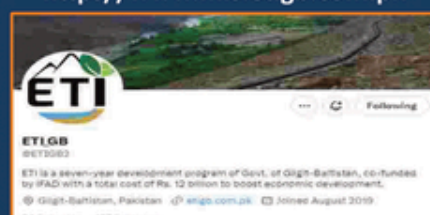
Participatory Wealth Ranking and Poverty Assessment

As of June 2024, 2,350 poorest households across 74 irrigation and land development schemes were identified. Participatory Wealth Ranking was conducted in 10 schemes, and the Poverty Score Card tool is being used to categorize households.



Monitoring & Evaluation Communication and Knowledge Management

ETI-GB Online Presence

 Website https://www.etigb.com.pk	 Dashboard (Internal) https://dashboard.etigb.com.pk	 MIS (Internal) https://www.mis.etigb.com.pk
 Facebook https://www.facebook.com/etigilgitbaltistan	 YouTube https://www.youtube.com/@etigb	 Twitter https://www.twitter.com/ETIGB2

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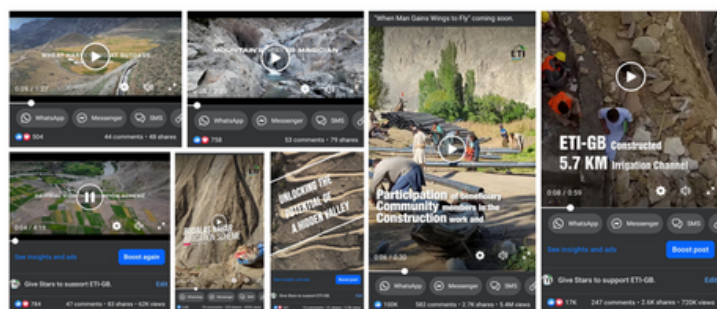
- **Website:** <https://www.etigb.com.pk/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/etigilgitbaltistan>
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@etigb>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/etigb2>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/104642620/admin/dashboard/>

Online Publications

- Seven Years' Fact Sheet – May 2016 to September 2022**
<https://www.etigb.com.pk/factsheet/>
- Progress Report Card**
<https://www.etigb.com.pk/progress-report/>
- Brochures**
<https://www.etigb.com.pk/brochure/>
- Newsletter**
<https://www.etigb.com.pk/newsletter/>
- Information leaflets**
<https://www.etigb.com.pk/information-leaflet/>
- Newsletters**
<https://www.etigb.com.pk/newsletter/>



Documentaries



Studies and Reports

S.No	Type of Report	Gilgit	Diamer	Baltistan
1.	Case Studies/ Success Stories/ Impact study/Event Reports	7	4	10
2.	Field Monitoring Reports	10	7	5
3.	Monthly Physical, HR and Financial Progress of Schemes	12	12	12





ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE GILGIT-BALTISTAN
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN



Development Goal

Improve Income, Reduce Poverty and Malnutrition in Rural Areas of Gilgit-Baltistan

Programme Development Objective

Increased agriculture income and employment for at least 100,000 rural households in Gilgit-Baltistan through sustainable development of agriculture value chain

100,000 Households
Outreach Target

120 Million
Total Cost (\$)

Working in 10 Districts of Gilgit-Baltistan

Key Components

1. Economic Infrastructure
2. Value Chain Development
3. Programme Management and Policy Support

ETI-GB Co-Financers



PROGRAM / REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT

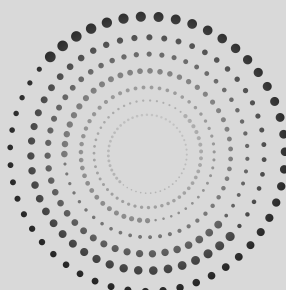
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REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT

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