



Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan

NEWSLETTER

August 2018



Government of Gilgit-Baltistan



Investing in rural people

It gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of our ETI Newsletter. I would like to welcome our readers to the first issue of the Newsletter which will outline our mission and programs. The ETI Newsletter will serve as a channel to communicate with our strategic partners and supporters both at national & international levels and the audience at large. This will be a monthly publication which will keep our readers abreast with the continuous operations at the Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan (ETI - GB) and how it is benefitting communities in the province.

ETI - GB began in 2015 and is a seven-year initiative: Each day brings to us new challenges and new beginnings; each challenge faced with the knowledge that this is the beginning of a new chapter of countless lives that ETI - GB will touch through the course of its seven years. The program has faced many challenges and struggles, but we're on the right track of progress in the past year which has been acknowledged by both the Program Steering Committee and IFAD. This newsletter will be a tool to keep everyone updated on the progress and trials and tribulations we face along the way. What we have set out to do is no easy task and would have not been possible without the consistent support of all our colleagues who have been working tirelessly with ETI - GB since its inception.

I would like to thank the Chief Secretary and Secretary, Planning & Development Department Gilgit-Baltistan for their support and continued guidance. ETI - GB would not have been possible without our funding partner, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), our social mobilization partner, The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) and the three directorates of the Agriculture Department of Gilgit Baltistan i.e. the Water Management Directorate, Agricultural Research Directorate and the Agricultural Extension Directorate for their unwavering support.

We hope you enjoy reading the first issue of the ETI Newsletter and we look forward to your feedback and support.

Thank you!

Sheharyar Ahmad (P.A.S)

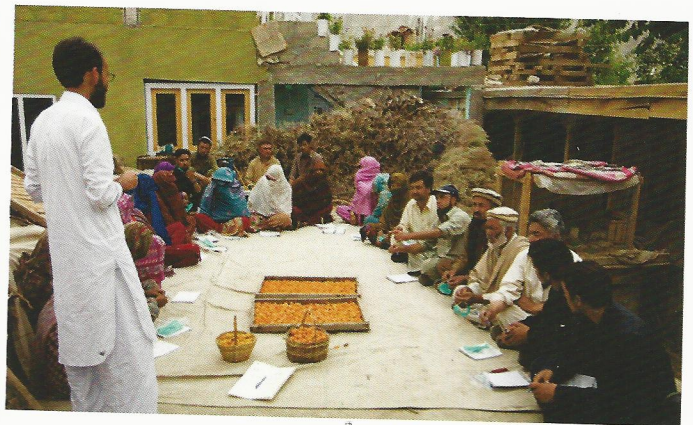
Deputy Program Coordinator / Manager,
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What is ETI - GB?



Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan (ETI - GB) is working towards providing rural communities of Gilgit Baltistan means to improve their lives at a grassroot level. The seven-year initiative which began in 2015 plans to convert 50,000 acres of barren land into arable land which will help 100,000 thousand households in Gilgit Baltistan. This will be done via irrigating the land, upgrading and adding 400 kilometers of roads to make the land accessible and assisting in the farming and value chain process.

The US\$ 120 million initiative of the Government of Gilgit Baltistan is being supported by The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) who provided 60% of the funds as a soft loan, 20% is co-financed while the remaining 20% is being provided by the government. Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan, headquartered in Gilgit City covers the districts of Ghizer of the Gilgit Regional Unit, Ghanche of the Baltistan Regional Unit, Astore and Diamer of the Baltistan Regional Unit.



The community driven initiative is focused towards two core areas:

● Irrigation & Land Development ● Farm-to-Market Roads

While the above two schemes are for the four districts mentioned above. In addition, ETI-GB has development programs in all 10 districts of Gilgit Baltistan which will aid in improving economic status through capacity building and help empower the communities.

The three areas are:

- Value Chain Development
- Social Mobilization
- Gender & Poverty Section

IRRIGATION & LAND DEVELOPMENT



Irrigating 50,000 Acres Of Barren Land In The Mountainous Landscape Of Gilgit Baltistan

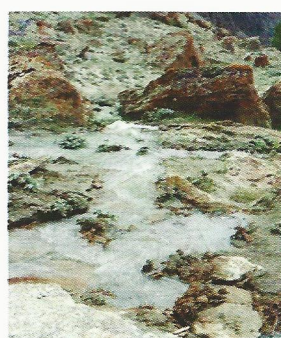
Currently 50,000 acres of arable land is being cultivated by the rural population of Gilgit Baltistan. ETI – GB hopes to double the land by adding another 50,000 acres to it through this seven-year initiative. This is being done by irrigating the terrain and involves the local communities from the onset till the very end.

ETI - GB and its partners provide the funding and technical expertise while key members of the community have been organized into "Scheme Management Team" (SMT). The teams of the communities will be responsible for employing labor, procuring the construction material, financial management and maintenance once the project is complete.

Furthermore, ETI - GB is aiding in Land Development through training of local farmers for better production through introduction of better farming techniques, better yield crops and farm inputs as and when required once the land is irrigated. In addition, Youth Construction Trainings (YCT) through the Applied Technologies Institute of the National Logistic Cell (NLC) for the youth of these areas is a part of irrigation and land development. These trained individuals will return to their communities and will contribute to the Irrigation and Land Development and Farm to Market Road construction in their regions.

As of July 2018

- **22,330** Acres of land currently being irrigated.
- Ground work completed on **8,780** Acres of land .
- Design and Cost Estimation in Progress for **16,690** Acres of land.
- **129** youths trained through NLC.



FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS



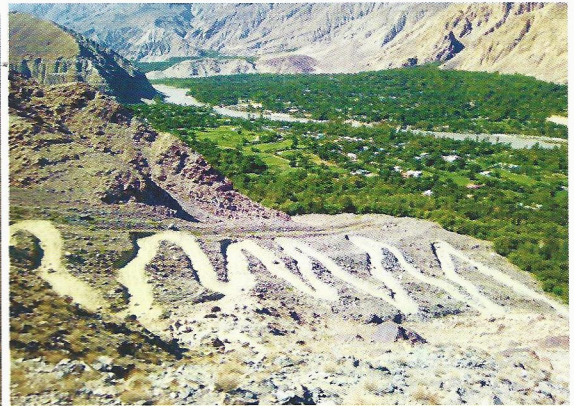
Upgrading and Constructing 400 KM of Roads In The Rugged Terrain Of The Province

Lack of accessibility in the province of Gilgit Baltistan causes almost 60 – 70 % of the fruit products to be wasted after local consumption. The lack of roads is the reason for the harvest being wasted instead of reaching the wholesale market. ETI - GB will build and upgrade almost 400 KM of roads carving through the rugged landscape of the province to create access for the rural population who have thus far been unable to achieve their economic potential due to lack of basic infrastructure and connection to markets.

The strategy employed by ETI – GB is to initiate work on key routes that will help a large rural population reach the market place and for the farmers to benefit from their crops. Access will not only allow the farmers to make profitable returns on their yield but also open a world of opportunities for the rural population in terms of education, social development and empowerment. This program also follows the “Scheme Management Team” (SMT) model.

As of July 2018

- **110** KM of roads being constructed.
- Ground work completed on **61** KM of roads.
- Design and cost Estimation in progress for **55** KM of roads.



VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT



Investing In Communities – Building From The Ground Up

Access to roads and water is not enough to assist rural communities in becoming self-sustainable and productive members of society. This is where Value Chain Development of ETI - GB comes in; by creating partnerships, providing training and helping the communities develop sustainable sources of income through agriculture. One of the key functions of Value Chain Development is to execute the "4P model" which has been successfully implemented in Sri-Lanka and has been adapted for Gilgit Baltistan, entitled "The 4P Business Development model". "4Ps involve cooperation between a government, business agents and small-scale producers, who agree to work together to reach a common goal or carry out a specific task while jointly assuming risks and responsibilities, and sharing benefits, resources and competencies". Thus, the 4P model is the Public, Private, Producer Partnership which creates opportunities for collaboration, cooperation and increased source of revenue for the communities. This initiative empowers the farmers, providing them with opportunities to generate increased profits from their harvest. Value Chain Development has a diverse portfolio driven by the aim of income improvement. ETI - GB

As of July 2018

- **19** Public, Private, Producer Partnerships created.
- **7032** farmers in **4** districts empowered through **65** Village Producer Groups.
- **1354** seed bags provided for **272** kanals of land to **102** farmers.

focuses on the needs of people and provides them with funds, training or logistics that may be needed to improve the financial situation of the community. The Goal is first and foremost: **Self Sustainability of the Community**.

Some of the other initiatives taken by Value Chain Development include:

- Scheme Management Team (SMT) trainings in financial and project management.
- Trainings of farmers on pre and post harvesting.
- Provision of seed bags to farmers.
- Funding in various program to empower rural habitants of the province.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

Building Capacity - Reducing Adversity

• Social Mobilization is responsible for assessment of every project undertaken by Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan.

Through this component, poverty assessment and need assessment is prepared for each program. The Social Mobilization program implements the 4P model bringing together the representatives of all sectors on the table creating opportunities for collaboration and cooperation.

In addition, social mobilization undertakes the development of the Scheme Management Teams for the projects being developed by ETI - GB. The unit also stresses upon the need of women empowerment to the communities and ensures participation of at least two women in every Scheme Management Team.

Social Mobilization is being undertaken both by internal teams for Diamer region, and by ETI - GB's social mobilization partner, The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) for the remaining 10 districts.



GENDER AND POVERTY SECTION

Empowering Women - Changing Perceptions

Gender & Poverty Section specifically focuses on identification and improvement of Gender & Poverty related issues of Gilgit Baltistan. Achieving gender equality in the region is an integral part of ETI-GB's vision. The initiative is committed to creating opportunities for women to be empowered ensuring financial independence for

themselves and their families. This is the first developmental project in Gilgit Baltistan that focuses on gender mainstreaming and supports women empowerment through a range of programs and activities.

Gender & Poverty Section approaches equality systematically whereby guaranteeing female participation in every process. The program is designed with a primary focus on female participation at every level at ETI - GB.

Gender balancing in staffing dictates that at least 30 percent of all hiring should be women in the Program Coordination Units (PCU), Regional Coordination Units (RCU) and the Social Mobilization Partners (SMP).

Some of the key activities of the Gender and Poverty Section are social assessment of poorest households, trainings on nutrition improvement and awareness creation to reduce child malnutrition and preparing gender and poverty checklists. In addition, the section conducts Gender Sensitization and Mainstreaming Trainings and Workshops for the PCU, RCU and implementing partner organizations.



Currently in the pipeline is aiding the Government in a computerized Land Titling Initiative and a comprehensive Water Management and Road Masterplan for the province of Gilgit Baltistan.

These programs aim at bringing change at the grassroot level and are interlinked in such a manner that it is viable, sustainable and grows organically after ETI - GB completes the project.

ETI – HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

ETI-GB Annual Work Plan & Budget 2018-19 approved

ETI-GB Annual Work Plan & Budget 2018-19 (AWP&B) was submitted and approved by the ETI-GB's funding partner IFAD and was granted No Objection status after review. Almost two months were spent developing and reviewing the AWP&B by the Implementation Partners, Regional Coordination Units and Program Coordination Unit. The document also incorporated the feedback of IFAD Country Program Manager and ETI-GB's Executive Committee. The AWP&B shall now be presented before the Program Steering Committee for final approval.

Projects in pipeline Approval granted for four infrastructure projects

In the month of July, following four development projects were approved by the Infrastructure Section at the Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan:

- 3rd July 2018, Surmo Broq Farm to Market Road in District Ghanche was technically sanctioned. The Farm to Market Road will be about 4.5 kms long and will benefit around 900 Households.
- 11th July 2018, Batogah Irrigation Scheme in District Diamer was approved by the Infrastructure Section. The 4 km long irrigation channel will irrigate an area of around 300 acres and will benefit around 430 households.
- 23rd July 2018, the Infrastructure Section of ETI - GB granted technical sanction for Bathee irrigation channel in District Ghizer, which will irrigate 330 acres of barren land.
- 31st July 2018, the Infrastructure Section of ETI - GB granted technical sanction to approximately 6 km long Farm to Market Road in Darmandar of district Ghizer.

IRRIGATION & LAND DEVELOPMENT

The first plantation grows with water from an ETI- GB irrigation channel in Gilgit

July 2018 marks a proud moment for the Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan; for the first-time water reached the barren land through an ETI - GB Irrigation Channel. The construction of the irrigation channel in Dahimal village, District Ghizer began in May 2017 and took 14 months to complete. The irrigation channel which cost 20.95 million rupees will irrigate almost 320 acres of barren land and provide livelihood to around 330 households.



MoU signing ceremony in Piswhari, Minimarg village of Diamer

An MOU signing ceremony between the community of Piswhari, Minimarg village, Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan (ETI - GB) and Water Management Directorate (WMD) was held on 30th of June 2018.

The MoU for the construction of 1.79 km of irrigation channel in the area was signed in the presence of 65 community members representing Piswhari. The irrigation and land development scheme of Pishwari, District Astore is estimated at 7.21 million rupees and will irrigate 125 acres of land to be completed in 5 months.

10 projects being executed in Baltistan

A total of 11,500 acres of barren land are to be brought under-cultivation in the Baltistan Region through the Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan. We are happy to report, as of July 2018; a total of 10 irrigation and land development projects are under implementation. These 10 projects will irrigate 3983 acres of barren land which will make a difference in the lives of 1862 households. The total length of the irrigation channel on these projects is 41.893 km and by the end of July 2018, 51% of the construction had been completed.

129 youths complete 3 months training program at NLC, Mandra – Rawalpindi

On 5th of July 2018, youth group of 129 young men successfully completed three months of training by NLC. These young men were selected from the villages under the Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan and sent to the Applied Technologies Institute of the National Logistic Cell (NLC), Mandra, Rawalpindi. They trained in six traits which included: Engineering Drawing Acquaintance, Steel cutting, Bending, Fixing and Shuttering, Erecting and Welding, Stone Masonry and PCC Construction, Plumbing, Pipe Fitting and Jointing, Operators (Excavator, Dozer, Crane, Loader) and Laboratory Testing of Material (soil, concrete, steel etc.).

FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS

50 percent work on 4 projects headed for completion in Baltistan

Currently four Farm to Market Road projects are under construction with a total length of 8.94 km in the mountainous terrain of Baltistan out of which 3.9 km has been completed. The Baltistan region will benefit immensely from the 92 km Farm to Market Roads to be constructed under the Economic Transformation Initiative, Gilgit Baltistan. These roads will open new avenues for business and create much needed channels of accessibility in the area.

MoU signing ceremony in Piswhari, Minimarg village of Diamer

Another MoU was signed between the community of Piswhari, Minimarg Village, ETI - GB and Water Management Directorate (WMD) on 30th of June 2018 to build a 4.116 km of Farm to Market Road. The construction of the road will link Piswhari, Minimarg with

main Minimarg Valley road. This linkage will ease transportation of farm produce of the village which includes potatoes, barley, peas etc. to the market. The total cost of the project will be 18.653 million rupees and is expected to be completed in 5 months by end November 2018.



VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Training of Trainers in Apricot Processing and Good Agriculture Practices in Gilgit

In the month of June and July 2018, the Value Chain Technical Assistance Team (VCTAT) conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) in "Apricot Processing and Good Agriculture Practices". 140 farmers were trained as master trainers from the Gilgit region. The trainees were largely members of Mountain Area Fruit Framers Association (MonAFFA) along with potential farmers who were also trained to work as master trainers in future. The region was divided into three clusters i.e. Hunza, Nagar and Ghizer cluster with 41, 13 & 86 participants respectively. Almost 65% of the attendees were females with 35% male participation. 81% of the participants were under 30 years of age who will train future farmers of the area.

Installation of Milk Chillers to improve for Dairy Value Chain in Gilgit

On 22nd July 2018, a technical team arrived from Lahore & Peshawar to Gilgit to install 5 chillers at the Milk Collection Center. The chillers have successfully been installed at the cluster level Milk Collection Centre. The four-member team consisted of 2 representatives of the supplier- Panache Constructions Excellence in Engineering & 2 were technicians from the manufacturing company, Unitech.

Training of farmers in Sermik and Shigar, Baltistan

During the month of June and July 2018, 315 farmers attended multiple trainings in Sermik and Shigar, Baltistan. These included farmer field days at Doro Sermik for the farmers of Sermik village, which were conducted by the Directorate of Agriculture of Gilgit Baltistan. The Directorate of Agriculture also conducted a training on soil sampling and analysis. Furthermore, farmer groups attended training on quality seed production at Sermik and Shigar, Baltistan in the last week of July.



SOCIAL MOBILIZATION & GENDER AND POVERTY SECTION

Social mobilization workshop organized for ETI- GB staff in Diamer

A two day workshop/training course on social mobilization was organized for ETI - GB staff from 22nd - 24th July 2018, with an aim to discuss mobilization processes and implementation challenges across the

region in general and particularly Diamer. A total of 17 staff members from all regions attended the training session. The first day of the workshop was also attended by the Program Coordinator ETI- GB - Dr. Ahsanullah Mir who provided his input for course correction during implementation of project activities.



Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan



NEWSLETTER *September 2018*



Government of Gilgit-Baltistan



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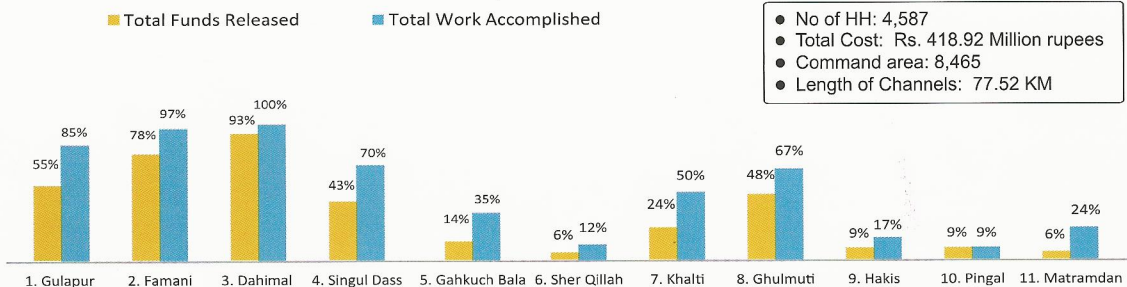
ETI – HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

IRRIGATION & LAND DEVELOPMENT

Irrigation on 8,465 Acres of Land underway in Ghizer District of Gilgit Baltistan

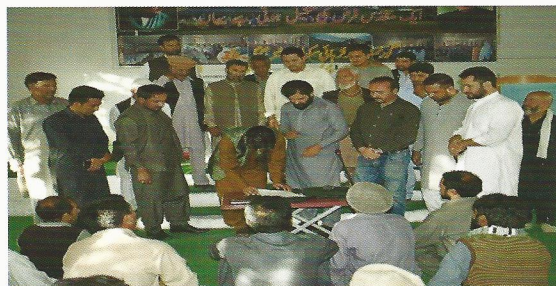
Economic Transformation Initiative – Gilgit Baltistan has made marked progress in the past three years. 8,465 acres of land is being irrigated in the Ghizer District of Gilgit Baltistan which will dramatically change the lives of 5000 households of the region.

The schemes underway constitutes construction of 78 kilometers of irrigation channels costing 419 Million rupees. 11 areas of Ghizer District of Gilgit Baltistan are part of the project which include Gulapur, Famani, Dahimal, Singul Dass, Gahkuch Bala, Sher Qillah, Khalti, Ghulmuti, Hakis, Pingal and Matramdan. Progress will be shared further as and when each scheme reach completion.



MoU signing ceremony at Keris Valley in Ghanche District

On 10th August 2018, an MoU signing ceremony was held between the Keris community of Ghanche District with ETI-GB. Through this MoU an irrigation channel of 5 kilometers will be built creating opportunities for 312 households of the area. The MoU was facilitated by the social mobilization partner of ETI-GB which will cost 20 million rupees and will irrigate 335 acres of barren land of the valley.



The launch of the Bathee Bathrait irrigation scheme

Bathee Bathrait irrigation scheme was launched in August, this now amounts to 12 irrigation and land development schemes underway in Ghizer District.

The latest MoU signed with the community of Bathee Bathrait in Ghizer District of the Gilgit Administrative Unit will irrigate 330 acres of land and will improve the economic conditions of 250 households.



PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

The Water Management Department of Gilgit Baltistan completed preliminary technical survey of 2 Irrigation and Land Development Schemes in Dagboni Broq and Piun Khwato Chorbati in the month of August.

The infrastructure section of ETI-GB granted technical approval for three schemes in the month of August 2018, these included the following:

- 8th August 2018 – Hamaran Farm to Market Road in District Ghizer was technically sanctioned by the infrastructure of ETI-GB. The road will be 12.07 km long benefiting almost 260 Households and will cost PKR 47 million rupees.
- 9th August 2018 – Dramander Irrigation Scheme in District Ghizer was granted approval by the infrastructure section of ETI-GB. Covering an area of 485 acres; the irrigation channel will be 5.35 kilometers long and will cost PKR 22 million rupees and will benefit 400 households.
- 29th August 2018 – The Infrastructure Section sanctioned the Minimurg irrigation channel in Astor, Diamer Region. With a cost of PKR 99 million rupees, the irrigation channel will irrigate 240 acres of barren land and change the lives of 85 households.

FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS

Technical Survey of Kandey & Saith Saltoro Farm to Market Roads Schemes Completed

As the number of projects undertaken by ETI-GB grow, it is imperative to ensure all schemes are on the right track following timelines and meeting financial and technical stipulations. To this end, a detailed technical survey of the Kandey Farm to Market roads (FMR) schemes was completed by an ETI-GB Consultant. Similarly, survey of

Saith Saltoro Farm to Market Roads Schemes was carried out by the Social Mobilization Partner of ETI-GB. Furthermore, the Regional Coordination Unit of Baltistan paid four monitoring visits to the FMR schemes to evaluate the quality of the construction. Located in the Ghanche District of the Baltistan Administrative Unit, the schemes will construct 92 kms of Farm to Market Roads.



Community of Doyyan and ETI-GB sign an MoU for Farm to Market Road

The Scheme Management Team of Dayyan signed an MoU with Economic Transformation Initiative – Gilgit Baltistan for a Farm to Market Road scheme in the presence of the community. Located in the Diamer district of Gilgit Baltistan, Doyyan will see the construction of a 10-kilometer road at a cost of 16.4 million rupees to be completed in one year, the road will open avenues for 650 households of the village.

MOU signing ceremonies in Shamsabad & Bathee Bathrait

In the month of August 2018, 2 MoU ceremonies were held between the communities of Shamsabad & Bathee Bathrait in the Ghizer district of Gilgit Baltistan with Economic Transformation Initiative – Gilgit Baltistan. The two agreements will add 25 kilometers of Farm to Market roads creating access in the remote areas of the region. Currently, 12 schemes are underway in Ghizer District for the construction of 81 kilometers of Farm to Market Roads.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION & GENDER AND POVERTY SECTION

Wealth Ranking Identification

Economic Transformation Initiative – Gilgit Baltistan has set out to create self-sustainable avenues for the beneficiaries once ETI-GB completes their programs. This is achieved by ensuring that the community stays committed in sustaining programs in their respective area. This includes a 50% payback of the irrigation scheme cost in the villages. This payback amount will be utilized for the maintenance of the irrigation channels as and when required in the future. However, the poorest households of the villages will be exempt from the payback. In August, wealth ranking exercises took place in the villages of Matramdan, Sandi and Barjungle in the Gilgit Region to identify these households.

During the wealth ranking exercise 77 households were exempted from the three villages. They were categorized as 7 women only households, 55 ultra-poor households, 13 vulnerable households and 2 landless households.

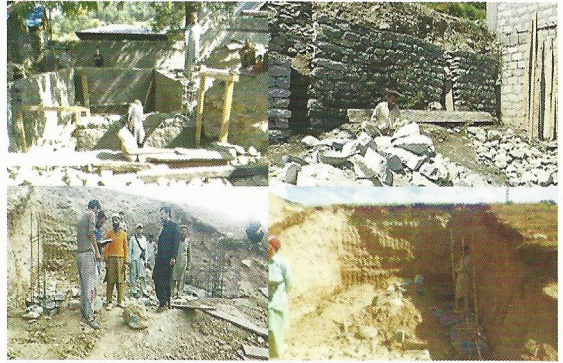


VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Construction of 7 Cellars underway in Diamer

Economic Transformation Initiative – Gilgit Baltistan has taken a holistic approach towards their goal of improving the socio-economic status of the region's population. Currently, construction of 7 cellars are underway in the valleys of Yashot, Goharabad, Dabot, Goharabad Lasanot, Zaipur, Remanpur, Nasirabad and Daskaram in Diamer region and will benefit 202 farmers.

These cellars once completed will be utilized to store seed potatoes being harvested by the local communities to be stored during the winter season and to be planted next year. Each cellar will cost almost PKR 7 Lacs and is being financed by both ETI-GB and the farmers. ETI – GB incurred 75% of the cost while the farmers are financing the remaining 25% of the expenditure.



“Seed Potato Harvest and Post-Harvest Technology” training held in Gilgit

Economic Transformation Initiative – Gilgit Baltistan held a two-day training session on “Seed Potato Harvest and Post-Harvest Technology” in Gilgit. The training was attended by Farmer Organizations part of the seed potato production system in Ghizer District.

366 members of Farmer Organizations participated in the training focused on producing healthy seed potato crop and minimizing losses occurred during pre-harvest and post-harvest stages of potato cultivation. Through capacity building of the farmers, a significant reduction of losses in the crops is foreseen resulting in better revenues and decreasing poverty.

Finance Management trainings carried out in Gilgit City

Economic Transformation Initiative - Gilgit Baltistan has placed a great deal of importance on value chain development since its inception. It is ETI-GB's firm belief that while infrastructure improvement is crucial however human resource development is key in poverty alleviation and improving lives. Thus, in the month of August the administration and finance team of the Program Coordination Unit of ETI-GB conducted a record keeping and financial management training for the beneficiaries of the initiative. This will help the benefactors of ETI-GB to better utilize their resources and effectively manage their capital.



Farmer training programs held in Baltistan

The ETI-GB Regional Coordination unit of Baltistan in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension Department, Baltistan held 4 farmer training programs on quality seed production in different valleys of the region. The farmers were trained on seed potato multiplication intervention 2018 and were educated on quality seed potato production. The trainings were attended by 256 farmers which not only included the beneficiaries of ETI-GB but also other rural farmers of the area.



Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan



**NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2018**



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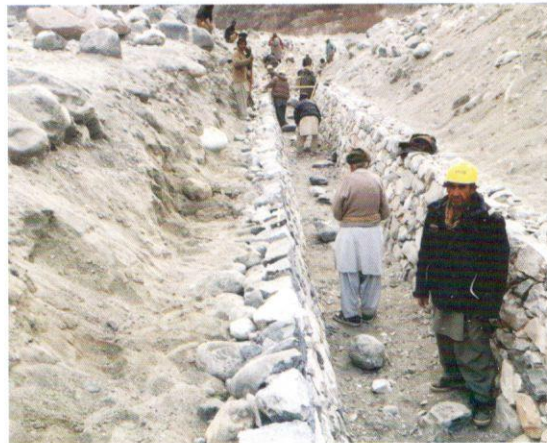
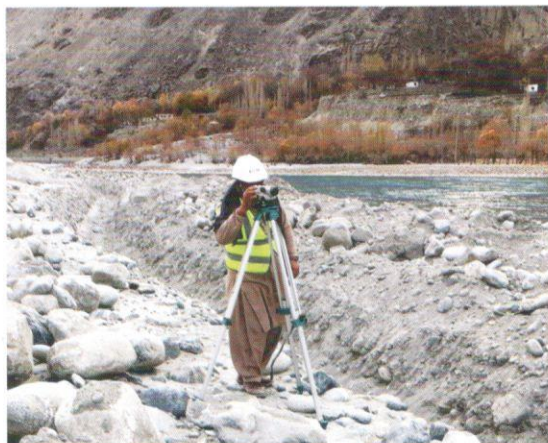
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ETI- HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

IRRIGATION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

ETI-GB to irrigate 2472 acres of Barren land in Ghanche District of Gilgit- Baltistan

Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan has signed three MoUs under the component of Irrigation and Land Development (ILD) to irrigate barren land in District Ghanche.



The details of the schemes initiated in the month of October are hereunder;

S.No	Name of ILD/village	Total length of water channel	Command area	MoU	Date of commencement	Cost	Beneficiaries
1	Khorkondo	6.4 KM	384 acres	1 st Oct	9 th October	Rs.21.68 million	133 households
2	Youghu	7.01 KM	318 acres	3 rd Oct	16 th October	Rs.16.18 million	342 households
3	Ghaizithang	11.09 KM	1170 acres	11 th Oct	-	Rs.50.21 million	700 households

FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS

2400 Households to get access to Markets under FMR scheme in Baltistan





Keeping in view the dire need of roads, ETI-GB is constructing network of farm to market roads under the component FMR across GB.

In the month of October ETI-GB has signed two separate MoUs with the communities of Thalley and Surmo to benefit 2400 households by enabling them to get access to market for their agricultural harvest. Through first MoU which was signed on 2nd October with community of Thalley, ETI-GB will construct 10.51 KM road with an objective to link local farmers to the market. Moreover, through second MoU with the community of Surmo around 4.31 KM road will be built in Surmo and work started on 11th October.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

2400 Households to get access to Markets under FMR scheme in Baltistan

A training on financial management was conducted for the Scheme Management Teams (SMTs) of ILD and FMR projects in Baltistan. A total 07 SMTs were trained on various components of financial management including bookkeeping, cash handling and inventory for better implementation of the schemes in the area.

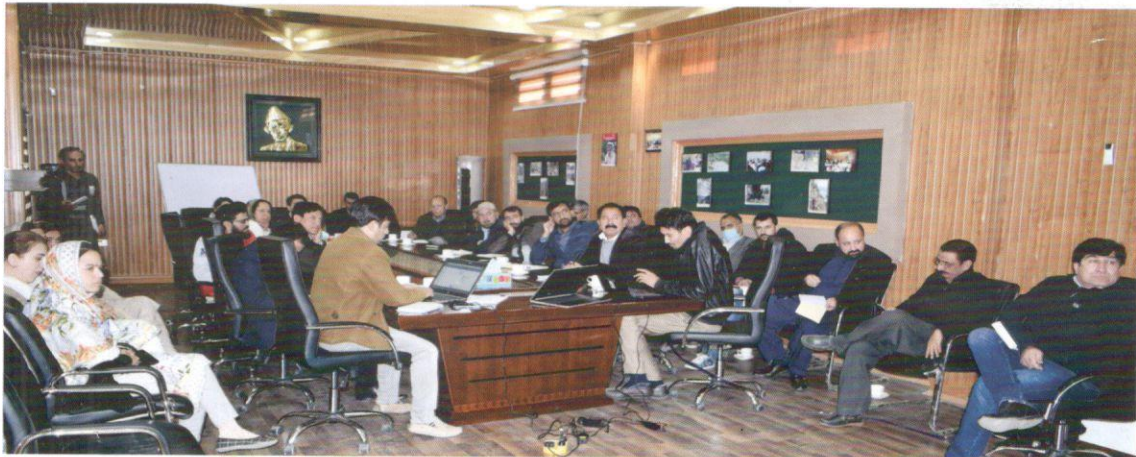
The members of SMTs were drawn from following schemes and villages;

- Yougo ILD
- Parangus FMR
- Thaley Broq FMR
- Goma ILD
- Lachat ILD
- Khanay ILD
- Khurkundu ILD



Capacity Building of ETI-GB, SMP, VCTAT and Agri- Extension Staff

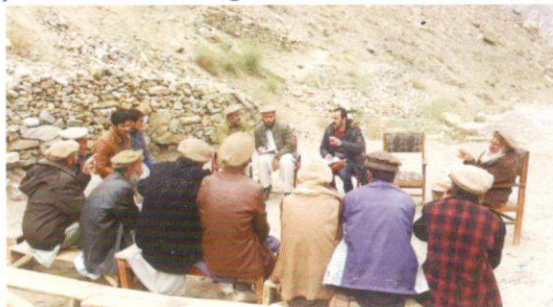
On 18th October, a two-day comprehensive session for ETI-GB, Social Mobilization Partner, Value Chain Technical Assistance Team and Agri-Extension staff was organized in Gilgit with the aim to improve understanding and knowledge of participants about value chain, concepts, approaches and the process involved in the formation of Farmer Organizations and Village Producer Groups. The session was attended by 34 participants including 5 women.



GENDER AND POVERTY

Poverty Assessment through Participatory wealth ranking Method

The Gender and Poverty Section of ETI-GB conducted poverty assessment through wealth ranking method around Irrigation and land development (ILD) schemes in Doyan village of District Astor. The assessment was successfully conducted with the support of social mobilization field office Astor and Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) Diamer. During Assessment 67 poorest households were identified out of total 650 households residing in Doyan village through participatory wealth ranking method.



VALUE CHAIN

ETI-GB equips 520 farmers with Seed Potato Post-Harvest Technology Training in Gilgit Region

A two day training on post-harvest technology of seed potato was conducted for the farmers of 8 villages who are engaged in seed potato production business in Hunza, Nagar and Ghizer District. In the training 520 individuals from



farmer organizations (FOs) participated which also includes 151 women. The prime objective of the training was capacity building of farmers towards healthy seed potato production and prevention of pre and post-harvest losses of seed potato.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND RESEARCH

Awareness campaign for farmers in Gilgit Region

Various sessions on best farming practices and innovative ideas were conducted in different Districts of Gilgit in the month of October.

The details of the sessions are hereunder;

Name of Activity	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Farmer Field Day Female	Nagar	11-12 October	23 Women
Farmer Field Day Female	Jalalabad	17-18 October	61 Women
Farmer Field Day Male	Chalt	17-18 October	17 Men





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NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2018



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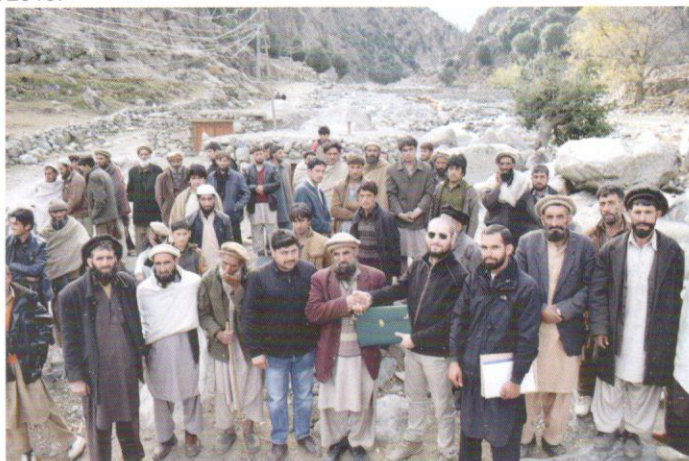
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ETI- HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

IRRIGATION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

ETI-GB to convert 790 acres of barren land into arable land in District Diamer

In the month of November, ETI-GB signed two MoUs under the ILD component to irrigate 790 acres of barren land in Diamer District. First MoU was signed on 16th November with the Scheme Management Team (SMT) of Makhili in a grand gathering. Through this MoU 6 KM long water channel will be built at the cost of Rs.15.69 million. Upon completion this water channel will benefit 230 households by irrigating 285 acres of barren land. Furthermore, this project is expected to be completed by March 2019.



Second MoU was signed on 21st November with the SMT of Kaa-Dat. Through this MoU 5.70 KM water channel will be constructed and the approved cost of construction of this water channel is Rs.24.19 Million. Furthermore, upon completion, this water channel will convert 505 acres of barren land into arable land benefiting 150 households. This proposed scheme is expected to be completed by November 2019.

Progress on ILD schemes in Baltistan

Under the component of Irrigation & Land Development, a water channel with a total length of 7.74 KM will be built at the approved cost of Rs.20.05 million in Frano village. Upon completion, this water channel will irrigate 275 acres of barren land while benefiting 275 households of the area. The MoU was signed with the community of Frano on 21st November.



In the month of November two other ILD schemes namely Saith Saltoro and Hushey were completed and completion certificates were handed over to the community. The total length of water channels of both schemes is 3.38 KM and these irrigation channels will convert 407 acres of barren land into arable land.

FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS

Economic Upliftment of farmers in Diamer through construction of new roads is underway

The month of November remained very significant in terms of progress made on FMR schemes despite extreme weather conditions in mountainous terrain of Gilgit-Baltistan. Several MoUs were signed and work on various FMR schemes was initiated without any impediment. Furthermore, upon completion of these schemes, around 2018 households will have easy access to the market for their agricultural produce.



The details of the schemes initiated in the month of November are hereunder;

S.No	Name of FMR	Total length	MoU	Cost	Expected time of completion	Beneficiaries
1	Diachal Phase II	3.9 KM	01-Nov	Rs.16.17 million	04 months	560 households
2	Kakan-Astore	3.86 KM	01-Nov	Rs.12.16 million	03 months	98 households
3	Sheshung-Astore	1.86 KM	24-Nov	Rs.7.82 million	03 months	31 households
4	Bunardass Phase II	10.4 KM	16-Nov	Rs.28 million	03 months	800 households
5	Bunar-Manijichi	7.68 KM	16-Nov	Rs.26.7 million	06 months	210 households
6	Kaya Niat	11.23 KM	22-Nov	Rs.42.59 million	01 Year	350 households

New avenues of prosperity to open for the farmers of Parangus village in District Ghanche

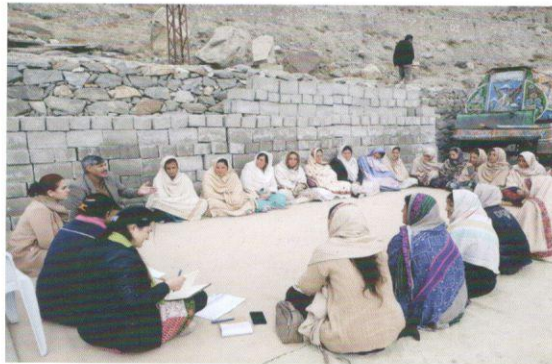
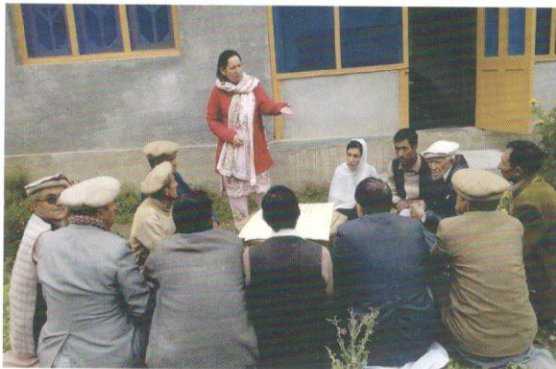
The MoU of Parangus FMR was signed with the community of Parangus on 12th November. Through this MoU 2.3 KM road will be constructed, benefitting 54 households. It is worth mentioning that Parangus is a small remote village located in Thalay valley of District Ghanche which was deprived of jeep able road until recently. The proposed FMR will connect the farmers of Parangus village to the market for their agricultural produce which will ultimately generate ample income for their livelihood.



SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

Consultative session with the community of Shamaran

SMP conducted a consultative session with the community of Shamaran in District Ghizer and executed Village Development Plan (VDP) exercise. The prime objective of preparing VDP was to identify and prioritize development



issues of Shamaran village and develop such mechanisms which encourage active community participation and effective utilization of local resources in resolving developmental issues in short, medium and long term perspectives.

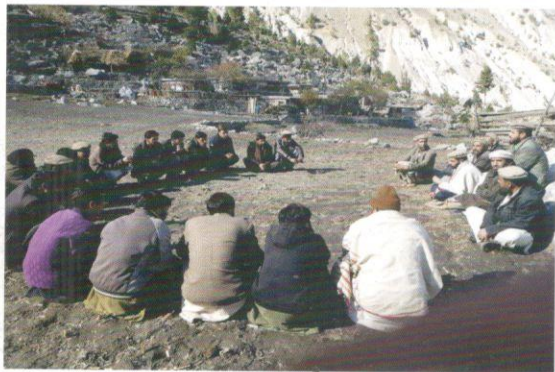
Capacity Building of 4 SMTs in Ghizer District



A training on financial management was conducted for the SMTs of Baithee ILD, Humaran FMR, Shamsabad FMR and Taus ILD with an objective to enhance their skills in financial matters. The SMTs were given training on the components of financial management which includes record keeping, inventory and cash handling.

Formation of Farmer Organizations in Remote Villages of District Diamer

A series of consultative meetings were held in District Diamer as ETI-GB is fully committed to strengthen farmer organizations at grass root level in remote villages of Gilgit-Baltistan



The consultative meetings of farmers at hamlet level were convened in Gudai, Kakan and Mushkin village of District Diamer. The prime objective of the meetings were to form farmer organizations (FOs) and Village producer groups (VPGs). In the meetings farmers were organized in FOs which were then clubbed into a Village Producer Group (VGP) to further link farmers to the market for the sale of their agricultural produce.

District	Date	Village	No. of Farmers	FOs	VPGs
Diamer	5 th November	Gudai	184	7	1
	9 th November	Kakan	88	4	1
	17 th November	Mushkin	191	3	1

GENDER AND POVERTY

Meeting with NLC/ATIN-GB on Youth Construction Team (YCT) Training

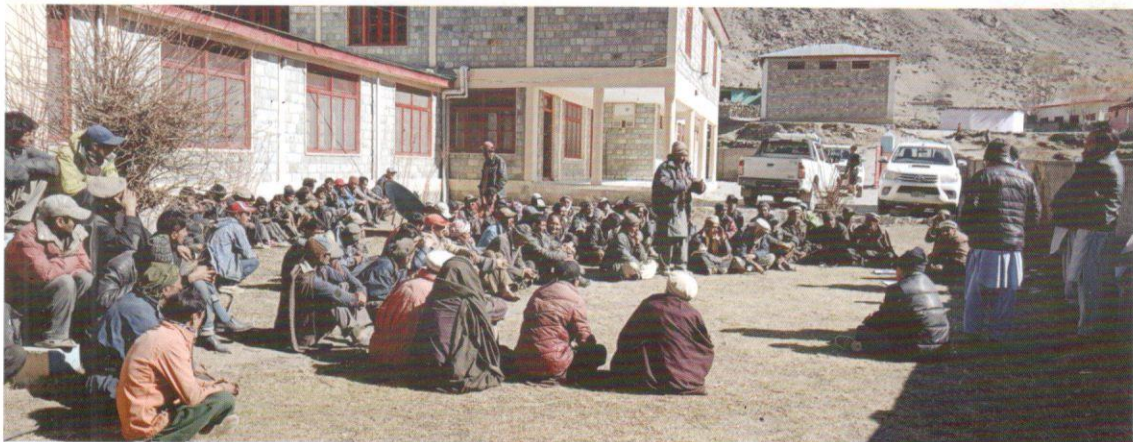
Gender and Poverty section arranged a meeting with the management of Applied Technology Institute National Logistic Cell Gilgit Baltistan (ATIN-GB) at ETI office Gilgit.

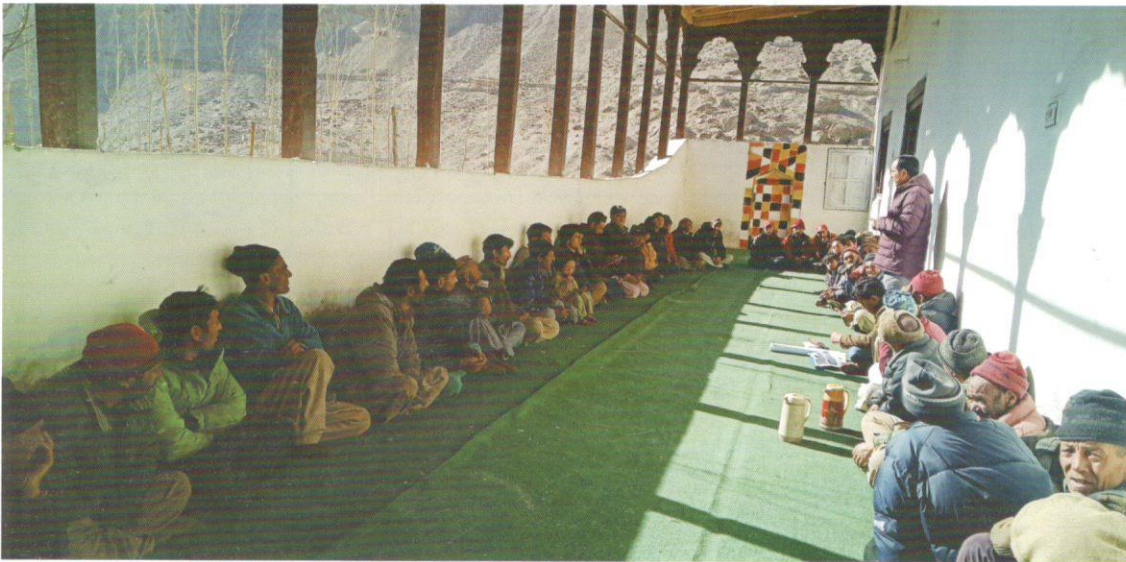


The purpose of the meeting was planning for training of youth in different construction related traits from the scheme beneficiary villages. Furthermore, ETI-GB will sign MoU with ATIN-NLC GB to train youth in eight traits from core targeted Districts of ETI-GB.

VALUE CHAIN-VCTAT

Activities of Value Chain Technical Assistance Team on Newly Developed Land in Baltistan





The Value Chain Assistant Manager along with the Agriculture Extension representatives and consultant Land Use Planning visited Thagus, Hushey, Kanday, Kharfaq and Saling around Irrigation and Land Development Schemes. The prime objective of their visit was to develop Agricultural Land Use Plan for ILD schemes in the area. The Land Use Planning consultant gave a detailed orientation to the community on agriculture land use planning and followed the participatory and advocacy approach of planning in order to make sure that the community will own the project and take maximum benefit out of it.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND RESEARCH

Production enhancement training of farmers in District Gilgit and Nagar

A two day production and post-harvest training was organized for female farmers of Nagar District from 12th to 13th November 2018. The training was attended by 35 female farmers of the area. The training aimed to inculcate in the participants the techniques of curtailing post-harvest losses of crops and enhancement of agricultural production.

A separate training for male farmers on production and post-harvest was organized in Nagar District from 14th to 16th November 2018. The training was attended by 30 male farmers of Nagar valley.

A comprehensive Contract grower training for male farmers was organized in Naltar valley from 6th to 7th November 2018, with an objective to increase agricultural yield of potato growers. The training was attended by 34 male farmers.

