Case Study

Rehabilitation of Basic Health Units and Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives in District Upper Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Implementing Organization

WADDAN – Partner in Development

Partner

RAHA Programme, UNHCR, KFW

Location

Qulandi and Sawni, District Upper Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Background

District Upper Dir is a disaster-prone and mountainous area where communities face recurring challenges in accessing quality healthcare services. Basic Health Units (BHUs) in Qulandi and Sawni were operating with serious infrastructure gaps, including the absence of functional labor rooms, limited medical equipment, unreliable water supply, and poor sanitation systems. These conditions significantly affected maternal and neonatal healthcare services and increased vulnerability during natural disasters such as floods and landslides.

Recognizing these challenges, WADDAN, in collaboration with the RAHA Programme, implemented a comprehensive rehabilitation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR/DRM) initiative to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve service delivery.

Project Objectives

- To rehabilitate selected BHUs and address critical gaps in obstetric and neonatal healthcare services
- To improve infrastructure resilience against natural hazards
- To enhance access to safe, hygienic, and functional healthcare facilities for women, children, and vulnerable communities
- To integrate Disaster Risk Reduction measures into healthcare infrastructure

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Key Interventions

Rehabilitation of Basic Health Units

WADDAN rehabilitated the BHUs in Qulandi and Sawni by addressing long-standing deficiencies in essential healthcare facilities. Labor rooms were improved, and gaps in basic equipment, medicines, and supplies were addressed, enabling the BHUs to provide safer maternal and neonatal care.

Renovation of Staff Residences

Existing staff residences within the BHUs were renovated to provide safe and improved living conditions for healthcare personnel. This intervention contributed to staff retention, motivation, and availability, directly improving the continuity and quality of healthcare services.

Building Renovation and Structural Strengthening

The BHU buildings were renovated to improve functionality, safety, and durability. Structural enhancements were introduced to reduce risks from floods, landslides, and other natural hazards, ensuring longer service life of the facilities.

Installation of Water Supply Schemes

Reliable water supply schemes were reinstalled within the BHUs, ensuring access to clean and safe water. This was critical for maintaining hygiene standards, infection prevention, and effective healthcare delivery.

Construction of Retaining and Protection Walls

To protect healthcare facilities from environmental threats, WADDAN constructed retaining and protection walls at the BHUs, particularly in Qulandi. These structures reduce the risk of damage from erosion, flooding, and landslides, significantly strengthening disaster resilience.

Rehabilitation of Drainage and Sanitation Systems

Drainage, sanitation, and waste disposal systems were rehabilitated to improve environmental hygiene within the BHUs. This created a cleaner and safer environment for patients, staff, and visitors and enhanced preparedness during emergencies.

Construction of Access Roads

Access roads leading to the BHUs were constructed to improve connectivity. These roads reduced barriers for pregnant women, children, and emergency patients, ensuring timely access to healthcare services, especially during disasters and adverse weather conditions.

Results and Impact

- Improved availability and quality of obstetric and neonatal healthcare services
- Increased resilience of healthcare infrastructure against natural hazards
- Enhanced hygiene, sanitation, and water availability in BHUs
- Better staff retention and service continuity due to improved living facilities
- Improved access to healthcare services for remote and vulnerable communities

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Conclusion

Through the rehabilitation of BHUs and integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management measures, WADDAN has significantly strengthened the healthcare system in District Upper Dir. The initiative not only addressed immediate healthcare infrastructure gaps but also reduced long-term vulnerability to natural disasters. These efforts have contributed to improved health outcomes, safer service delivery, and enhanced community resilience.

WADDAN remains committed to partnering with development actors to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable healthcare systems for underserved communities.



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