Session on Nutrition in the Induction Training of the Junior Elementary School Teachers

PINS collaborated with the Government of Sindh’s Provincial Institute of Teachers Education (PITE) of School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) to deliver sessions on nutrition to the newly inducted Junior Elementary School Teachers of Districts Kashmore, Jacobabad and Tharparkar. The trainings, which took place on 2nd and 14th December 2020, were conducted online due to COVID. The two trainings built the capacity of more than 200 newly inducted teachers on nutrition and their roles as teachers to further the objectives of reducing malnutrition. This is part of the ongoing support by EU-PINS to the nutrition-sensitive Education sector SELD. The idea is to integrate nutrition not only through text books, but also through the induction & in-service teachers training courses. Strengthening PITE is therefore an important expected outcome.

Dr. Zahra Ladhani, Senior Advisor EU-PINS1, provided an overview of the developed material. This included the basics of nutrition and the role of teachers and schools as a way to improve nutrition in the community. Mr. John O’Dea, Senior Advisor EU-PINS1, shared details on the food sectors and the practices that can improve nutrition, while Ms. Amima Sayeed, Senior Education Expert discussed how to integrate nutrition into the delivery of lessons to the students. Despite the constraints of online training mode, teachers demonstrated a keen interest and felt motivated to take this to the school-level.

The Director General of PITE, GoS Mr. Abdul Majeed Burt, and his colleagues had been very forthcoming, in implementation of the activities and remain appreciative of EU-PINS’ contribution. On behalf of PITE, Mr. Mir Hassan Dhairi facilitated the two sessions.

Community Health Workers Raising Awareness on Nutrition Despite COVID

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are an integral part of EU-PINS and play a pivotal role in community engagement and raising awareness on nutrition.

More than 2000 CHWs are actively working in the ten districts of Sindh. Ms. Haseena, one of the Community Health Worker (CHW) in village Rasool Bux Khoso District Matiari, continues to conduct awareness sessions on stunting and malnutrition in communities, amid the COVID related challenges. She also informs mothers on the usage, dosages and benefits of Micronutrient Powder (MNP) - a nutritional supplement for micronutrient deficiencies for children.
Focus Group Discussions with CLEWs for Strengthening and Sustaining activities across PINS

EU-PINS conducted a series of focus group discussions (FGDs) with Community Livestock Extension Workers (CLEWs) to strengthen and sustain the activities across the programme districts. In the FGDs they identified a number of enabling factors and barriers related to their work. In the FGDs, the CLEWs explained that the additional income which comes with this profession motivates them to continue their work in this field. Most CLEWs work closely with the local veterinarians to increase their practical knowledge, confidence and credibility. They voiced concerns about limited outreach and requested support to address the misperceptions of communities who expected to receive the services provided by CLEWS like vaccination, and treatment free of charge. The insights from these FGDs will help in the development of the future strategy to strengthen the support structures for CLEWs.

PINS Implementation Updates, December 2020

2,700 children cured, 181 treated at Nutrition Stabilization Centers (NSC) sites

13 Water supply schemes completed

13,300 Social Behavior Change Communication sessions conducted

58 Village Organisations declared open defecation free

5,282 Admissions at OTP- Out Patient Therapeutic sites

88,597 Households provided vegetable seeds for Rabi season

6,529 Livestock treated/drenched/vaccinated by Community Livestock Extension Workers

120 Small farmers provided with financial support for wheat production

Community Fish Ponds in PINS Districts Began to Harvest

EU-PINS and its implementing partners have now established fish ponds in 10 districts (Dadu, Sajawal, Tando A. Yar, Tando M.Khan, Thatta, Jamshoro, Matiari, Qambar Shahdadkot, Shikarpur and Larkana). These ponds are important to improve the community's access to fish to boost their dietary diversity. The ponds were constructed in the beginning of 2020 and the communities began harvesting them in October 2020. In total more than 1500 kilograms of fishes have been harvested, with Shikarpur having the biggest share in production.

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