

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the latest edition of the Shehersaaz Newsletter. Here, we bring you impactful stories, emerging ideas, and practical solutions shaping more sustainable urban environments. At Shehersaaz, we continue to advance the journey toward climate-resilient cities through innovation, inclusivity, and meaningful green transformation.

PUCCAR STATISTICS



5,060

Rainwater
Harvesting Units
installed



7,570,450

Liter
Water stored



97,867

Beneficiaries

PROGRESSIVE Project Advanced Solar-Powered Rainwater Harvesting in Nowshera Schools



Through the PROGRESSIVE Project, Shehersaaz facilitated the installation of integrated Rainwater Harvesting Units (RWHUs) with solar battery systems in 25 government schools across seven Neighborhood Councils of Nowshera.

Installation work was completed in several schools, while plumbing work was underway in the remaining nine.

The systems are designed to provide a rainwater storage capacity of 150,000 litres, supporting approximately 9,217 students and community members.



Solar-Powered Rainwater Systems Expand Water Access in Nowshera Schools

By combining rainwater harvesting with solar-powered systems, the intervention supports school water needs while reducing reliance on conventional energy sources.

The initiative introduces practical climate-smart solutions within schools and surrounding communities. It demonstrates how locally appropriate approaches can contribute to more sustainable water and energy management.



District Education Officers Visit of PROGRESSIVE Schools

Shehersaaz welcomed the District Education Officers (DEO) Male and Female to observe the installed Rainwater Harvesting Units (RWHUs) and their practical use in school water systems.

The officials examined the collection process, working mechanism and channeling of harvested rainwater into existing school water systems.



The visit demonstrated how rainwater harvesting can be integrated into everyday school infrastructure as a practical approach to water conservation.



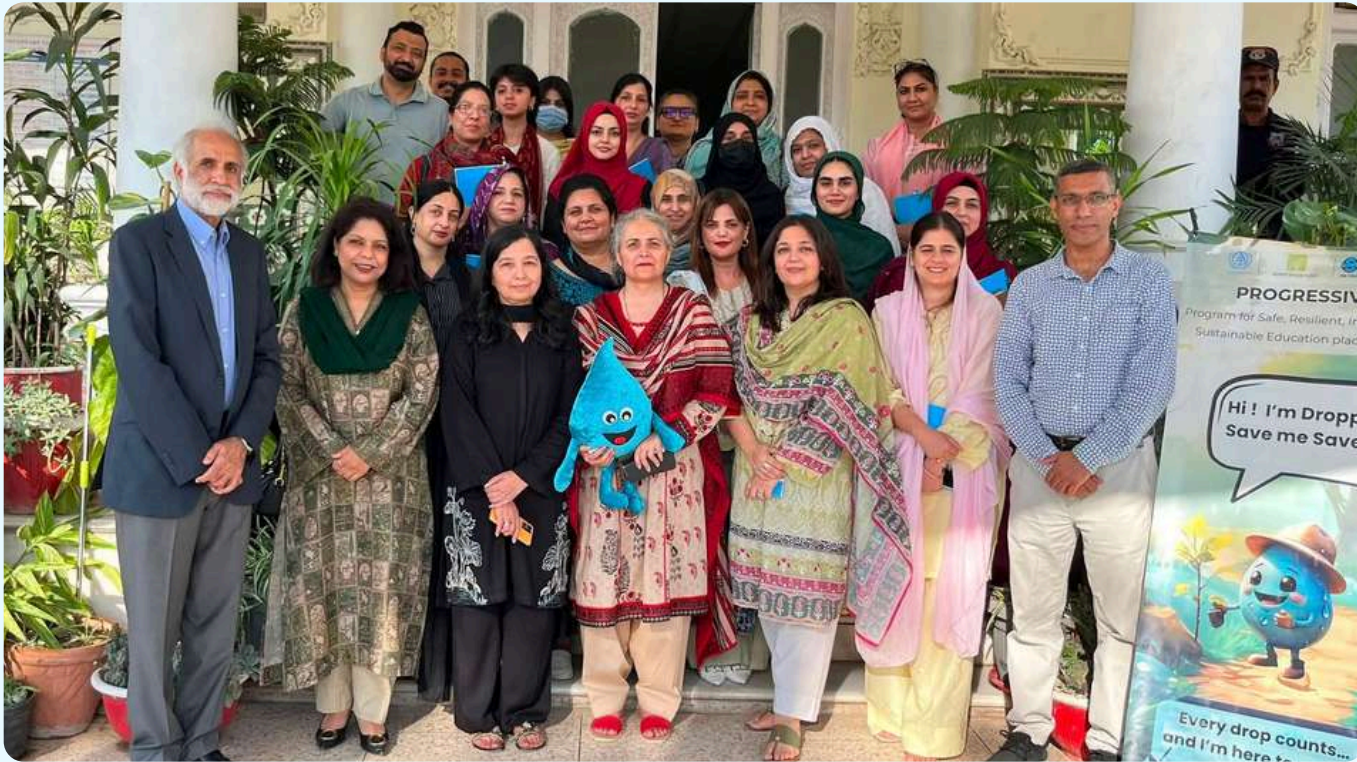
The interaction also highlighted the potential for wider adoption of similar climate-smart solutions across the district education system, supporting sustainable water and resource management.



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Shehersaaz

***Showcases Rainwater
Harvesting as a Model
for Sustainable
Schools***

Women & Water Dialogue Rawalpindi



Women at the Centre of Dialogue on Urban Water Governance

On 14 July 2026, Shehersaaz brought together representatives from government, academia and civil society at Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, for the “Women and Water” dialogue under PUCCAR (*Project for Urban Climate Change Adaptation & Resillience*).

The dialogue examined water from a gender-responsive perspective, focusing on gender-disaggregated information and greater participation of women in water governance.



Participants discussed the impacts of rapid urbanization on groundwater resources and explored locally relevant solutions, including smart water technologies and rainwater harvesting.



The discussion highlighted the interconnected water-food-energy nexus and the need for stronger stakeholder partnerships. The dialogue provided a platform to explore practical pathways towards more inclusive and climate-resilient urban water management.



SOS & Shehersaaz Partnership

Through the “Naya Safar – A Journey of Hope, Growth and Resilience” initiative, Shehersaaz partnered with SOS Children’s Villages Pakistan to support a safer, greener and more sustainable environment at SOS Children’s Home Rawalpindi. The collaboration is supported through Shehersaaz’s PUCCAR and PROGRESSIVE initiatives.



It will strengthen preparedness through first aid, emergency response measures and mock drills. The initiative integrates environmental practices and safety preparedness into the everyday setting of the children’s home.



Through this collaboration, children and staff will be supported to adopt practical approaches to climate adaptation, environmental responsibility, emergency preparedness and community well-being.

Shehersaaz and SOS Children’s Villages Pakistan Partner for “Naya Safar” Initiative

The intervention will introduce climate-smart and safety measures, including rainwater harvesting, kitchen gardening, composting and waste segregation.





Shehersaaz Discussion With EDS & Secretary Education, Nowshera



The discussion focused on integrating solar energy with existing Rainwater Harvesting Units (RWHUs) to support reliable electricity for water pumping and drinking-water facilities.



Shehersaaz Advances Solar Integration for Water Security in Nowshera Schools

A coordination meeting at the Education Department Secretariat brought Shehersaaz together with Secretary Education Mr. Muhammad Khalid and Mr. Zaheer Ud Din of the Reforms and Implementation Department to discuss planned solar installations in schools across Nowshera Kalan.

Shehersaaz briefed officials on the RWHU installations and the potential role of solar power in maintaining water services. The coordination aimed to link water and energy solutions within school infrastructure, supporting water security, sustainability and climate resilience for schools and surrounding communities.



Women & Water Dialogue Lahore



Continuing its efforts to bring women's perspectives into water governance, Shehersaaz convened the second "Women and Water" dialogue at the University of Home Economics, Lahore, through its Women Development Centre. The dialogue examined women's water-related concerns at the provincial level within the broader context of water management and climate adaptation. Representatives from academia and civil society discussed how gender-responsive approaches can be incorporated into water planning and decision-making.



Discussions highlighted the importance of platforms where women's experiences and priorities can inform water and climate resilience discussions.

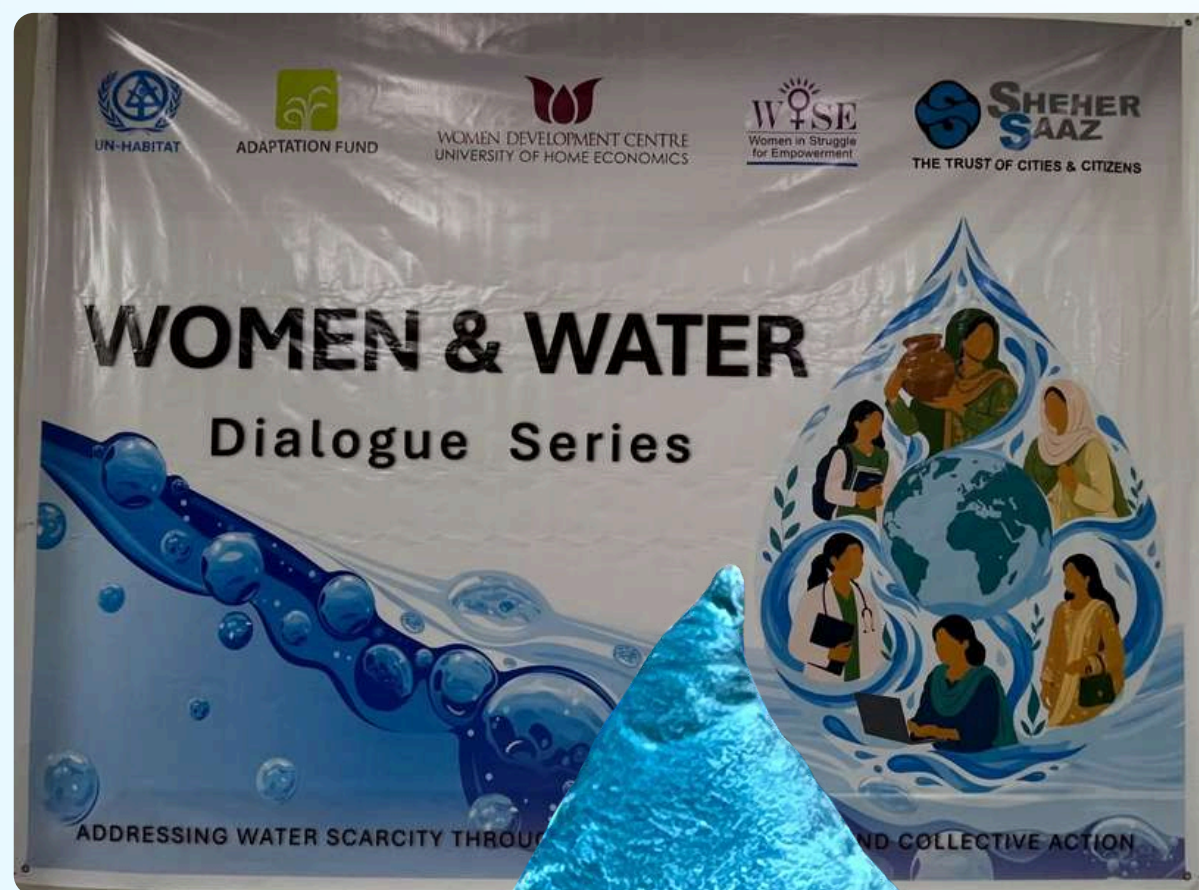




Women & Water Dialogue Lahore

The event was facilitated with support from Ms. Bushra Khaliq, Executive Director, WISE, and the Vice Chancellor, University of Home Economics, Lahore.

“Women and Water” Dialogue Brings Provincial Perspectives to Lahore



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION





From Craft to Sustainability



Shehersaaz under the 10,000 Cloth Bag Development Initiative of the PUCCAR Project. The activity supported participants in developing creative skills while learning a craft linked to sustainable livelihood opportunities.

*From Craft to
Sustainability:
Women
Develop
Reusable
Cloth Bag
Designs*

Multiple printed designs and designing techniques were incorporated including block printing into reusable cloth bags, providing an alternative to conventional plastic bags. The initiative connected women's skill development with environmental responsibility and sustainable consumption practices. The cloth bags are proposed for distribution through Shehersaaz's Solid Waste Management trainings and Green Shops, supporting women-led enterprise while promoting reusable alternatives.





GLOBAL GIVING VETTED ORGANIZATION

Shehersaaz has been recognized as a Vettered Organization by Global Giving following a detailed review of its organizational documentation, reporting and programmatic information. The verification examined key aspects of Shehersaaz's financial, legal, organizational and program-related records.

*Shehersaaz Earns
Global Giving
Vettered
Organization
Recognition*



The external review provides an additional layer of assurance around the organization's accountability, transparency and compliance systems. The recognition also reflects the team's continued efforts to maintain accurate documentation and meet independent review requirements. For Shehersaaz, the recognition marks a step in strengthening its institutional profile and commitment to well-documented and accountable practices

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES (NUML)

Shehersaaz conducted a Faculty Development Training at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) for faculty members at the Department of Accounting and Finance. The session focused on integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into higher education through sustainable pedagogy, curriculum mapping and course integration.



The interactive training encouraged faculty to incorporate SDG-related content into existing teaching practices and engage students with sustainability issues. Participants also identified their needs and exchanged ideas for embedding sustainability into their courses. The session concluded with the distribution of certificates and jade plants, symbolising growth and positivity.



Bringing the Sustainable Development Goals into Higher Education





PCRWR Technical Assessments Rawalpindi & Nowshera



In collaboration with the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Shehersaaz initiated preliminary technical field investigations across Rawalpindi and Nowshera to understand water and wastewater challenges and identify potential interventions.

Technical Assessments Identify Water and Wastewater Priorities in Target Communities

The Shehersaaz Engineering Team, alongside PCRWR experts, visited schools, open areas, dry bore sites, drainage and surface water points, wastewater sites and community spaces.



The visits focused on observing existing conditions, documenting field realities and identifying technically viable solutions. The fieldwork combined technical assessment and community-focused problem solving, providing a foundation for interventions aimed at improving urban water security and strengthening climate resilience.



YEA Drainage Projects



Building on the Youth Environment Assembly (YEA), Shehersaaz supported youth-led drainage projects addressing recurring drainage challenges identified by communities in Rawalpindi and Nowshera.

In Rawalpindi, nine projects covering 219 households and approximately 1,533 beneficiaries were initiated, with five completed and four ongoing.



**Youth
Environment
Assembly - Led
Drainage
Projects
Improve
Community
Infrastructure in
Rawalpindi and
Nowshera**

In Nowshera, nine projects covering 256 households and approximately 2,002 beneficiaries were completed. The interventions included cleaning and digging drainage channels, channel improvement and capping, reinforced concrete structures, and access points for inspection and maintenance. By combining infrastructure improvements with community involvement, the initiative strengthened local ownership and supported safer, more sustainable neighbourhood drainage systems.



Solid Waste Management Trainings

Under the PUCCAR Project, Shehersaaz adopted a community-led approach to strengthening Solid Waste Management (SWM) practices in Rawalpindi and Nowshera. The initiative began with Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for 55 Master Trainers and Facilitators, including 35 women and 20 men.

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One ToT session was held in each city, with 28 participants in Rawalpindi and 27 in Nowshera. The trained community leaders subsequently conducted 160 SWM training sessions, reaching 3,976 participants across both cities.

Rawalpindi recorded 80 sessions with 1,990 participants, while Nowshera recorded 80 sessions with 1,954 participants.



Sessions covered waste segregation, compost making, the Four R's (Recycle, Resize, Reuse and Recover), and kitchen and rooftop urban gardening. The approach strengthened local capacity and encouraged communities to adopt practical waste reduction, resource recovery and healthier living practices.

*From Learning to
Leading:
Communities
Take Action on
Sustainable
Waste
Management*





HOUSING MATTERS: LEADS



*Youth Housing
Needs Take
Centre Stage
during
Shehersaaz
Dialogue Series*

Shehersaaz convened a **“Housing Matters in Light of Youth”** dialogue to explore housing challenges faced by young people in Pakistan.

The session brought together students, faculty members and development professionals to discuss rising housing costs and access to affordable rentals, student hostels and homes.



Discussions covered housing finance, taxation, subsidies and changing investment patterns, alongside initiatives such as *Apni Chhat Apna Ghar*.

The dialogue also drew on Shehersaaz's assessment of housing conditions across 103 sites in Rawalpindi and 12 in Nowshera.



Participants further explored Nature-Based Neighborhood Design Solutions, including urban greening, natural water harvesting, biodiversity enhancement and improved public spaces

OVERALL PLANTATION

Across several neighbourhoods of Rawalpindi, Shehersaaz carried out community greening activities combining tree planting with the clean-up of local spaces. The initiatives encouraged residents to participate in preparing shared areas for new vegetation and strengthening community ownership of greener surroundings.



A total of 615 plants were planted or distributed to households across Officers Colony, Railway Carriage Factory Road, Janaz Gah Market, Railway Colony No. 2, Railway Colony Dhoke Hassu, Foreman Colony Pedestrian Bridge and Foreman Colony Lai Top. In Railway Colony No. 2 and Dhoke Hassu, guava and citrus plants were also provided to women householders.

Shehersaaz Promotes Urban Greening through Community Plantation and Public Space Improvements.



At Foreman Colony Lai Top, debris and unwanted material were cleared before 125 plants were planted. The activities combined clean-up, public-area planting and household distribution of fruit plants to support greener and more climate-friendly urban spaces.





WATER USER GROUP TRAININGS

Under the PUCCAR Project, Shehersaaz, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the Adaptation Fund, used a cascading training model to strengthen community knowledge on sustainable water management in Rawalpindi and Nowshera.

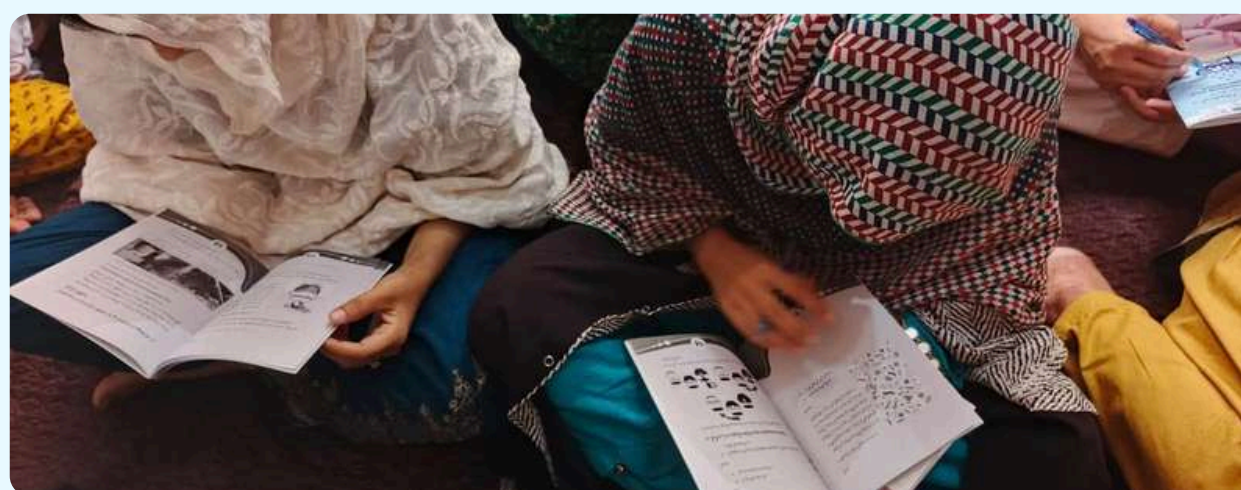
The process began with Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for 55 Master Trainers and Training Facilitators, comprising 35 women and 20 men. The trained facilitators conducted community-level sessions across 7 Union Councils in Rawalpindi and 8 Neighborhood Councils in Nowshera.



A total of 123 community training sessions reached 2,991 participants, including 2,818 women and 173 men. Rawalpindi recorded 61 sessions with 1,504 participants, while Nowshera recorded 62 sessions with 1,487 participants.

**Building
Local
Capacity for
Sustainable
Water
Management**

Sessions covered water conservation, safe water handling, rainwater harvesting, water quality, responsible water use and climate-resilient water management. The cascading model strengthened local ownership and supported more informed water management practices at the grassroots level.



HOUSING MATTERS: PIDE

The Dialogue Series continued with **“Housing Matters: Climate-Responsive Housing”**, bringing together policymakers, architects, urban planners, researchers, academics, development partners and civil society representatives. The dialogue explored practical and affordable approaches to prepare homes and neighborhoods for heatwaves, erratic rainfall, and flooding and water scarcity.



Participants discussed passive design, natural ventilation, shading, green spaces, local materials and neighbourhood retrofitting. Financing mechanisms and policy implementation were also considered important for advancing climate-responsive housing.

**Shehersaaz
Holds Dialogue
on Climate-
Responsive
Housing**

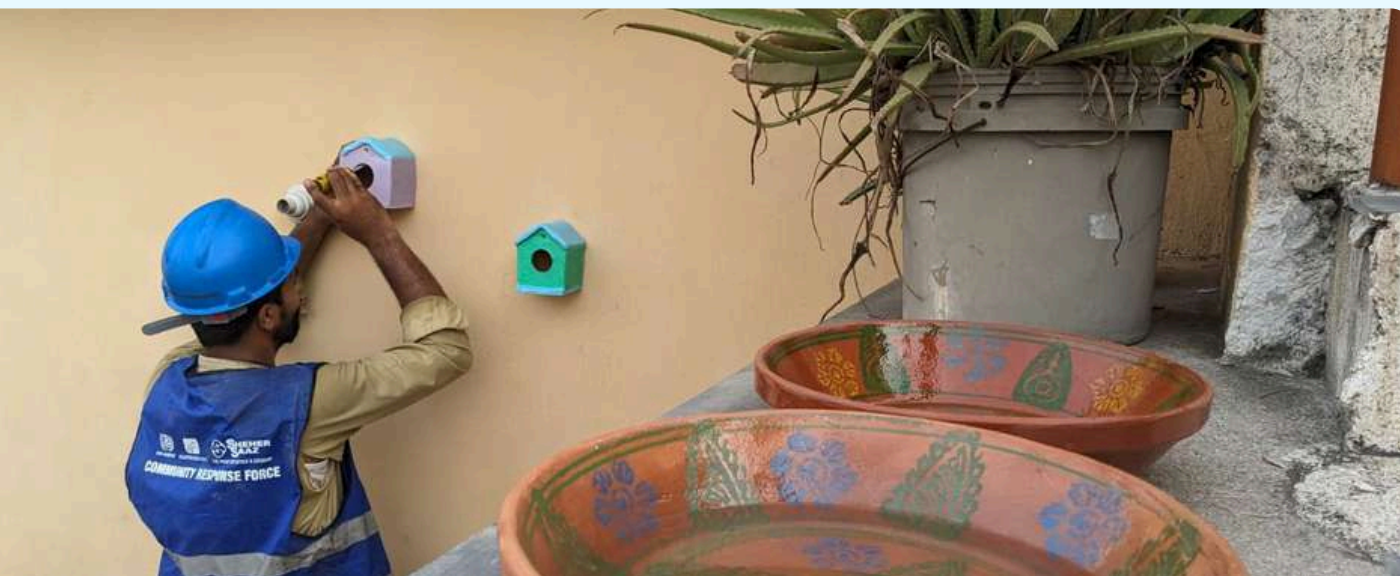
The discussion drew on traditional architectural features such as courtyards, thick walls and shaded verandas, connecting time-tested approaches with contemporary climate-responsive housing needs.





YEA – BIRD HOUSE PROJECTS

Under the Youth Environment Assembly (YEA), Shehersaaz facilitated the youth-led Ashiyana – Bird Street Project in Mohallah Mehrabad, Dhoke Hassu, UC-5 Rawalpindi, promoting a more bird-friendly neighbourhood.



As part of the initiative, 30 households received 60 bird houses, 30 water feeders, 30 feed containers and 30 kg of bird feed.

**Youth
Environment
Assembly-Led Bird
House Project
Promotes Urban
Biodiversity in
Rawalpindi**



The activity directly benefited 210 people, with more than 900 people reached indirectly.

The initiative encouraged residents to care for local bird species by creating safer spaces for nesting, drinking and feeding. By integrating biodiversity conservation into everyday community spaces, the project strengthened environmental responsibility and community participation.



KOTLI SATTIYAN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

At Chewra Base Resort in Kotli Sattiyan, Shehersaaz supported safety and emergency preparedness by providing essential first-aid, medical, fire safety and emergency response equipment. The support provides resort staff with practical resources to respond to health and safety incidents and helps create a safer environment for visitors and staff.

*Shehersaaz
Strengthens
Tourism Safety in
Kotli Sattiyan*



A first-aid and emergency preparedness training is also planned for resort staff with support from Rescue 1122 and the Forest Department. The training will focus on strengthening staff readiness and effective use of the available equipment during emergencies. Together, the equipment and capacity-building support preparedness and practical response, contributing to safer and more resilient tourism services in Kotli Sattiyan.



YEA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Building on the Youth Environment Assembly (YEA), Shehersaaz supported youth-led Solid Waste Management (SWM) projects designed to address waste-related challenges within local communities.

***Youth
Proposals
Turn into
Community-
Based Waste
Management
Action***



In Rawalpindi, five projects covering 139 households are being implemented, with an estimated 1,180 people benefiting directly and indirectly. In Nowshera, 28 projects cover 3,973 households, with approximately 27,811 people expected to benefit. Shehersaaz also developed a new waste management bin system to support implementation of the community-driven projects.

In Rawalpindi, training has been completed for all participating households, while bin distribution is underway. In Nowshera, 1,816 households have completed training, with the remaining 2,157 households in progress.



The initiatives are enabling young people to turn locally identified environmental challenges into practical solutions for cleaner and healthier neighbourhoods.



RO PLANTS INSTALLATION AT 7 PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS

Access to safe drinking water is essential for healthy learning environments, and Shehersaaz installed RO filtration systems and filtration tanks across seven schools in Rawalpindi to strengthen water security in educational institutions.

*Safe Drinking
Water
Reaches
Seven Schools
in Rawalpindi*



The installations now provide safer drinking water access to 8,569 students and teaching staff, including 1,161 boys, 7,108 girls, and 300 teachers. The schools are located across Dhoke Ratta, Dhoke Najjo, Westridge, Ratta Amral, Milad Nagar, Asghar Mall Scheme, and Bagh Sardaran.

By bringing water treatment facilities directly into schools, the intervention addressed an everyday need while supporting healthier and more reliable learning environments for students and teachers.



CCRAC TRAININGS

Shehersaaz conducted 8 Community Climate Resilience Adaptation Committee (CCRAC) training sessions across Rawalpindi and Nowshera, with four sessions held in each city, including dedicated sessions for women and men. A total of 120 community members, comprising 60 women and 60 men, were trained in practical emergency preparedness and response skills.

*Strengthening
Local Resilience:
Shehersaaz
Trains
Communities in
Emergency
Response*



Conducted in collaboration with Rescue 1122, the sessions covered First Aid, Firefighting, Emergency Response, Road Safety, Disaster Response, and Flood Emergency Response. The training strengthened community members' knowledge and confidence to respond effectively during emergencies, supporting greater preparedness and resilience at the community level.



YEA CLOTH BAGS PROJECT

Under the Youth Environment Assembly (YEA), Shehersaaz completed two youth-led cloth bag projects in Rawalpindi, covering 55 households and distributing 110 reusable cloth bags, with approximately 770 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

***YEA Initiative
Promotes
Reusable
Alternatives in
Local
Communities of
Rawalpindi***



YEA Climate Ambassadors distributed the bags within their communities after raising awareness about the impacts of plastic bag use, including pollution, irregular solid waste management, and urban flooding. By providing a practical alternative for everyday household shopping, the projects encouraged residents to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic bags.

The initiative connected youth-led awareness with a simple community-level action that can support lasting changes in everyday waste and consumption practices.



FLOOD-RESILIENT HOUSING DIALOGUE AT NUST



Shehersaaz participated in the Flood-Resilient Housing Dialogue at NUST, Islamabad, where Executive Director Ms. Almas Shakoor joined as a distinguished panelist. The dialogue brought together experts to discuss how rainwater harvesting can be incorporated into housing while addressing the growing challenge of urban flooding and its impact on housing and communities. The discussion highlighted rainwater harvesting as a practical approach to managing rooftop runoff, reducing pressure on stormwater systems and supporting groundwater recharge.

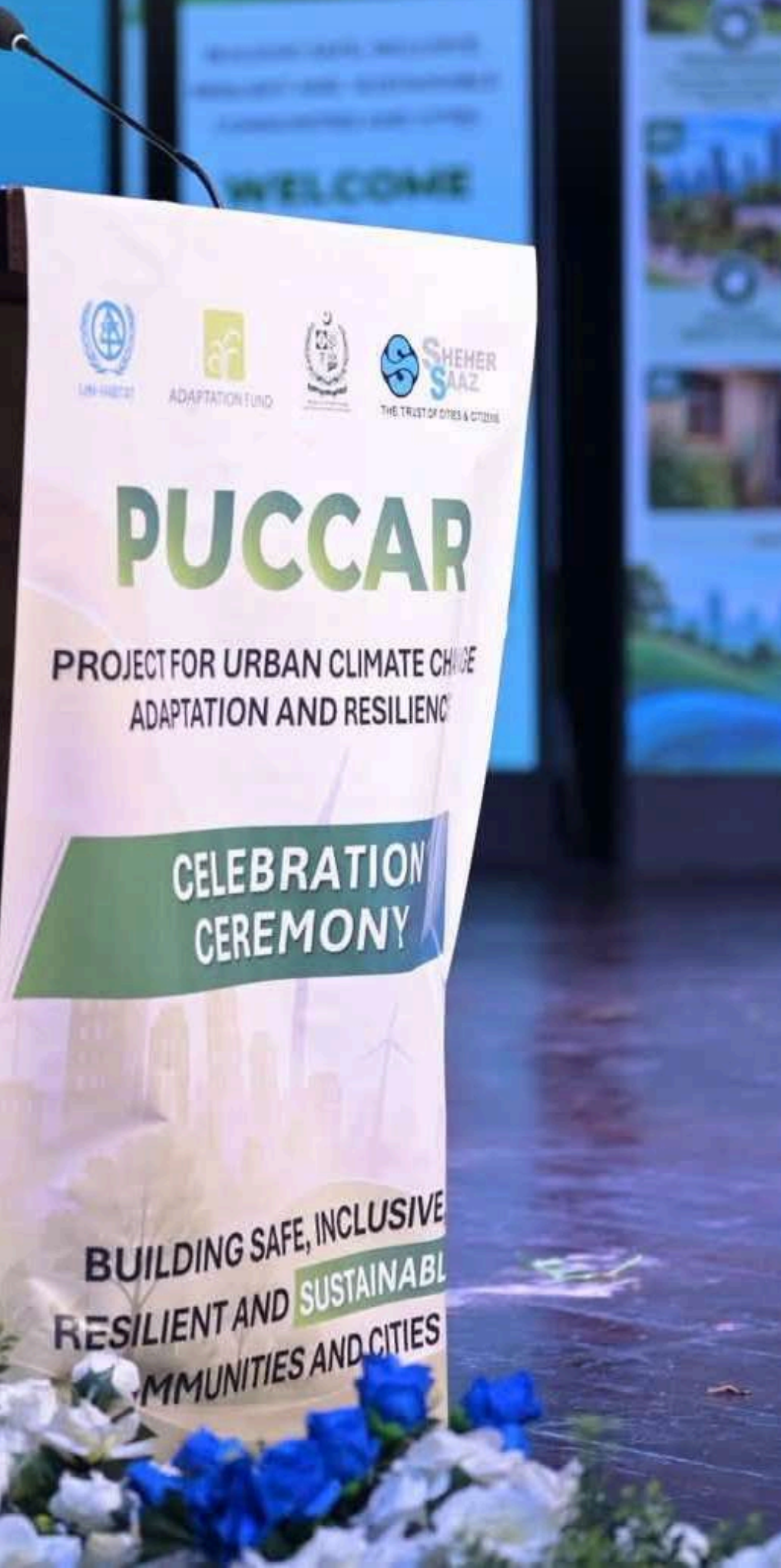


**Shehersaaz and
NUST Explore
Rainwater
Harvesting and
Urban Flood
Resilience**

The PUCCAR documentary was also screened for the panelists, showcasing Shehersaaz's experience integrating rainwater harvesting in unorganized urban settlements alongside solid waste management and other climate adaptation measures linked to urban flooding.



PUCCAR PROJECT CELEBRATION FEATURE



On 15 September 2026, Shehersaaz held the Puccar Project Achievement and Celebration Ceremony at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad, bringing together government representatives, development partners, community representatives, and other stakeholders to mark the completion and achievements of the project in Rawalpindi and Nowshera. The event was graced by Ms. Odicea Angelo Barrios, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat, with Mr. Waqar Syed, Country Program Manager, UN-Habitat, Mr. Jawed Ali Khan, Senior Advisor, UN-Habitat along with Project Implementing Partner Representatives from WASA, NDMA, PCRWR and MOCC. Ms. Almas Shakoor, Executive Director, Shehersaaz welcomed guests and mentioned achievements of Puccar, Implemented by Shehersaaz in partnership with UN-Habitat, with financial support from the Adaptation Fund, Puccar strengthened urban climate resilience and addressed water scarcity caused by floods and droughts.

PUCCAR PROJECT CELEBRATION FEATURE

Across 15 Union Councils and Neighborhood Councils, the project installed 5,060 Rainwater Harvesting Units, enabling the storage of 7,570,450 litres of rainwater and benefiting 97,867 people. It also trained 16,662 individuals, implemented interventions in 60 educational institutions, and supported 80 youth-led climate adaptation projects.



The ceremony featured a screening of the PUCCAR project video, a thoughtfully composed project promotional song "Boond Boond Pani-Ik Nayi Kahani" written and composed by a visually impaired artist from Karachi, a "Voices from Communities" session, and the Urdu social theatre performance "Pani Sab Ka Aik Hai", presented in collaboration with Theatre Wallay. Through humour and theatrical storytelling, the performance highlighted water conservation, rainwater harvesting, waste management, greener communities, and collective responsibility, reinforcing the message that climate action extends beyond infrastructure to people, participation, and everyday choices.



PUCCAR PROJECT CELEBRATION FEATURE

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates and souvenirs, recognizing the collective efforts of communities, partners, and stakeholders involved in the implementation of PUCCAR.

