



Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS)

Duration	Budget	Location	Implementing Partners
2017-2021	€60 million (EU Contribution)	Sindh (10 districts): Sujawal, Dadu, Jamshoro, Matiari, Thatta, Larkana, Qambar, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Shikarpur	Action Against Hunger (ACF) Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN) Conseil Santé

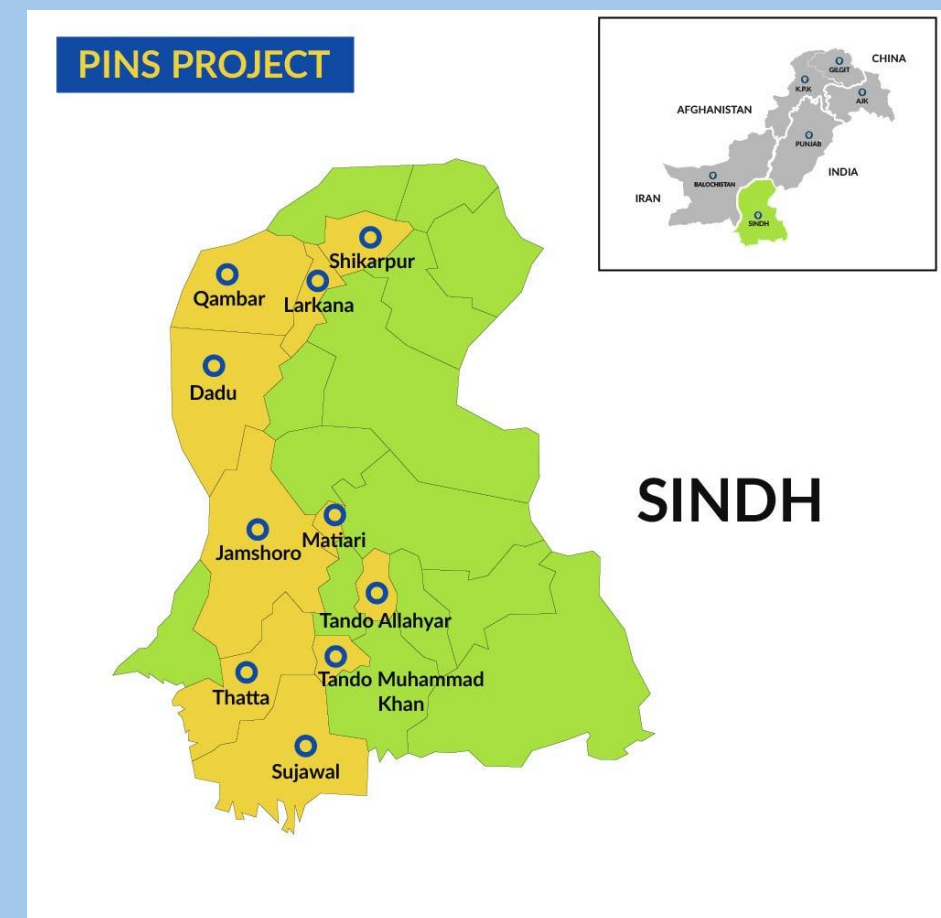
Globally, the European Union is committed to reducing the number of stunted children under the age of five by at least 7 million by 2025. In Pakistan, the European Union’s support to nutrition started with humanitarian assistance after the 2010 floods. Since 2013 it has taken a long-term and sustainable perspective by assisting public authorities to deliver nutrition services, within a clear and efficient policy framework.

The challenge

In Sindh, high rates of malnourishment have resulted in one of every two children being stunted. The consequences of stunting are severe, life-long and irreversible beyond the age of two. Stunted children who survive, develop poorly both mentally and physically. It weakens their immunity and lowers their performance at school.

How do we address the challenge?

Through the EUR 60 million Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) the European Union is supporting the Government of Sindh to achieve the targets set in the Sehatmand Sindh plan. This is the accelerated action plan for reduction of stunting and malnutrition in the province. Stunting is just one major result of malnutrition that has lifelong consequences for physical and mental development. In Sindh, it affects 1 in 3 people. PINS aims to sustainably improve the nutrition of children under five and of pregnant and lactating women in Sindh in collaboration with multiple departments of the provincial government.



What do we do?



Working to improve the diet of pregnant and lactating women, and children under 5



Improving provision of safe water, prenatal nutrition, as well as improving access to a balanced range of affordable foods



Involving multiple government departments to ensure close cooperation

What are we aiming to achieve?



To support the Government of Sindh to sustainably improve the nutritional status of children under five and of Pregnant and Lactating Women in the province in line with the second target indicator of the SDG Goal No2: Zero Hunger.

"My father taught me that our purpose is to look out for everyone and everything around us, even the environment. I learnt from a PINS session the benefits of planting Moringa trees because of their nutritional qualities. It was then that I collected donations from community organizations to buy and plant saplings.

While working hard to keep the plants alive, I also had to explain to the community how the plants would be very important for pregnant and lactating women in particular. It was difficult to begin with but I have now been elected President of my Local Support Organisation (LSO). Not only was I able to convince LSO members to plant more Moringa, but there are now a range of different initiatives in place to improve the diet of the community. And they can all see how much healthier their children are.

Right across Sindh, families are learning how to access all the nutrients they need for a balanced diet in their communities"

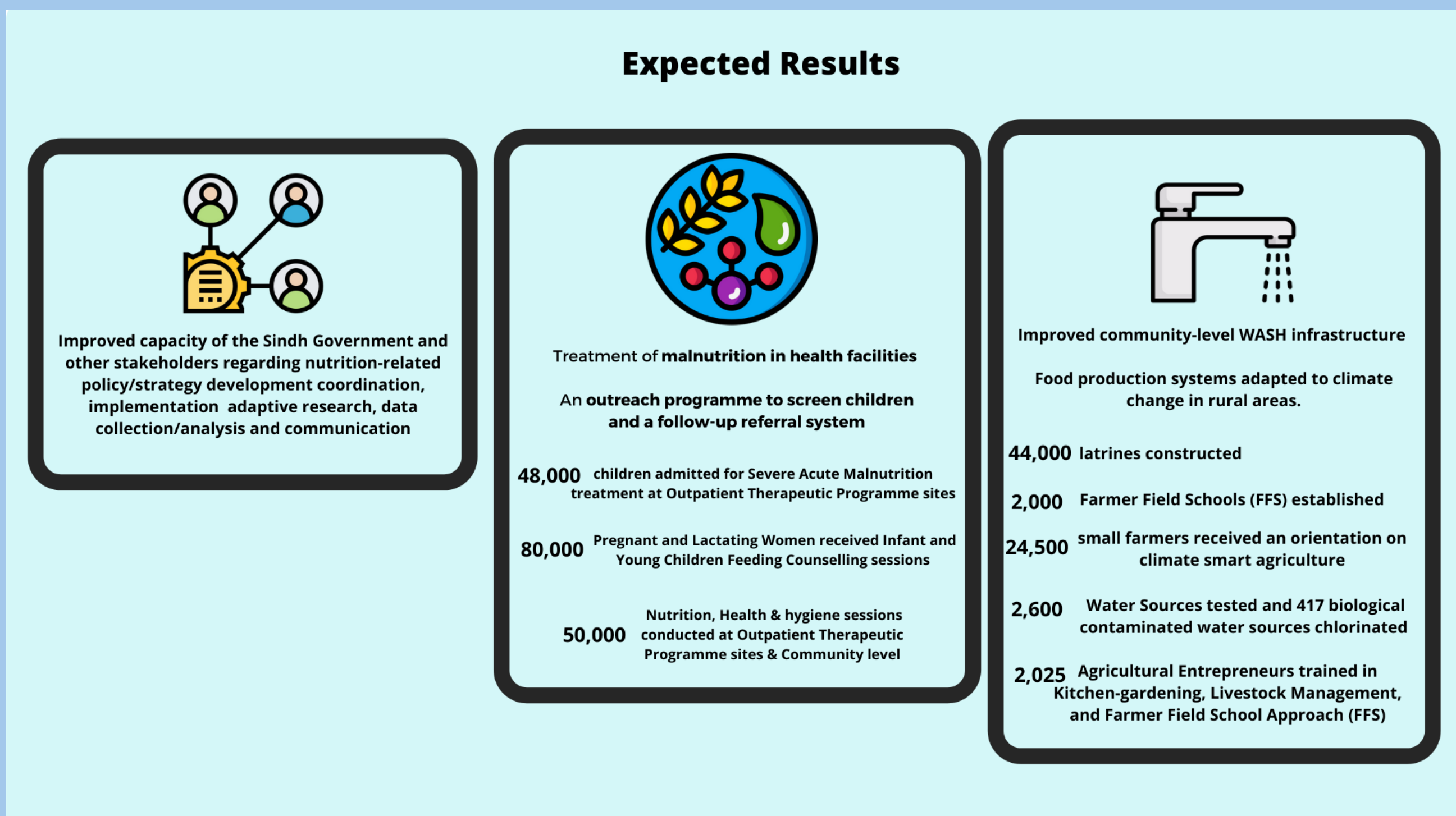
Zahida, Dadu - PINS Beneficiary

Support to policy

PINS is working with the Government of Sindh to develop, coordinate, and implement strategies that will enable rural communities to affordably access all nutrients and services they need to eliminate this problem. Through the Accelerated Action Plan for the Reduction of Stunting, the Government of Sindh has set itself the target to reduce the stunting rate from 48% to 43% by 2021.

What can we learn from this project?

Based on the lessons learned during the implementation of Women and Children/Infant Improved Nutrition in Sindh (WINS) [2013-2017, €30M] in four districts of Sindh, the EU added resources to institutionalise nutrition-related interventions as part of regular Government interventions. This is why the EU started the Programme for Improved Malnutrition in Sindh (PINS) in ten districts of the province to respond to chronic and acute malnutrition on a long-term basis. PINS includes a dedicated technical assistance team which is supporting the Government of Sindh with implementation of their nutrition policy strategic framework.



EU in Pakistan

The European Union (EU) funds projects and programmes around the world in order to help addressing global and local challenges. The reduction of poverty and the respect of fundamental rights and freedoms are key objectives in this context.

In Pakistan, the EU is committed to a stable, democratic and pluralistic country that respects human rights and benefits from its full economic potential by supporting sustainable and inclusive development for all its citizens. The EU provides Pakistan with about €100 million annually in grants for development and cooperation. Among other issues, the EU supports Pakistan in its efforts to tackle poverty, increase education, promote good governance, human rights, rule of law and ensure sustainable management of natural resources. EU-funded projects are covering all of Pakistan with a special focus on Sindh and Balochistan.

The collaboration between the European Union and Pakistan is grounded in the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) signed in 2019. Areas of cooperation under the SEP include peace and security, democracy, rule of law, human rights, and migration but also sectors such as energy, climate change and science and technology.

The EU is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners. The EU supports Pakistan's integration into the world economy and its sustainable economic development, namely by granting it preferential access to the European single market under the GSP+ system since 2014. Under this scheme almost 80% of Pakistan's exports enter the EU duty and quota free. In 2018, Pakistani exports to the EU were worth €6.9 billion.

In order to enjoy the trade preferences under GSP+, Pakistan needs to demonstrate progress on the implementation of 27 international conventions on human rights, good governance, labour rights and environmental protection.

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