



**PAK
MISSION
SOCIETY**

WWW.PAKMISSIONSOCIETY.ORG



LISTEN TO THE WASTE

THE UNTOLD STORIES FROM
THE SAAF MAHOL PROJECT



HARYALI HUB

The Untold Stories From The Saaf Mahol Project

Collected and compiled by the Saaf Mahol Project Team
Project Implemented by Pak Mission Society
Funded by Tearfund

Editorial & Design Team

Shannon M De Souza
Cynthia Sigamony
Zoone Hasan Sultan

Photography by

Muhammad Tahir
Salman Khokhar

Special Mentions

Climate Action Programme Team; Saima William, Fayyaz Gill and Sumbal Amjad, interviewed beneficiaries, collected case stories, pictures and developed the content.

Copyright Notice

All rights reserved under the Copyright Ordinance, 1962. No part of this publication is to be replicated, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher/right holder at the address below. Users are granted to display, download and print portions of this report provided that all propriety notices are kept intact.

Commoffice@pakmissionsociety.org

CONTENTS

- 05** First Impression Matters
- 07** Family Above Everything
- 09** Unfair and Unhealthy
- 11** From Employment to Entrepreneurship
- 13** Super Mom
- 15** Poor Urban Planning
- 17** Keeping It Clean
- 19** Trash Turns to Cash
- 21** The Game Is On
- 23** In The Best Of Health
- 25** Compost makes house plants very happy
- 27** Go green

VISION

Vulnerable and unreached communities are empowered so that people enjoy the fullness of life, living with hope, dignity and respect.

MISSION

Implement and promote holistic development to strengthen people's capacities, resilience and self-reliance

VALUES

Excellence
Accountability
Patience
Teamwork
Passion



INTRODUCTION

Pak Mission Society is keenly pursuing environment focused interventions which contribute to the Pakistan Vision of 2025 in harmony with the Clean Green Pakistan campaign. PMS launched Saaf Mahool Project to promote sustainable solid waste management practices in the low-income urban settlements of Islamabad. PMS learnt through experience that waste management is more than behavioral issue and thus dealing with responsible waste handling could be rather swift once the To-do-will is being reinvigorated.

The why factor; is that PMS fervently abides by the resolve to make sincere efforts in restoring clean environment and improving best practices of solid waste management among those who are left behind. Saaf Mahol is striving hard to limit the gap between do-deed deficit and hence take on practical steps to increasing carbon emissions and ecological misbalance. According to the global Environment Performance Index, Pakistan is the list of countries that need immediate to tackle this environment and climate caused stress.

Moreover, PMS is on the threshold of experimenting innovative solutions such as waste to energy, control plastic waste, best water conservation methods, bio-gas and solar thermal plants, and regenerative agriculture approaches. PMS has actively pursued tree plantation in its target areas and has discouraged open burning of waste as well as replaced waste piles through reclaiming the green areas for recreational and sports activities. Moreover, we have countless testimonies from the local residents who admit the stark difference before and after PMS solid waste interventions and one of such claim is that medical expenses of slum residents have been reduced to more than 70%. We feel obliged that as an organization we have served the poor commutes by restoring their personal worth, health and wellbeing.



FIRST IMPRESSION MATTERS

ANWAR BHATTI

A STREET VENDOR FROM AKRAM COLONY



“ For many years I have been the only fruit and vegetable vendor in this area. My earning decreased as customers withered away due to waste piles near my vegetable stall. ”

Anwar Bhatti, a street vendor from Akram Colony, puts his blood, sweat, and tears into his work to make both ends meet. He resentfully stated that as the population in the colony increased so did the garbage and to such an extent that his customers got less and less due to the heaps of waste outside his shop.

Saaf Mahol was initiated as a pilot project in four different slums in Islamabad, including Akram colony, sector H-9 Islamabad. It aimed at addressing Solid Waste Management (SWM) issues, through door-to-door waste collection, two-way source segregation of waste into organic and inorganic waste, along with awareness-raising sessions.

Through the Integrated Resource Recovery Centre (IRRC), the project not just provided livelihood opportunities to community residents but also ensured

health and environmental benefits for them. Anwar Bhatti joined the community leaders' group and later became a vocal environmentalist, organizing awareness sessions, street campaigns, and speaking out against social malpractices such as open dumping and open burning of waste.

The Saaf Mahol project has captivated the hearts and minds of many people who now advocate for a "Clean Green Pakistan." Thanks to this, many street vendors are enjoying a good return on their investment and report growth in their daily revenue. Anwar Bhatti now also has a pick-up van to carry fruits and vegetables around the community. "Environment feeds you, do not make it filthy," Anwar Bhatti said to the students while talking at the arts and crafts, competition on 5th June 2020, in one of the local community schools.





“

Waste food had caused many children to become severely unwell in our community. We have spent a lot of our house income in medical bills.

Saima Shamshad, a 37-year-old resident of the I-9 community, Islamabad works as a housemaid. She lives with her husband and her three children. The I-9 neighborhood in Islamabad has traditionally faced open dumping and open burning for many years. According to the findings of the baseline study, half of the population is impacted by waste-related illnesses, either directly or indirectly.

Due to overexposure to solid and liquid waste, one of Saima's daughters suffered a major lung infection,

causing most of her income to go into medical bills.

Due to their illegal status, these slums are not a part of the urban planning because of which there is no concept of waste management in the area.

After Saaf Mahol intervened in the community, Saima and her neighbors now enjoy a waste-free environment. There has been a significant decrease of almost 80% in open dumping and burning allowing the community residents with a cleaner and healthier environment to live in.

UNFAIR AND UNHEALTHY



AMAN YOUNAS

A RESIDENT OF G-7 CHRISTIAN COLONY

“

I wouldn't tell my classmates where I lived, out of embarrassment and to avoid possible bullying by my classmates.



Aman Younas, 16, lives in the G-7 Islamabad and attends a nearby government school. He lives with his parents and four siblings in a small house with no basic facilities. The reality is that Aman Younas and his peers in urban slums are simply disqualified from the right to wellbeing because they confront survival risks such as exploitation and protection while living in an unfair and unhealthy environment.

Aman has always desired to play cricket in an open field since he was a child, but the increasing waste piles and open dumping snatched away the little piece of open land where kids could play. "If we get together and go to a neighboring park to play cricket, we are frequently

denied entry because we are from the slum," said Aman Younas.

To solve solid waste issues, enhance living conditions, and reduce health vulnerabilities, Saaf Mahol expanded its operations to new urban slums in 2019 including two Christian slums in G-7 Islamabad.

Frequent awareness sessions, cleaning of old dumping sites and community engagement in the waste collection has now restored cleanliness in the community to an extent that children have open spaces for fun and games. "I am not ashamed of living here anymore. I can now focus on practicing more and joining the Pakistani cricket team someday," Aman said.

FROM EMPLOYMENT TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP



ASHRAF MASIH

E-GUARD FROM H-9 COMMUNITY ISLAMABAD



“ Now that I have a sustainable business, I can provide for my children and I don't need to rely on anyone for financial support anymore. ”

Ashraf Masih, 55 is an e-guard from H-9 community Islamabad. Before working with Pak Mission Society Ashraf was a solid waste collector when he moved to Islamabad but he could not generate enough money to support himself or his children.

In 2018, the Saaf Mahol team engaged Ashraf to work as an e-guard at Haryali Hub (a Waste management hub set up under the Saaf Mahol project). Haryali Hub is working in low-income neighborhoods in Islamabad to address the capital's unattended solid waste problem as well as providing compatible livelihood opportunities for those who live in these areas.

This initiative includes health, solid waste management, and community awareness sessions that help the residents of these communities understand the concept of sustainable waste management solutions. Now after the project has completed its initial pilot phase, Ashraf and his wife Ruxana have taken over the operations of the entire H-9 community with the help of fellow community members. They now generate a decent revenue not just to enjoy a good life but have started engaging other family members in this venture, too.



SUPER MOM

FARZANA

A RESIDENT OF H-9 ISLAMABAD



“ I have a decent job now and I can earn for my children. I don't need to be dependent on anyone anymore financially. ”

Farzana, 45, is a widow from the H-9 community in Islamabad, Pakistan. After her husband and son died in an accident, Farzana and her four children relocated to Islamabad with her brother. She was hired as a waste segregator and office help at the Saaf Mahol Project. Eventually, she could earn a fair livelihood for her family. Before joining Haryali Hub, she was working as a maid in affluent neighborhoods in Islamabad, for which she had to travel long distances and could earn too little against the intense labor. Hence she could hardly

manage her household expense.

The main reason for including Farzana in the team was to ensure support of women-led households in the community that can later become advocates of the cause. Farzana was able to improve her financial situation as well as engage many other women of the community to attend awareness, and health and hygiene sessions.

“This is not just a job for me but a service to the community that God will reward me for,” Farzana stated.



POOR URBAN PLANNING

SHAN MASIH

A RESIDENT OF FAISAL COLONY, G-7 ISLAMABAD

“

Living in a slum, I could not imagine enjoying a clean environment within my own community. This clean environment has given me a real sense of friendship.

Shan Masih, 43, is a resident of the Faisal colony, G-7 sector, Islamabad. His family consists of seven members including, his wife, five children, and himself. He works for the government and enjoys hanging out with his friends in the evenings to relax from work. However, the open dumps of waste were making living difficult in these areas.

Being a low-income slum of Islamabad, G-7 has always been deprived of proper urban planning, making it a common site for open dumping and open burning. After Saaf Mahol took charge of proper waste management of the area, Shan started getting involved in arranging awareness sessions and engaging the community in waste collection. “We have a cleaner and healthier environment now so we can enjoy our evenings as a family,” Shan stated.



KEEPING IT CLEAN



MAGDALEN

A WIDOW FROM H-9 COMMUNITY



“We are living in a filthy state, spending much more on medical bills than we could afford.”

Magdalen, 75, is a widow and lives with her married son in the H-9 community of Islamabad. She watches over the house and children during the day while her son and daughter-in-law are at work.

Waste disposal facilities in her community have been close to none with various dumpsites becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes, flies, rats, mice, and wild porcupines. This brings many waste-related illnesses to the community.

“We live in a mud house, and every night, I see rats eating our food,” Magdalen explained. Many of Magdalen’s family members and neighbors suffered from waste-borne diseases in the past. During a

door-to-door survey before the commencement of the Saaf Mahol pilot project, Magdalen stated, “I have developed a pulmonary disease due to burning of waste because of which I cannot work.”

By introducing source segregation to increase sustainable waste management and promote public health and well-being, the Saaf Mahol team was able to not just promote waste management but ensure that people living here understand the risk of open disposal. Now after three years of the project, Magdalen feels her area is not just clean but there is way less illness caused by waste.

A man wearing a green uniform, a blue face mask, and a brown cap is working in a recycling facility. He is using a long-handled tool to move a large pile of trash from a green truck. The ground is covered in various types of waste, including plastic bags and paper. The background shows a green structure, possibly a recycling machine or storage area.

TRASH TURNS TO CASH

ABDULLAH

AN EMPLOYEE AT SAAF MAHOL

“

Now that I have a regular job, I can pay for my children's education. I don't need to rely on anyone for financial support any longer.

Thanks to his cheerful demeanor, Abdullah is one of Saaf Mahol's most admired employees. He makes every effort to retain professionalism by completing his duties on time. Abdullah moved to Islamabad two years ago from Tarbela, Shangla, since he could not afford to live there anymore.

On moving to Islamabad, Abdullah would do labor-intensive jobs to make ends meet till he came across the Haryali Hub.

Abdullah has worked as a full-time hub employee since 2018 for which he states, "Saaf Mahol supported my living costs and I could admit my children in school, a wish my wife and I have been praying to come true."





THE GAME IS ON

DAIM

A RESIDENT OF H-9 CHRISTIAN COLONY



“All our parks were filled with waste that was later burnt disrespectfully. Pedestrians could hardly walk through the dense waste piles before Saaf Mahol was initiated.”

Daim 13, a resident of H-9 Christian Colony Islamabad, Pakistan moved to Islamabad H-9 Community with his family from Lahore. Before the engagement of the Saaf Mahol Project in the H-9 neighborhood, they had been suffering from solid waste management challenges as a result of their community being an illegal slum. There were numerous open waste piles causing illnesses and diseases.

Young boys and teenagers like Daim are not welcomed on sports grounds due to lack of resources. This makes it even more unfair to have no space for recreational activities in their communities.

Saaf Mahol team has promoted not just a clean environment but also engaged community residents in ensuring sustainable waste management options. “We now have a cleaner environment and our open spaces are free to be used for playing cricket or football,” Daim said.



IN THE BEST OF HEALTH

ILYAS BOHTA

A SUPERVISOR AT CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



“Open piles of waste have been a big concern for our community. If Saaf Mahol had not adopted G-7 Christian Colony we would still be living in waste.”

Ilyas Bohta, 50, works for the Capital Development Authority (CDA) as a supervisor, cleaning roadsides, manholes, and rubbish piles in gated and affluent residential and business neighborhoods. “I am depressed when my slum is full of a terrible odor, entry and exit corners are full of rubbish piles and open burning is a common practice,” Ilyas Bohta told the young group.

G-7 Christian Colony residents looked up to Ilyas Bohta

as their indigenous leader, who stood by his community in times of difficulty, including legal and social concerns. Ilyas has been working for many years on women and youth of his community including setting up clubs, immunization drives, and awareness sessions. Ilyas approached the Saaf Mahol team to discuss his concerns about the project. Since then he has been a part of the awareness sessions ensuring his community residents can realize the benefits from the intervention.



COMPOST MAKES HOUSE PLANTS HAPPY

ANITA SARFARAZ

WORKING LADY

“

Let's discover the ways to go towards the eco-friendly streams to shop the planet



Anita Sarfaraz, has been working for Pak Mission Society for the past three years. She is well versed of the entire PMS program chain-link, she is familiar with project cycles and takes keen interest in how the projects progress. Saaf Mahol is one of her favorite projects, which is a direct intervention towards reclaiming clean environment through a responsible disposal of municipal waste. Being a nature lover herself, she is maintaining kitchen garden at home and likes to keep in-door plants in the office. She enjoys giving away in-door plants as a souvenir to fellow colleagues. Her belief is that by increasing the amount of natural space or greening the neighborhood, we can create a healthier living environment.

She once used bio-fertilizer produced by Haryali Hub and after getting good results she is now marketing the product. She is happy to have better vegetable produce. She loves to keep the environment clean by contributing her little endeavors. She is outspoken in telling friends, asking them not to use chemical fertilizers as they lead to soil degradation and loss of soil carbon. PMS has tested its bio-fertilizer through the approved lab in National Agriculture Research Center (NARC), Islamabad. Because the damage caused by chemical fertilizers is often long-term and cumulative, it may be wiser to consider alternative and sustainable methods of fertilizing the soil. Said Anita Sarfaraz

A group of people are gathered in a narrow, sunlit alleyway between old buildings. In the foreground, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a white shirt and a dark purple vest, is looking towards the camera. Behind him, several other people are visible, some wearing face masks. A woman in a white headscarf and a green tunic is talking to a man in a light blue shirt. In the background, a man in a light blue shirt and a blue face mask is looking towards the group. The alleyway is narrow, with buildings on either side and a striped awning hanging over the path.

**GO
GREEN**

NADEEM SARFEEN

POLITICAL WORKER



“ Trees help to keep the environment balanced. It prevents air pollution by taking in carbon dioxide. It protects us from natural disasters. Trees play an important role in our daily life.

Nadeem Sarfeen, a political leader from the I-9 community, served his community for numerous years. He expressed that as community volunteer he has been actively pursuing the irresponsible waste management, and particularly targeted behavioral change encouraging children and youth to own their waste. Saaf Mahol was launched as a pilot venture in four targeted communities of Islamabad, through door-to-door waste collection. The project emphasized on awareness raising, at source segregation, and offered livelihood opportunities to community members already experienced in waste collection.

Nadeem Sarfeen often partnered with Saaf Mahool project team while bridging the gap for his community, and motivated children and youth to ensure their representation in tree plantation campaigns. Clean Green Pakistan goals were achieved through the Prime Minister's initiative of the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Program, which brought left behind social groups in the limelight and actively worked for beautification of their neighborhood. “We have unplanted waste piles and replanted trees, hence, have renewed our love for nature”, said Nadeem Sarfeen.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCESS THROUGH SAAF MAHOL PROJECT





 pmspakistan

 pak_mission_society

 pakmissionsociety.org

 pakmissionsociety

 pakmissionsociety.org