

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

From Flooded Fields to Brighter Futures: Shagufta's Journey with Legal Aid

Shagufta, a 39-year-old woman of district Bhuddo Khaskheli of district Umerkot lost her house when the floods hit her village in 2022. Her house collapsed in the middle of the night, but she and her family were able to evacuate to a safe space along with their neighbors. Shagufta has two young kids, a son and a daughter both aged 5 and 6.

Her husband was the sole breadwinner of the family but lost his livelihood when the farms he used to work on also went underwater. Affording necessities such as ration along with paying for their children's education was becoming increasingly difficult, and there was a point where Shagufta and her husband had to choose between the two. Unfortunately, this left the kids without schooling for months following the flooding.

Shagufta attended the legal awareness session organized by the Legal Aid Society in July 2023 in her village. She learned about the Benazir Income Support Program and realized that she could afford to send her children to school if she registered for it.

She sought further information regarding the requirements from our Field Officer Muhammad Khan, and requested assistance. The Field Officer accompanied her to the nearest BISP Office and helped her register for the ongoing dynamic survey. The dynamic survey takes at least three months to verify the beneficiary's information and process the cash installments.

Three months after her survey was completed, Shagufta started receiving her quarterly cash installments of PKR 10,500. She was able to enroll her children back into the school and pay for their education. She is also able to contribute

financially alongside her husband, improving the quality of life of their family.

Shagufta was immensely grateful to the Legal Aid Society for connecting her with the Benazir Income Support Program which enabled her to be able to afford her children's education and secure their futures.

