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## Survival comes to those

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*"I have beautiful children. After the sudden death of my husband there was no one to support me and my children. The thought that if anything happens to me and they will be left all alone, was terrifying. I had to believe in my own strength, I managed to survive and educate my children. The LPH helped me learn tailoring, gave me machine to start my own little business. My journey has been fruitful so I am hopeful."*

**Nazia Bibi, tailor, village Ebaran, Madaklasht, Shihikoh valley, district Chitral.**

I am 46 years old and have seen my fair share of difficulties in life. I used to live in Karachi. Eight years ago I lost my husband due to heart attack and I had to return for his funeral to my village in Chitral. My children and I had a comfortable and relaxed life in Karachi with my husband, but once we moved back here, our financial status weakened gradually and there was no one to support me and my children. My brothers and my husband's family did not support us in any respect since they hardly had enough for themselves. I had to think of ways to earn money to keep us dignified and alive.

I had some experience of tailoring which my mother had taught. But I had not kept myself updated with changing fashions. Neither did I have the money to buy a sewing machine. But my good luck brought The LP to my village. They offered training courses in tailoring and provided me with a sewing machine as well to begin my little earning. Now it is me and my sewing machine.

I met the criteria for a course in stitching. You cannot imagine my happiness when I received a brand new sewing machine, and the light shining in my children's eyes only made it more memorable a day. I started to stitch clothes at my home and gradually there was an increase in orders from nearby villages. I receive many positive comments from my clients, they appreciate the finishing and designs I make. Initially, when I started stitching I used to earn PKR 5,000-6,000 a month but as years passed by I started getting more orders, and my income increased from PKR 6,000 to 18,000 per month.

With a better income, I am trying to ensure the education of my children. All my five children go to school. I want to improve their lives, especially my daughters. I do not want them to face the hardships as I faced. My eldest daughter could not enjoy her childhood as she along with me faced extra responsibilities after her father's demise. She wants to become a doctor. As I was left alone to face tough days I do not want my children to be left alone. I always teach them brotherhood and ask them to be united, always.

