

## Basharat

I am Basharat S/O Muhammad Ibrahim, a 34 years old resident of Athmuqam, District Neelum, AJK. I have a family of six and because of lack of proper education, I was not able to get a job.

“I could not continue my education due to the weak financial position of my family, so I left the school when I was 14 and started labour work. I used to travel throughout the country in search of employment opportunities. I have worked very hard to feed my family” says Basharat. “When I see my class fellows on respectable positions and earning good money, it’s very depressing because if I continued my education, it would have been much easier for me to find employment.”



During the summer of 2012, I saw an advertisement in a local news papers that DDO & USAID have launched a skill development programme for youth of Neelum. I submitted my application, and after a short interview and verification by DDO, I was selected for the training. I completed my 30 days in house cooking training at the Institute of Rural Management, Islamabad. The training was fully sponsored by USAID along with a stipend for travelling to the institute and back.

After completing the training at IRM, I requested DDO to support me in finding a Job in the local market. DDO team supported me and introduced me in a local hotel in Muzafferabad where I was selected as a Junior Cook with a starting salary of Rs. 8000 per month.

I am very thankful to DDO, USAID and IRM for their support and empowering us by building our capacity and enhancing our skills. It is because of these organizations that I am now able to earn reasonable wages and support my family.

