



Scatec



CLIMATE-SMART LIVELIHOODS FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

PROJECT REPORT

Project Location

Union Council Tarai, Tehsil Saleh Pat,
District Sukkur, Sindh Province

Project Duration

01 July 2025 – 31 December 2025





Acknowledgement

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADHO	Additional District Health Officer
AJK	Azad Jammu & Kashmir
CLEW	Community Livestock Extension Worker
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DG	Director General
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HHs	Households
IBA	Institute of Business Administration
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KG	Kitchen Gardening
MERF	Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation
NVTTC	National Vocational and Technical Training Commission
PBS	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PLW	Pregnant & Lactating Women
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
VO	Village Organization



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Executive Summary

The six-month project, “Climate-Smart Livelihoods for Vulnerable Communities”, significantly improved household resilience and income in the Saleh Pat and Tarai Union Councils of District Sukkur. By integrating climate smart agriculture, livestock management, and essential health services, the initiative empowered hazard prone communities in Sindh to build sustainable skills against economic deprivation and climate change hazards. The project focused on enhancing commercial productivity and household income to ensure families could better meet their basic needs, including nutritious food and healthcare.

MERF lead technical training of 55 farmers climate smart agricultural practices. The training focused on drought resilient techniques. Participants received specialized wheat seed packages recommended by the Wheat Research Institute to grow quality seeds for future multiplication, ensuring a better yield for the next season.

The project specifically targeted women farmers, training them in climate smart kitchen gardening techniques, including land preparation, selection of quality seeds, weed management, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). All selected women farmers received toolkits and seasonal seeds, leading to immediate improvements in household nutrition and cost savings. Families are now consuming homegrown vegetables, significantly reducing their daily expenses while improving their mental and physical wellbeing.

MERF livestock intervention exceeded its initial targets by training 75 farmers in scientific rearing, breed improvement and fodder preservation. In coordination with the livestock department, a vaccination campaign reached 1,200 animals to protect community assets and enhance dairy and meat production. This additional initiative was launched in direct response to community demand and the high vulnerability of the local livestock.

MERF health intervention to address broader community wellbeing, three free medical camps were organized in coordination with the health department, providing expert OPD consultations and essential medicines to 1,209 individuals in remote areas. Furthermore, through Social Behavior Change sessions reached 3,812 participants, providing critical education on maternal health, safe delivery and child nutrition. These efforts successfully established strong coordination and sustainable linkages between the community, MERF, and government departments for long term technical support.

1. About MERF – The Implementing Partner

Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation (MERF) is Pakistani non-profit organization dedicated to fostering safe, resilient, and healthy communities through comprehensive development interventions across the country. Headquartered in Islamabad, MERF operates in more than 60



districts and employs approximately 3,000 staff nationwide., MERF maintains a strong operational presence across Pakistan, with three provincial offices located in Sindh (Thatta), Balochistan (Quetta), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Peshawar) and AJK as well. The organization is currently implementing programs in 60 districts through established project offices and field sites. In Sindh, MERF is active in 09 districts, including the proposed district of Sukkur. The organization implements integrated programs in health, nutrition, emergency response, WASH, food security and livelihoods, climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and social protection, reaching over two million beneficiaries annually. Through innovative public–private partnership (PPP) models, MERF has contributed to improving access to quality healthcare, reducing morbidity and mortality, and strengthening health systems through enhanced service delivery, workforce capacity building, and governance support. Its programs have delivered critical immunization, nutrition, and maternal and child health services, including the screening and treatment of malnutrition and the expansion of routine vaccinations in underserved areas. Beyond routine development work, MERF plays a vital role in emergency response during humanitarian crises, ensuring continuity of care and access to essential services for vulnerable populations. With sustained recognition and support from international and multilateral donors, government departments, UN agencies, and corporate partners, MERF continues to strengthen health systems, build community resilience, and improve the lives of millions across Pakistan.

2. Project Background

The primary purpose of this intervention was to elevate the socioeconomic standing of vulnerable households within the Saleh Pat and Tarai Union Councils of Sukkur District by fostering sustainable income growth and long-term food security. By addressing the root causes of economic instability, the project sought to build a foundation of resilience that enabled families to maintain their well-being even in the face of environmental or economic shocks. The project focused on transitioning communities from subsistence-based living to a more self-reliant model where improved livelihood sources provided a consistent and reliable safety net for the entire family unit.

The specific objective of the project was to equip local community members with advanced technical expertise and practical skills specifically tailored to the unique agricultural and livestock demands of the Taluka Saleh Pat region. This involved the implementation of structured training programs and resource distribution that modernized traditional farming and animal husbandry practices to increase productivity. Furthermore, the initiative aimed to bridge the gap between local producers and broader economic opportunities by strengthening market systems. By facilitating these connections and improving the quality of output, the intervention ensured that the targeted communities could effectively translate their labor into higher market value and diversified revenue streams.



3. Project Interventions and Activities Implemented

The project achieved a significant milestone in overall reach by supporting 8,261 direct beneficiaries, which represented a substantial increase over the original target of 5,811 individuals. This expansion was a direct response to intense community interest and the proactive inclusion of additional livestock support services that were requested by residents during the implementation phase.

The project was implemented across 15 target villages of union council Tarai of Tehsil Saleh Pat using a participatory model that prioritized technical excellence, legal compliance, and community ownership. By bridging the gap between technical oversight and grassroots mobilization, the project successfully synchronized the efforts of diverse stakeholders. The Project Coordinator served as the central pillar of the implementation phase, holding primary responsibility for the execution of all field activities and acting as the formal



Farmers training on climate Smart Agriculture

liaison for all stakeholders. The coordinator managed the NOC processes with the District Administration and ensured that inputs from Scatec, IBA University Sukkur, and NAVTTC were seamlessly integrated into the project timeline. To maintain high quality assurance standards, the Project Coordinator received continuous technical back up from the MERF Head Office. This support provided essential strategic guidance and specialized technical input, ensuring field level challenges were resolved through evidence-based solutions. A defining feature of the implementation in the 15 target villages was the formation and active utilization of Village Organizations (VOs). VOs were formed to act as representative bodies, ensuring that project interventions were managed with the community. The VOs played a critical role in the beneficiary selection process. By utilizing local knowledge, they ensured that the selection for all interventions was transparent, merit based and targeted toward the most vulnerable households. The project delivered a comprehensive package of agricultural and livestock support designed to enhance food security and climate resilience. Specialized trainings were conducted on CSA techniques to help farmers adapt to changing environmental conditions. To ensure the immediate application of these skills, beneficiaries were provided with high quality seeds and fertilizers. To improve household nutrition, KG trainings were organized and essential vegetable seed packages and tool kits were provided, enabling families to establish sustainable home gardens. Technical training sessions were held on modern livestock management practices to improve animal health and productivity, directly impacting on the economic stability of the 15 villages. Social Mobilizers worked with the VOs to translate objectives into direct benefits. All the stakeholders were engaged through strong coordination with government line departments like Agriculture,

Livestock, Health, Social Welfare Departments and District Administration, PPHI along with other local partners.

3.1 Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Training for Farmers:

To enhance the capacity of targeted farmers to improve household income through smart agricultural practices including mitigation of risks of climate change, a two day' capacity building training for lead farmers was organized to address challenges resulted by climate change and its impact on the livelihoods of vulnerable communities. 55 farmers were trained in two batches where training was delivered by Deputy Director agriculture extension Saleh Pat with the financial support of Scatec and its energy partners. The topics covered in the training were soil test, preparation of land, selection of drought resilient and early maturing seed varieties, judicious application of fertilizers along with producing farmyard manure at local level,



Farmers Training on CSA

IPM, efficient use of water to deal with the issue of water scarcity, agroforestry and inclusion of gender in agriculture. By mastering techniques like drought-resilient seed selection, IPM, and efficient water usage, farmers were equipped not just to survive climate fluctuations, but to proactively mitigate risks. This comprehensive capacity building, supported by Scatec and its energy partners, fostered a sense of community ownership and gender inclusion, ensuring that the shift toward sustainable, high-yield productivity is both inclusive and durable.

3.2 Training for Livestock Farmers on Climate-Smart Fodder Production:

To enhance the capacity of target farmers to improve household income through better livestock management, 75 farmers were trained through two-days capacity building training program on Livestock Management and Fodder Production under the principles of CSA. The main aim of the training was to enhance farmers' knowledge and skills on scientific livestock rearing, breed improvement, disease prevention, fodder production, and feeding practices, which are essential for sustainable dairy and meat production. Following a rigorous selection process, a cohort of 75 farmers from surrounding areas were engaged in the training. Their active participation and keen interest in modern livestock practices.



Farmers' Training on Livestock Management

The training was conducted through interactive lectures, group discussions, and practical demonstrations, ensuring the maximum involvement of participants. Training was delivered by veterinary officer nominated from livestock, animal husbandry department Sukkur. A comprehensive discussion was held on scientific livestock rearing, breed improvement, disease prevention, fodder production, and feeding practices, which are essential for sustainable dairy

and meat production. The training event provided an effective platform to provide wide range of knowledge and new techniques and skills to vulnerable communities and foster collaboration with Livestock department of Sukkur and other relevant stakeholders. Further during the training on demand of participants' technical person appointed on vacant position at Tehsil Saleh Pat by the Deputy Director Animal Husbandry Sukkur through the support of trainer and MERF which will be beneficial for onsite and timely technical support for better livestock services. Although the project initially targeted 50 farmers, strong community interest and positive feedback led to the strategic training of an additional 25 farmers. Around 1200 large and small animals were vaccinated with the technical support and coordination of livestock department Sukkur on the special request of the communities and with close coordination of Scatec.

3.3 Distribution of Vouchers for Seeds, Seedlings and Basic Tools:

Wheat Seeds & Fertilizer package were distributed to all 50 trained farmers for demonstration plot on Climate Smart Agriculture technology and practices, in month of Sep 2025 by the Deputy Director Agriculture Saleh pat, who was nominated by Agriculture Extension Department, Sukkur. The package was finalized with the consultation of technical expert of Agriculture Extension Department, Sukkur keeping in view the local context and area needed to get maximum yield to improve the livelihoods of poor farmers. A meeting was also held with DG Research at Agriculture University Tando Jam for future interaction and seeking guidance for selection of suitable varieties which are drought resilient and early maturing to deal with the water scarcity issue.

3.4 Promotion of Kitchen Gardening in Women/PWDs/ HHs:

Two days' training on kitchen gardening for women was organized in coordination with agriculture department extension Sukkur. Training was delivered by Deputy Director Agriculture Saleh Pat along with MERF field team. A total of 110 leading women farmers were trained in key aspects of kitchen gardening, including the importance of home-based food production, land selection and preparation, use of quality seed varieties, proper sowing methods, vegetable weed management, and the role and identification of beneficial and harmful insects. The training also covered IPM, judicious fertilizer use, production of farmyard manure, efficient water utilization, and the integration of agroforestry. In addition, participants were introduced to gender inclusion in agriculture and livelihood diversification strategies such as integrated livestock, poultry, kitchen gardening, and off-farm income generation through value-added products and handicrafts. The training was interactive, participatory where linkages with line department were established through training. All the participants were provided with toolkit and seasonal vegetable seeds at the end of training to grow vegetables at home level by using learnt skill and methods in training. As Kitchen gardening is important because it provides access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable food, enhances food security and improves mental and physical well-being through stress reduction and increased physical activity. The purpose of promoting kitchen gardening was to

produce organic vegetables free of any pesticides and chemicals for domestic use. kitchen gardening activity saved the community money, reduced time, earned extra income, feed fresh and nutritious, organic vegetables to families, and it's a long-term investment as observed during field visits. Villagers and participants were very happy and appreciated this initiative taken by MERF and Scatec the training event provided an effective platform to provide wide range of knowledge and new techniques and skills to vulnerable communities and foster collaboration with agriculture department of Saleh Pat and other relevant stakeholders.

3.5 Distribution of Tools/Inputs for Kitchen Gardening:

All the 110 women were provided toolkit and seasonal vegetable seeds to grow vegetable at home level by using learnt skill and methods in training. As Kitchen Gardening is important because it provides access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable food, enhances food security and improves mental and physical well-being through stress reduction and increased physical activity. The package was finalized with consultation of agriculture department Sukkur and on the feedback of community during assessment keeping in view the local culture and context.

3.6 Awareness Sessions with Children's Caregivers, PLWs:

24 sessions were conducted on Social Behavior Change (SBC) and Family Care Practices within the context of nutrition for children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs). 3812 individuals



Awareness Session on nutritious diversified dietary needs

were interacted during these sessions in targeted villages who were absorbed in comprehensive exploration, through key messages on ante natal, post-natal safe delivery at health facilities. Facilitator emphasized the importance of initial, exclusive and inclusive Breastfeeding along with nutritious diversified dietary need to have healthy and prosperous life. Participants were also oriented on the need of personal, domestic and environmental health & hygienic practices to be adopt for healthier life. During the session on Social Behavior

Change (SBC) and Key Family Care Practices related to nutrition for children and pregnant and lactating women, participants engaged in an in-depth discussion on the underlying causes of malnutrition and practical coping strategies. Dialogue around the significance of responsive caregiving, positive parent-child interactions, and creating supportive environments for healthy growth and development was also conducted.

3.7 Organization of Free Medical Camps:

MERF organized free medical camps for targeted communities with limited access to healthcare and basic resources. In coordination with the District Health Office Sukkur, three medical camps were conducted on separate days at different locations over the project period. The camps were set up at roadside sites in Union Council Tarai, Tehsil Saleh Pat, District Sukkur, and were attended by large numbers of community members, including women, children, and elderly individuals. Patients were examined and treated by expert medical and paramedical teams nominated by the Health Department Sukkur. The purpose of free



MERF Free Medical Camp on PHC services

medical camps was to bring vital healthcare services to the local community. The camp provided diagnosis, treatment, and free basic medicines for common illnesses. Scatec team including Plant Manager, Additional District Health Officer (ADHO), community elders and social activists of the villages, visited the camps and praised MERF and the exceptional professionalism of the medical team. Through community health service provider networks, further through such type of medical camp and awareness sessions empower parents, community and caregivers with the knowledge and skills necessary to take preventive measures and prevent malnutrition in children and PLWs. Through this service, a total of 1209 individuals which includes 363 PLWs were benefited including children, men and women. The camps were organized with the technical support of health department Sukkur.

4. Results Framework

Activities	Indicators	Target	Achieved
Output-1 Number of individuals (beneficiaries) directly benefiting from improving agricultural/kitchen gardening production	Number of farmers trained on improved agricultural techniques and received inputs	50	55
	Number of Individual received vouchers for seeds & seedlings	50	50
	Number of households received kitchen gardening training and inputs	100	110
	Percent of individuals reported improved access to nutritious diet	1	1
	Number of farmers trained in fodder production techniques	50	75
	No. of HH received vaccinated of their animals (1,200)		300
OutPut-2	Number of individuals assisted health and nutrition medical camps	900	1,209

Percent of individuals including women, children, adolescent girls reported increase in knowledge regarding health and nutrition	Percent of individuals reported that they were satisfied with services received	1	1
	Number of individuals benefitted from sessions on health, nutrition and healthy diets	3,711	3,812

5. Stakeholder Engagement

MERF established and maintained robust professional relationships with a diverse range of district and provincial stakeholders. Throughout various project phases, introductory and coordination meetings were held with the District Administration, Agriculture Extension, Livestock, Health, PPHI, Social Welfare department, and academic institutions such as Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam and IBA University Sukkur. These collaborations, alongside engagement with technical bodies like Agriculture Research institutions and NAVTTC, served to standardize practices and align multi sectoral efforts with local needs.

MERF places a strategic emphasis on synergy with humanitarian actors and government bodies, including the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), to avoid duplication of assistance and ensure interventions remain complementary. By maintaining frequent liaison and transparent communication regarding planned assessments, MERF optimized access to target areas and secured essential administrative clearances, such as No Objection Certificates (NOCs). This integrated coordination framework acted as the backbone for service delivery. The Agriculture Department spearheaded training on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Kitchen Gardening (KG). Simultaneously, partnerships with the Health Department and PPHI enabled the deployment of medical camps, while the Social Welfare Department facilitated the registration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). By anchoring these technical efforts through the District Administration and leveraging the grassroots networks of organizations like SRSO, MERF ensured a legally compliant, culturally sensitive and highly impactful implementation. MERF maintained close contact with the government office to communicate planned assessments and activities, thereby optimizing coordination and ensuring access to target areas.

6. Risks and Mitigation Measures

During project implementation, several operational and social challenges were identified and addressed through timely mitigation strategies. Initially, the village lists provided by Scatec presented limited household numbers, which threatened to impede target achievement. MERF managed this by refining selection criteria and reducing the margin of rejection without compromising project integrity. Community engagement was affected by the ongoing cotton and



dates harvesting seasons; however, training schedules were adapted to flexibly accommodate laborers' seasonal workloads.

Social dynamics also required careful navigation, as some communities initially withheld cooperation due to unmet expectations from previous external interventions. Through consistent mobilization and frequent advocacy meetings, the team successfully restored trust and secured community participation for the assessment process. Additionally, deep rooted tribal sensitivities between the Shambai (Baloch) and Bhambro (Sindhi) groups necessitated a localized approach rather than requesting groups to travel to neutral sites, MERF conducted tribe specific training sessions within their respective territories to ensure inclusivity.

Logistical hurdles included a scarcity of tax compliant vendors in the Saleh Pat area and technical difficulties regarding drip irrigation suitability at specific campsites. Medical camps also faced a surge in demand that exceeded initial supplies of skin, stomach, and respiratory medications; in response, the team established a referral system to nearby Basic Health Units (BHUs) to ensure patient care. Finally, while the six-month project duration allowed successful implementation, the timing prevented a comprehensive economic impact analysis, as crop cycles for wheat and vegetables extend into April. This limitation was mitigated by focusing on immediate output delivery while documenting the foundational progress for future longitudinal assessments.



7. Financial Report

Project: Climate-Smart Livelihoods for Vulnerable Communities Funded by Scatec Private Limited & its Energy Partners For the Period from 01 Jul 2025 till 31 Dec 2025						
Act. No.	Description of the Activity	Total Budget	Total Spending	Helios Power Limited	HNDS Energy Limited	Meridian Energy Limited
<i>Currency - Pak Rupees</i>						
1	Improving Agricultural Production	1,150,000	1,223,054	407,685	407,685	407,685
2	Promotion of kitchen gardening in Women/ PWD / HHs	2,480,000	2,557,681	852,560	852,560	852,560
3	SBCC on the Health and Nutrition for Children, Adolescent Girls and Women with Reproductive age	950,000	886,486	295,495	295,495	295,495
4	Project Implementation and support cost	3,600,000	3,511,963	1,170,654	1,170,654	1,170,654
	Administrative Overheads @ 10%	818,000	817,918	272,639	272,639	272,639
	Total	8,998,000	8,997,102	2,999,034	2,999,034	2,999,034

8. Sustainability

Since July 2025, MERF has been implementing a transformative Climate Smart Livelihoods project in Union Council Tarai, Tehsil Saleh Pat, District Sukkur, with the financial backing of Scatec and its energy partners. This multi sectoral initiative, supported by the technical expertise of the Agriculture, Livestock, and Health departments, aims to fundamentally enhance community wellbeing through climate resilience. Central to the project's success was an intensive, knowledge rich training program that empowered residents to understand the drivers of climate change and its direct impact on their livelihoods. Participants gained practical mastery of adaptive techniques and sustainable management practices, enabling them to safeguard their agricultural yields and livestock productivity despite evolving environmental challenges.

A critical achievement of the intervention was the establishment of sustainable linkages between the community and key institutional stakeholders, including the District Administration and various line departments. By connecting lead farmers directly with line departments and progressive farming networks, MERF ensured that beneficiaries now have reliable access to high-quality seeds and modern technical guidance. Farmers have expressed a profound interest in



expanding these efforts to include off farm vocational skills and systematic seasonal animal vaccination programs. Simultaneously, the project made significant strides in gender inclusive development; Women participants reported a marked increase in knowledge regarding kitchen gardening, health, and nutrition. These women now produce fresh, organic vegetables at home, which has not only improved household dietary diversity but also resulted in tangible economic savings. The psychological and social benefits have been equally impactful, as beneficiaries reported a sense of empowerment from sharing surplus produce with neighbors and reallocating saved household funds toward their children's education and healthcare. Consequently, the community has expressed deep gratitude to MERF and Scatec, advocating for the continuation of these integrated services to sustain the momentum of local development.

9. Way Forward and Scalability

To maximize the efficacy of future interventions, it is recommended that geographical targeting remain flexible, allowing the project to pivot to alternative villages if local cooperation is not secured, thereby ensuring resources are directed toward the most receptive communities. A critical adjustment would be extending the project duration to a minimum of one year; this timeframe is essential to provide consistent onsite technical support across complete crop cycles and to facilitate a meaningful economic analysis of the impact on beneficiary income post harvest. Given that livestock serves as a primary economic pillar in the region, the scope should be expanded to include season wise vaccinations for both large and small animals alongside the training of Community Livestock Extension Workers (CLEWs) to ensure long term animal health and productivity. Furthermore, integration into farm activities such as agroforestry and the establishment of local nurseries would strengthen environmental resilience and provide additional revenue streams for the inhabitants.

To foster diversified and sustainable livelihoods, the project should also incorporate off farm components, such as the construction of multipurpose community centers and the provision of vocational skill training for both young men and women. To bridge the gap between training and employment, participants should receive small business startup kits upon completion, enabling them to immediately monetize their newly acquired skills. Recognizing the extreme poverty within the target area, providing a stipend (Traveling Allowance/Daily Allowance) would compensate for their time and encourage consistent participation in training sessions. Finally, addressing the acute lack of basic infrastructure by including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) component, specifically focusing on the provision of safe drinking water, is vital, as it directly influences the health, nutrition, and overall productivity of the community



10. Success Stories



Stories of Resilience & Change

Rebuilding Food Security Through Kitchen Gardening

 Village Yar Muhammad Junijo, District Sukkur



Saima, a 32-year-old mother, lives with her husband and young child in a single-room house in a flood-affected village of Sukkur. After the 2022 floods, irregular daily wages and rising food prices made it increasingly difficult for her family to access nutritious food.

In 2025, Saima was selected through a transparent community process to participate in MERF's **Climate-Smart Livelihoods Project**, supported by Scatec and its energy partners. She received hands-on training and basic tools to establish a climate-smart kitchen garden using limited space and water.

Within weeks of planting, Saima began harvesting spinach, coriander, and turnips. Home-grown vegetables soon became a regular part of her family's meals, improving nutrition and food security. The kitchen garden now saves her approximately **EUR 19 (PKR 6,000) per month**, which she invests in her child's education and healthcare.



After the floods, even buying vegetables became difficult. Some days, we managed with very little, Now I grow vegetables at home, save money, and spend it on my family's future.



Stories of Resilience & Change

Climate-Smart Solutions for Household Resilience

📍 Village Imam Dino Meerani, District Sukkur



Razul, 52, lives with her husband and seven children in a single-room house. The family depends on her husband's small motorcycle repair shop and Razul's occasional embroidery work. Even before the floods, meeting basic household needs was a daily struggle, which worsened significantly after the 2022 floods.

Through MERF's **Climate-Smart Livelihoods Project**, Razul received practical training and essential inputs for kitchen gardening. The intervention enabled her to grow nutritious vegetables at home, reducing dependence on markets.

Within few months, fresh vegetables had become a regular part of daily meals, reducing food insecurity and household stress. The kitchen garden now saves Razul up to **EUR 22 (PKR 7,000) per month**, enabling her to prioritize her children's health and support in livelihoods.

Food was always a worry for me. Today, we eat organic home-grown vegetables from our kitchen garden, and our daily expenses has reduced. We are so relieved.





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 <https://merf-pakistan.org>

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