



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Driven Development Conference



October 2, 2015

SRSO Complex- Sukkur, Sindh

**Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)**

[www.rspn.org](http://www.rspn.org)

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## Acronyms

AKRSP	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
CDD	Community Driven Development
CDP	Community Development Programme
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CIF	Community Investment Fund
CO	Community Organization
CPI	Community Physical Infrastructure
EUD	European Union Delegation Pakistan
GM	General Manager
GOP	Government of Pakistan
IBA	Institute of Business Administration
IGG	Income Generating Grant
LSO	Local Support Organization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non Government Organization
NRSP	National Rural Support Programme
PDD	Planning Development Department
PSC	Poverty Scale Card
RSPs	Rural Support Programmes
RSPN	Rural Support Programmes Network
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
SRSO	Sindh Rural Support Organization
SRSP	Sarhad Rural Support Programme
TRDP	Thardeep Rural Development Programme
UC	Union Council
UCBPRP	Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme
VO	Village Organization
VTP	Vocational Training Program

## Introduction

The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) has entered into a partnership with European Union Delegation (EUD) in Pakistan to assist in holding a series of Community Driven Development (CDD) conferences across the country with the support of Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). Under this partnership, 2<sup>nd</sup> CDD conference was organized in Sukkur district, Sindh, hosted by Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO). The major objectives of these Conferences are:

- Facilitate a dialogue among different stakeholders including policy makers, donors, programme practitioners and researchers working on Community Driven Development (CDD) programmes in Pakistan
- Identify successful approaches and challenges faced to mainstream and scale up CDD in Pakistan and beyond
- Increase the visibility of the RSPs' work on CDD in Pakistan
- Explore lessons/knowledge and exchange with a broader group of stakeholders
- Develop proposals and recommendations on how RSPs could have a better impact through CDD

The theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDD conference was **RSPs' approach of empowering women through social mobilisation and capacity development**. Community members, elected representatives, civil society, media, government line departments and other stakeholders were the part of this conference.

The agenda of the conference is annexed as Annex A and the list of the participants is annexed as Annex B.

## 1 INAUGURAL SESSION

### 1.1 Welcome Note

2<sup>nd</sup> CDD Conference was formally started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Ms. Samina Barkat Ali. Mr. Nazar Memon, SRSO Board Member, welcomed EUD representative, Chairman RSPN, community members, media, and RSPs in the event. He shared that SRSO aims to reach out the communities and work for their development and SRSO is dedicated to continue doing the work which has been committed with EU.



## 1.2 Presentation about SRSO

Mr. Dittal Kalhoro, Acting CEO SRSO, delivered a brief presentation about SRSO. He shared the history of SRSO and its mission. He mentioned that SRSO programme consists of 11 components including three tier social mobilization (CO, VO & LSO), Community Investment Fund (CIF), community capacity building, , micro credit programme, social sector services, natural resource management, gender advocacy, community physical infrastructure development, enterprises development, emergency/disaster response and village rehabilitation. The SRSO outreach is upto 10 districts of northern Sindh province. He further elaborated the framework of three tier social mobilization. The strategy adopted by SRSO consists of identification of beneficiaries through poverty scorecard, social mobilization, and intervention and impact study. At the end of the presentation, he presented SRSO ongoing projects, completed projects and the major successes and achievements.



## 1.3 Key Note Address by Chairman RSPN

Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN, addressed the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDD conference participants by sharing the purpose and need of establishing RSPs. He mentioned that in most of the cases, it was government which supported the formation of RSPs. The need of RSPs existed for a long time to meet certain gaps which government realized that it was not able to fulfill. He further added that to support the poor, one has to refer to the proven experiences from across the world. The concept of self-help is not something new; it is as old as humankind itself. . The concept was based on the knowledge that individually the poor cannot rise up on their own; the poor households need to be mobilized to foster their own organizations, elect their own leaders, they need to mobilize capital and improve their own technical and managerial skills. Local leadership has to emerge that is not only committed and dedicated but also honest; a leadership that supports and facilitate other community members. The process of organizing poor households is called social mobilization. Only specialized organizations can undertake social mobilization as all poor households need to be mobilized. Only an external support organization can undertake this process. In Pakistan, it is only the Rural Support Programmes who undertake this social mobilization. Government has also realized this niche of RSPs and has supported RSPs. The first RSP was



created in 1982, with the establishment of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) in Gilgit Baltistan (formerly known as Northern Areas) and Chitral in December 1982.

Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan then shared his experience from a meeting with Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, wherein he had proposed the idea of establishing RSPs. Ms. Benazir Bhutto appreciated the concept and said that it represented a revolutionary policy but also said that it would be difficult to implement. Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed later wrote letters to the Chief Minister of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and the Chief Minister of the Sindh Province. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan then added that suddenly in 2003, hereceived an invitation from government of Sindh that the Sindh Rural Support Organisation has been established and that he was asked to become its first Chairman. Later, Mr. Sulaiman Shaikh agreed to become the honorary Chief Executive Officer of SRSO. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan then said that the main support to SRSO came in 2009 when Mr. Qaim Ali Shah, Chief Minister of Sindh, supported the Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) in Shikarpur and Kashmore-Kandkot district. Later the government of Sindh added support to Tharparkar and Jacobabad districts under UCBPRP. After this support of the government of Sindh and excellent implementation by SRSO and TRDP, UCBPRP has been recognized as the only viable programme for reaching out to poor households and mobilizing women to foster their own organisations. Based on the strong evidence generated from UCBPRP, the European Union Delegation (EUD) to Pakistan has signed an agreement with the government of Pakistan to scale up the UCBPRP in eight (8) districts of Sindh under the 'Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support' (SUCCESS) Programme. While the management and staff of RSPs play an important role, the real diamonds of the RSPs approach are the community members and especially their dedicated, committed and honest leaders. Whatever the RSPs have achieved in Pakistan is due to the endeavors of community members. And, today there will be several opportunities to directly hear from the organized rural women about achievements under the UCBPRP and what we can expect under the SUCCESS Programme.

The Note for Record (NFR) from the field visit and the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDD conference by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan is annexed as Annex C.

## ***1.4 Experience of Khushal LSO Network***

Ms. Perveen Meher delivered a brief presentation about the experience of Khushal LSO Network from Taluka Lakhi Ghulam Shah of district Shikarpur. She presented the profile, mission of LSON and the status of different schools situated in the area. She shared that before the intervention of SRSO, no government line departments or other stakeholders has worked in their areas because of poor law and order situation. With the interventions of SRSO, the law and order situation in the area got better. She explained the voluntarily work done by LSON, LSOs, investment made under the Community Investment Fund (CIF), health insurance issued to the poor households, linkages with different stakeholders, and the yearly planning of LSON and LSO. Ms. Perveen was particularly proud that the rural women now have their own

organisations, capital, skills and confidence to reach out to various stakeholders so that their issues can be addressed.

### **1.5 Speech by Representative EU Delegation in Pakistan**

Mr. Giacomo Miserocchi, EUD representative, thanked all the participants to have joined the cause of “harnessing people’s potential” and said that this event is about “people”, common and unknown rural people whose daily efforts, challenges, sufferings and voices often go unheard. These people often representing up to two-thirds of the population of developing countries but still go unnoticed because making their voices heard requires collective action. And acting collectively requires awareness, consciousness, identity, shared interests and capacity to act. This conference is a part of a series of conference across Pakistan which the EU felt the need to



organize together with its RSPs partners in order to talk and bring awareness about CDD. It is a beautiful and straightforward concept but difficult to put in practice when looked at the multiple challenges and bottlenecks that commonly characterize large system, where public and private spheres interacts, different layers of actors operate, power dynamics develop, crystallize and entrench, making access and control of resources an extremely difficult process. This conference seeks to talk about CDD with the aim of sharing experiences through the work carried out by the RSPs in all provinces and areas of Pakistan. Further, divulgate the concept of social capital and touch with our hands the immense potential deriving from “harnessing people’s potential” for country system, politicians, civil servants, development practitioners, donors and citizens at large.

In addition to this, Mr. Giacomo Miserocchi explained the concept of COs, VO, and LSOs to the participants that individuals are organized in groups, groups are organized in bigger groups and bigger groups are organized in apex groups. This way, a hierarchical organization is made, similar to a pyramid. Interconnections between constituent elements are made of human dynamics. This is more powerful than a stone pyramid in the Egyptian desert because it can walk, talk and think. This is what it’s called ‘Three tiers of social mobilization’; a) all activities which are explained or done are possible because communities are organized, and b) the more the pyramids grows, the higher and stronger the system becomes and c) the sum of parts is finally greater than the whole. The EU recognizes the quality of the government funded programme “Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme” and has agreed to provide resources to extend geographic reach to eight (8) additional districts over a period of 6 years (2015-2020) under the SUCCESS Programme. EU supports to develop community organizations, help to economic growth/ income generation and development of community infrastructure and productive assets. The target beneficiary of this intervention will be women. This programme recognizes the productive role of women, going beyond the

traditional stigmatizing label of being the only responsible for reproductive and household tasks. Women, with their sense of responsibility, vision of unity, and protection of the family unit, is the founding unit of communities and societies at large. SUCCESS has an enormous potential for promoting economic and social rights, empowering girls and women, strengthening their voices and participation.

Mr. Giacomo Miserocchi concluded by saying that this day can serve the purpose to explore and understand more the developmental relevance of concepts and practices such as social capital, community driven development, and interaction between civil society and local authorities. EU has no merit if not just being a careful observer of the opportunities and excellences already available in the country. The work of RSPs, the thousands of organized communities, the enlightenment of some governments, the willingness and commitment of simple people should be interlinked to achieve the target of the goals at higher level.

The speech delivered in the conference by Mr. Giacomo is annexed as Annex D.

### ***1.6 Speech by Representative of Additional Chief Secretary of Government of Sindh (GoS)***

Mr. Ali Khosso, representative of Planning and Development Department, GoS addressed the conference participants that RSPs are our prime focus and the work done by SRSO is commendable. Later, he shared his experience of the visit to Thull tehsil of district Jacobabad that previously the area was marked by social taboo and male dominancy. In such areas, SRSO has been doing enormous job. It has established a very good network and community at large are satisfied with the intervention.



SRSO played an important role to work with the agreement of feudal lords. He further added that during his visit to a school, the attendance of teachers and students were excellent. He showed his Department's willingness to support new initiatives of RSPs. He elaborated that those communities who are registered by LSOs now can apply for funding. Planning and Development Department (PDD) will guide them to apply through community development programme (CDP). CDP is a programme by PDD where LSOs can directly apply by submitting proposals. The maximum number of projects is related to women empowerment.



## 2 TECHNICAL SESSION

### 2.1 Findings of Process Review of UCBPRP

Mr. Junaid Zahid, Researcher SDPI, presented the findings of a process review of GoS funded UCBPRP, implemented by SRSO, conducted by SDPI from 2009-2012. During these four years, SDPI undertook five progress reviews of UCBPRP. He shared the methodology of the process review and did the comparison of Income Generation Grants (IGG) in 2009 with IGG in 2012, CIF in 2009 with CIF in 2012, and Vocational Training Programme (VTP) in 2009 with VTP in 2012. He explained that in 2009 dialogues were held



with 87.6% COs to explain the objectives of IGG whereas, 89.9% CO members confirmed that they decided the terms and conditions of IGG. Only 13.5% office bearers avail IGGs. Nearly 83% members deposit demands with management of COs. All the investigated COs and VOs have extended grants; however, 60% concentration is in 3 Village Organizations (VOs). In 2012, 100% of 21 IGG beneficiaries met all the eligibility conditions. 100% of the Appraisal Forms had been filled and all the beneficiaries had submitted their Micro Investment Plans (MIPs). All MIPs were approved. In 2009, dialogues were held with 88% COs to explain the objective and operation of CIF. 65.4% beneficiaries in VOs were non-members of VOs (members of COs), 32.3% were members of VOs, and rests of the beneficiaries were Treasurer and President of VOs. In 2012, 100% of 208 CIF beneficiaries met all the eligibility conditions. The highest percentage of loans lies between 5,000 and 10,000 PKR at 73%. 55% of the beneficiaries have poverty scores between 12 and 18, 32% between 6 and 12, and 13% between 0 and 6. 100% of the beneficiaries filled out the Appraisal Form and submitted their MIPs, all were also approved. In return of the loan payment, 57% of VOs were not imposing any service charges on the beneficiaries. In 2009, 90% of all VO have the VTP. Majority of trainings was conducted with the recommendations of COs and VOs. More than 90% of unemployed have been selected for trainings. In 2012, 100% of trainees were employed or self employed. Business Management Skill Training was conducted with 92% of the trainees. Only 67% of the trainees were linked to the markets by Business Development Officers (BDOs). ) Later he shared the details of new interventions in selected UCs upto year 2012 like micro health insurance, village rehabilitation programme, and re-opening of closed government schools. Moreover, the status of record keeping at CO, and VO level was also presented. At the end of the presentation, he presented the observation and recommendation given by the team that if the CO and VO members are given distance learning material, they can come up with innovative ideas to uplift their socio-economic conditions. Furthermore, the making of video presentations on best practices related to RSP products across Sindh can be done. COs/VOs can be linked with NADRA to ensure that NADRA records are accurate as many COs/VOs had already taken up the tasks of making lists of births and deaths in their areas.

## 2.2 Findings of the study of CIF

Ms. Nazia Shah, Assistant GM M&E SRSO, delivered a presentation on CIF impact assessment and compared it with BISP. She elaborated the concept of CIF, its eligibility criteria, methodology and major findings of the study. CIF intervention study was conducted in 40 villages and covered 1,273 poor households out of total 1,830 eligible poor households (0-18 PSC band). This makes 70% coverage of poor where the amount of PKR 14,728,000/- has been disbursed; whereas, BISP has covered 1,007 poor households in surveyed villages out of same 1,830 eligible poor households. This makes 55% coverage of poor with whom the amount of PKR 58,407,500 has been disbursed. CIF grant of PKR 14.4 million is currently revolving within the community as revolving fund. This helps in doing multiple financial loan cycles with same and new household to initiate and strengthen some household economic activity. Rest of the amount is also in bank accounts of the same community institutions to be re-disbursed and revolved to cover new beneficiaries who are yet to be covered. On the other hand, there is no concept of revolving fund in BISP intervention. Other than monetary benefits, CIF provides an opportunity to women to take any decision independently, making them empowered and increases community unity and cohesiveness.



## 2.3 Findings of Tracers Study on Vocation Training

Dr. Pervaiz Ahmed Memon, representative IBA-Sukkur, shared the findings of Tracers Study on vocational training component of the UCBPRP conducted by IBA. The objective of the study was to investigate the enhancement of skills of people, improvement in employment opportunities, social change in people and the satisfaction level among the participants of training. He shared the methodology of the study and the major findings of the project. 98% of the respondents have shown their satisfaction with the quality and 92% have recommended the trainings to their peers. 37% of the respondent trainees are working somewhere (employed) and from remaining 54% are self employed. On aggregate 70% of the respondent trainees are either employed or self employed. 1.7% of the women got job and 82.2% are self employed. Self employed women were reported to have very low income due to saturation of the women related trades in these areas. The improvement in income after training has been seen. Few people have been reported to work abroad or in metropolitan cities.



## ***2.4 NRSP's approach in Promoting Women Empowerment through CDD***

Mr. Agha Ali Javad, GM NRSP, delivered the presentation and presented the national profile of NRSP. The strategy and approach adopted is harnessing people's potential. He presented the framework of three tier social mobilization, details of CIF, the programme of micro credit and insurance, education and health initiatives, community physical infrastructure scheme, and disaster management.



## ***2.5 TRDP's approach in Promoting Women Empowerment through CDD***

Dr. Ashok Bahkhtani, of TRDP shared TRDP's approach and achievement in promoting women empowerment through CDD. He shared that TRDP has mobilized 298,000 households through COs, VOs and LSOs with a membership of 382,000, which includes 205,000 (54%) women. Furthermore, more than 50% inclusion of women in Local Support Organizations' (LSOs) general bodies has been ensured. Later, he presented the detailed data of women's participation in different capacity building trainings. The Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) scheme done by TRDP was presented. At the end, he shared the new initiatives taken for women participation and empowerment.



## **3 GROUP WORK**

Before the conference, a field visit to the programme area, i.e. Shikarpur, Kashmore-Khandkot, Jaccobabad and Ghotki districts of SRSO, was organized on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The field visit provided opportunity to the participants to see the work of local communities, government and SRSO following the CDD approach under the UCBPRP. The participants of the field visit shared their experience of interacting with local communities and shared their field observation in the conference. Participants of conference were divided into four

groups. One group leader from each group presented the observations from the field and the recommendations for improvement.

### ***3.1 Group 1: Women's economic empowerment through Community Investment Fund and Asset Transfer***

Mr. Riazuddin Shaikh, from the group-1 delivered the presentation and shared that two villages were visited. The first visit was made in village Ibrahim Soomro and later, LSO Mehran. He presented the framework of CO (organization made at community level), VO (organization made at village level consisting of selected members from COs) and LSO (organization made at union council level consisting of selected members from VOs). The purpose of CIF was to empower women in any way where they can be financially independent. Women get the loan from LSO



and spend it accordingly and return to them without any interest and the cycle continues. One of the findings of the visit was that the services provided by LSO members and book keeper are for free. It was recommended that such practice would not assure the long term implementation in the future. Moreover, there is a need to institutionalize it. For that, LSO must have any office and should invest in the salaries of executive body. There are three ways through which LSO can generate funds: a) government funding (difficult to achieve), b) donor funding, c) self generating money (community could gather and save themselves or salary could be generated from interest). At the end, it was recommended that the impact study by third party should be carried out to see the intervention and impact of the project. Moreover, recommendations also need to be given by the third party.

### ***3.2 Group 2: Creating Space for Women Participation in Community Driven Development***

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jamro, RGM NRSP, presented on behalf of the group. This group made a visit to LSO Roshni and a school named Bahadur Khan Khoso in UC Gul Wari of district Kashmore. He shared that it was appreciated that the formation of COs, VOs and LSOs are all women led. There was an active women participation in school management committee. There has been an extensive capacity building programme of women at community level. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of



CFI and now LSO runs it instead of VOs. They have fixed 10% service charges to meet the cost of office. The office of LSO was donated by the members of VO. It has also been observed that the procurement processes, supervision, and maintenance after project completion is efficient. He recommended that the activity at CO, VO, and LSO should be documented at LSO level. In addition to this, micro funding programme needs to be updated on regular basis.

### **3.3 Group 3: Creating opportunities and reducing sufferings of women through community infrastructure projects**

Mr. Nisar Khokhar This group visited two villages in Thull taluka of district Jacobabad. These places were known for higher level of poverty in the region. There were male dominancy and women were excluded from any decision making process. From the field visit, it has been observed that women have been crossing the traditional barriers. They are more independent and their confidence level and skill of communication has increased. They did not only present well in front of the group but also defended their stance. Women are now more confident and skilled in the village. They are now independent of going to the bank to get the community



account opened or getting BISP issued and insurance of other women done. Before, men used to take care of the financial matters; now women have more room for financial decision making. The ratio of mother mortality rate in the village was higher, now there has a decline in the ratio. The capacity of the school building was not sufficient. Community had requested for more space. Representatives of education department were there and they agreed to take any action on it. It was also shared that one of the visited villages was invaded by Daman Shah. Women from that area fought and freed it. These women presented a unique example of empowerment. In addition to this, the women are given capacity building trainings. Before they used to make 'rallies' (Sindhi traditionally handmade bedsheets), now with the advanced skills they make new advanced items like mobile pouch etc. Young girls were given beauty parlor training. They now have an access to the market as well. With higher income the ratio of school enrollment children has also increased. It was recommended that interaction with government officials should be encouraged as it would lead to development. With skill enhancement aim, focus should be on education as well. The women should also be taught about the importance of saving and more training is required for community members.

### **3.4 Group 4: Empowering women through skill trainings and promoting women led local entrepreneurship**

Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Thaheem, presented on behalf of group 4. This group visited VO Budho Kaleri, and LSO Sunheri Roshan from UC Bhetoor of district Ghotki. They shared that the confidence level of women from

LSO was very high and their vision and objectives of LSO was clear to them. These women had properly managed all the assets and there was 100% utilization. The skill development programme for women was highly appreciated as new economic opportunities are created for the women. The beneficiaries of this intervention are from ultra poor band. They recommended that there should be a



gender balance in social mobilization. Male members should also be equally included in the programme. The linkages with government line departments should be created and LSO members should be encouraged to participate in upcoming local government. Furthermore, need to devise strategy for formation of male LSOs to undertake those interventions where women LSOs cannot take lead due to socio-cultural dynamics.

### **3.5 Remarks by Panelists**

Mrs. Munawar Humayun Khan, Chairperson SRSP, presented her remarks after the group presentations. She shared that the project was delivered in an efficient manner. Community women understood the message and they have made a huge success out of it. Then, she congratulated women to achieve the targeted result. As a result of their revolutionary endeavors, government of Sindh and EU are committed to further support this programme. With the responsibility women carry at household level, they nurture humanity. The whole environment of women circles around her. The impact of the intervention has increased their dignity and respect. In past, RSPs have always strived to empower women by educating them, enhancing their capacity and ensuring their inclusion but nothing has succeeded like CIF.

## **4 CONCLUDING SESSION**

### **4.1 Recap of the Conference**

Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan concluded the session by saying that 1<sup>st</sup> CDD conference was conducted in Quetta which was participated by members from provincial government including Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, MNAs, MPAs, Ministers, Advisors, etc. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDD conference. EU had committed to spread the programme in Sindh and RSPs are dedicated to excel in future as well. This conference is more successful than the expectations. SRSO had been given credit for managing very well the UCBPRP and make it a great success. The most important thing which influenced everyone here was the field visit conducted one day before the conference. The efforts of women community members are appreciated. This conference has achieved the purpose set out by by EU. People from different backgrounds and occupations had ensured their participation and their level of engagement was marvelous. This conference would have a good impact on forthcoming SUCCESS Programme as well and RSPs would strive to implement it very well. He encouraged participants to document their work and particularly their successes. He quoted an event where Ms. Marvi Memon, Chairperson BISP, encountered RSPs' work and got so inspired. She mentioned in

different places that she first hand saw the impact of RSPs' work. RSPs would further endeavor to engage government line departments to make it better. The presence of Additional Secretary is also very encouraging. He thanked participants for attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDD conference and wished everyone well in their work for poverty reduction in Sindh.

#### ***4.2 Remarks by EU Representative***

Mr. Giacomo Miserocchi shared that the EU expectations with this conference have been fulfilled. He said that the investment to be made in such programmes is worth making. He added that his experience is worth sharing with the world as a human being, not as a donor. The challenge was to pass the message, to highlight the work of RSPs, explore the meaning of social capital and see the role of community. He hopes that the message would be spread with others as well. He thanked everyone for their participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDD conference.

#### ***4.3 Remarks by Government Representative***

Mr. Muhammad Ali Khosso shared that SRSO has been doing beyond commendable work with dignity and honor. The way SRSO went to the household level and made women independent under leadership of Mr Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman SRSO, is a big achievement. On behalf of his Department, he extended his full support from government to take people to new realities where people from marginalized community can live with dignity and honor.

#### ***4.4 Vote of Thanks***

Mr. G. M. Abro, on behalf of Board of Directors SRSO, and management thanked community members, guests, teachers, Chairpersons, RSPs and other participants for attending and contributing to the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CDD conference, and for sharing their experiences. He hopes to work together with different stakeholders to continue to bring a positive change in the rural communities of Sindh.



## **5 Media Coverage**

The event was covered in local and national newspaper. Its press clips are annexed as annex E.

## Annexure

### Annex – A

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Driven Development Conference

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015, SRSO Complex, Sukkur, Sindh

## AGENDA

Time	Activity	Responsibility
0830:0900	Conference Registration	SRSO Admin staff
<b>Inaugural Session</b>		
0900 – 0905	Welcome Note	Mr. Nazar Memorn, SRSO Board Member
0905 – 0915	Brief Presentation about SRSO	Mr. Dittal Kalhoro, Acting CEO SRSO
0915 – 0930	Key Note Address by Chairman RSPN	Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN/SRSO
0930 – 0945	Voices of Communities from the Grass Roots – Experience of Khushal LSO Network	Representative of LSON Khushal
0945 – 1000	Speech by Representative EU Delegation in Pakistan	Mr. Giacomo Misericchi, EUD Representative
1000 – 1015	Speech by Chief Secretary of Planning and Development Department	Mr. Ali Khosso, Representative PDD, GOS
1015 -1040	Tea Break and Conference Photograph	SRSO Staff
<b>Technical Session</b>		
<b>RSPs' approach of empowering women through social mobilisation and capacity development</b>		
<b>Panelist: Tasneem Siddiqui (Chair), Shoaib Sultan Khan, Giacomo Misericchi, Nazar Memon, Masood ul Mulk, Muhammad Ali Khoso</b>		
1040 – 1100	Presentation on the findings of Process Reviews of Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) of GoS and SRSO	Representative of SDPI, Islamabad
1100 – 1115	Presentation on the study findings of Community Investment Fund (CIF)	Ms. Nazia Shah, Assistant General Manager M&E SRSO
1115 – 1130	Presentation on the findings of Tracers Study of Vocation Training	Representative of IBA-Sukkur
1130 – 1145	NRSP's approach of and achievements in promoting women empowerment through CDD	Mr. Aga Ali Jawad, GM NRSP
1145 – 1200	TRDP's approach of and achievements in promoting women empowerment through CDD	Dr. Abdul Salam Memon, CEO TRDP



<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1200 1245	– Presentation by representatives of RSPs in promoting women empowerment through CDD	Representative of RSPs
1245 1305	– Comments from the panelist	Panelist
1305 1320	– Remarks from the Session Chair	Panel Chair
1320 1420	– Lunch /Friday Prayer Break	SRSO Admin
<b>GROUP WORK</b>		
<b>Panelist:</b> Shoaib Sultan Khan (Chair), Giacomo Misericchi, Mrs. Munawar Hamayoun, Dittal Kalhoru, Malik Fateh, Dr. Salam Memon		
1420-1520	Group Work: Observations from the field and suggestions for improvement Group 1: Women's economic empowerment through Community Investment Fund and Asset Transfer Group 2: Creating space for women participation in community driven development Group 3: Creating opportunities and reducing suffering of women through community infrastructure projects Group 4: Empowering women through skill trainings and promoting women led local entrepreneurships	All Groups
1520-1600	Group Presentations	Group Leader 10 Minutes each
1600 -1630	Remark by the Panelists	
<b>Concluding Session</b>		
1630 1645	– Voices of Communities from the Grass Roots – Experience of LSO in promoting women empowerment through CDD	Representative of LSO
1645-1655	Recap of the conference	Chairman RSPN
1655-1705	Remarks by EU Representative	Mr. Giacomo Misericchi, EUD Representative
1705 1715	– Remarks by Chief Secretary of Planning and Development Department	Mr. Ali Khosso, Representative PDD, GOS
1715-1725	Vote of Thanks	Mr. G.M Abro, SRSO Board Member
1725-1730	Tea and closing	SRSO Admin

**Annex-B****Registration Sheet****2<sup>nd</sup> Community Driven Development Conference****Dated: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at SRSO Complex, Sukkur, Sindh**

S/No	Name	Designation	Organization	Contact #/Email
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20	Keenjhar Soomro	OG III Officer	Askari Bank Ltd	-

21	Hira Soomro	Food Coordinator	Hands	-
22	Sana Khan	Reporter	APP	-
23	Dr. Ashok	Sr. Manager Operations	TRDP	0336-2339916
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36	Rukhsana Riaz Ali	Sr. Program Manager		-
37	Ruqma Naz	Manager	SRSO-NSF	-
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39	Ilyaz Ahmed		SRSO=HO	-
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	Miserocchi			
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57	Arslan Ch.	EU member	EU	0332-0412273
58	Heer Zadi	President	LSO Heer	-
59	Razia Begum		LSO	-
60	Nawab Khatoom		LSO Mehar	
61	Sanam		LSO Awaz	
62	Naseem		LSO Kainat	
63	Rukhsana		LSO Awaz	
64	Ghulam Zahoor		LSO Raizi	
65	Abida		LSO Sindh Sujhagh	
66	Mehnaz		LSO Sindh Sujhagh	
67	Perveen	SO	SRSO	
68	Gulshad	Board Member	LSO Sindh Sujagh	
69	Mai Zadi	LSO Rukha	Rasul Pur	
70	Rubina		LSO	
71	Aisha		LSO Roshini	
72	Zareena		LSO	
73	Abdul Waheed	U. I	SRSO	

74	Rukhsar		LSO Ittehad	
75	Arbali		LSO Falak	
76	Shahnaz		LSO Ittehad	
77	Hakeemzadi		LSO Sohan	
78	Shahnaz		LSO Ittehad	
79	Husne		LSO	
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**Annex-C****Note for Record****By: Shoaib Sultan Khan****October 8, 2015****Subject: Community Investment Fund (CIF) of Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO)**

The nomenclature Community Investment Fund (CIF) was coined by the World Bank, when in 1998 after a visit along with me to Andhra Pradesh, Vice President Meiko Nishimizu declared that she had seen “UNDP’s miracle” in the implementation of UNDP sponsored South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme (SAPAP) and directed her division to replicate SAPAP statewide, if the State Government makes such a request. Thus on phasing out of UNDP funded SAPAP in 2000, after six years, the World Bank stepped in and supported Andhra Government to take the programme from 20 Mandals (sub-district) to 1,100 Mandals, covering the entire State reaching ten million households with forty five million population.

The genesis of CIF was in Seed Capital initiated by SAPAP. It was accidental because as Senior Adviser of SAPAP when I requested UNDP for funds to give credit to the women organisations called Self Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 15 members, UNDP turned down the request on the plea that UN charter does not allow UNDP to give credit. On my protest that women earning Rs. 5 a day, weeding fields of the Zamindars, cannot be helped in any other way except by creating access to capital coupled with skills to utilize it gainfully, the German Finance Officer Ms Ingunde, at UNDP’s headquarters New York, assured me that she had not refused to give funds but UNDP is not allowed to take it back. That solved SAPAP’s problem of access to capital. The challenge was how to make the most beneficial use of it to reduce abject poverty of the rural families.

Three years earlier Andhra Government had initiated a project called Development of Women and Children of Rural Areas (DWCRA) asking women to organise themselves in groups of 15 and start saving Re. 1 a day and if they do so for six months, the State Government will give Rs. 25,000 to each such group, with the assumption that such groups called SHGs, will in course of time be able to link up with rural banks like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NBARD) and other commercial banks.

At the time of initiation of SAPAP in 1994, I found that out of thousands of SHGs, which had been formed over the last three years, only 200 SHGs had linked up with banks. On enquiry most of the SHGs informed that having saved Rs. 180 per member and getting Rs. 25,000 for the 15 members, they were at a loss what to do and resorted to equal distribution of the grant to each member and that was the end of the SHGs. SAPAP revived the dormant SHGs and taking a leaf from the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) experience in Pakistan, asked SHGs to prepare a micro investment plan (MIP) for each SHG comprising individual household plans with the objective of income generation for each household. These MIPs varied from a requirement of Rs. 150,000 to 200,000 per SHG. SAPAP made this amount available to them after scrutiny and feasibility of each SHG Plan and gave money to the SHG on condition that the capital given to the Group will not be spent, it will be utilized and returned to the SHG to be revolved amongst the same members depending on performance of each household and their future requirement. Secondly, each SHG will try to increase the amount either through savings of members or by charging interest on the amount given to each household. As UNDP was not going to take back the money, the SHG was free to determine

the terms and conditions on which the money was to be given to each household depending on their economic status.

In a little over three years, most of the SHGs had doubled the equity capital given to them and majority of them were able to access loans from banks through SHG or in many cases SHGs had federated into Village Organisations (VOs). In due course of time the federated SHGs in VOs formed the Mandal Organisation (MO) at the sub-district level. The banks were at liberty to deal either directly with SHGs or through VO or through the Mandal whichever appeared to them to be providing credible collateral.

In 2004, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh decided to reimburse 75% of the interest charged by the banks to SHGs on prompt payment of the loan money. This gave great impetus to borrowing from commercial banks. In 2014 when I visited Andhra, over 10 million members of the SHGs had equity capital and savings of US\$ 700 million and were able to access more than US\$ 2 billion from banks at a subsidized rate of 3%.

The World Bank in 2000 rechristened SAPAP Seed Capital as CIF. In 2011 Government of India formulated a National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) on the pattern of Andhra Pradesh programme implemented by Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) successor of SAPAP. NRLM as part of 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan is aimed at mobilizing 70 million households covering 350 million people at a capital outlay of US\$ 5.1 billion. The World Bank has made US\$ 1 billion available.

In 2008 when I presented Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UNBPRP) incorporating the experience of AKRSP, SAPAP and SERP, Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah observed you seem to have prescription of poverty reduction and I submitted but you have the resources. He turned to Chief Secretary Fazlur Rehman who vehemently endorsed what I had said. Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Khoro and later Nazar Mahar gave full support including over Rs. 700 million for CIF for the districts of Shikarpur and Kashmore-Kandhkot when UCBPRP was launched in February 2009. With the support of Finance Secretary Malik and Secretary Planning Naheed Shah and Project Unit Director Shereen Narejo, SRSO had a smooth sailing with CEO Sono Kangharani giving his best.

In 2015 European Union (EU) offered the Government of Sindh replication of UCBPRP in eight districts of the Province. As a precursor to the initiation of the UCBPRP renamed Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) by EU, a conference on community driven development (CDD) was organised at Sukkur headquarters of SRSO on October 1-2, 2015.

Prior to the Conference, a field visit was organised for the participants in four groups. I happened to be in a group which included three media representatives, SRSP's (Sarhad Rural Support Programme) Chairperson and CEO, BRSP's (Baluchistan Rural Support Programme) COO and EU Adviser besides CEO SRSO.

Our field visit to Village Muhammad Ibrahim Soomro comprised 34 households of which 31 had organised themselves in 2 Community Organisations (COs) comprising 25 households below poverty line and 6 above it. The VO received Rs. 105,000 as CIF and since 2009, revolved it four times increasing it to Rs. 135,000 plus generating a savings of Rs. 70,000.

Through organised VO, they accessed from government 12 low cost houses for poorest of the poor plus Rs. 45,000 for income generating grants for 5 households.

A comparison of poverty score card (PSC) done in 2009 and again in 2015 showed following changes:

<u>Households</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2015</u>
8	0-10	22-42
5	12-16	20-57

According to PSC approved by the World Bank, households below 12 are poorest of the poor and above 24 are non-poor.

CIF amounting to Rs. 135,000 plus savings of Rs. 70,500 are being revolved and are the basis of financial viability of the VO comprising 2 COs.

The organised village as CO/VO has forged linkages with Green Star ( a commercial entity) and 20 women have adopted birth spacing as a family planning measure.

With support of Save the Children, the VO has arranged food for malnourished children.

For facility of the VO members, as well as surrounding villages, the VO has purchased items for use on ceremonial occasions like cooking utensils, crockery, cutlery etc., at a cost of Rs. 45,000 and saved villagers thousands of rupees they had to spend on hiring these items.

The VO has also formed an Environment Committee for planting trees, laying of drainage system (with the help of Save the Children Fund) and constructed a Safety Mud Embankment around the village on self-help basis by raising Rs. 60,000, with the help of Local Support Organisation (LSO) on self-help basis.

The most unique initiative taken up by the VO was Blood Donors List, comprising 21 donors from the village, whose blood group was got tested at the local hospital and in time of need by any patient, they have volunteered to donate blood. Even Giacomo from European Union was amazed as in EU also, he seldom found such example in villages.

The driving force for all these activities, initiatives and achievements were the activists, the Social Capital of the village who were chosen unanimously by the VOs/COs members as President, Secretary, Treasurer etc., as office bearers. One of them who had studied upto Intermediate, when she saw the facilities for education of village girls beyond primary classes was 8 kms away, she volunteered giving free tuition to girls who desired to study further. The Social Capital is the prime mover of Social Mobilisation.

The media representatives from Tribune (which also collaborates with New York Times) and an independent journalist, who also feeds CNN, observed that their eyes have been opened, they could never imagine that illiterate women members (97% were illiterate) could achieve all this.

After the interaction with COs/VO, the first two tiers of three tier Social Mobilisation model, the group proceeded to Union Council Birkhan in District Shikarpur and interacted with the members of LSO, the third tier of the model.

In the presentation given by LSO Chairperson Bilqees, Vice Chairperson Meera and Treasurer Sanam, the visitors group was informed that out of 3725 households, 2895 have been organised in COs/VOs with 100% membership of 0-18 households with 67% membership of 19-23 and 57% membership of 24-100 on the Poverty Score Card.



The source of income of the people is 39% from agriculture, 31% from livestock, 15% daily wages, 9% government and NGO employment, 8% are unemployed. The LSO also had data about schools with number of children and teachers and also how many were functioning and how many were closed.

There were 29 VOs in the UC revolving a total of Rs. 11.47 million as CIF amongst 0-18 eligible households numbering 1174 out of total of 1486. Another 101 households have been given Rs. 1 million as a grant for income generation who were considered destitutes unable to take CIF, which had to be returned to be revolved.

In addition 20 VOs had implemented 236 community physical infrastructure (CPI) projects comprising drinking water hand pumps, hand pumps with latrines, water and sanitation projects and low cost housing at a total amount of Rs. 8.1 million.

247 women/girls were trained for earning income spread over nine vocations and 145 men/boys got training in 19 different vocations. On a survey commissioned by SRSO through Institute of Business Administration (IBA), it was found that out of 32,000 men and women trained under this programme, IBA reported that 88% were not earning anything. After training 91% of the 88% started earning from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 8,000 per month and of the women 75% had started earning.

915 members of the organised communities participated in capacity building programme which included community management skills training (CMST), LSO bookkeeping, gender training, exposure visits to Islamabad, Karachi, Abbottabad, Tharparkar, Azad Kashmir and one of them even went to India. 135 members have also formed 7 business development groups (BDG) for marketing.

22 VOs have taken out micro health insurance against hospitalization and 127 claims amounting to Rs. 2.5 million were settled. The premium for individual health insurance is Rs. 150 (US\$ 1.50) per year and Rs. 1,000 (US\$ 10) for entire family. It is cashless and operated by Jubilee Insurance Company.

The LSO has forged linkages with 12 organisations comprising SRSO (integrated development), Save the Children (WASH, Nutrition, Health) Engro Foundation (livestock enterprises), Saba Pakistan Hadya Trust (educational scholarship and water and sanitation health (WASH)), Al-shafa Trust (eye camps), Tahleek Foundation (voter, NIC importance), Green Star (family planning), Helpage International (old age help), Kainat Foundation (importance of education) and MCH Society (family planning).

On Self Help Initiatives, LSO has constructed LSO office at a cost of Rs. 320,000, facilitated members in getting BISP cards, birth certificates, nikah nama (marriages) and set up a vocational training centre with the help of BBSYDP (Youth Development Programme).

The LSO was most enthusiastic about their future plans and had a lively discussion with the group. The local head of the district is very supportive and his deputy was present during our visit.

The following day, the EU sponsored CDD Conference was to be inaugurated by the Provincial Minister Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah but he was called away to Karachi by the Chief Minister. However, he came to SRSO office on our return from the field visit and assured the conference members, especially EU representative of his government's and personal full support to the SUCCESS programme. The Government of Sindh was ably represented by the Additional Secretary, Planning & Development Mr. Muhammad Ali Khoso, specially deputed by the Additional Chief Secretary Mr. Ejaz Ali Khan. Mr. Khoso took immense interest in the field visit and the following day in the proceedings of the conference. I was particularly happy to see in Muhammad Ali a genuine believer in the strategy of Social Mobilisation.

The highlight of the Conference was a presentation of LSO Khushhal Network of District Shikarpur. A network of 11 LSOs of the 11 Union Councils of Sub-district Lakhi Ghulam Shah comprising:

- COs	1648	
- VOs	369	
- Total households (hhs)	37625	
- Organised hhs	31640	
- 0-18 PSC	15425	100% organised
- 19-23 PSC	6140	65% organised
- 24-100 PSC	10075	78% organised
- Eligible CIF hhs	15425	
- CIF recipients	15168	
- CIF amount	Rs. 135 million	
- CPI	3431	
- Total cost	Rs. 103 million	
- Vocational Training	4708	
- Female	3045	
- Male	1613	
- BDG Income Earned	Rs. 3 million	
- Micro Health Insurance 1133 claims	Rs. 18.4 million	

The spectrum of activities of the LSOs of the Network was more or less on the same pattern as witnessed in the field visit.

A recent impact assessment of CIF of 2750 households in 42 villages of 4 Union Councils of Shikarpur and Kashmore districts with 1832 CIF eligible households of which 1273 had received Rs. 14.7 million CIF, on an average of Rs. 11,500 per household which was revolved four times. 710 hhs had received only CIF and not BISP grants.

The tentative conclusions of the assessment of CIF beneficiaries were 50% of the 0-18 households graduated out of the band i.e. 20% moved to 19-23 while 30% to non-poor band 24-100. In addition a door to door verification of 478 households showed creation of assets worth Rs. 7 million who had received only Rs. 5 million as CIF and the CIF was still being revolved amongst the households.

The Conference was aptly described by Mr. Giacomo Miserocchi, Development Adviser, Rural Development & Local Governance, EU who deputed in place of the Minister in the inaugural session, in the following words:

Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues, friends,

Thank you for joining us in this event which the EU is organizing with the support of its partners: the Rural Support Programmes Network, the Sindh Rural Support Organisation, and all the other Rural Support Programmes, who joined the cause of “harnessing people’s potential”.

Yes, this event is about “people”. “Common and unknown rural people” whose daily efforts, challenges, sufferings and voice goes unheard.

These people often represent 2/3 of the population of developing countries, but still go unnoticed because making their voice heard requires collective action. And acting collectively requires awareness, consciousness, identity, shared interests, capacity to act....

This conference is part of a series of conferences across Pakistan, which the EU felt the need to organize together with its RSPs partners in order to talk and bring awareness about CDD: a development responding to the needs and priorities identified by the very same individuals and communities who will ultimately benefit of it.

CDD: a beautiful and straightforward concept, so difficult to put in practice when we look at the multiple challenges and bottlenecks that commonly characterize large systems, where public and private spheres interacts, different layers of actors operate, power dynamics develop, crystallise and entrench, making access and control of resources an extremely difficult process.

So, here we are to talk about CDD, with the aim of sharing experience through the experience of the work carried out by the RSPs.

We are here to divulgate the concept of social capital and touch with our hands the immense potential deriving from “harnessing people’s potential “ for country systems, politicians, civil servants, development practitioners, donors and citizens at large.

Social capital is about the exponential opportunities available to organized groups of people, who consciously decide to act collectively to address shared interests and needs. It’s about building trust amongst individuals living similar experiences; developing mechanism of downward accountability; rules of engagement; plans of action; and then?...then looking outside, the world as a whole, reaping the opportunities available from a strengthened capacity resulting from unity.

You will be flushed with concepts, type of activities like Social Mobilisation, Community Organisations, Village Organisations, Local Support Organisations, Community Investment Funds, Income Generating Grants, Community Physical Infrastructures,...don’t panic! At the heart there is a very simple concept. Individuals are organized in groups. Groups are organised in bigger groups. Bigger groups are organized in other groups....you’ve got a hierarchical organisation now, similar to a pyramid! Interconnections between constituent elements are made of human dynamics. This is more powerful than a stone pyramid in the Egyptian desert, because it can walk, think and talk!

The sum of the parts is finally greater then the whole!

### **ON EU APPROACH to Local Development**

As a donor, the EU recognises the key role played by communities in defining their own development while playing an active role in shaping their future.

But this is just one part of the equation!

Delivery of public services remain a key responsibility of the government. Defining the overall development outcome of a country, a region or a locality, still sees the government playing an extremely important role. Communities alone can do a lot, but lack resources. They lack the possibility to provide important information to local administrators/governments if they are not given the opportunity to participate in the process of allocation of resources.

Nobody knows local needs, better than the very individuals/communities who daily experience quality, quantity of services delivered!

Here why the EU strongly believes in the important synergies that can be created by bringing closer Civil Society to Local Authorities. Look at development as an apple (we will call it “**a development apple**”). Cut it in halves and recognise the importance of both parts in equal terms.

Multiple ways can be devised to bring the two sides together, and much depends on the specific structure and degree of decentralisation of the fiscal, administrative and political powers that the public system foresees. Each Province in Pakistan has its own. Some have already had LG elections (Balochistan, KP), some like Sindh are going to hold them soon. This is a great opportunity to think critically about the ways the “development apple” shall shape itself.

The EU sees these important upcoming events as great opportunities to bring at the forefront the role that communities can play, Government recognizes the potential and formally and institutionally creates a space for this to happen.

How?...by creating the necessary institutional environment built on policy and regulation.

Government!...you have an important role to play!

### **ON SUCCESS Programme**

The EU is here because, by embracing wholeheartedly the cause of CDD through the work of the RSPs, it decided to extend support in Sindh through the SUCCESS programme (Sindh Union Councils and Community Economic Strengthening Support).

I'll make your life easier from the onset. Except for one element, there's nothing new in the programme that differs from what you have seen yesterday throughout the countryside.

The EU actually recognises the quality of the Government funded programme “Union Councils Based Poverty Reduction Programme” of the Government of Sindh. **And here we align!**

We just provide resources to extend geographic reach to 8 additional districts, by providing 77,5 million EUR over a period of 6 years (2015-2020).

And we will do the same: 1) support to develop community organisations; 2) support to economic growth/income generation; 3) development of community infrastructures/productive assets.

**What is new? A dedicated Sindh Province policy and budget framework for Community Driven Development, making public resources available to communities.**

### **ON GENDER**

Let me spare some final considerations to a feature of this program, that has gone so far unnoticed, but that you surely noticed yesterday during your field visit.

Target beneficiaries will be WOMEN! I say it capital, and I am proud of it.

This is a programme that finally recognises the productive role of women, going beyond the traditionally stigmatizing label of being the only responsible for reproductive household tasks.

Women are in the centre. Women, with their sense of responsibility, vision for unity, protection of the family unit (the founding unit of communities and societies at large!). Women with their creativity, initiative and perspectives.

Diversity and complementarity are back to the centre.

Ok, let me go back to my institutional role and use classic technical jargon:....yes, SUCCESS has an enormous potential to promoting economic and social rights, empowering girls and women, strengthening their voice and participation.

Just give for a moment credit to the power of social mobilisation, and think for a second what women can do through it!!!

## **CONCLUSION**

Dear friends,

I hope this day can serve the purpose to explore and understand more the developmental relevance of concepts and practices such as social capital, community driven development, interaction between civil society and local authorities, empowerment of women....

We hope to offer you the opportunity to do just this. To bring back with you the strategic significance of all this, and **reflect on what you can do to contribute to this**.

The EU has no merit if not just being a careful observer of the opportunities and excellences already available in this beautiful country: the work of the RSPs, the thousands of organised communities, the enlightenment of some governments, the willingness and commitment of simple people...**We all have to harness something!**

## ***Annex-D***

### **Speech by EU Representative**

Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues, friends,

Thank you for joining us in this event which the EU is organizing with the support of its partners: the Rural Support Programmes Network, the Sindh Rural Support Organisation, and all the other Rural Support Programmes, who joined the cause of “harnessing people’s potential”.

Yes, this event is about “people”. “Common and unknown rural people” whose daily efforts, challenges, sufferings and voice goes unheard.

These people often represent 2/3 of the population of developing countries, but still go unnoticed because making their voice heard requires collective action. And acting collectively requires awareness, consciousness, identity, shared interests, capacity to act....

This conference is part of a series of conferences across Pakistan, which the EU felt the need to organize together with its RSPs partners in order to talk and bring awareness about CDD: a development responding to the needs and priorities identified by the very same individuals and communities who will ultimately benefit of it.

CDD: a beautiful and straightforward concept, so difficult to put in practice when we look at the multiple challenges and bottlenecks that commonly characterize large systems, where public and private spheres interacts, different layers of actors operate, power dynamics develop, crystallise and entrench, making access and control of resources an extremely difficult process.

So, here we are to talk about CDD, with the aim of sharing experience through the experience of the work carried out by the RSPs.

We are here to divulgate the concept of social capital and touch with our hands the immense potential deriving from “harnessing people’s potential “ for country systems, politicians, civil servants, development practitioners, donors and citizens at large.

Social capital is about the exponential opportunities available to organized groups of people, who consciously decide to act collectively to address shared interests and needs. It’s about building trust amongst individuals living similar experiences; developing mechanism of downward accountability; rules of engagement; plans of action; and then?...then looking outside, the world as a whole, reaping the opportunities available from a strengthened capacity resulting from unity.

You will be flushed with concepts, type of activities like Social Mobilisation, Community Organisations, Village Organisations, Local Support Organisations, Community Investment Funds, Income Generating Grants, Community Physical Infrastructures,....don’t panic! At the heart there is a very simple concept.

Individuals are organized in groups. Groups are organised in bigger groups. Bigger groups are organized in other groups....you've got a hierarchical organisation now, similar to a pyramid! Interconnections between constituent elements are made of human dynamics. This is more powerful than a stone pyramid in the Egyptian desert, because it can walk, think and talk!

The sum of the parts is finally greater than the whole!

### **ON EU APPROACH to Local Development**

As a donor, the EU recognises the key role played by communities in defining their own development while playing an active role in shaping their future.

But this is just one part of the equation!

Delivery of public services remain a key responsibility of the government. Defining the overall development outcome of a country, a region or a locality, still sees the government playing an extremely important role.

Communities alone can do a lot, but lack resources. They lack the possibility to provide important information to local administrators/governments if they are not given the opportunity to participate in the process of allocation of resources.

Nobody knows local needs, better than the very individuals/communities who daily experience quality, quantity of services delivered!

Here why the EU strongly believes in the important synergies that can be created by bringing closer Civil Society to Local Authorities. Look at development as an apple (we will call it "**a development apple**"). Cut it in halves and recognise the importance of both parts in equal terms.

Multiple ways can be devised to bring the two sides together, and much depends on the specific structure and degree of decentralisation of the fiscal, administrative and political powers that the public system foresees. Each Province in Pakistan has its own. Some have already had LG elections (Balochistan, KP), some like Sindh are going to hold them soon. This is a great opportunity to think critically about the ways the "development apple" shall shape itself.

The EU sees these important upcoming events as great opportunities to bring at the forefront the role that communities can play, Government recognizes the potential and formally and institutionally creates a space for this to happen.

How?...by creating the necessary institutional environment built on policy and regulation.

Government!...you have an important role to play!

### **ON SUCCESS Programme**

The EU is here because, by embracing wholeheartedly the cause of CDD through the work of the RSPs, it decided to extend support in Sindh through the SUCCESS programme (Sindh Union Councils and Community Economic Strengthening Support).

I'll make your life easier from the onset. Except for one element, there's nothing new in the programme that differs from what you have seen yesterday throughout the countryside.

The EU actually recognises the quality of the Government funded programme “Union Councils Based Poverty Reduction Programme” of the Government of Sindh. **And here we align!**

We just provide resources to extend geographic reach to 8 additional districts, by providing 77,5 million EUR over a period of 6 years (2015-2020).

And we will do the same: 1) support to develop community organisations; 2) support to economic growth/income generation; 3) development of community infrastructures/productive assets.

**What is new? A dedicated Sindh Province policy and budget framework for Community Driven Development, making public resources available to communities.**

## **ON GENDER**

Let me spare some final considerations to a feature of this program, that has gone so far unnoticed, but that you surely noticed yesterday during your field visit.

Target beneficiaries will be WOMEN! I say it capital, and I am proud of it.

This is a programme that finally recognises the productive role of women, going beyond the traditionally stigmatizing label of being the only responsible for reproductive household tasks.

Women are in the centre. Women, with their sense of responsibility, vision for unity, protection of the family unit (the founding unit of communities and societies at large!). Women with their creativity, initiative and perspectives.

Diversity and complementarity are back to the centre.

Ok, let me go back to my institutional role and use classic technical jargon:....yes, SUCCESS has an enormous potential to promoting economic and social rights, empowering girls and women, strengthening their voice and participation.

Just give for a moment credit to the power of social mobilisation, and think for a second what women can do through it!!!

## **CONCLUSION**

Dear friends,

I hope this day can serve the purpose to explore and understand more the developmental relevance of concepts and practices such as social capital, community driven development, interaction between civil society and local authorities, empowerment of women....

We hope to offer you the opportunity to do just this. To bring back with you the strategic significance of all this, and **reflect on what you can do to contribute to this.**

The EU has no merit if not just being a careful observer of the opportunities and excellences already available in this beautiful country: the work of the RSPs, the thousands of organised communities, the enlightenment of some governments, the willingness and commitment of simple people...**We all have to harness something!**





## ***Annex-E***

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سائينم سدائين ڪرين مٿي سنڌ سُڪار (شاه) ABC CERTIFIED رجسٽرڊ نمبر SS-1245 روزاني سڪار چيف ايڊيٽر: شفيق احمد پيرزادو جلد (10) سومر 12 آڪٽوبر 2015 ع 27 ذوالحج 1436 هجري (شمارو نمبر 193) قيمت 10 روپيا

سڪر ۾ يورپي يونين پاران بهراڙي ۾ عورتن ۽ مردن کي هٿي ڏيارڻ جي سلسلي ۾ تقريب

سڪر (ريورٽ) يورپي يونين پاران بهراڙي جي علائقي ۾ عورتن/ڏسو صفحو 4 بڻايا 24

24 بڻايا ۽ مردن کي هٿي ڏيارڻ واري سلسلي ۾ سروسو جي سڪار سان پروگرام ڪوٺايو ويو. جنهن ۾ اهو چيو ويو ته بهراڙي جي علائقن ۾ مردن ۽ عورتن کي شهري سهولتون ۽ بنيادي حق

ڏيارڻ واري جدوجهد ڪرڻ کپي، ان موقعي تي سروسو جي ڪيل ڪوششن جي پڻ ساراهه ڪئي، تقريب کي شيعب سلطان خان، محمدمد ڏنل ڪلهوڙو خطاب ڪيو ان موقعي تي سياسي ۽ سماجي اڳواڻن جو هڪ وڏو انگ پڻ موجود هيو ان موقعي تي اهو به چيو ويو ته يورپي يونين رول سپورٽ پروگرام جي تعاون سان سروسو پاران ڪوٺايل پروگرام ۾ سي ڊي سي ڪانفرنس کي خطاب ڪندي چيو ته يورپي يونين سمجهي ٿي ته هي پنهنجي شراڪت وارن سان گڏجي ڳوٺاڻن جي زندگي ۽ خوشحالي ترقيءَ ۾ واڌاري لاءِ بهتر قدر ڪئي سگهجن ٿا، هن وڌيڪ چيو ته يورپي يونين پنهنجي شراڪت وارن سان گڏجي سنڌ جي 8 ضلعن ۾ بهراڙي واري علائقن کي خوشحال ڪرڻ لاءِ جدوجهد ڪري رهيا آهن ۽ يورپي يونين پريور ڪوشش آهي ته بهراڙي جا رهندڙ مرد ۽ عورتن پنهنجي پيرن تي بيهي سگهيا، ستابا ٿين، هن چيو ته سنڌ جي اترين علائقن ۾ دوو ڪري ڏنو آهي ته اتان جون عورتن تخليقي صلاحيتن سان مالا مال ۽ بهادر آهن کين غربت جي ڌٻڻ تباهي ڪناري وٺي وڃي رهي آهي، يورپي يونين ۽ سروسو اهو به چيو ته سنڌ جي اتر واري علائقي ۾ بهراڙي واري ڳوٺن ۾ ڪيتريون ئي عورتن جيڪي محنت ڪن ۽ آهن ۽ اهي مردن جي برابر ڪري اڳتي وڌي رهيون آهن پر انهن کي ڪي به بنيادي حق نه آهن، يورپي يونين جي مدد سان سروسو انهن کي هٿي ڏياري رهي آهي ان موقعي تي بين مقرون ڳالهائيندي چيو ته اتر سنڌ ۾ ڳوٺاڻيون عورتن تمام هنرمند ۽ سگهڙ آهن، جيڪي پنهنجي دستڪاري ذريعي پوري دنيا ۾ سنڌ جونالو ڪري رهيون آهن پر هنن کي پنهنجي هٿ جي هنرجو معاوضو گهٽ ڏنو پيو وڃي، اها به يورپي يونين ۽ سروسو جي مدد سان ان عورتن کي به بنيادي حق ۽ بهتر معاوضي لاءِ قدر ڪنبا ويا آهن، سروسو جي اڳواڻ خطاب ڪندي چيو ته سروسو هڪ ذميوار ادارو آهي، جيڪو پنهنجي حدن ۾ رهي ڌٻڻ ۽ ابوجهه ماڻهن کي اڳتي وڌائي خاص ڪري عورتن جي مدد ۾ ڪوشش آهي، جنهن ۾ عورتن کي بنيادي حق ڏيارڻ سان گڏوگڏ سکيو ۽ ستابو ڪرڻ ۾ اڳڀرائي ڪئي آهي.



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بقیہ نمبر ۱۰

ہے۔ جبکہ دو تہائی آبادی کا حصہ دیہات پر مشتمل ہے دیہات میں رہنے والے مرد و خواتین کو بنیادی حقوق اپنی کوشش سے ہی ممکن ہیں اپنے مسائل کے حل کیلئے اتحاد کرنا ہوگا وہ یورپی یونین اور رول سپورٹ پروگرام کے مشترکہ تعاون سے سندھ رول سپورٹ آرگنائزیشن کی جانب سے منعقد ہونے والی سی ڈی ڈی کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ کانفرنس پاکستان میں سی ڈی ڈی کانفرنس کا ایک حصہ ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ یورپی یونین سمجھتی ہے کہ اپنے شراکت داروں کے ساتھ مل کر دیہاتیوں کی زندگیوں میں خوشحالی اور ترقی کیلئے بہتر اقدامات کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یورپی یونین اپنے شراکت داروں کے ہمراہ سندھ کے آٹھوں اضلاع کے دیہات میں رہنے والے افراد کی خوشحالی اور انہیں با اختیار بنانے کیلئے منصوبے شروع کر سکتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سندھ کے شمالی علاقوں کا دورہ کریں کیونکہ وہاں کی خواتین حقیقی ملازمتوں سے بالالامال اور بہادر ہیں تقریب سے شعیب سلطان خان، محمد ذہل کلہوڑو اور دیگر نے بھی خطاب کیا جبکہ سرکاری اداروں کے سربراہان صحافیوں اور خواتین کی بڑی تعداد بھی موجود تھی۔



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# روزانه کوشان ايڊيٽر اويس وزير پورسري

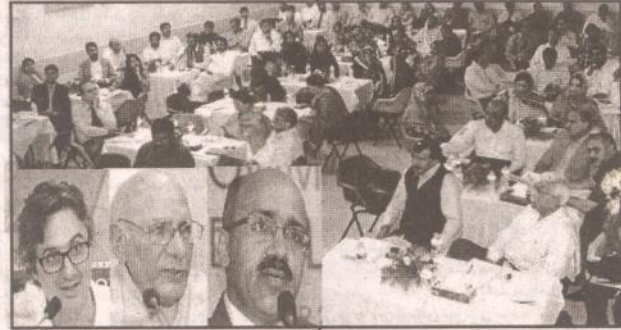
جلد پهرينون: سومر 12 آڪٽوبر 2015 ۽ بمطابق 27 ذوالحج 1436ھ (شمارو 05) قيمت 5:00 روپيا

## بھراڙي ۾ رهندڙ فردن جو آواز شهرين جي پيٽ ۾ گهٽ ٻڌو وڃي ٿو: يورپي يونين

بھراڙي ۾ رهندڙ مرد ۽ عورتن کي ٻڌي ڪرڻ سان ئي حق ملي سگھن ٿا: گيان ڪومو مسروچي  
شهر جي پيٽ ۾ 2 ڀاڱي 3 آبادي جو حصو بھراڙي تي مشتمل آهي: گڏجاڻي کي خطاب  
دوري دوران خبر پئي ته هتان جون عورتون تخليقي صلاحيتن سان مالا مال ۽ بهادر آهن  
سرسو پاران منعقد ڪيل سي ڊي ڊي پروگرامن ذريعي ڳوٺن ۾ سجاڳي پيدا ٿي رهي آهي

آبادي جو حصو بھراڙي تي مشتمل آهي، بھراڙي ۾ رهندڙ مرد ۽ عورتن کي پنهنجي ٻڌي سان ئي سندن بنيادي حقن جي حاصلات ممڪن آهي. سندن مسئلن/ڏسو صفحو 3 بقايا 38

سکر (بيورو رپورٽ) يورپين يونين جي بھراڙي واري ترقي جي ايڊوائيزر گيا ڪومو مسروچي چيو آهي ته بھراڙين ۾ رهندڙ فردن جو آواز شهرين جي پيٽ ۾ گهٽ ٻڌو ويندو آهي، جڏهن ته 2 ڀاڱي 3



سکر: سماجي تنظيم سرسو پاران منعقد ڪيل تقريب کي ماھر خطاب ڪري رهيا آهن

جي حل لاءِ ٻڌي ۽ ايڪي جو بنياد وجهڻو پوندو. هي يورپي يونين ۽ روزر سپورٽ پروگرام نيت روڪ جي گڏيل تعاون سان سنڌ روزر سپورٽ آرگنائيزيشن (سرسو) پاران منعقد ٿيل پيشن سي ڊي ڊي ڪانفرنس کي خطاب ڪري رهيو هو. هن چيو ته هي ڪانفرنس پاڪستان ۾ سي ڊي ڊي ڪانفرنس جو هڪ حصو آهي. يورپي يونين سمجهي ٿي ته هي پنهنجي شراڪت دارن سان گڏجي ڳوٺن جي زندگي ۾ خوشحالي ۽ ترقي جي واڌاري لاءِ بهتر قدر کڻي سگھي ٿي. هن وڌيڪ ٻڌايو ته يورپي يونين پنهنجي شراڪت دارن سان گڏجي سنڌ جي 8 ضلعن ۾ بھراڙين ۾ رهندڙ ماڻهن جي خوشحالي ۽ کين بااختيار بڻائڻ لاءِ منصوبا شروع ڪري رهي آهي. سنڌ جي اترين علائقن ۾ دوري ڪري مون چائو ته هتان جون عورتون تخليقي صلاحيتن سان مالا مال ۽ بهادر آهن. کين غربت جي دٻڻ مان ڪڍڻ لاءِ منعظم ڪرڻ ۽ سرسو جو ڪردار بيحد ساراه جوڳو آهي. تقريب کي شعيب سلطان خان، محمد ذتل ڪلهوڙو، نظر ميمڻ ۽ ٻين پڻ خطاب ڪيو. تقريب ۾ سرڪاري ادارن جا سربراھ، صحافي ۽ ٻيا شهرين به شريڪ ٿيا.

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DAILY PAK SINDH SUKKUR

روزانه

# پاڪ سنڌ

چيف ايڊيٽر: رفيق احمد پيرزادو

سکر

سومر 12 آڪٽوبر 2015 ۽ بمطابق 27 ذوالحج 1436ھ (شمارو نمبر 58 جلد 24) قيمت 5 روپيا

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اري جدوجهد ڪرڻ کپي، ان موقعي تي سرسو بي ڪيل ڪوششن جي ٻين ساراھ ڪئي، تقريب بي شعيب سلطان خان، محمد ذتل ڪلهوڙو طب ڪيو ان موقعي تي سياسي ۽ سماجي اڀوائن جو هڪ وڏو انگ پڻ موجود هيو، ان موقعي تي اهو به چيو ويو ته يورپي يونين رورل سيورٽ پروگرام جي تعاون سان سرسو پاران ڪوٺاييل پروگرام ۾ سي ڊي سي ڪانفرنس کي خطاب ڪندي چيو ته يورپي يونين سمجهي ٿي ته هي پنهنجي شراڪت وارن سان گڏجي ڳوٺاڻن جي زندگي ۽ خوشحالي ترقيءَ ۾ واڌاري لاءِ بهتر قدر ڪئي سگهجن ٿا، هن وڌيڪ چيو ته يورپي يونين پنهنجي شراڪت وارن سان گڏجي سنڌ جي 8 ضلعن ۾ بهراڙي واري علائقن کي خوشحال ڪرڻ لاءِ جدوجهد ڪري رهيا آهن ۽ يورپي يونين پريور ڪوششن آهي ته بهراڙي جا رهندڙ مرد ۽ عورتن پنهنجي بيمن تي بيهي سگهيا، ستابا ٿين هن چيو ته سنڌ جي اترين علائقن ۾ دورو ڪري ڏنو آهي ته اتان جون عورتن تخليقي صلاحيتن سان مالا مال ۽ بهادر آهن کين غربت جي ڌڻ تباھي ڪناري وٺي وڃي رهي آهي، يورپي يونين ۽ سرسو اهو به چيو ته سنڌ جي اتر واري علائقي ۾ بهراڙي واري ڳوٺن ۾ ڪيتريون ئي عورتن جيڪي محنت ڪش آهن ۽ اهي مردن جي برابري ڪري اڳتي وڌي رهيون آهن پر انهن کي ڪي به بنيادي حق نه آهن، يورپي يونين جي مدد سان سرسو انهن کي هتي ڏياري رهي آهي ان موقعي تي بين مقرون ڳالهائيندي چيو ته اتر سنڌ ۾ ڳوٺاڻيون عورتن تمار هنرمند ۽ سگهڙ آهن، جيڪي پنهنجي دستڪاري ذريعي پوري دنيا ۾ سنڌ جو نالو ڪري رهيو آهن پر هنن کي پنهنجي هٿ جي هنر جو معاوضو گهٽ ڏنو پيو وڃي، اها به يورپي يونين ۽ سرسو جي مدد سان ان عورتن کي به بنيادي حق ۽ بهتر معاوضي لاءِ قدر ڪنبا ويا آهن، سرسو جي اڳواڻ خطاب ڪندي چيو ته سرسو هڪ ذميوار ادارو آهي، جيڪو پنهنجي حدن ۾ رهي ڌڙيل ۽ ابوجهه ماڻهن کي اڳتي وڌائي خاص ڪري عورتن جي مدد ۾ ڪوششن آهي، جنهن ۾ عورتن کي بنيادي حق ڏيارڻ سان گڏوگڏ سکيو ۽ ستابو ڪرڻ ۾ اڳڀرائي ڪئي آهي.

**سنڌ جي بهراڙيءَ وارن علائقن ۾ سرسوپاران عوامي آگاهي مهه شروع**

مردن ۽ عورتن کي بنيادي سهولتون ۽ حق ڏيارڻ لاءِ جدوجهد ڪري رهيا آهيون

يورپي يونين جو مقصد ڳوٺاڻن جي زندگي ۾ خوشحالي آڻڻ آهي: اڳواڻ

سکر (ريورٽس) يورپي يونين پاران بهراڙي جي علائقي ۾ عورتن ۽ مردن کي هتي ڏيارڻ واري سلسلي ۾ سرسو جي سهڪار سان پروگرام بنيادي حق ڏيارڻ/ڏسو صفحو 3 بقايا 39

بالائی سندھ میں اردو کا پہلا اور کثیر الاشاعت

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بانی: مہسر الہی شیمسی

جلد 97 نمبر 27 ذوالحجہ 1436 بمطابق 12 اکتوبر 2015 نمبر 279

دیہات میں رہنے والے مرد و خواتین کو بنیادی حقوق اپنی کوشش سے ہی ممکن ہیں، گیا کومسروچی ان کو اپنے مسائل کے حل کیلئے اتحاد کرنا ہوگا، سکھر میں منعقد ہونے والی سی ڈی ڈی کانفرنس سے خطاب

سکھر (پ ر) یورپی یونین کے دیہات کی ترقی کے ایڈوائزر گیا کومسروچی نے کہا ہے کہ دیہات میں رہنے والے لوگوں کی آواز شہریوں کے پاس کم پہنچتی باقی صفحہ 02 بقیہ نمبر 23



سکھر: یورپی یونین ایڈوائزر گیا کومسروچی، شعیب سلطان خان اور ڈائل کلچر ڈی ڈی کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں

بقیہ نمبر 23

ہے۔ جبکہ دو جہانی آبادی کا حصہ دیہات پر مشتمل ہے دیہات میں رہنے والے مرد و خواتین کو بنیادی حقوق اپنی کوشش سے ہی ممکن ہیں اپنے مسائل کے حل کیلئے اتحاد کرنا ہوگا وہ یورپی یونین اور ورلڈ سپورٹ پروگرام کے مشترکہ تعاون سے سندھ رورل سپورٹ آرگنائزیشن کی جانب سے منعقد ہونے والی سی ڈی ڈی کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ کانفرنس پاکستان میں سی ڈی ڈی کانفرنس کا ایک حصہ ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ یورپی یونین سمجھتی ہے کہ اپنے شراکت داروں کے ساتھ مل کر دیہاتوں کی زندگیوں میں خوشحالی اور ترقی کیلئے بہتر اقدامات کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یورپی یونین اپنے شراکت داروں کے ہمراہ سندھ کے آٹھوں اضلاع کے دیہات میں رہنے والے افراد کی خوشحالی اور انہیں بااختیار بنانے کیلئے منصوبے شروع کر سکتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سندھ کے شمالی علاقوں کا دورہ کریں کیونکہ وہاں کی خواتین حقیقی ملازمتوں سے بالابال اور بہادر ہیں تقریباً سے شعیب سلطان خان، محمد ذمیل کلچر ڈی ڈی نے بھی خطاب کیا جبکہ سرکاری اداروں کے سربراہان سماجیوں اور خواتین کی بڑی تعداد بھی موجود تھی۔

10/12/2015

Positive change: Empowering women, transforming lives - The Express Tribune

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## Positive change: Empowering women, transforming lives

Sindh Rural Support Organisation gives rural women loans that they are using to become self-sufficient

By Sarfaraz Memon

Published: October 3, 2015

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**SUKKUR: Gone are the days when Sardar Khatoon of the Muhammad Ibrahim Soomro village in Shikarpur was entirely dependent upon her husband. With the help of the Sindh Rural Support Organisation's (SRSO) community organisation, she has not only become self-sufficient by making appliquéd bed sheets but is earning enough to feed her family.**

Gulshad, who studied only till Matric, works on agricultural land as a peasant. With the help of the community organisation, she used an interest-free micro loan from the SRSO to purchase fertiliser and seeds. Today, she is farming over three acres, instead of the previous one-and-a-half-acres, and earning far more than before.

HELPING OUT

12m

rupees has been provided to 1,174 households in 29 villages in the Bhikran union council of Lakhī Ghulam Shah

She explained that under this programme, the villagers have constructed a protective embankment of 5,200 feet around the village, not only to keep themselves safe from flooding but also to ward off thieves. They have purchased cauldrons, dishes, plates and other utensils so residents do not have to rent them out for special occasions.

SRSO chairperson Shoaib Sultan Khan said that the programme is aimed at empowering rural women so they can earn respectable livelihoods on their own. These women, who become well-trained in community organisation, then bring the entire union council in the loop, he said.

"Community development is a distant dream without the active participation and empowerment of women and, therefore, our programme is focused on rural women who can perform miracles," he added. Khan said that after getting interest-free micro loans from the SRSO, the women have utilised the money wisely, due to which today they are able to help others by advancing interest-free loans.

Had we given this opportunity to the men, the results would have been dismal, he felt. Women are capable of managing not only the household but the whole community, he claimed.

Similarly, Sakina used to be dependent on the male members of her family but now she is earning enough to take care of their daily expenses. There is even a primary school in the village where girls and boys are educated, according to her. After completing their primary education, the students have to walk around seven kilometres to Rustam village to seek further education, which was not possible for the girls, she pointed out. "We have arranged tuitions at home for them with the help of local teachers," she said. "We are badly in need of a middle school and health facilities."

In her village, child marriages are discouraged. Therefore most of the girls are married at the age of 18 or even later, said Sakina. Interestingly, the village has 21 blood donors, both male and female, who donate blood as and when needed. Sakina

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has kept a record of the blood donors along with their blood groups.



In the Bhirkhan union council of Lakhi Ghulam Shah, the community programme has given loans worth Rs12 million to 1,174 households in 29 villages.

These loans are interest-free and are to be paid back in six-monthly installments. Many women of this union council have been trained in community management and aside from visiting many areas of Pakistan, have also been to Ahmedabad in India.

Under the Local Support Organisation, these already trained women help others get loans of Rs10,000 but also pay back the loans on their own, if the family fails to do so themselves. Under this programme, girls are being trained in stitching, embroidery, appliqué work and others, while boys are provided vocational training for mobile, computer and motorcycle repairs.

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## SECOND INTL CONFERENCE ON CDD HELD

**Wednesday, October 07, 2015** - Sukkur—The second international conference on “Community Driven Development” (CDD) was organised by Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN) here Tuesday.

The event was a major success as it highlighted the work of SRSO and engaged community members, elected local bodies, civil society, media, line department and provincial ministers and secretaries in an open and constructive dialogue on community driven development.

The objective of the conference was to facilitate a dialogue among different stakeholders including policy makers, donors, programme practitioners and researchers working on community driven development programmes in northern districts of Sindh and to identify successful approaches and challenges faced to mainstream.—APP

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