



Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme



SUCCESS Programme In-country Exposure Visit to Gilgit-AKRSP



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July 11-17, 2017

Acknowledgment

RSPN would like to express sincere gratitude and thanks to AKRSP teams for facilitating the RSPN team and our guests for the exposure visit in Gilgit, Hunza and Ghizer districts. Due to the diamond jubilee celebrations of His Highness “Prince Karim Aga Khan” and the huge rush of tourists, the hotels in the region were much occupied but the AKRSP team accommodated us exceptionally well and arrangements were very good.

We are very thankful for the planning, effort and time spent by all focal persons and their unparalleled hospitality to make this trip for our partners from Sindh an enjoyable and truly enriching experience by visiting several WOs/VOs/LSOs, and experiencing the work they have done with an opportunity to ask questions and learn lessons, especially the District Manager Ghizer Mr. Muhammad Zaman, Mr. Ameen Posh – Manager AKRSP Hunza and Mr. Ayaz Khan – Regional Programme Manager - AKRSP

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Table of Contents

Overview	1
Proceedings	2
Day 1 - Visit to Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) – Gilgit.....	2
LSO – Shinaki Area Development Organisation	3
Women Organisation (WO) Nasirabad Paien 2	4
Visit to CIQAM – Women Social Enterprise.....	5
Day 2 – Visit to Gojal Rural Support Organisation	6
Visit to Sost Women Organisation.....	7
Visit to Khunjrab Pass	7
Day 3 – Visit to Hyderabad Rural Support Organisation (HRSO)	7
Visit to Rehabilitation Center of KADO - Hyderabad.....	8
Day 4 – Visit to Al-Karim Development Organisation (AKDO), Taus.....	9
Visit to Village Organisation (VO) – Taus Bala	10
Day 5 – Visit to LSO – Chatorkhand.....	10
Visit to WO Pakora – Ishkoman.....	11
Meeting with District Administration Ghizer	12
Lessons Learnt	12
Challenges faced by the Community Organizations	13
Achievements of Community Organisations	14
Annex I - List of Participants.....	15

Overview

As part of the Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme, Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) component, an in country exposure and learning visit was planned for the SUCCESS partner RSPs that include, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), Thardeep Rural Support Programme (TRDP), RSPN, representatives of District Administration Tando Muhammad Khan, Government of Sindh (GOS), and three local community representatives from programme districts ,.

The exposure visit was initially planned on July 03, 2017. However, due to Eid holidays, heavy traffic and tourists' inflow to the Northern areas from rest of Pakistan was observed. So, after getting Feedback from AKRSP, the visit was postponed to July 11, 2017.

This exposure visit allowed the participants to directly observe the work and learn from the experiences of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) in social mobilisation and social empowerment, and learn from active leaders of community institutions. The visiting government officials were able to understand the benefits of sustained government support to social mobilisation. The representative from the Government of Sindh was extremely impressed by the RSP approach and the work and efforts RSPs are undertaking for the economic and social empowerment of the poor. This visit gave the understanding of financially enduring and viable community instructions and their approaches for the common good of society.

Proceedings

Day 1 - Visit to Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) – Gilgit

The first session was at AKRSP head office where Ms. Yasmin Karim – Program Manager Gender and Acting General Manager of AKRSP gave an overview of the AKRSP background and methodology, after the round of introduction.

Ms. Yasmin told the visiting team that when His Highness “Prince Karim Agha Khan” visited the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region back in 1960, he saw extreme poverty of the socially marginalized community and he used the word “Horrible Poverty” for the region. After his visit, AKRSP came in to being in 1984. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan was the first general manager of AKRSP and he initiated the mission of social mobilisation and community engagement. The basic principal of the movement was to organize the community, to know their potential and enhance their savings. The objective achieved by this approach is to foster and nurture the organisations of communities that contribute to enduring local development, efficiently. The initial idea was to increase the income of one million people to twofold and create employment opportunities for the local poor, vulnerable and socially marginalized communities.

Now, the thematic focus of AKRSP has been expanded to capacity building of local activists, community leaders, creating linkages, resource mobilisation and technical assistance to community managed projects. The AKRSP is also focusing on gender development in its all programmes with special emphasis on increasing the role of women in leadership role. The AKRSP is promoting women organisations for their social and economic development. For youth, the organisation is working on employable skills, enterprise development, civic participation, youth leadership and the promotion of youth instructions’. Broadly, AKRSP is linking poor with existing safety nets and social protection programmes.

For economic development, AKRSP is working on infrastructure development, irrigation schemes, link roads, bridges and mirco-hydroelectric projects with engagement of community and their respective Local support organisations (LSOs). The AKRSP is also promoting community equity, loans, productive use of energy, market and value chain development for the local products like gems, jewelry, fruits, crafts and tourism.



Briefing at AKRSP Head office – Gilgit

LSO – Shinaki Area Development Organisation

The presentation was followed by a visit to one of the LSOs fostered by AKRSP in Hunza Valley. The General Secretary, Ms. Zubia Khan, of LSO Shinaki Area Development Organisation (SADO) conducted the introduction session, and the Vice Chairman (VC) Mr. Ghulam Haider presented the work and achievements of SADO. The VC told that Shinkai union council (UC) comprises of five revenue villages, and 77% households are organised from a total of 1,385 households in the union council. The population of men is slightly less than women in the union council and the literacy rate is above 85%.



The vision of SADO is to “contribute towards socio-economic development and to improve quality of life in the SADO programme area, through strengthening civil society organisations/institutions”. They are working together to achieve their vision through their mission, which is “aiming to improve the living standard of the programme population by reducing poverty through working in close collaboration with

With members of Shinakai area development Organisation

Local Government, National and International Development Agencies". The objectives of SADO are social mobilisation, capacity building and resource mobilisation keeping the values of transparency, accountability and participation.

The LSO SADO is a mixed LSO with 17 Women Organisations (WOs) and 15 Village Organisations (VOs). The LSO has a saving of PKR 11.8 million. This saving has been used for internal lending of up to PKR 1.3 million so far, and to the astonishment of the visiting team the **recovery rate is 100%**. Further to this, the LSO does not have paid staff but operates solely through volunteers.

Mr. Ghulam Haider told the team that the UC development plan (UCDP), and all five village development plans (VDPs) have been completed and now they are working on the implementation of the plans. He shared that LSO has completed the construction of safety nets along Karakoram Highway for garnet mining, and provided training to the miners. He further told that LSO has provided leadership and development training to 120 youth including males and females. They also provided Youth Entrepreneurship Training to 21 youth out of which 13 have started their own businesses successfully. LSO SADO also worked for best agriculture practices, irrigation channels, social mobilisation trainings, social infrastructure schemes, community led plantation and access to safe drinking water.

The LSO SADO has strong linkages with International non-government organisations (INGOs), government departments and donor agencies. The visiting team participants asked various questions from the LSO leaders including the major challenges they have faced so far in forming and operating the LSO, and if there were any issues in procurement. The learning from the LSO was that to form a team and then manage it has been the biggest challenge. As all people working for the LSO are volunteers, it is difficult for them to leave their jobs and convene for the meetings. However, Ms. Sherbano said that the people realized the fact that no external agency can rid them of their problems if they did not take an action themselves and stopped expecting the outsiders to solve all their problems.

Women Organisation (WO) Nasirabad Paien 2

After the LSO meeting and presentation, the visiting team met with the Women Organisation of Nasirabad Paien 2. The WO was formed in 1984 nurtured by AKRSP in its early days. The WO is very stable and financially viable. The saving of WO is PKR 1.7 million, and they use the saving mostly for mother and child related issues, and for community health revolving fund (CHRF). The total members of the WO are 112. The WO actively participates in the activities of LSO SADO. The WO stated that it was formed by the first General Manager of AKRSP, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan and he also visits this WO from time to time.



Group photo with Nasirabad Paien 2, Women Organisation (Union Council Shinakai)

Visit to CIQAM – Women Social Enterprise

After the WO meeting, the team headed towards Karimabad – Hunza to see the initiative of CIQAM – Women Social Enterprise. The Manager of CIQAM Ms. Aqeela greeted the team. She showed around the factory and briefed about the history and progress of the initiative. She told that CIQAM previously known as Women Social Enterprise was piloted by six girls and six boys financially supported by Agha Khan Cultural Services Pakistan (AKCSP) back in late 2003.



CIQAM

These young people did the mapping of historic villages of Ganish and Altit with very basic tools. Their work was appreciated by His Highness “Prince Karim Agha Khan” when he hosted His Royal Highness Prince Charles and Lady Camilla Parker Bowles in November 2006. After this, the initiative didn’t stop and further partners like Royal Norwegian Embassy Islamabad, Embassy of Finland Islamabad, New Zealand Embassy, The World Bank, and Jubilee General Insurance supported the initiative, and now it is a financially viable institution. Currently, 90

young females are employed by CIQAM in seven technical trades including carpentry, topographic survey, automotive services, architectural survey, design & drafting, wood engraving etc. with the support of 20 men with different skills.

Day 2 – Visit to Gojal Rural Support Organisation

On the second day, the team proceeded to Gojal – Upper Hunza, where they met with Gojal Rural Support Organisation (GRSO). The Board of Directors (BOD) comprises of 16 members greeted the team. Mr. Ameen Khan, Vice Chairman GRSO greeted the team and conducted the introductory session. Again the team found GRSO a very mature and financially viable institution. GRSO worked in Union Council Gojal II, and was registered back in 2007 under Companies' Ordinance Act 1984 as a service company limited by guarantee. GRSO partners with 17 VOs, 16 WOs, 4 CBOs and 4 YOs.

The Chairman Mr. Raza Muhammad presented the work of GRSO. He stated that general body comprises of 37 members from which 16 members formed the BOD. The executive body is extracted from BOD, which includes five members namely, Chairman, Vice Chairman, General Secretary, Finance Secretary and Joint Secretary. GRSO has an office and have paid staff as well. The GRSO has completed different projects of more than PKR 360 million since its formation including repair of irrigation channels, land terracing, link road repairs, animal shed, foot bridge, pony tracks, retaining walls, culverts, Micro Hydel project, youth trainings and public toilets etc. The organisation has also developed good linkages with government entities, donor agencies and district administration. It has a saving of PKR 300 million, which is used for developmental activities and as a means of loan through community revolving fund (CRF).

Answering questions from the participants, Mr. Raza Muhammad emphasized the importance of social mobilisation approach and forming LSO. Mr. Shafqat Solangi – Assistant Director, Social Welfare, Government of Sindh (GOS) asked about youth initiatives and their trainings. Mr. Raza replied that “trainings are imperative; they change the mind-set of the youth.” Thus, they focused on training youth, including Community Resource Persons (CRPs) who “are the backbone of the social mobilisation”. He told that, GRSO conduct regular trainings for BOD, management, VO/WO members on agriculture and poultry. Refresher courses are given to the presidents and managers on record keeping. He stated that they conduct external audit of GRSO with the help of AKRSP annually. He also told the team about the formation of GOLSON (Gojal Local Support Organisation Network) and highlighted the importance and its role in development.



Mr. Raza Muhammad – Chairman, is presenting the work of GRSO

Mr. Raza suggested to visiting team that for the SUCCESS Programme it would be extremely helpful to engage CRPs more as they are the locals who know the language, geography of the area, existing conflicts, and were trusted by the locals. The CRPs as activists can move around the area at much lower cost. Plus, as credible locals, they can easily convince and motivate others in the community.

After the meeting, Mr. Raza Muhammad took the team to the office

of CBO – Khunjarab Village Organisation (KVO). He told that the Government of Pakistan (GOP) declared the area of Khunjarab as a National park, however, KVO fought the case in courts for 10 years. The court gave its verdict that 80% share of the park's income will be shared with community. KVO is taking this income from the park and spending it on the betterment of the community. He told that KVO built girls hostel in Gilgit city for the local girl so that girls can live there and continue their studies. KVO developed the banking society for the community with their share and KVO is providing training to Teachers, communities and parents.

Visit to Sost Women Organisation

President of Sost WO Ms. Bibi Marina welcomed the team and conducted the introductory session. The secretary Ms. Neelum – a graduate of Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad presented the history and work of WO. The presentation was made in a traditional Pamiri style wooden house; the architecture was highly cherished by the team. Ms. Neelum told the team that the WO was formed in 1983 by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan. She further told that WO lends internally to its 118 members through its saving of almost PKR 0.8 million and the recovery rate is quite good. They also have a term deposit in the bank of PKR 120,000/-.



Group photo with Sost Women Organisation

In winter season, due to heavy snowfall there was a lack of flour and people had to travel to Hunza or Aliabad for grinding their wheat. The WO then built a wheat grinding mills on a smaller scale in the area, which fulfills the needs of the local community. WO has put the unit up on lease and obtains rent from it. They also installed an apricot oil extracting machine. They also constructed a sewing center for the women of the community and earn a handsome amount from the center. They took the team to the center where participating team appreciated their work and purchased some items.

Visit to Khunjarab Pass

After meetings with LSO, CBO and WO, the team advanced to see the Khunjarab pass at China – Pakistan Boarder. The Khunjarab pass is the highest paved International border between Pakistan and China with an approximate height of 15,400 feet. The Khunjarab pass offered some breathtaking views of the Mighty Karakoram range.. On the way back to Khunjarab, the team visited the Sost Dry port to see the port, its mechanism and custom procedures. The dry port has a pivotal role in the economy of the region.

Day 3 – Visit to Hyderabad Rural Support Organisation (HRSO)

On third day, the team travelled back to Hyderabad – Hunza to meet with Hyderabad Rural Support Organisation (HRSO). HRSO was formed in December 2007 under section 42 of Companies' Ordinance Act 1984 limited by guarantee. It has 9 VOs, 8 WOs and 10 civil society organisations. Every organisation that is part of HRSO has more than PKR 500,000 savings

approximately. Mr. Rehmat Karim, a graduate of Hazara University, Mansehra and Managing Director of HRSO welcomed the team and gave a brief presentation on the LSO, outlining its achievements and future plans. HRSO has good income sources and a saving of PKR 3.5 million. They have paid staff as well. HRSO has been involved in various activities including community physical infrastructure (CPI) schemes such as irrigation channels, rehabilitation of safe drinking water and culverts. Further to this, they provide awareness and education sessions on sexual health, food processing, life stock, apricot tunnels and girls education. Mr. Rehmat Karim stated that the literacy rate of the union council is almost 90%.

HRSO aims at improvement of living standards of the population of program area by reducing poverty through working in close collaboration with local government, national and international agencies to achieve their mission.

They hired a consultant from New Zealand in 2008 to teach the community the method of food processing. The participants of the training included 60 women, who learnt making apricot, apple and plum jam and jellies along with tomato ketchup from the consultant. Now the women are doing the business of processed foods and sell their products in local markets.

The participants enquired about the intervention of life stock. Mr. Rehmat told that 2 red Sindhi and 2 Jersey bulls were purchased for breeding back in 2011. Now they have befitting number of cows which produce more milk as compared to desi (local) cows, hence fulfilling the dairy needs of the community. He further told that, HRSO has trained the boy scouts and girl guides, who help the community on regular basis, in new plantation or any other volunteer work.

Visit to Rehabilitation Center of KADO - Hyderabad

After the meeting with HRSO, the participants were taken to visit a rehabilitation center managed by Karakoram Area Development Organisation (KADO). People with disabilities are the most disadvantaged and isolated segment of the society while KADO is providing special care to differently abled people through work therapy, socialization and trainings. KADO is in the process of seeking assistance to help these people to improve their lives and integrate them in the mainstream society. Working with KADO substantially revamped the lives of these people and they considered them a fruitful member of the society. The men have been trained in goat hair rug (a traditional local handicraft known as Sharma). This rug is being marketed locally as well as to the tourist market. Additionally, the men are trained to make paper bags as well. The team highly appreciated the efforts of KADO and motivation and dedication of the people working there. Currently, KADO is managing two rehabilitation centers for both males and females separately. These centers are funded by different donors like European Union, USAID and World Bank, but the funding is limited and they are facing the challenge of sustainability.



Men weaving the rug from Goat Hair wool

After the meetings, the team visited 700 years old magnificent Baltit fort. The fort overlooks Karimabad and safeguarded the survival of feudal regime of Hunza

in the past. The Mirs of Hunza left the fort in 1945 and moved to a new palace down the hill. After the decaying of the fort, The Aga Khan Trust for Culture Historic Cities Support Programme restored the fort and handed over to Baltit heritage trust for a museum. The museum is now open for general public and tourists. The tourists can take a paid guided visit to the fort to understand the strategic, cultural and marvelous historical position of the fort.

Day 4 – Visit to Al-Karim Development Organisation (AKDO), Taus

On day four, the team travelled to Ghizer district where they met with LSO Al-Karim Development Organisation (AKDO). Mr. Muhammad Rahim, Chairman, and Mr. Usman Ali, General Secretary of the organisation welcomed the team. Mr. Dinar Imam, Manager and a paid staff presented the work of LSO.

The LSO was formed under Companies' Ordinance Act 1984 in February 2005. The LSO AKDO has 42 member organisations in which there are 15 VOs, 22 WOs. Out of 1,702 total households, 85% are organised. The savings of AKDO is PKR 14 million. The LSO have 5 paid staff in which two are male and three are females. Under the leadership of chairman, there is a board of directors (BOD), which comprises of 8 male and 6 female members. Under BOD there is a general body of 45 members including 18 males and 27 female members.

Mr. Dinar told the team that their main focus is development through social mobilisation and to reduce poverty. They have 5 villages in the union council, and the village development plans (VDPs) for those villages have been completed, and the leadership roles have been transferred to women. AKDO is mainly focused on skill development, business management trainings, enterprise development, leadership development, drug prevention, activities for adolescents, training for unemployed youth. They also worked on agriculture development, which include fruit picking, grading and packaging, fruit thinning, and developing of organic fertilizers.



Mr. Dinar Imam – Manager is presenting the work of AKDO

They worked on community infrastructure and AKDO has doubled the community investment fund (CIF) from 0.9 million to 1.8 million rupees. They have developed strong linkages with government and donor agencies and worked for improved environment, improved economy, off season vegetation, capacity building and skill development with different stakeholders. AKDO also built Taus irrigation channel, and a women skill development center. They also provide agriculture financing for

farmers and micro health insurance with the help of Jubilee Life Insurance.

They earn profit from CIF, membership fee, bank profits on savings, and commissions from Jubilee Insurance internally, while management costs of projects and grants from donors are their external income sources.

The team asked Mr. Dinar to highlight the challenges faced by AKDO. He replied that lack of financial resources for operations is threatening the institutional sustainability and the staff retention. High expectations of community and lack of internet are the major challenges which are affecting the work. He stated that they have to travel miles to write a single email or phone call to a donor or a stake holder.

Visit to Village Organisation (VO) – Taus Bala

After the meeting with AKDO, the team visited the village Taus Bala to meet the VO. The VO welcomed the team and had an introductory session. The President Mr. Roshan Ali briefed the team about their work.



presentation of Village Organisation - Taus Bala

Mr. Ali told the team that the VO was formed in the leadership of Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan back in 1983. He told that the VO was dysfunctional from 1986 to 1990 due to some conflict in the village however, it was organised again in 2002 but again went dysfunctional in 2010. It was finally reorganised in 2011 and now moving forward positively. The team enquired about the dysfunctionality, and the president told that to the demise of previous president led to the collapse of the VO.

In the village, 125 households are organised out of 180. The team enquired about the remaining households and was told that there are many households which have migrated to the down districts of Pakistan but they still have properties here and visit the village in summer, so we count them in the HHs.

Mr. Ali told that the VO has a saving of PKR 0.75 million since re-organisation in 2010. They've built the irrigation channel, built the link road to the river for collection of sand and gravel, which served as one of the major issues of the village. Their biggest challenge is to develop to new DAS (irrigated land) and irrigation channel for it.

Day 5 – Visit to LSO – Chatorkhand

On the last day of the visit, the team travelled to Ishkoman to visit the office of LSO Chatorkhand. While presenting, Mr Ali Gohar, Chairman LSO told the team that the LSO was formed in 2007 but registered with SECP under Companies' Ordinance Act 1984 in 2008. He further stated that LSO has 49 partner organisations including 18 VOs, 19 WOs, 5 youth organisations (YOs) and 7 Civil Society Organisations. Total household in the union council are 1,495 out of which 99% are organised. The general body comprises of 64 members out of which 34 are women. The executive committee has five women members and eight male members. Mr. Ali told that the LSO has a saving of PKR 275 million.

Mr. Ali told that a women's market was created back in 2006 with the technical and financial support of AKRSP for discriminated and socially marginalized women of the society. This enables them to play an effective role in the decision making of their livelihoods.



Group photo at the office of LSO - Chatorkhand

The LSO has a strong link with the government agriculture department. With the technical assistance of Government agriculture department, the LSO trained the farmers in soil preparation, plantation, pruning, making and using organic matters, picking, grading and packaging of the fruit. So far, 36 farmers have established modern orchards and are earning good paybacks annually. In addition, with the assistance of government departments, LSO trained 90 women to prepare jams and jellies from the pulp of locally available fruits. Around

43 of the trained women started their own business and are selling their products in the local markets and earning a decent income.

Mr. Ali further told that besides education, irrigation channels, safe drinking water, sanitation, and best agricultural practices, the LSO Chatorkhand is also working on disaster risk reduction. In this regard, LSO has trained 90 men and women through FOCUS Pakistan. These people are organised in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Village Emergency Response Teams (VERTs). The teams saved many precious lives and reduced the other risks in the floods of 2014.

Visit to WO Pakora – Ishkoman

The team visited the WO Pakora at Ishkoman. The president Ms. Gul Jaffa and Secretary Ms. Chashma bibi greeted the team. The women organisation was launched in 1991, and has a paid manager, Mr. Syed Ashiq Hussain Shakir, and a paid Assistant Manager, Ms. Zar Bibi.

Ms. Zar bibi briefed the team about the activities and structure of the organisation. The WO has a net saving of PKR 4.5 million. The number of households are 210 from which 95% are organised. The WO uses the savings for internal lending and CHF up to 40,000 to a single beneficiary. The WO helped the local women for setting their own businesses after getting them trained properly. The WO also works for the health of mother and child, in case of need. The WO is paying special attention to girls' education, and the testament to that is the literacy rate, which is almost 97% in the area. While talking about the approach of social mobilization and work of Rural Support Programmes (RSPs), the WO remembered Mr. Khaleel Ahmed Tetlay the ex-General Manager of AKRSP, and appreciated his dedication and work in the region.



Group photo with WO Pakora

After the briefing session, the WO took the team to Pakora center – Ishkoman. The center has many shops which include, handicrafts, photographer, tailoring shops, beauty salons, decorations, general stores etc. All of the shops are owned and managed by the women of community.

The team asked the shopkeepers about their experience as vendors, and the women told the team that, initially it was very difficult, they had faced a lot of resistance from their male family members, but when they established their businesses and started earning handsome amounts and

contributed towards the expenses of the families they got the acceptance. Now, they are working peacefully, and the LSO Chatorkhand is playing a vital role in marketing and promoting their products in the region. The team purchased some souvenirs from the center.

Meeting with District Administration Ghizer

The AKRSP hosted a dinner on the last night of visit for the participating team. AKRSP also invited the district administration of Ghizer including the Deputy Commissioner of District Ghizer. Unfortunately, at the last minute the district administration had to move to Shandur for some emergency meeting with the district administration of Chitral, and thus could not attend the dinner.

However, the team had a very interactive session with Deputy Director of Agriculture Mr. Raja Muzaffar. He briefed about the work of Agriculture Department. He appreciated the approach of AKRSP and mentioned the linkages created by LSOs with the Government Agriculture Department. He stated that they have worked with different LSOs and trained them in modern agriculture techniques. He told that trainings in soil preparation, soil tests, plantation, thinning, pruning, grafting, off season vegetation and food processing had been offered to communities through their respective LSOs, and the community has increased their income manifold by using these methods and techniques.

Lessons Learnt

Mr. Shafqat Ali Solangi – Asst. Director, Social Welfare, District Tando Muhammad Khan, Sindh appreciated the work of AKRSP and the government agriculture department. He said that he was highly impressed by the way community is engaged with the government administration and this could be a model system for Sindh by promoting the participatory approach.

Mr. Hamid Ali Magsi – District Manager, Larkana, Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) said that the work of AKRSP being the mother of all RSPs in Gilgit-Baltistan-Chitral (GBC) is very remarkable and especially the communities and their interest in the mutual development and uplift is impressive. Mr. Magsi said that in Sindh there are three tiers of social mobilisation i.e. Community Organisation (CO), Village organisation (VO) and Local support organisation

(LSO) but in GB region only two tiers that is VO and LSO are present but still they are doing marvelous development in almost every sector of social development.

Mr. Asad Ejaz Khan – Administration & Procurement Officer, Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN), Islamabad discussed the purpose of this visit. He told the audience that the



Mr. Hamid Ali Magsi interacting with the district administration

movement was led by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan (first General Manager of AKRSP) back in early '80s when there was horrible poverty in the GB region and the community was very much isolated and socially marginalized. The principle of Mr. Khan was based on three simple rules, get organised, know your potential and arrange some capital/savings. Due to the work and approach of Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, the population of GB has eradicated poverty and improved their livelihood. After Mr. Khan, Mr. Khaleel Ahmed Tetlay ex – General Manager, AKRSP played a vital

role in the sustainability of community organisations. This successful model was implemented almost all over Pakistan by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan through regional RSPs. Mr. Asad told that the recent ongoing programme namely Sindh Union Council And Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme, funded by the European Union, is being implemented by RSPN, SRSO, NRSP and TRDP in eight districts of Sindh. RSPN arranged this learning and exposure trip of partners RSPs, CRPs and representatives of Government of Sindh to see the work of AKRSP and have an interaction with the community organisations. This visit helped the participants to closely monitor and observe the work of communities and meet the mature community institutions so that they can implement the practices in their respective programme areas. Overall the work of community is very impressive but on education it is tremendous, and it is reflected very well from the literacy rate of whole Gilgit Baltistan Region.

Challenges faced by the Community Organizations

- Social & Gender related issues
- Geographical issues
- Natural Disasters
- Increased suicide rate in youth
- Extreme weather
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of mobile service and internet
- Sustainability

Achievements of Community Organisations

- Conflict Resolution
- Infrastructure projects
- Linkages with private and governmental officials to get their support
- Awareness creating for the community
- Education and health campaigns
- Environmental campaigns
- Establishment of youth centers
- Girls' education
- Irrigation channels
- Modern agriculture techniques
- Off season vegetation
- Food Processing
- Tourists facilitation
- Livestock improvements
- Access to Safe drinking water
- Sanitation

Annex I - List of Participants

S#	Name	Designation	Organisation
1	M. Shafiqat Ali Solangi	AD Social welfare, District TMK	GoS
2	Sania Jamali	Social Organiser	NRSP
3	Allah Dini	CRP, UC Digh Mori, District TMK	NRSP
4	Muhammad Ali Wadho	CBO - District Sujawal	NRSP
5	Waheeda	LSO - Chairperson	SRSO
6	Noshaba Mughal	HRD Officer - District KSK	SRSO
7	Hamid Ali Magsi	DM Larkana	SRSO
8	Sana Panhwar	SOCB SMT Khudaabad	TRDP
9	Rehana Panhwar	CRP of vo Dharti	TRDP
10	Abdullah Bin Javaid	MIS Officer	RSPN
11	Asad Ejaz Umer	Admin & Procurement Officer	RSPN

SUCCESS Programme is based on the Rural Support Programmes' (RSPs) social mobilisation approach to Community-Driven Development (CDD). Social Mobilisation centers around the belief that poor people have an innate potential to help themselves; that they can better manage their limited resources if they organise and are provided technical and financial support. The RSPs under the SUCCESS Programme provide social guidance, as well as technical and financial assistance to the rural poor in Sindh.

SUCCESS is a six-year long (2015 -2021) programme funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), and Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) in eight districts of Sindh, namely: Kambar Shahdadkot, Larkana, Dadu, Jamshoro, Matiari, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar, and Tando Muhammad Khan.



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Programme
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