

# SUCCESS

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COVER STORY

## GOVERNMENT OF SINDH APPROVES PAKISTAN'S FIRST EVER PROVINCIAL POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Sindh Union Council and Community  
Economic Strengthening Support Programme

(SUCCESS is funded by the European Union)



SUCCESS

# EDITORIAL

*Dear valued reader,*

Over the last quarter of the century, the lives of women and girls have changed dramatically all around the world. They now make up 40% of the world's labour force. In a third of the developing countries, more girls are in school than boys are. This worldwide pace of change has been astounding; however, in some areas the same progress towards gender equality has been limited. Girls and women who are poor, live in remote areas, are disabled or belong to minority groups continue to be behind the global and their respective national pace of development. Hence, the central idea that EU funded Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme and Government of Sindh funded Union Council Based Poverty Reduction programme is premised upon is an extraordinarily important subject that affects millions of lives in Sindh; poverty and the lack of women empowerment. This is what defines SUCCESS' uniqueness for us, in the global context, and specifically in the context of Pakistan; aspiring to work exclusively with the women of Sindh.

Since our last issue, SUCCESS surpasses six more months of working with, and for, women in 8 districts of Sindh to reduce poverty, and give them the power to transform their lives through self-sustenance with the generous financial support of the European Union (EU) and helping hands of our implementing partners (NRSP, TRDP, SRSO and Technical Assistance partner EY). In March 2018, the RSP partners started their third year of implementation and it is now that we see the development interventions at household level have started to build some momentum. Granted, with some challenges, of course. Simultaneously with the release of this issue of SUCCESS, we have also published our annual Key Performance Indicators (KPI) report for the year 2017 – 2018, which outlines all in detail.

The continued efforts of social mobilisation for the last two years have started to bear some fruit. We see more and more people coming

forward and taking benefit of the SUCCESS interventions such as the Community Investment Fund (CIF), Income Generating Grant (IGG), Micro Health Insurance (MHI), Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST), and Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI). Collectively, more than a 100,000 households have benefited from these interventions (read our field stories inside to see how). We have ended the reporting period for issue 05 with a high note with Government of Sindh's launch and approval of Pakistan's first provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy and a dedicated Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) policy, which institutionalises community driven development in Sindh. The EU has aided the Government of Sindh for the development of this strategy by mobilising technical assistance under the policy component of SUCCESS (read our cover story). 51 JDCs have been notified at taluka and district level in SUCCESS representing a target achievement of 100% for JDC notification. JDCs are an essential component of the sustainability of the programme by deliberately linking women's institutions to the ears of the local government and line departments to promote collaborative and demand driven community development.

The main message we take from this period's progress and outcomes is that these patterns of progress and persistence in working for women empowerment matter, both for policymaking and development outcomes. Issue 05, a part of our biannual newsletter series since October 2015, is developed with contributions from all SUCCESS partners. RSPN and SUCCESS extends its sincere gratitude to all its partners for their time, expertise and contributions. We hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

*Happy Reading!*  
**Fazal Ali Saadi,**  
*Programme Manager,*  
**SUCCESS, RSPN**

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# GOVERNMENT OF SINDH APPROVES PAKISTAN'S FIRST EVER PROVINCIAL POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

KARACHI, March 28, 2018

SUCCESS reached a significant milestone in March 2018, with the approval of the Proposed Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) by the Government of Sindh (GoS) and its official launch on March 28 at a major multi-donor provincial development conference. The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), which is based on and incorporates the Community-Driven Local Development (CDLD) Policy, is developed by the Government of Sindh with technical assistance mobilised by the EU under SUCCESS Programme.

## Government of Sindh Launch of the PRS at the Sindh Development Forum 2018

The proposed PRS and CDLD Policy is the culmination of a fifteen-month collaborative effort of the GoS and SUCCESS TA Team. Policy development for the PRS was built on a process of stakeholder consultation and research work by the TA Team,

and ongoing discussion with the GoS to develop the proposed strategies. The consultation during 2016-17 included a number of workshops covering both rural and urban poverty and the research work included an assessment of experience in poverty reduction to date, consideration of macro and micro issues and development of proposals aimed to address the context and particular dynamics of Sindh.

A major step in the PRS approval process took place on 16 March 2018, when the Strategy Policy Dialogue Committee (SPDC) approved the Draft Proposed PRS, at a meeting under the leadership of the Chairman, Planning and Development Board, Government of Sindh. The proposed PRS was then recommended to the Chief Minister of Sindh, for approval.

The official launch took place at the Sindh Development Forum on 28 March 2018. At the plenary session, which

followed the day's workshops, the EU Ambassador, Mr Jean-François Cautain, spoke of the support of the EU to the GoS, in providing technical assistance to develop the PRS. The Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah, then officially launched the PRS, mentioning the Government's foundational efforts in poverty reduction through the Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP), and noted the intention to extend that to cover all districts of Sindh. He also noted the proposal for introduction of Rural Growth Centres as a key initiative of the PRS. Earlier in the day, the GoS Chief Economist, Dr Naeem Zafar, had also spoken about the Government's aspirations regarding Rural Growth Centres as a key initiative in 'the way forward' and the GoS' intention to commence this strategy with three pilots starting in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for 2018/19.



CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah speaks to audience at Sindh Development Forum 2018 in Karachi



Chairman RSPN, Shoab Sultan Khan at the Sindh Development Forum 2018



CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah speaks to development practitioners at SDF 2018

### Main Strategies of the PRS

The PRS has been developed as a ‘home grown’ strategy for Sindh, incorporating proposals to address both rural and urban poverty. Sindh is the first province to develop and launch a specific provincial PRS. The PRS includes three main strategies:

#### *Strategy One - Community-Driven Local Development, the Foundation*

This strategy incorporates the CDLD Policy which builds on the RSPs’ approach of social mobilisation and endorses expansion of the existing UCBPRP programme with 10 districts to a further five rural districts of Sindh. Together with the SUCCESS districts, this would bring the rural CDLD programme to 23 districts. The proposals also include modifications and improvements to the existing programme.

#### *Strategy Two - Addressing Urban Poverty*

This strategy involves focusing on increasing employment opportunities and enterprise development in the small towns within the rural districts of Sindh and the GoS is also envisaging expansion of the UCBPRP to selected union council areas in the peri-urban areas of Karachi. The strategy also anticipates a particular focus on urban economic clusters.

#### *Strategy Three - Rural Growth Centres*

This strategy proposes the establishment of rural growth centres (RGCs) or service

hubs, to provide improved facilities and services to clusters of surrounding villages. Improved access to educational and health services could be provided via consolidated services located at the hub, along with other community services and better facilities to support agri-business in the area.

### Key Aspects of the CDLD Policy

The PRS incorporates the CDLD Policy, which is based on the following principles:

- Participation in their own development is a basic right of communities, and poverty cannot be reduced without active community engagement
- Social mobilisation is at the heart of community-driven local development

- A women-centred approach not only empowers women but is the most effective way to reduce poverty at the household level
- Poverty reduction at community level can only be implemented effectively through a partnership between Government and community organisations
- A new paradigm in planning is needed, with grassroots community involvement and a combination of a top-down/bottom-up approach.

The adoption of the above principles means that the GoS officially recognises the social capital created at community level through social mobilisation, and mainstreams this recognition into institutional practice and sector strategies. The CDLD policy builds specifically on recognition of the three-tier framework of ‘institutions of the people’ and also endorses the Joint Development Committees formed under the EU funded SUCCESS programme in all the districts of Sindh as a mechanism to enhance community involvement in planning.

### Implementation of the PRS and CDLD Policy

After the approval of the PRS in March, the focus of GoS now shifts to the implementation phase. An outline of the implementation strategy was presented in the proposed PRS. The TA Team will now work with the GoS to develop this further into a Roadmap for implementation.



CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and EU Ambassador Jean-François Cautain at SDF 2018

## CREATING SYNERGIES JOINT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES NOTIFIED AT DISTRICT AND TALUKA LEVELS IN ALL 8 DISTRICTS OF SUCCESS

The formation of Joint Development Committees (JDCs) is a cornerstone of the participatory planning approach of SUCCESS, which is meant to ensure sustainability to community driven development, and is a deliberate effort to increase the reach of women's institutions to the ears of the local government, line departments and related entities. JDCs have been notified in all the district and taluka level in all eight districts of SUCCESS, namely; Kamber Shahdadt, Larkana, Dadu, Jamshoro, Matiari, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan. This approach is instrumental to create linkages between community institutions and government line departments to promote collaborative, demand driven local development.

District Deputy Commissioners are chairing the District Joint Development Committee (JDC), and the Assistant Commissioner of the respective talukas are chairing the Taluka Joint Development Committee (JDC). Each JDC comprises of 3 LSO members and representatives of all the line departments of government, local elected bodies, and a representative of the Rural Support Programme (RSP) partner working in the district. Each committee is supposed to conduct their meetings every six months. Followed by their establishment, all JDCs were facilitated by their respective Social Mobilisation Teams (SMT) to conduct their first meetings in each taluka and district that has been notified.

The ultimate objective of the JDCs is to incorporate the development plans developed by the community institutions in government annual development plans and for the government line departments to channel their existing development services and supplies to the rural poor through the community institutions.

All implementing RSP partner teams for SUCCESS from NRSP, SRSO and TRDP worked consistently for a year and a half with their relevant district governments to lay a foundation for the establishment of these committees. At the level of the district JDC, each RSP partner will share the overall SUCCESS programme interventions plan and progress, the LSOs will share the Village Development Plans (VDP) and Union Council Development Plans (UCDP), and the government will share the district development plans, budget and processes. Similarly, at the level of the taluka, the JDC will serve a similar purpose and functioning but at the taluka level. This mutual sharing of information and collaboration is supposed to reduce any and all duplication of efforts leaving both human and financial resources to be spent in the most efficient way. The ultimate objective of the JDCs is to incorporate the development plans developed by the community institutions in government annual development plans and for the government



Taluka JDC meeting for taluka Kotri, district Jamshoro held at Assistant Commissioner Kotri's office



District JDC meeting for district Matiari

line departments to channel their existing development services and supplies to the rural poor through community institutions.

As of March 2018, almost all district and taluka JDCs in the 8 districts of SUCCESS have conducted their first meetings. It is for the first time in these meetings that rural women have actively participated in a government development forum at the district and taluka level. Collectively, the representatives of CIs raised issues such as registration of domicile certificates, contamination of drinking water, restoration of government schools, and issues related to water and sanitation hygiene. JDC chairs appreciated RSP partners and the rural women for their work and steadfast determination. At the JDC meeting of Taluka Sehwan, Assistant Commissioner Mr Fazel-e-Rabi Cheema said, "rural women leading from the front is actually what women empowerment is." He said that, his office will extend every possible support to community institutions. Based on the issues raised by the women representatives in JDC meetings, Assistant Commissioner Sehwan established a special cell in his office for registration of domicile and Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC) to ease the process for rural poor who face difficulties due to a lack of awareness and knowledge about the process. To formalise the chain of communication and networking, RSP partners also conducted meetings with line departments to start the process. As a result,



various Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed. For example, TRDP has signed MoUs with District Election Commission Jamshoro, Forest Department Jamshoro, District

At the JDC meeting of Taluka Sehwan, Assistant Commissioner Mr Fazel-e-Rabi Cheema said, *“rural women leading from the front is actually what women empowerment is.”* He said that, *his office will extend every possible support to community institutions.*

Agriculture Extension Department Jamshoro, District Election Commission Dadu, and Forest Department of Dadu.

This participatory planning approach will provide a learning platform for all actors concerned to avoid duplication of efforts and monitoring of collaborative efforts to impact development results. It will also contribute to the elaboration of a dedicated Sindh Government policy for local CDD to be implemented through the budget process from 2018 onwards.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

### SHARING EXPERIENCES: RSPs LESSON LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE SHARING VISIT AND WORKSHOP HELD IN SUKKUR

SUKKUR, March 13 – 14, 2018



At the end of February 2018, SUCCESS Programme completed its second year of implementation. At this occasion, the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) organised a lesson-learning visit for officials from Planning and Development (P&D) department, Government of Sindh, media observers, and representatives of various RSPs and partners to programme areas in Larkana and Kamber Shahdadkot. A community conference was organised in village Wahid Bux Gopang in Kamber Shahdadkot, where around 300 women community leaders from the nearby villages participated. Community leaders presented the achievements and self-help initiatives they took once organised into community

*A Women-Centred Approach is the most effective way to reduce poverty at the household level.*

institutions of their own. Shoaib Sultan Khan, chairman RSPN, while speaking at the conference said, “it is the communities’ will to organise, their leadership, the partnership of various Rural Support Programmes and the government’s support that has made it possible for them to come this far.”

On day two of the visit, a workshop was organised at Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) Complex in Sukkur to recount

lessons learnt from year two of the implementation of SUCCESS. Community representatives, government officials, SUCCESS programme implementers and local political leaders participated in the workshop. Speaking at the workshop, Shoaib Sultan Khan said, “We work with the aim to institute people in a way that their organisation helps them harvest their potential, and come out of poverty. So far, SUCCESS is doing that very well.” Speaking on the occasion, Athar Hussain Mirani, Additional Secretary Finance, Government of Sindh, expressed his admiration for the organisation of community institutions. He said that the training and capacity building systems built under SUCCESS must be strengthened, as that will improve government’s service delivery as well.

The crux of the lessons learnt from two years of SUCCESS remains that; a women-centred approach is the most effective way to reduce poverty at the household level. A quick recount of some other lessons is:

- The joint implementation of the programme by RSP partners has helped in learning from the experiences of each other.
- The Management Information System (MIS) under SUCCESS has led to accurate poverty targeting (0 – 23) and resulted in transparent programme implementation. However, it was also realised that households falling above the score of 23 are left out of the programme. The lesson learnt is that they should also be made part of the programme in some way, via TVST, or CPI etc, so the community benefits as a whole.
- Many CRPs identified so far are less educated than the criteria set. This was tackled by reducing the quality of CRPs required and getting the best possible candidates on board. In some cases where female CRPs are not available, male CRPs have been engaged.
- The already established linkages with line departments have been strengthened with the line departments after they have been notified by the DC to sign MoUs with the JDCs.
- All partners observed that the number and types of trades available under TVST are very limited and focus majorly on tailoring and embroidery. It is a lesson learnt that new trades should be introduced and that the CRPs should create awareness about them.



At the end of two years of SUCCESS’s implementation, 470,000 households (representing 3 million people) have been organised into over 27,000 community institutions in the eight districts of Sindh. These community institutions are led and run by local women and taking equal part in the development of their communities with the RSPs and Government of Sindh. The biggest success, however, so far has been the visible empowerment of women and the successful creation of linkages between community organisations and their local government featured by the formation of Joint Development Committees formed at each district and taluka.



## JUBILEE GENERAL INSURANCE AND TRDP ORGANISE FREE MEDICAL CONSULTATION CAMPS

February and March, 2018

*One of the components of the SUCCESS programme is to provide Micro Health Insurance (MHI) to the poorest of the poor households. MHI is a social protection measure for the most destitute and vulnerable households. The objective of MHI is to protect these families from health shocks that may push them deeper into poverty and hamper their capacity to generate income, hence adversely affecting their socio-economic well-being.*

Under this intervention, more than 40,000 families from Dadu and Larkana, both districts of TRDP, falling in the lowest band of poverty (measured by the PSC) will be registered with JGI to get emergency health coverage. So far, Micro Health Insurance (MHI) cards are provided to 29,143 rural households where all cardholders are eligible to receive emergency health benefits from registered panel hospitals. In this regard, a free medical consultation camp was organised at Bakhtawar General Hospital – Jamshoro (BGH) in Union Council (UC) Jhangra, village Shaikh Dhaman, district





Jamshoro on 12 February. TRDP facilitated the arrangement of this camp where a team of doctors from BGH provided services. 150 patients made use of the free camp's facilities for their check-ups, 50 patients were screened for Hepatitis B & C virus, with some recommended for further treatment to government hospitals or BGH. Female community members and representatives of SUCCESS' Women Community Institutions (CO/VO/LSO) supported patients and TRDP in camp organisation. Three more such camps were held in the villages of Edhi Shoro, Sono Khan, and Raes Nagar Khan in Jamshoro, whereas four camps were organised in UC/village Golo Faqeer, Shahdad Birhamani, Pejaho, and Garhi in Dadu in the first week of March.

## EU DELEGATION VISITS SRSO

February 1-2, 2018

A delegation from the European Union (EU) comprising of the EU Head of Cooperation, Mr Bernard François, and the Project Manager, Nutrition and Rural Development, Ms Shohreh Naghchbandi, visited SUCCESS Programme areas in Larkana and Kamber Shahdadkot. The EU has committed to playing a vital role in rural development in Pakistan, especially in Sindh. Speaking to the members of VO Wajid Shaikh in Larkana, Mr François said, "there may be many programmes that come and go your area, but it is you, the organised women who live here, therefore, we always strive to introduce steps which can transform people's lives permanently, after the duration of such programmes as well." Later, the delegation visited the ZABTech training centre in Larkana to visit the TVST centre established under SUCCESS, and met with the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and Additional



Commissioner of Larkana division at the commissioner's office. Deputy Commissioner, Kamber Shahdadkot, Mr Shahmir Bhutto presided over the meeting in the absence of Commissioner Larkana and appreciated the contribution of organised women in local development and said, "Community institutions have proven to be quite a powerful tool for programme implementation in our districts." Mr François remarked during the meeting that, "The ideology of the EU and GoS is same; for us to continue to support

you. The donors are only a small part of the resources available; the rest of the resources are with the Government."

On day two, the delegation visited a Village Organisation (VO) in village Shahpur Sikanderabad, district Kamber Shahdadkot where they inaugurated a recently completed brick pavement scheme implemented by the VO under the EU funded SUCCESS programme. The VO chairperson briefed the delegation about the specifications and benefits of the scheme. The delegation attended a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Kamber Shahdadkot at the DC's office, and participated in a Community Resource Persons (CRPs)' Conference at Langhe Lake (a site popular for local bird watching) in district Kamber Shahdadkot. The CRPs enthusiastically shared the role they play in supporting their respective village organisations and community organisations. Ms Shohreh Naghchbandi spoke to the CRPs about raising further awareness on issues of nutrition in their areas, especially with parents. She said that once people realise it is an issue, they will make efforts to overcome it. Both visiting members of the delegation spoke to CRPs about the importance of their role in the rural context and appreciated their efforts in community engagement.

# GOVERNMENT OF SINDH LAUNCHES EXPANSION OF UNION COUNCIL BASED POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMME (UCBPRP)

SUKKUR, January 8, 2018



Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari responds to the audience at the launch of UCBPRP expansion

SUCCESS scales up Government of Sindh's (GoS) Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) that was implemented in four districts between 2009 and 2017. Looking at the accomplishments of the SUCCESS Programme and UCBPRP Phase I, in May 2017, the Government of Sindh expanded UCBPRP, implemented by SRSO, to an additional six districts including Khairpur, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Umer Kot, Badin and Thatta, with the total budget of PKR 4.9 billion. Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Mr Bilawal Bhutto launched the Expansion of the Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) in January 2018, extending Government of Sindh's coverage of Community Driven Development (CDD) to 18 out of 23 rural districts in Sindh, with 8 districts being covered with the financial support of the European Union (EU) under the SUCCESS Programme. Within the next five years, the GoS funded UCBPRP Expansion and EU funded SUCCESS programme together will benefit 1.8 million households (approx. 12 million people) in Sindh.



Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talks to a student from SRSO schools

# URBAN POVERTY AND RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES WORKSHOP

KARACHI, November 13, 2018



An integrated approach towards development and poverty reduction is necessary to ensure that the phenomenon of poverty is tackled in the best way possible. The benefits of such a coordination are extremely high such as better land planning, optimised use of resources and better institutions and linkage structures. The purpose of this workshop was to support the SUCCESS Technical Assistance team at Ernst and Young (EY) to formulate the Poverty Reduction Strategy to aid the GoS, specifically focusing on the urban poverty component. This workshop brought together main stakeholders and experts for both urban and rural development and poverty reduction under one roof to discuss the best way forward for poverty reduction in Sindh. The discussion centred on the following themes:

**Defining poverty:** Senior Expert and advisor to the EU TA team, Dr Kaiser Bengali, highlighted that poverty is a macro-economic variable and cannot be alleviated through micro initiatives alone. He stressed that the basic determinant of rural poverty is lack of assets (45% is explained by lack of assets) while in urban poverty assets come last (it is explained 55% by unemployment). He said that poverty incidence in small towns is higher than in rural areas and this must be kept in mind when devising a relevant PRS and hence GoS has asked EU to include urban poverty as part of the PRS.

**Head for rural and urban development in Sindh Annual Development Budget:** The discussion highlighted that the Annual Development Budget (ADB) of Sindh does not have any head for urban or rural development alike. Hence, in



Senior Expert TA Team Dr Kaiser Bengali speaks on the causes of rural and urban poverty

order for corrective action to be taken, first, the issue at hand has to be recognised and a budget must be allocated towards it.

**Unemployment as the major cause of urban poverty:** All experts deliberated on the dearth of jobs in cities and the ever-increasing rural-urban migration in search of jobs resulting in high unemployment and development of slums in cities, making it a cyclical problem. Job creation is hence the most critical factor to address in the policy for poverty alleviation. It was suggested that setting up industrial units is a workable idea and the example of setting up of rice husk units in Hafizabad's peri-urban units by NRSP and giving the Haris of the area a profit-sharing was a really successful model. Moreover, the payment modes were discussed that if women are paid their due share of labour, household's living expenses would become better as women tend to spend more on

their children's welfare such as health and education. Engaging women at all levels must therefore be encouraged and focused on.

It was further discussed by the participants that when rural problems of Sindh are discussed, the rural parts of Karachi are overlooked. These areas, especially slums, have an extremely low standard of living as they do not have basic infrastructural facilities. The Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) was discussed as being one of the projects that worked on undocumented residents occupying land. It is critical that the missing links are identified first in order to devise a successful Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The capacity of the Government should be taken into account as there are tasks which the state can undertake and also others which it cannot, and these missing links must be identified.

## OFFICIALS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DISTRICT LINE DEPARTMENTS AND LSO REPRESENTATIVES TRAINED IN PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

HYDERABAD, January 25 - 27, 2018

The SUCCESS programme not only contributes to poverty alleviation at the household level through empowering women, but also works to link these women and their communities to public service providers in their area. The Joint Development Committees (JDCs) formed in this regard are a crucial part of this participatory development approach. In service delivery, and in the functioning of JDCs, the role of government remains instrumental, hence it became important to provide awareness to government officials about SUCCESS Programme, its interventions and particularly the Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) approach employed by the RSPs. NRSP organised a training for 28 government officials from different departments. The training aimed to enhance the understanding level of all participants focused on the social mobilisation approach, implementation methodology and key interventions of the SUCCESS Programme.



## ACTIVIST WORKSHOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

December 2017

NRSP organised Activist Workshops in district Tando Allahyar and Matiari. 43 women and 6 men participated in the workshop in district Tando Allahyar, whereas 49 women and 7 men participated in the workshop in district Matiari. Collectively, the events were attended by local Advocates, representatives of the government Social Welfare Department, Police Department, District government line departments, NGOs, activists and CRPs of Community Institutions (COs, VOs, and LSOs). LSO representatives shared their experiences and issues they have faced with gender based discrimination and violence. Ms Ameerzadi, president LSO Sultanabad Station while sharing



Mr Fazal Laghari, Sub-Inspector, DSP Office Tando Allahyar spoke about the role of the police in protecting people



her thoughts said, “I still cannot believe that I am able to speak in front of all of you. I credit my confidence to the community mobilisation work of SUCCESS. Through our LSO, we are now envisioned to provide rights to the women and girls of our community by starting with making them aware of what their rights are.”

Sub Inspector, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) office, Tando Allahyar, Mr Fazal Laghari, while speaking at the workshop

said, “The Police is for the protection of the people. The system has now changed and accountability of the department is strictly monitored by the apex management. The officers are directed to give preference to hearing women out on their issues as it is generally observed that rural women are hesitant in lodging their complaints. As a rural resident myself, I know the social barriers of rural areas, but it is now time to raise our voice against violence against women and girls.”

## TRDP COMMEMORATES 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

November – December 2017

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. TRDP commemorated 16 days of Activism, as one of the strategic interventions to promote gender equality and raise awareness against gender based violence through grassroots community institutions of women (CO/VO/LSO). Under the EU funded SUCCESS programme, TRDP approached more than 7,000 Community Organisations (COs) to actively participate in the campaign of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in all 96 rural union councils of both Dadu and Jamshoro; SUCCESS districts under the care of TRDP.

From November 25 to December 10, TRDP organised various community events, workshops and CRP sessions based on the theme of “Together we can End Gender Based Violence.” TRDP has organised 140,000 rural households under SUCCESS so far. Working with these organised households, the message was compelled at a wider audience. In a community activist workshop





organised in village Sari, TRDP Programme Officer, Mr Zaffar Khaskheli delivered an awareness session on child abuse and torture of women, and child protection rights. The social mobilisation team of Jhangara, conducted a 3 day long training on LMST where Mr Khaskheli also delivered a session on early child marriage and briefed the participants about Sindh government's Child Marriage and Restraint Act which was passed in April

2014. Similarly, other social mobilisation teams in Piyaro Station, Makhdoom Bilwal, Khudabad, Gahi Mahesser, and Fareddabad conducted interactive sessions with a range of audience, primarily women, on early child marriage, maternal health, rape, and sexual assault to raise awareness about the plethora of issues that contribute to gender based violence against women and girls.

## **SRSO's FIRST LSO OFFICE ESTABLISHED UNDER SUCCESS**

*KAMBER SHAHDADKOT, October 4, 2017*

Under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, Local Support Organisation (LSO) Ibteda established its office in village Karam Khan Mengal, union council Dhori, district Kamber Shahdadkot. The office was inaugurated by Assistant Director Social Welfare Department, Mr Waqar Ahmed Soomro, Social Welfare Officer, Mr Rasheedullah Brohi, and Taluka Nazim, Mr Watar Khan along with CEO SRSO, Mr Dittal Kalhoro.

Under SUCCESS programme most of the development interventions for example Community Investment Fund, income generating grants, and community physical infrastructure projects are being managed and implemented by the women Community Institutions. The LSO being the apex community institutions now has an office equipped with computer, furniture and MIS for grants management. The LSOs now conduct its monthly meeting in their office and it will also serve a contact point for government line departments and other development organisations to interact with the LSO.



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

as of March 2018



849,795

HOUSEHOLDS COVERED BY POVERTY SCORECARD SURVEY



476,091

ORGANISED HOUSEHOLDS



25,826

WOMEN COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS (COs) FORMED



2,843

WOMEN VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS (VOs) FORMED



205

WOMEN LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS (LSOs) FORMED



46,380

WOMEN CO LEADERS WHO RECEIVED CMST



5,485

WOMEN VO/LSO LEADERS WHO RECEIVED LMST



2,253

COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS (CRPs) TRAINED



23

LSOs WITH COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (CIF) GRANT



64

VOs WITH CIF GRANT



1,157

HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITING FROM CIF



77,967,565

AMOUNT OF CIF GRANTS GIVEN TO LSOs/VOs



87,766

HOUSEHOLDS INSURED UNDER MICRO HEALTH INSURANCE



108,265

FEMALES INSURED



107,131

MALES INSURED



1,564

HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITING FROM TVST



153

CPI SCHEMES INITIATED

## SMALL INCOME GRANTS HELP IN COMMENCING ENTERPRISES FOR WOMEN IN SINDH

Reported by Khimchand Sanjo, Documentation & Communication Officer, TRDP



45-year-old Ms Shamshad is a resident of village Gul Muhammad Solangi, in Union Council Channa near Sehwan, a town in Sindh. A mother of six, she is the only breadwinner for her household, as her husband is a drug addict and does not earn a single penny. She works as a caregiver and a cleaner at a private clinic and earns PKR 5,500 a month.

Shamshad lives with three of her daughters and a son. Her two elder sons are married and live with their families. Asif, one of her sons who lives with her, rents a rickshaw to drive sometimes. “I go to town every day to earn bread and butter for our home, while my daughter does the household chores and takes care of the house,” she says talking about her only abled daughter.

“Almost two years ago, a team from Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) visited our village and facilitated us in organising our households into community organisations under the European Union funded SUCCESS Programme. We willingly formed our organisation Muham and continued to conduct regular meetings. The community organisation (CO) also developed the Micro Investment Plans (MIP) of each household with support of household members,” said Shamshad, member of CO Muham.

For a long time, I had a plan in my mind to start something of my own, but never had the chance nor the resources. Based on my recommendation in the MIP, the Village Organisation (VO) Roshani granted me PKR 10,000 as an Income Generating Grant (IGG). I finally had the resources to buy a sewing machine and buy some small pieces of cloth to start making rallies<sup>1</sup>. I am now making rallies in the evenings from all the materials I purchased, and I will sell them at the upcoming annual fair of Qalandar Lal Shahbaz. People come to this fair from all over the country, so I am hoping to make some great sales.

“This makes me quite hopeful that between me and my daughter, we will now have the skills as well as the tools to make meaningful contributions to our life, manage our household expenses and save something for the rainy days. The sum of ten thousand rupees may not be a lot for many people but it means to those who are striving hard to sustain their survival in this day and time of rising inflation.”

Hina, my younger daughter, has been learning how to sew clothes and has started to work, but she is not so good at it yet. Seeing the opportunity, I have recommended her to our CO for a training on cutting and stitching as per current market demands. Based on my recommendation, she will start her training next month. “This makes me quite hopeful that between me and my daughter, we will now have the skills as well as the tools to make meaningful contributions to our life, manage our household expenses and save something for the rainy days. The sum of ten thousand rupees may not be a lot for many people but it means to those who are striving hard to sustain their survival in this day and time of rising inflation. SUCCESS is a big support to poor families like ours and we are grateful for the extensive support it provides in the rural areas to uplift deprived families out of poverty, and empower women by providing such support in dire times,” says Shamshad with a smile while she continues making her ralli to stock up for the upcoming fair.



<sup>1</sup> Rallies are traditional quilts made by women in the areas of Sindh, Pakistan. The most common uses are for a single person sized bedcover (used on traditional wooden charpoy beds), as small bags, or as eating cloths.



## TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING LEADS TO FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE FOR SAYEEDA

KAMBER SHAHDADKOT. Reported by Filza Nasir, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, SUCCESS, RSPN



Sayeeda, a passionate young woman is a President of her Community Organisation (CO) called Saima, Manager of the Village Organisation (VO) named Humzo Bhatti, a Community Resource Person (CRP) and a Community Book Keeper (CBK). After meeting Sayeeda, it is no surprise that she wears so many hats. She appears to be an energetic, cheerful woman, who says she is extremely content and pleased with her life at the moment. Her contentment strikes one as odd, given that she is living in a remote village of Wasu Kalhoro, in Tehsil Nasirabad, District Kamber Shahdadkot. However, she attributes this happiness to the opportunities provided to her by the EU-funded SUCCESS programme.

In addition to the various roles Sayeeda plays in her community, she also benefited from a month-long training on stitching and sewing, provided by the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), under the Technical and Vocational Skills Training

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“If someday I am too tired to go to a CO meeting, my mother pushes me to go and says that I have a duty to the people of the community. I want to remind people of my community that everyone has a potential to do more and with the right opportunities such as the one all of us got through the SUCCESS Programme, us women can achieve anything.”

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(TVST) component of the EU funded SUCCESS Programme a few months ago. The TVST are provided to poor community members, especially women to enhance their skills. These are demand-driven training programmes that provide open access to the labour market and enhance income-generating opportunities, with regards to (self) employment.

Sayeeda says that she is a quick learner, and as she was highly interested in learning how to stitch properly, she mastered the art in half the time. She started helping other women in the training with their stitching and sewing as well. After the training course, she says she started stitching clothes at home. “Fortunately I had a sewing machine at home, which made it easier for me to practice”, says Sayeeda.

First, she sewed clothes for her niece, and then she stitched five items for her mother. “Whoever saw the clothes that I had stitched for my mother, loved their design and stitching. Within three days, I received orders to stitch fifteen items, from the women in our village. Excitedly, I stitched all the items in only three days”, added Sayeeda. Seeing the quality and agility of her work, Sayeeda was given three more orders, but this time to stitch bridal dresses.

The reason that Sayeeda states for her current contentment in life is her financial independence that she has gained through her own hard work, while using the skills she has obtained from the training. She says, “I am extremely happy to be able to earn and contribute even a little to the house. Since I am new to this business, I am not charging a lot currently. I only charge Rs. 150-200 per dress. Also, these people are from my village, and I know they cannot afford to pay more than this.”

Sayeeda is not one to be afraid of working hard. She has started receiving orders to stitch clothes on a regular basis, which she delivers on time. Being a CO President, VO Manager, a CRP and a CBK, she has to arrange and participate in various meetings. Finding time to do everything is a challenge for her, however she attributes being able to do all of this to the support of her parents. She says, “If someday I am too tired to go to a CO meeting, my mother pushes me to go and says that I have a duty to the people of the community. I want to remind people of my community that everyone has a potential to do more and with the right opportunities such as the one all of us got through the SUCCESS Programme, us women can achieve anything.”

## A LITERAL ROAD TO SUCCESS INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME RESTORES VILLAGERS' ACCESS

TANDO ALLAHYAR. Reported by Zara Jamil, Documentation & Reporting Officer, SUCCESS, RSPN

It was a sight of devastation, of misery, of helplessness. An entire community stuck on a forsaken piece of land surrounded by mounds of runny mud and water. The rains of 2011 had wreaked havoc on the residents of Goth Bhel Colony in Union Council Tando Soomro of District Tando Allah Yar.

Seven years have passed but Makhna, a 45-year old mother of six, still shudders at the thought of the cruelty of that night, “an old woman of our village, Amma, somebody we all loved and had always looked up to growing up, was very sick. We had to take her to a doctor. The entire village was running back and forth, trying to figure out what to do. It was as if we were stranded on an island surrounded by an impenetrable ocean. That’s what the floods of 2011 looked like.”

She wiped her tears and continued to narrate her story, “Some of the men decided to take the plunge. Ignoring the snakes and insects that might be waiting for them in the water. They wrapped Amma up in a sheet and carried her above their heads in chest-deep water. They did successfully get out and got a rickshaw to take Amma to a hospital – but she did not have enough time. That day, we lost her.”

In Makhna’s village, even the basic necessities of life are not available; no electricity, brackish water, no schools, no roads. The women of the community are still hopeful though, they want a better future for their kids, and do not want to end up like Amma. However, nobody could have helped them if they did not want to help themselves. So when the SUCCESS Programme, funded by the European Union, reached Goth Bhel Colony through the efforts of NRSP, these women organised and formed tanzeems (Community Organisations - COs). Makhna is the President of her CO and the Village Organisation (VO), which comprises of four other COs.

The families living in Goth Bhel Colony own the land; they had purchased it from Lund Baloch, the landlord of the area, many years back by selling all their jewellery and valuable items. Makhna said, “We thought if we own the land, everything would be better, we won’t be forcefully indebted to a landlord for accommodation, but little did we realise that a piece of land is not all that you need. There was no basic facility, and on top of that, we were completely cut off when there was even slight rain. We could not access any health or education facilities, could not take our produce out of the goth, we could not even send our children to school since it’s so far away.”

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“Our VO is part of a larger Local Support Organisation (LSO), and through the LSO we will reach the government officials who will have to meet our needs because now we are organised enough to fight for our rights. This road is literally our Road to SUCCESS.”

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She added, “When NRSP asked us to make our Village Development Plan, all the women unanimously agreed that we need a brick paved road first, everything else comes second. We did not want to relive the hurt of losing a loved one just because we do not have a road to take them to a hospital. Also, a road would have lessened many of our problems, we could access clean drinking water in nearby villages that have tube wells, we can send our kids to school, and most importantly, a road meant we could easily get a vehicle to take our agricultural yield to nearby markets.”

In 2016, NRSP allotted a Community Physical Infrastructure scheme, valued at 435,000 Rupees, to Goth Bhel Colony VO. They were paid half the installment of 202,000 Rupees with which they have completed half the road structure; the remaining amount will ensure the road is paved and is operational. Even in its current condition, the brick paved road is proving fruitful. The people of the village have motorcycles, donkey carts, and rickshaws, which they use for transport. The road is also used for taking field produce to the market.

Makhna beamed when she said, “Here nobody used to listen to us, no MNA, no MPA, no landlord. Now our tanzeem and NRSP support has enabled us to get this much at least. Our VO is part of a larger Local Support Organisation (LSO), and through the LSO we will reach the government officials who will have to meet our needs because now we are organised enough to fight for our rights. This road is literally our Road to SUCCESS.”



## WAY FORWARD

As the RSPs finish their second year of implementation in February 2018, it is again important to highlight that the focus has been on implementing the household interventions such as the Community Investment Fund (CIF), disbursing the Income Generating Grant (IGG), providing Micro Health Insurance (MHI) to the poorest, providing Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST), and building Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI).

During the last year, we have posited time and again, how the support of the Government of Sindh, including the line departments, has remained extremely instrumental in timely registration/notification of CIs. This also eased out the process for sub-granting under CIF and IGG interventions. The presence of District Administration and line department officials in activist workshops indicated their interest in the programme and showed their ownership of the programme.

The SUCCESS Programme scales up the Government of Sindh's (GoS) Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) that was implemented in four districts between 2009 and 2015. Looking at the accomplishments of the SUCCESS Programme and UCBPRP Phase I, in May 2017, the Government of Sindh expanded UCBPRP, implemented by SRSO, to an additional six districts including Khairpur, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Umer Kot, Badin and Thatta, with the total budget of PKR 4.9 billion. SUCCESS now has increased synergies with UCBPRP with its expansion (EUCBPRP), launched in January 2018. The GoS CDD coverage now reaches 18 out of the 23 rural districts in Sindh, with 8 districts being implemented under SUCCESS and funded by the EU. In the next 5 – 7 years, the GoS funded Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) programme and EU funded SUCCESS together will benefit a total of 1.83 million households (approx. 11.89 million people) in Sindh.

The aim remains to promote the CDD approach through various components of the programme. It is therefore worth reinforcing how important a milestone it is for SUCCESS that the Government of Sindh has approved the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). Moving forward, the added focus is on ensuring the efficacy and sustainability of programme interventions and on ensuring that women are put on the front and centre of their own development.

# SUCCESS

## SINDH UNION COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

SUCCESS Programme is based on the Rural Support Programme's (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, 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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