

RSPN

RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

www.rspn.org

 RSPNPakistan

 RSPNPakistan

Project Management: Foha Raza, Programme Officer Communications

Design and Print: Masha ALLAH Printers, Islamabad

Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this report. All information was deemed to be correct as of June 2020. Nevertheless, the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) cannot accept responsibility of the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.

©2021 Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN). All rights Reserved.



"This Publication has been produced by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) with assistance of the European Union. The content of this publication are the sole responsibility of RSPN and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union."

EUROPEAN UNION

More information about the European Union is available on:

Web: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan_en

Facebook: European Union in Pakistan

Twitter: EUPakistan

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK
PAKISTAN**

CONTENTS

04 Message from the CEO

05 About RSPN

09 The Three Institutional Pillars

12 Pakistan's Rural Communities Fight COVID-19

21 SUCCESS Programme

29 BRACE Programme

37 Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh Nutrition-Sensitive Component (ER-3)

48 Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) Nutrition Specific – ER2

50 Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh Nutrition-Specific Component in Dadu and Jamshoro (PINS ER-2 D&J)

54 Waseela-e-Taleem



- 56** Integrated Health Systems Strengthening and Service Delivery Activity
- 58** Population Services International (PSI) Supported Family Planning Programme
- 60** Empowering Pakistani Women Through Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth
- 63** Saaf Sehatmand Services
- 66** Improving Adolescents' Lives in Pakistan
- 69** Social Mobilisation
- 72** Gender and Development
- 75** Research & Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation
- 80** Special Projects Wing
- 81** Policy Advocacy
- 82** Regional Cooperation and Networking
- 83** Communications
- 87** FINANCIALS



Message from the CEO

Globally, life in 2020 has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For RSPN it has been no different. RSPN has also had to make adjustments to our existing work to accommodate the challenges brought by the disease; additional projects have also come on board to specifically address these challenges with rural communities. In end-March 2020 a nation-wide lockdown was imposed and lifted in mid-April 2020. Following this, lockdowns are being imposed in selected locations with high COVID-19 occurrence. Educational institutions have also borne the brunt of this uncertainty, with two spurts of these being closed, in 2020. Currently they are all shut. The impact of COVID-19 has been far reaching in Pakistan's villages where rural economies, their dependence on urban economies, impacts on small household level businesses, access to health, education and other services, have been affected. In a Rapid Assessment done by RSPN and RSPs for a preliminary snap shot of the impact of COVID-19 in rural areas, it was observed that communities have suffered due to job losses, with male bread-earners having returned to



their villages from cities; many households have dipped into their savings and sold assets to make ends meet; and women's lives have been impacted due to increasing strife within households, resulting from economic pressure, jobless men and out of school children. As in many other countries, public sector health outreach has been seriously overburdened. In rural areas it has been difficult to ascertain the extent of the disease due to a general lack of and high cost of testing facilities for COVID-19. In addition, medical advice, services and messages of awareness against the disease have been slow to reach

remote areas. The situation has called for a close partnership between RSPN, RSPs and the government due to the extensive outreach of the RSPs in Pakistan's villages. The RSP community has risen effectively to this challenge and continues to do so.

RSPN's key advantage is the outreach of RSPs in rural Pakistan and its ability to spearhead a coordinated, national effort to combat COVID-19. RSPs have worked in almost all districts of the country, with a vast penetration in rural areas through over 500,000 community institutions, representing over 50 million rural households. In

the past the RSPs have been quick responders to emergencies, facilitating public and private services which they link to community institutions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the RSPs have worked closely with local administrations in creating awareness about the disease in rural communities. Many RSPs have also assisted health departments by supplying PPEs and other equipment to them. The total outreach of the RSPs for COVID-19 related activities has been in 126 districts, 2,983 rural union councils; working with almost 70,000 community institutions covering a population of about 25 million.

Included in this work is the coordination between RSPN and the government, under the direction of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). In May 2020 RSPN started coordinating a mass awareness raising effort by the RSPs in 1,500 rural union councils of 66 districts at the behest of the NCOC. The work involves close coordination between District Health Departments, RSPs and rural community institutions in awareness raising on anti-

COVID SOPs as well as the government's Trace, Test & Quarantine work. Health Departments train community activists in these areas who then spearhead campaign in their geographic areas and coordinate with District Administrations. This is the largest community driven effort, representing a true government-civil society partnership. The collaboration is being undertaken as a public service by RSPN and the RSPs and has enormous scale-up potential. Some donors have shown interest in this effort and will be supporting RSPN to scale this up in some rural and urban areas. RSPN is grateful to the Government of Pakistan for appreciating RSP outreach in rural Pakistan and working with community institutions. Clearly, this modality can be used to deliver other, basic services to Pakistan's rural areas.

RSPN has been able to continue its 'regular' work, despite numerous challenges. Existing projects and donors supporting them have accommodated the 2020 COVID-19 challenge faced by RSPN and we are grateful to them. Apart from inducting

awareness about the disease in community meetings and various training sessions, the economic interventions of many projects have enabled the poorest of households to stay afloat, as they receive financial assistance, skills training and related grants, to be able to earn their livelihoods.

Clearly, economic uplift programmes are increasingly more important, as rural communities bear the brunt of years of poverty, coupled with COVID-19 impacts. In this regard, the government's social protection programmes have been in the forefront in assisting poor households. Coupled with RSP poverty alleviation efforts, these households can come out of poverty, provide a large-scale rural poverty reduction programme is initiated.

As we deal with this COVID-19 first year, our commitment to work for the rural poor of our country stands firm. We look forward to facilitation by the government, a positive space for civil society actors to work with their own people, and enhanced programmes for people's socio-economic uplift.

Shandana Khan
Chief Executive Officer

About RSPN



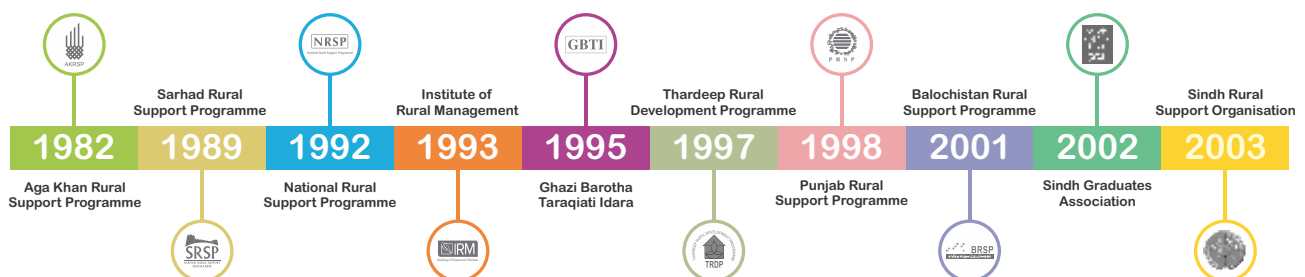
The history of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) in Pakistan dates back to 1982, when the first RSP, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme was established by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). It was the remarkable approach, work, success and recognition of the AKRSP that eventually paved the way for

the replication of RSPs across Pakistan, spearheaded by Mr Shoaib Sultan Khan, AKRSP's first General Manager, and currently the Chairman of RSPN.

By the year 2000, seven RSPs were working together in various parts of Pakistan. The larger, provincial RSPs were either setup with or received

generous support from provincial governments, whereas the federal government, provided funds to setup the coveted National Rural Support Programme (NRSP). These RSPs came together to set up the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) in Islamabad in July 2000.

Timeline of RSP Creation in Pakistan



Today, RSPN serves as a strategic, national platform for nine RSPs including the Institute of Rural Management (IRM) – an expert training and capacity building institute – bringing together over 35 years of knowledge in Community Driven Development (CDD). RSPN is the largest, non-government Pakistani development network in the country and is indeed an asset for the country.

RSPN and the RSPs collectively espouse a common approach to CDD: social mobilisation. Social mobilisation centres on the belief that poor people have an innate potential to help themselves, that they can better manage their limited resources to improve their own livelihoods and lives. However,

they face constraints, and these can only begin to be removed if they organise themselves, and are provided social, technical and financial support. The RSPs provide this support to the rural poor. RSPN provides capacity building support to RSPs and assists them in policy advocacy, knowledge management, communications, and donor linkages.

RSPN works closely with government, donors and communities to promote the RSP approach to CDD that has significant pro-poor impacts. The RSPs have a long-standing relationship with the Government of Pakistan, this is highlighted by the fact that five of RSPN's partner RSPs have received substantial support and seed grants from the

government, however they are all registered as not-for-profit organisations and are independent.

RSPN's edge is its vast outreach to rural communities across the country through the RSPs, its strong and influential relationship with government for impacting pro-poor public policy, and its central position that brings together over 35 years of knowledge in participatory development work with Pakistan's rural communities. RSPs are local, flexible and responsive organisations. RSPs find localised community-based solutions to help take Pakistan's development agenda forward.

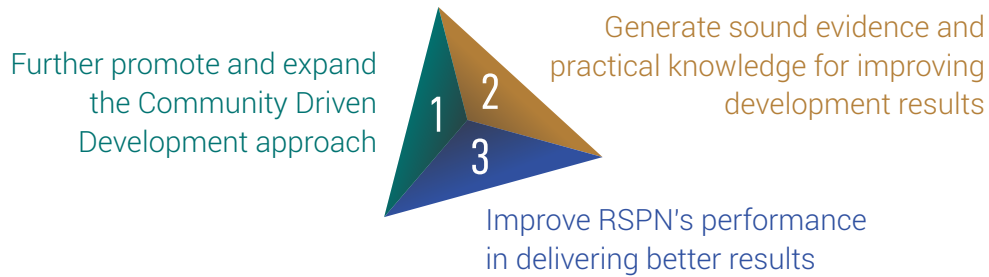


RSPN'S Mission

RSPN's mission is to facilitate, enable and provide technical support to member RSPs to foster sustainable institutions of the people.



RSPN'S Strategic Objectives



RSPN'S Thematic Focus

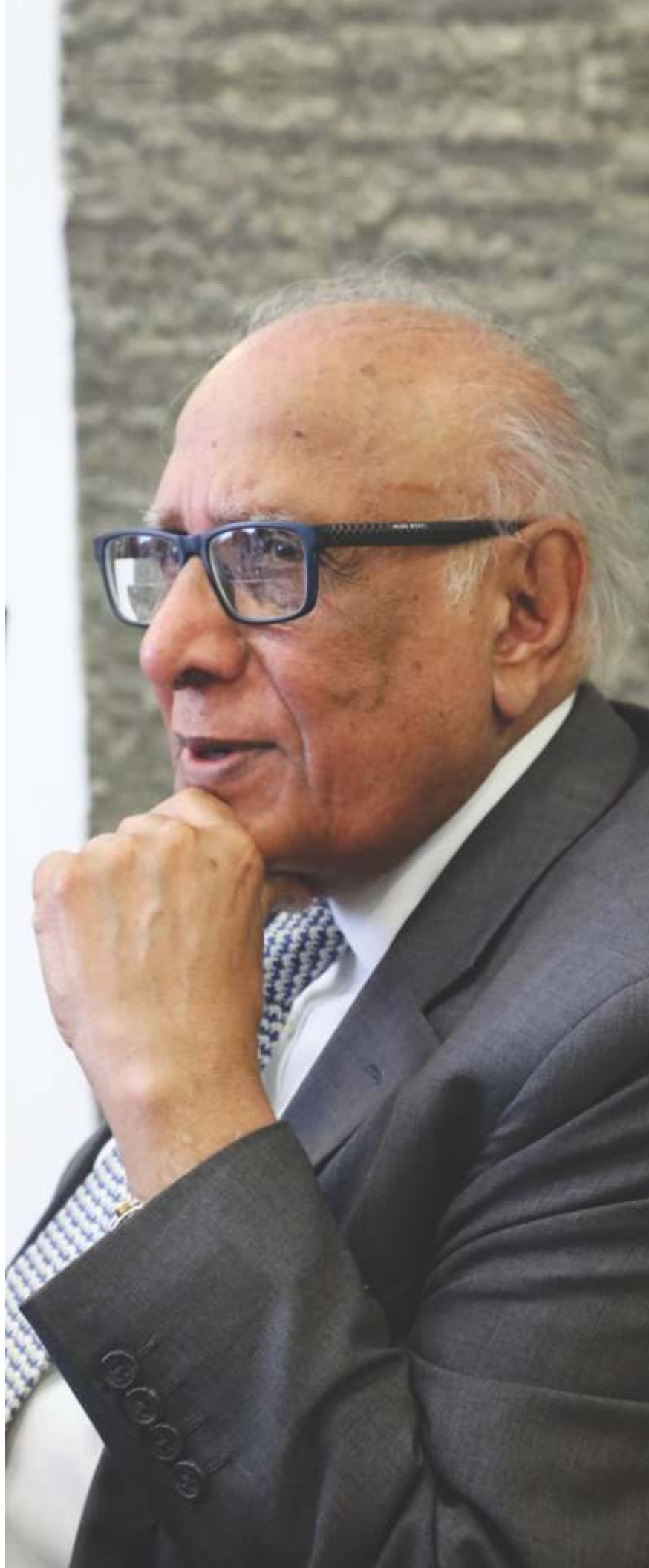


The Three Institutional Pillars

"After reviewing 200 years of global experiences, Dr Akhtar Hameed Khan concluded that three institutional pillars are necessary for making transformative change in the lives of the rural poor. These pillars are: i) the Administrative Pillar (central, provincial and local governments and service delivery departments, judiciary, police and other institutions – from the president to the patwari); ii) the Political Pillar (national and provincial assemblies, districts and union councils); and iii) the Socio-Economic Pillar (people's own institutions i.e., COs, VO, and LSOs). Pakistan possess the first two pillars, but the socio-economic pillar is missing, and without fostering this pillar and linking it with the political and administrative pillars, poverty cannot be sustainably reduced. Fostering the socio-economic pillar requires an institutional mechanism, which has the resources of the government and flexibility of an NGO – such as the Rural Support Programmes. The RSPs, through social mobilisation and organisation of rural people into their own institutions, are able to reach out to each poor household. Without the economic empowerment of individual households, poverty cannot be eliminated. The RSPs, thus, complement and supplement the work of the government."

Shoaib Sultan Khan

Chairman, RSPN



OUR SOCIAL MOBILISATION OUTREACH

498,200

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS (53% WOMEN ONLY COs)

8,257,372

ORGANISED HOUSEHOLDS

8,482,143

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION MEMBERS (56% WOMEN MEMBERSHIP)

149

DISTRICTS INCLUDING ALL NEWLY MERGED DISTRICTS (EX-FATA/FRS) WITH RSP PRESENCE

4,432

RURAL UNION COUNCILS WITH RSP PRESENCE

29,516

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS (66% WOMEN ONLY VOs) FEDERATED IN

2,258

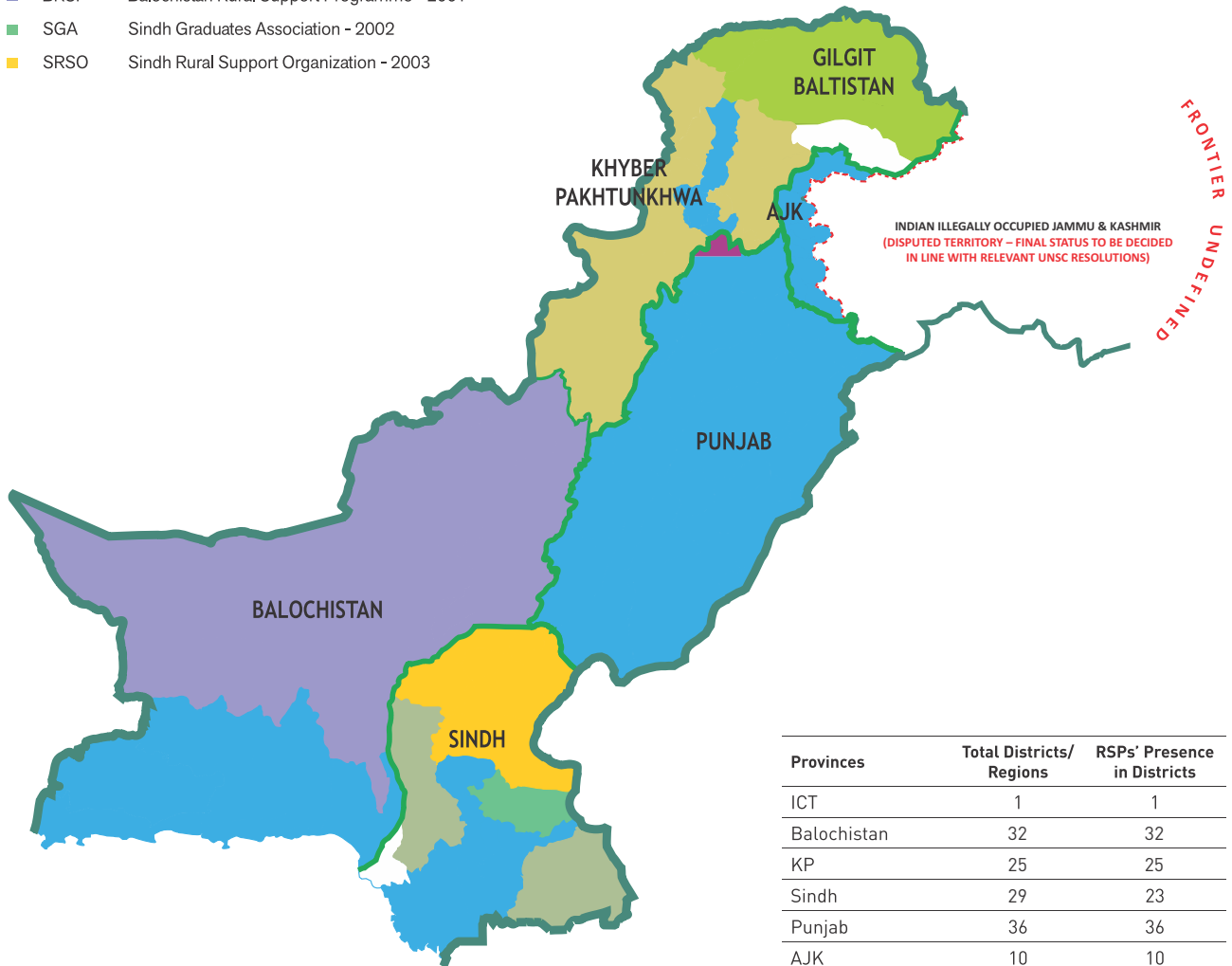
LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS (995 - 44% WOMEN ONLY LSOs)

Summary of Local Support Organisations (LSOs) as of 30 June 2020

		Province/Administrative Units						Total
		AJ&K	Balochistan	GB	KP incl, FATA/FRs	Punjab (Incl. ICT)	Sindh	
1	Aga Khan RSP	-	-	60	19	-	-	79
2	Balochistan RSP	-	169	-	-	-	-	169
7	Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara	-	-	-	6	10	-	16
3	National RSP	127	100	-	55	410	170	862
4	Punjab RSP	-	-	-	-	305	-	305
9	Sindh Graduate Association	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
8	Sindh Rural Support Organisation	-	-	-	-	-	496	496
5	Sarhad RSP	-	-	-	187	-	-	187
6	Thardeep Rural Development Programme	-	-	-	-	-	143	143
	Total	127	269	60	267	725	810	2,258

The Outreach of the Rural Support Programmes Across Pakistan

- AKRSP Aga Khan Rural Support Programme - 1982
- SRSP Sarhad Rural Support Programme - 1989
- NRSP National Rural Support Programme - 1992
- IRM Institute of Rural Management - 1993
- GBTI Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara - 1995
- TRDP Thardeep Rural Development Programme - 1997
- BRSP Balochistan Rural Support Programme - 2001
- SGA Sindh Graduates Association - 2002
- SRSO Sindh Rural Support Organization - 2003



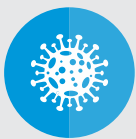
Provinces	Total Districts/ Regions	RSPs' Presence in Districts
ICT	1	1
Balochistan	32	32
KP	25	25
Sindh	29	23
Punjab	36	36
AJK	10	10
GB	10	9
Former FATA/FRs	13	13
Total	156	149

RSPs are present in 149 districts.



Pakistan's Rural Communities Fight COVID-19

In February 2019, Pakistan reported its first case of COVID-19. The Federal and Provincial Governments immediately began to take actions to reduce its spread. The Government established the National Coordination and Operation Centre (NCOC) for national-level coordination in countering COVID-19. The NCOC is chaired by Mr Asad Umar (the Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Reforms and Special Initiatives). Unfortunately, the spread could not be localised and within weeks increasing number of cases COVID-19 cases began to be reported from across the country. As organisations with the largest outreach in the rural areas of the country, RSPN/RSPs began working with the local governments and other international donors to undertake numerous activities in order to raise awareness against COVID-19, in a bid to reduce the spread of the virus in the rural communities such as:



Working on awareness raising on prevention measures against **COVID-19** with communities in **126 districts** across Pakistan, in **2,983 union councils** through involvement of **69,454 community institutions**, with a membership of one million people. The response activities are ongoing in all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in close collaboration with the local government authorities.

Working closely with RSP fostered **Community Institutions** to address the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and local governments, RSPN provides an ideal outreach to rural communities, particularly in remote, rural Pakistan.



Facilitating links between **government** and **rural communities**. RSPs and community activists are present on numerous provincial, district, tehsil and union council committees, in order to assist government in identifying the poorest households eligible for the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme, distribution of zakat and food rations, etc.

Encouraging communities to **help the neediest households** amongst them. This is true self help and community philanthropy. We see it in hundreds of villages across Pakistan – members of Community Institutions buying rations, using their own saving or collecting funds to support the poorest in their villages.



Rapid Assessment to Assess the Impact of COVID-19 on Rural Communities in Pakistan

RSPN, with the support of the M&E Sections of the RSPs, has undertaken a Rapid Assessment to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on rural communities in Pakistan. The key objectives of the Assessment were: a) to understand the awareness level among rural communities about COVID 19 and related prevention measures, b) to have a basic understanding of the differential economic impacts of the crises on rural communities with different

occupations, and c) to document the impact of the crisis on women and gender roles within the household and community. The Assessment focuses on six key areas, i.e. community awareness, economic effects, impact on people's daily lives, gender, access to public services and social support systems. To cover all these aspects, quantitative and qualitative questions were included in the study design. Data was collected using telephonic

interviews in May-June 2020, due to the lockdown, with sample respondents selected from areas in which RSPs work i.e., CRPs, leaders of Community Institutions and RSP staff. The Assessment was done in 15 districts across all provinces, through interviews with 450 total respondents. Key findings of the Assessment were shared internally with RSPN staff, M&E resource group members and RSPN Chairman and RSP CEOs.



CRPs disseminating information regarding preventive measures and the accepted SOPs to adopt against COVID-19

Key Findings from the Rapid Situation Analysis

RSPN with support of partner RSPs has undertaken a Rapid Situation Analysis, a study aimed at assessing the impacts of the COVID-19 emergency on the rural communities in Pakistan. This study was undertaken between the May and August 2020 through involving rural communities with whom RSPs work. The main aim of undertaking this rapid assessment to acquire reliable information on the extent of impact of the COVID-19 crisis on rural communities and the relief support needed by them.

The rapid assessment focuses on six key areas, i.e. community awareness, economic effects, impact on people's daily lives, gender, access to public services and social support systems. To cover all these aspects, quantitative and qualitative questions were included in the study design. The entire country of 156 districts across all provinces and regions, was divided into 15 geographic clusters and one district was selected from each cluster. The sample size for the rapid assessment constituted 450 respondents (49% women) across 15 selected districts nationwide, the data was collected using telephonic interviews, with sample respondents selected from

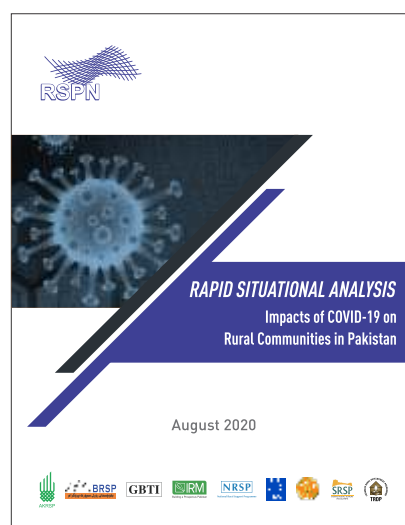
among Community Resources Persons (CRPs) in villages, leaders of Community Institutions (CIs) the RSPs work with, and some RSP staff members, particularly those interacting directly with rural communities.

The rapid assessment emphasises to continue the public awareness campaigns on COVID-19 precautionary measures through mainstream print and electronic media and enhance the scale of RSP work in this area, with specific focus on mobilising the rural population to adopt and practice precautionary measures. The government need to effectively address the immediate issue of poor people's access to food followed by a 'graduation' programme that capacitates poor people to invest in income earning activities. The report also recommends to immediately design and implement certain special initiatives focusing on the revival of rural economy, provide emergency loans on flexible terms to micro-entrepreneurs and poor farmers, support women managing microbusinesses in rural areas, mainstreaming gender-based violence in exiting initiatives, and continuous provision of public service i.e., health, education,

social protection, agriculture and livestock extension services, support to PWDs, etc.

This rapid assessment has also looked at how the current RSP initiatives could complement emergency and relief efforts, to inform policy makers, donors and other stakeholders about the design of such initiatives. RSPs are actively working with rural communities on awareness raising on preventive and precautionary measures against COVID-19 and assisting poor population to access the government's economic relief initiatives across the country.

The complete situation analysis report can be accessible at <http://www.rspn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Rapid-Situational-Analysis-Impact-of-COVID-19-on-Rural-Communities-in-Pakistan-for-web.pdf>.



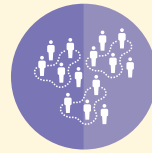
Performance Indicators



All Provinces including GB, AJK and Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province



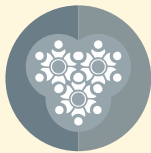
126
Districts



441
Tehsils



2,983
Rural Union Councils



69,454

* Community Institutions engaged to undertake COVID-19 awareness campaigns and response activities



19,171

Trained Community Volunteers undertaking Public Awareness Campaigns on Preventive Measures for COVID-19 pandemic



15

Task-forces & Special Committees set-up by the federal and provincial authorities with active membership of RSP staff



769

Task-forces & Special Committees set-up by the district authorities with active membership of community volunteers and community leaders



789,871

IEC material on COVID-19 distributed and displayed in communities



588,616

Awareness campaigns undertaken using mobile loudspeakers, announcements in local mosques and other local methods



20,143

Face-masks made by community members to meet the local needs



400,485

Households provided assistance for registration with the GoPak's Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme



192,917

Poor and poorest households provided cash grants for essential necessities and in-kind support of total work of PKR **464.71** million

* 55,705 COs, 12,335 VOs, 1,414 LSOs

RSPN's Collaboration with MoNHSRC to Combat COVID-19

Acknowledging the huge outreach of the RSPs, the NCOC requested the RSPN and RSPs to partner with government to implement the social mobilisation strategy of the TTQ (Trace, Track and Quarantine) of the government in rural areas. The initiative of

'Rural Communities in the Fight Against COVID-19' is Pakistan's first, organised community-led response to the COVID-19 emergency and a unique public-private partnership between the Government of Pakistan and Local Support Organisations (LSOs),

facilitated by the RSPs. This action further strengthens the citizen-state link by effectively utilising the national outreach of the RSPs in rural areas. During the current phase of this work 1,500 LSOs in 66 districts of all provinces, AJK, and GB have been involved in this work.

Performance Indicators



70

MOUs signed with local governments



266

Suspected cases identified and referred to ICT health department



57

Contacts traced on request of ICT health department



826,370

(57%women) persons benefitted from community awareness raising sessions



1,280,161

(50%women) provided IEC materials (pamphlets, brochures, leaflets)



180,723

Poorest families supported to access public social protection initiatives



99,192

Poorest families provided in-kind support ie essential food items, soaps, sanitizer, etc;



78,859

Face-masks distributed



15,465

Benefitted from COVID-19 awareness SMS sent;



329,525

Individuals reached via mosque announcements and mobile announcements for enhancing community awareness on COVID-19 and preventive measures



2.1 million

Individuals benefitted through community linkages

Prime Minister Awards Two Activists with Awards Marking 100 Days of NCOC



Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan presenting an award for Outstanding Performance against COVID-19 to CRPs from LSO Chirah in a ceremony celebrating the 100 Days of the National Command and Operation Centre

On July 4, 2020 the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) observed 100 Days of national efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. At this event, Prime Minister Pakistan, Mr Imran Khan awarded two women activists from the National Rural Support

Programme's Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) unit for outstanding work in rural areas against COVID-19.

The two activists awarded this honour were Ms. Shabana Imtyaz and Ms. Shagufta Shaheen from LSO Chirah.

They received their training by NRSP and the ICT Health Department. Post-training, they spread awareness about COVID-19 in their villages and helped government in contact tracing and identifying suspected cases.

Case Study: Shagufta Shaheen, LSO Chirah Rural ICT

Shagufta Shaheen is a Community Resource Person (CRPs are outstanding activists in villages, trained by the RSPs to undertake specific tasks, e.g. spreading messages to other communities) from LSO Chirah participated in training. LSO Chirah is comprised of 245 Community Organisations (COs), 13 Village Organisations (VOs) and 4,330 organised households. After the training, Shagufta started visiting rural households in the community, going door-to-door to iterate the proper precautions needed to combat COVID-19.

Speaking about her work Shagufta said, *"I have given important preventive messages to numerous houses in my community by going door-to-door. I try to visit at least 4 households daily, while keeping my own precautionary measures in place such as wearing a mask, washing my hands and keeping a 6 ft distance"*.

Under this initiative, the CRPs are also working with mosques to ensure social distancing. Speaking about the trained male CRPs, Shagufta said, *"They make regular announcements in mosques and also disinfect them every week. We have also provided the mosques with soap, sanitisers and masks."*



Furthermore, we have also drawn proper lines and circles in the mosques to ensure social distancing especially during the holy month of Ramzan when people visit the mosques for taraweeh prayers."

When asked about people's reactions, Shagufta explained, *"Communities have been very receptive to our messages when it comes to safety precautions that are essential*



during this pandemic. We have explained to them that the only cure is prevention." She adds, "People are taking these precautions very seriously especially when it comes to the elderly in their houses".

Shagufta also speaks about some of the challenges a CRP faces. *"Initially, there were some minor challenges we faced when few people in the community were reluctant to listen. However, as we approached more and more people in the area, the reluctant ones also began accepting our advice"*.

Shagufta is passionate about the work of CRPs in these trying times. As she says, *"All CRPs have the passion to work on this initiative diligently and we are all trying to ensure that our responsibilities to our communities are fulfilled to the best of our abilities in the time of this pandemic"*.

RSPN's Call to Action

To support the adversely affected rural communities, RSPN initiated a 'Call for Action' for donations to support poor, rural women during the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. RSPN collected donations to support poor

widows and women-headed households in the villages of Balochistan during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose was to financially support poor women and widows to meet their basic, daily needs in these difficult times. RSPN

collaborated with the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) to distribute cash donations of PKR. 1,125,000 to 225 poor women in four Union Councils of District Pishin.

Case Study

Bakhtialia Bibi is a 69-year-old widow from Union Council Rod Malazai, District Pishin. She has no children and lives with her brother-in-law, who is a daily wage labourer and has a 15-member family, including five children, to feed. The family has been going through a financial crisis during the COVID 19 pandemic and particularly the earlier lockdown. Bakhtialia Bibi

had been suffering from poor health from before the pandemic, as her liver complications led her to suffer from anaemia, which became aggravated during the pandemic. Her health issues are not a priority for the family. Bakhtialia Bibi is a member of a mohallah (neighbourhood) level women's Community Organisation (CO) called

'Shabnam Community Organisation'. The CO members know about her financial and medical situation. They selected her for a cash grant of Rs. 5,000. After receiving the cash grant, she sought a professional check-up and purchased medicines that were prescribed by a doctor.

Strategic Partnerships with the European Union for Promoting the CDD Approaches in Pakistan



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



Donor:



EUROPEAN UNION

Implementing Partners:



Technical Partner:



Start Date:

1 July, 2015

End Date:

30 September, 2021

Names of Districts:

Kambar Shahdadkot, Larkana, Dadu, Jamshoro, Matiari, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan

Objectives of the Project:

- Poverty reduction
- Promotion of Community Driven Local Development (CDLC)
- Women Empowerment through women-led Community Institutions (CIs)

About the Project

One of RSPN's flagship programmes, the Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme, is one of the largest province-wide initiatives to tackle the challenge of poverty and rural development through the agency of women in rural Sindh. Funded by the European Union and supported by the Government of Sindh, the Programme is currently in its fifth year of implementation in eight districts.

The SUCCESS Programme scales up the Government of Sindh's Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) that was implemented in four districts between 2009 and 2017. The Programme will support 770,000 rural women to form 32,400 Community Organisations, 3,240 Village Organisations, and 316 Local Support Organisations. In 2017, the Sindh government expanded the UCBPRP to another six districts in partnership with SRSO. In 2018, the Government of Sindh renamed the UCBPRP as People's Poverty Reduction Programme (PPRP) and also approved the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) Policy in



*Image captured before the COVID-19 pandemic

October 2018 – the process of which was led by the SUCCESS Programme's Technical Assistance team led by Ernst & Young (EY). The UCBPRP/PPRP and SUCCESS Programmes are currently being implemented in 18 of the 23 districts of rural Sindh province, covering a target population of 11.89 million.

RSPN is responsible to provide tools for standardised implementation, quality control, research, knowledge management, communication, and advocacy support to the SUCCESS Programme, by extending support to the implementing RSPs and the SUCCESS Technical Assistance team. RSPN brings together best practices and knowledge from across the RSP community, based on their

work with communities across Pakistan. RSPN has developed modules, i.e. a Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), a Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT), a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework, an Institutional Maturity Index (IMI), a Quality Assurance and Control Plan (QACP), and modalities for a socio-economic baseline and end line surveys, to support its efforts to achieve the objectives of standardising and harmonising RSPs' work. Thus, measuring programme impact, doing action research, and the development of knowledge products and advocacy with various stakeholders is a critical part of RSPN's input, in order to scale up the CDLD approach in Sindh.

SUCCESS Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Research shows that building community institutions in times of peace are a crucial resource in disaster risk management, a fact which was proven at the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan. As the pandemic continues in the country, the EU-funded SUCCESS Programme's implementing partner RSPs, together with the community institutions initiated a series of relief activities and maintained a selection of regular programme components. The COVID-19 response initiatives were launched by mobilising previous resources, skills, and linkages with government authorities and corporate industries, allowing rural communities to safeguard the most vulnerable and poor households.

SUCCESS components, such as Income Generating Grants (IGG) distribution, continued during the pandemic to allow rural communities to secure their livelihoods by adapting to the changing socioeconomic circumstances. As people continued to resume daily activities, while adhering to safety precautions, rural communities under the SUCCESS Programme have nearly reinstated all of the regular programme components except for Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) because of the challenge in maintaining social distance while performing these activities. A list of the key activities undertaken by the RSPs and community institutions can be found below:

Community Awareness and Sensitisation Sessions

RSPs through Community Resource Persons (CRPs) conducted awareness and sensitisation campaigns in the Programme districts. The campaigns included information dissemination and safety demonstrations and followed WHO and Government of Sindh approved messages on the novel coronavirus. Information dissemination was implemented through print media including pamphlets, banners, and posters as well as through public service messages via mobile loudspeakers, announcements in local mosques, FM radio and local cable TV network. Safety demonstrations focused on



Community Resource Persons (CRPs) provide awareness sessions on covid-19 safety precautionary measures to the public with focus on proper hand washing techniques and social distancing

preventative measures such as proper handwashing, social distancing, and mask wearing techniques. All CRPs, community volunteers, and RSP staff members engaged in

these activities were first trained by specialised institutions and local authorities through phone calls and meetings as well as provided with hand sanitisers, gloves, and masks.

LSOs and Government of Sindh Collaboration for Relief Activities

As a response to the Government of Sindh's issued notification for the constitution of COVID-19 Relief Committees at a Union Council level, the RSPs facilitated coordination among community institutions with the respective Deputy Commissioners in each SUCCESS Programme district. The RSPs also nominated many SUCCESS Programme LSO representatives to the committee as prominent Social Workers/NGO Representatives to identify and ensure the transparent distribution of food items among deserving families.



LSO representatives distributing food items among deserving families

Linkages with District Administration, Corporate Sector, and Philanthropists

Benefiting from the already established linkages among community institutions and government departments through Joint Development Committees (JDCs), RSP staff and CRPs mobilised and facilitated community

institutions for working with government departments in the procurement and distribution of crucial safety items like masks, soaps, and hand sanitisers. Cash grants and in-kind support in the form of food rations have also been

procured and distributed to needy households through linkages with the corporate sector, local philanthropists, community institutions' savings, and community philanthropy.

Application of Poor Households with Federal Government Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme

Keeping in view the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the livelihoods of different population segments, particularly daily wage labourers and people below minimum wage, the Federal Government of Pakistan announced the Ehsaas

Emergency Cash Programme geared towards helping 12 million families through a financial assistance of PKR 12,000 per family and the total budget of PKR 144 billion. On the request of (Deputy Commissioners) in all the eight districts of SUCCESS, the RSPs

engaged its staff as well as Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and Community Bookkeepers trained under the SUCCESS Programme in helping poor households to register themselves with the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme.

Preparation of Facemasks through TVST Beneficiaries

At the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, the RSPs mobilised and engaged women community members who had received vocational trainings on dress making and machine sewing to produce facemasks. This allowed the TVST women beneficiaries to adapt their vocational skills to the changing market demands. The facemask production also followed the approved and recommended quality standards set by local health authorities. 10,565 Face masks prepared & sold by Technical Vocational Skills Training (TVST) Beneficiaries.



TVST women beneficiaries adapting their vocational skills amid the COVID-19 pandemic to create masks for themselves and to sell to the communities around them at exceptional affordable rates

Provision of Income Generating Grants to the Poorest Households

During the lockdown, RSPs gained special permission from the Deputy Commissioners of their respective Programme districts for mobility in some areas to continue the distribution of IGG to the poorest households. The continuation of this regular SUCCESS Programme component was to take advantage of the new windows of small business opportunities, particularly in rural areas where in lockdown restrictions signified a shift from the now inaccessible main urban markets to locally accessible products. The IGG grants provided capital for



SUCCESS Programme continues the IGG component during COVID-19 pandemic creating new opportunities for small businesses

starting small grocery shops at a local village level and for purchasing livestock, such as

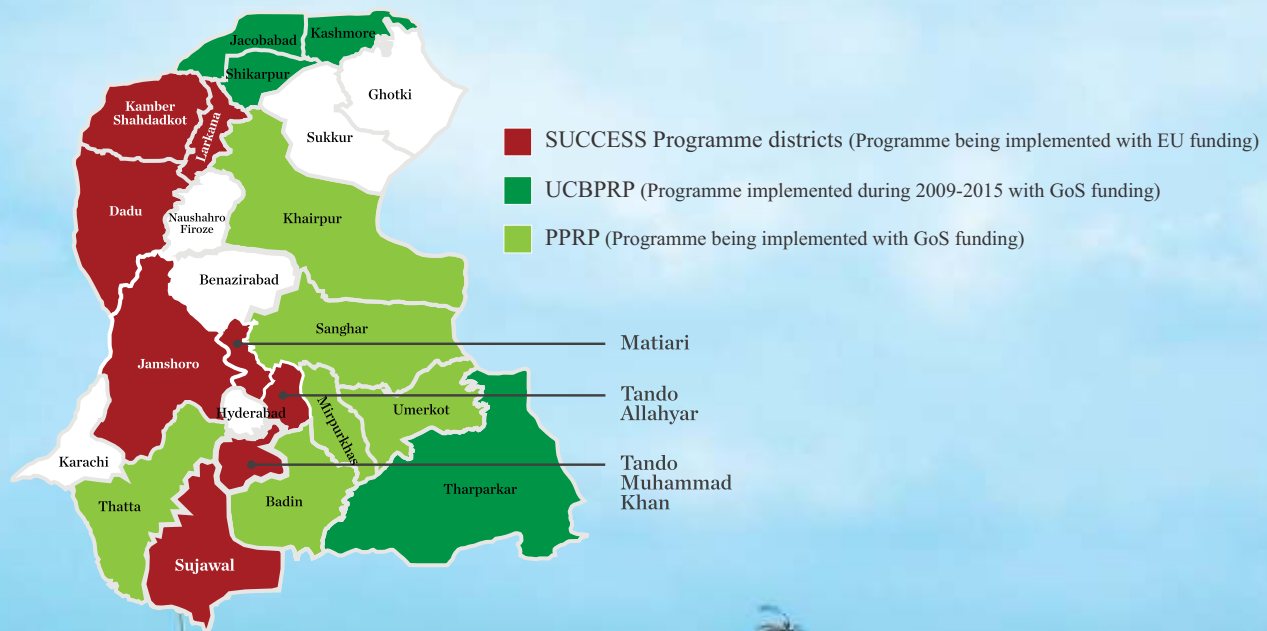
goats, for fulfilling household milk needs and selling to the community.

CPI Schemes

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) schemes were resumed following the lifting of the nationwide lockdown in May 2020. Projects like brick paved roads and water storage tanks were completed under this regular SUCCESS Programme component to enhance rural accessibility to facilities in bigger urban cities and provide easily accessible clean drinking water to rural communities respectively.



WHERE WE WORK



SUCCESS and UCBPRP Programme Coverage Area				
	SUCCESS	UCBPRP	PPRP	Total
Number of Districts	8	4	6	18
Number of Tehsils/Talukas	33	16	29	78
Number of Union Councils	316	157	321	794
Number of Revenue Villages/Deh	1,545	755	1,743	4,043
Number of Settlements/Goth	14,708	9,672	16,922	41,302
Number of Households	849,781	513,873	950,130	2,313,784
Total Population	5,691,953	3,024,072	5,225,715	13,941,740

CASE STUDY:

Alma's Hopes for Success Lie in the Diversification of Income Generation Sources and Gender Equality

It's a harsh sweltering July day in village Odero Lal Station, NRSP district Matiari, Sindh. Most of the men in the village are sitting useless under the shade of lush green mango trees. These days, they seldom find work opportunities due to the economic stagnation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of them are either dependent on the earnings of their womenfolk or loans from local landowners.

Ms. Alma, 32, mother of five children, is from village Odero Lal Station. Her husband is a cook by profession but nowadays he has no work due to the closure of the hotel where he used to work before. COVID-19 has changed their household dynamics and now his wife is the sole breadwinner of their family. In 2016, when the European Union funded Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme was initiated in their village, her household was identified as ultra-poor through the poverty score card (PSC). The National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) mobilised her household along with other



Ms. Alma adapting her vocational training in dress-making under the SUCCESS Programme for her day-to-day needs. She also used a CIF loan to buy a calf and plans on selling it near Eid to earn a profit

households into a Community Organisation with the aim to harness their potential and stimulate an economic upward mobility.

Alma first received two months of vocational skills training in dress making which enabled her to earn PKR 3,000-4,000 per month. She saved all of her earnings because her husband was earning enough to cover family expenses at that time. She bought five goats through her savings and now uses their milk for food, and also sells the remaining milk to a tea hotel located on the highway.

To diversify her means of income, Alma took two interest free loans of PKR 15,000 and PKR 20,000 from the Community Investment Fund (CIF) formed under the

SUCCESS Programme. She invested these loans into opening a Pakora (fried snack) shop and buying a calf. She sells Pakora two times in a day and earns PKR 200 per day. She has plans to sell her calf on the upcoming Eid at a higher price to pay back her second loan and invest the remaining money in other productive income generating activities.

According to Alma: "Life would have been very difficult for my family, particularly in such testing and uncertain times because of COVID-19, if my household had no other means of income. My husband supports me in all my activities, and we live a happy life. Many other local women members of COs have also benefited from the SUCCESS Programme".

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (**BRACE**) Programme



Donor:



EUROPEAN UNION

Names of Districts:

Pishin, Zhob, Loralai, Dukki, Killa Abdullah, Khuzdar, Jhal Magsi, Washuk, Kech

Implementing Partners:



Technical Partner:



Start Date:

30 June, 2017

End Date:

29 June, 2022

About the Project

The European Union (EU) supported BRACE Programme is being implemented in close collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Department of the Government of Balochistan (GoB). The Grant component of this five-year (2017-2022) Programme is implemented by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP). Human Dynamics (HD), is technically



Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN, speaks at the Knowledge Sharing and Lessons Learning Workshop
*Image captured pre COVID-19 pandemic

supporting the Programme through supporting the Government of Balochistan in fostering an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local

authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory local public sector planning, financing and implementation processes.

Objectives of the Project

The overall objectives of BRACE Programme are to support the Government of Balochistan in reducing the negative impact of economic deprivation, poverty and social inequality, environmental degradation and climate change, and to turn this

into opportunities to build and empower resilient communities participating actively in identifying and implementing socio-economic development activities on a sustainable basis in partnership with local authorities. Once mobilised and

organised, the communities will have a greater access to local authorities and line departments as a collective unit, yielding them a stronger voice, to have their needs heard and addressed.

The specific objectives of the Programme are:



To empower citizens and communities and provide them with the means to enable them to implement community-driven socio-economic development interventions, an increased voice and capability to influence public policy decision making through active engagement with local authorities for quality, inclusive, and equitable service delivery, and civic-oversight and;

To foster an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory processes of the local public sector planning, financing and implementation process.



WHERE WE ARE



09
Districts

249
Union Councils

1.9 million
Total Targeted Rural Population



300,000
Households are being Organised



3,103 VO_s



19,129 CO_s



249 LSO_s

Key Activities

1. Youth Development Through Skills Building

A batch of 300 youth from Balochistan completed Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) under BRACE at the vocational centre of Institute of Rural

Management in Rawalpindi. The trainees of various 22 trades, including auto mechanic, auto electrician, general electrician, mobile

phone repair, motorcycle repair, plumbing, refrigeration, solar system installation and repair, were selected from eight BRACE districts.

2. Widening Opportunities for Differently-abled Persons

The BRACE Programme held a distribution ceremony of orthotic and prosthetic devices, hearing aids, wheelchairs and tricycles for persons with special needs from seven

BRACE Programme districts. The objective of this initiative was to ensure the inclusion of marginalised and physically challenged persons into BRACE interventions. A total of 1,377

orthotic devices, 315 prosthetic devices, 562 wheel chairs, 190 tricycles, and 800 hearing aid devices were distributed among 3,244 individuals.

3. EU supported Provincial Convention of LSOs Applauds the Work of Community Institutions in Balochistan

The BRACE Programme organised the Provincial Convention of LSOs on January 21, 2020 in Quetta in collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development Department (LG&RDD) of the Government of Balochistan, the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), and the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP). His Excellency Justice (Retd) Mr. Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, the Governor of Balochistan was the Chief Guest, Her Excellency Ms. Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, was the

Guest of Honour. Other dignitaries included the Provincial Finance Minister Mr. Zahoor Buledi, the Awami National Party's Parliamentary Leader, Mr. Asghar Khan Achakzai, the Opposition Leader in the Balochistan Assembly Mr. Malik Sikandar Advocate, Member of Provincial Assembly, Ms. Shaheena Mehtarzai, RSPN Chairman, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, BRSP's Chief Executive, Mr. Nadir Gul Barrech, and NRSP's Chief Executive Dr. Rashid Bajwa. Also, in attendance were a large number of community representatives including representatives from 14 LSOs from all over Balochistan,

representatives from the provincial government, from the European Union Delegation (EUD) to Pakistan, and from donor agencies, the media, academia, and international and national NGOs. Speaking at the occasion, the Governor of Balochistan commended the work of the BRACE Programme and the RSPs in organising communities under the platform of LSOs. Her Excellency Ms. Androulla Kaminara, stated that "Balochistan remains among the top priorities amongst the EU's development programmes in Pakistan." RSPN Chairman Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, reminded the audience that the

RSP approach is to bridge the missing links of development in Pakistan, i.e. the fostering of the Social Pillar to link up with the government's Administration and Political Pillars. The representatives of 14 LSOs including the presidents of various LSOs

highlighted how the communities organised into community institutions (CIs) under the BRACE Programme were able to undertake various initiatives including livelihood provision for the poor, especially of women, technical and vocational trainings for

youth, and income generating grants (IGGs) and community investment funds (CIF) for deserving and eligible community members, as well as fostering linkages with local authorities for accessing services.

4. Her Excellency Ms. Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) Visits Khuzdar to witness BRACE activities in Balochistan

The EU's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E Ms. Androulla Kaminara, visited Khuzdar on 22nd & 23rd of January, 2020. She was accompanied by Mr. Arshad Rashid, Development

Advisor to the EU, and by the senior management of RSPN and BRSP. The main objective of the Ambassador's visit was to observe the impact of the ongoing BRACE intervention on

the lives of marginalised communities in one of the target districts of the Programme.

5. Community Investment Fund (CIF)

Income Generating Grants (IGGs) and Community Investment Fund (CIF) are two vital tools for enabling the rural households in implementing their livelihood/business plans. The BRACE Programme funded by European Union in Pakistan

aims at stimulating an average 25% income increase of the targeted poor community members, particularly women, by fostering their income generation potential. To ensure an increase in the income of poor households BRACE

Programme held ATM card distribution ceremony in BRSP town office Loralai for the Community Investment Fund beneficiaries of Union Council Nasirabad-2.

Liaison with the Government

Training of Local Government, Line Departments and LSO representatives on Participatory Community Development Approaches (PCDA) Organised Under BRACE

A 3-day training on "Participatory Community Development Approaches" under BRACE Programme was arranged by NRSP in Karachi in July 2019. The training group was a diverse mix of officials from Government of Balochistan's line departments and LSO representatives. A total of 12 participants

attended the training with 06 females and 06 males. Government officials and community representatives were given simulated tasks to practice consensus building. Participants also increased their understanding of the BRACE Programme and partner organisations including European Union, the

Government of Balochistan and the Rural Support Programmes. It's a key part of the design of BRACE that the citizen-State link needs strengthening. Such activities help develop a strong foundation between the communities and the government institutions.

Government and LSOs Representatives Visit the SUCCESS Programme

In September 2019, NRSP Kech office arranged a one-day exposure visit of the district government officials of Balochistan and LSO representatives to the field areas of the Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme, in district Tando

Allahyar. The visit was aimed to provide the 12 member-delegation comprising 6 males and 6 females, an opportunity to witness the work and progress of community driven development with an aim to empower rural women under the EU supported SUCCESS Programme. The participants assessed the overlapping

programme interventions and had a chance to discuss the importance of continued synergy between both EU-funded programmes with the government institutions for better implementation of BRACE and SUCCESS.

COVID-19 Emergency Response

Balochistan was the first province in Pakistan to report COVID-19 cases in Pakistan due to the influx of pilgrims from Iran. BRSP and NRSP, with the support of organised community members under the EU supported BRACE Programme, have been running awareness raising campaigns to safeguard the local population against COVID-19. These include personal hygiene, maintaining social distancing and caring for symptoms. IEC material has been posted on all shops with the active participation of community members. Community Resource Persons (CRPs), District Programme Managers, Social Organisers and Livelihood Officers were trained as per the World Health Organisation guidelines. They are reaching out to the communities with messages about symptoms and precautionary measures such as social distancing, hand washing, and wearing of personal protection equipment (PPE). BRSP has provided 21,830 face masks, 4,924 hand-sanitisers, 4,000 disposable gloves, 13,908 soaps, 2,000 bottles of Dettol, 5,368 IEC material and 98 PPE Kits in Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Zhob, Loralai, Dukki, Khuzdar, Jhal Magsi, and Washuk districts. RSPs also engaged

1,896 CRPs to educate the community on hygiene, safety preventions & precautions for dealing with COVID-19. Public announcements have been broadcast via mobile loudspeakers in 583 villages/settlements of 186 UCs. A total of 504 mosques were engaged to disseminate messages on prevention and social distancing for citizens. The messages reached approximately two million people in BRACE target districts.

In the midst of an unprecedented lockdown to battle the COVID-19 emergency in Balochistan, the collective strength of BRACE-fostered community institutions has come to the front. The LSOs in various BRACE districts took self-help initiatives and provided food packs, masks, hand-sanitisers and soaps to 1,200 households. They also utilised the linkages developed through the platforms of Joint District Development Committee (JDDC) meetings to receive disinfectant spray from district administrations as well as a food package along with 10,000 soaps and 2,000 bottles of disinfectant. The trained cadre of TVET women beneficiaries in different districts also prepared 7,062 face masks and have provided

these free of cost to their communities. The organised community institutions (CIs) are helping their member households to register with the Ehsaas Programme. During the last week of March, 64 BRACE fostered LSOs, helped 11,300 vulnerable households register, while, 193 vulnerable households (HH) received PKR. 2,316,000 under the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme.

CASE STUDY:

The Road Ahead

Bibi Azima's Forward-Looking Livestock Business



Bibi Azima and her daughter tending to the livestock they bought under the Income Generating Grant given to them by EU-funded BRACE Programme

45-year-old Bibi Azima has a son and a daughter. Her son, father of two, used to work in Panjgur, but fell ill and is now home bound. Their family of seven lives in a one-room house. Her husband is unemployed. Bibi Azima and her daughter tried to make ends meet through freelance embroidery (Kasheedakari); she used to earn PKR 1000-2000 for each dress she embroidered, which would take her one to three months. However, with her weakened eyesight, this means of income became difficult to pursue. Bibi

Azima had to take loans to keep her family afloat.

Bibi Azima is part of CO Shama, formed under EU funded BRACE Programme, which was federated into VO Mamojo in village Mamojo, UC Baghbana-2. The members of the VO contribute PKR 100 per month to keep as community savings; this amount is kept with the manager of the Community Institution (CI), who they all trust. When her fellow VO members and the RSP staff told her she can avail the Income Generating Grant (IGG)

under the EU funded BRACE Programme, she applied for it. She got the grant in June 2020 and decided to use it to buy livestock, as she had had some experience of rearing goats previously.

She used the grant to buy three goats, all of which are now pregnant. She hopes to earn PKR 20,000-25,000 upon selling them on Eid-ul-Adha in a year or so. For now, she wants to expand her livestock business so it can bear economic shocks like sudden health crisis etc.

Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh Nutrition-Sensitive Component (ER-3)



Donor:



EUROPEAN UNION

Implementing Partners:



Technical Partner:



Names of Districts:

Thatta, Matiari, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan (NRSP), Kambar Shahdadkot, Larkana and Shikarpur (SRSO), and Dadu, Jamshoro (TRDP)

Start Date:

15 February, 2018

End Date:

14 July, 2021

About the Programme

The European Union-funded Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) is supporting Government of Sindh's multi-sectoral Accelerated Action Plan for Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition (AAP). PINS' Nutrition Sensitive Component (ER-3) aims to improve the nutritional status of children under five (U5) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) across 10 districts. RSPN is

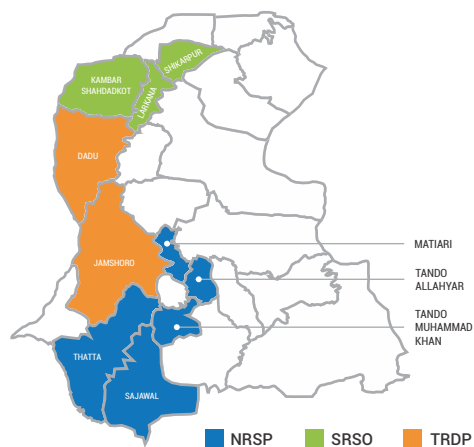
leading the Nutrition-Sensitive Component (PINS ER-3) which focuses on reducing water-borne diseases and improving food diversity through disaster-resilient WASH infrastructures and sustainable food production systems in rural areas of Sindh.

The Programme builds itself upon the three-tier social mobilisation approach to community driven

development, working through women-led community institutions established under the EU-funded Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme and GoS-supported Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme/ Peoples Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP/PPRP).

Outcomes of PINS ER-3

1. Decrease in prevalence of diarrhoea in children under 5 from 28% to 18%
2. Increase in expenditure on a minimum of four food groups (outside staples) by target households by 20%
3. Increase in consumption of 5+ food groups by women between 15 - 49 years from 27% to 40%
4. Increase in consumption of minimum acceptable diet by children under 2 from 13% to 30%



Expected Results of PINS' Nutrition-Sensitive Component

391,232
HOUSEHOLDS (approx.)

will be mobilized and trained to improve their food intake as well as help in reducing water-borne diseases through disaster-resilient WASH infrastructures and sustainable food production systems through the following community institutions.

194



1,938



19,443



Interventions are designed to ensure the following cross-cutting themes are incorporated:

- Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction
- A Rights-Based Approach
- Gender Integration

The Expected Results of PINS ER-3 are

ER-1: Improved community-level climate resilient WASH infrastructures including behaviour change in rural areas of Sindh

Open Defecation Free (ODF) Villages

Open defecation is directly linked to diseases such as diarrhoea which contribute to malnutrition, particularly in children under 5 (U5). Eliminating open defecation is therefore a significant step in reducing malnutrition. PINS ER-3 is moving communities away from open defecation practices through continuous awareness raising and behavioural change sessions held at the household level led by Community Resource Persons (CRPs). These households were encouraged to construct and use latrines for which the Programme provides technical assistance in latrine construction through trained

masons, plumbers and material suppliers. Village Organisations (VOs) where open defecation has ceased were inspected and certified as Open Defecations Free (ODF) by District ODF Committees which include officials from the District Administration Department. To date, 412 VOs (overall 1,938 VOs) have been certified as ODF. Disruption in the work of ODF Committees due to COVID-19 prevented certification during March-June 2020. Their work is expected to resume from July 2020 and the overall target for 1,938 ODF VOs is expected in the coming year.



Shahni, a CRP from VO Awami Gothani, Jamshoro stands outside the latrine she built and used to encourage others to build one for themselves too

Access to Safe Drinking Water

Water-borne diseases are also a significant contributor to malnutrition in children U5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). PINS ER-3 worked extensively on improving community's access to safe drinking water. 240 hand pumps were installed during the year, benefitting 5,335 HHs and a further 530 under development are expected to benefit a further 7,950 HHs.



Children from VO Muhammad Thaheem Khan, Tando Muhammad Khan drink water from a hand pump marked safe after water quality testing

Communal sources in 1,938 VO's were tested for biological and chemical contaminants. 790 sources were found to be safe. Instances of biological contamination (648 sources) were treated through chlorination and made safe for

community use. A further 500 sources were identified as chemically contaminated and considered untreatable. Construction of alternative water schemes in areas of high contamination will commence after a further round of testing

to identify safe (uncontaminated) nearby sources. For each scheme, the community will contribute at least 5% of the total cost, in cash or labour, to increase community ownership.

Chlorine Production through WATA Technology

Chlorine is highly effective in treating biological contaminants and reducing water-borne diseases. Local production of chlorine reduces its price by removing transportation, storage, and other related costs. It also improves the quality of chlorine available as it avoids degradation during transportation and storage. PINS ER-3 is implementing a pilot on community-level chlorine production in 5 union councils in Districts Sujawal, Thatta, Kambar Shahdadkot and Jamshoro. The Pakistan Council of Research in Water

Resources (PCRWR) is providing technical support in this pilot.

60 selected community members were trained in chlorine production through electrolysis using a WATA device. Community Resource Persons (CRPs), which routinely monitor water handling practices and access to safe drinking water during their household visits, promote and distribute the chlorine produced, at nominal rates to treat drinking water and for wider disinfection.



Sherbano, a chlorine entrepreneur, produces chlorine to be used to treat water for drinking using a WATA device

International Days Commemorated

Communities across 139 UCs under PINS ER-3 celebrated Global Handwashing Day and World Food Day which focused on the link between handwashing and malnutrition as well as the role of healthy diets. Participants brought something to the events to showcase how they were incorporating different food



Communities across 139 UCs celebrating Global Handwashing Day

groups, particularly seasonal and organic produce from their kitchen gardens, in their diet to improve their health. Before eating, they modelled the 10-step handwashing with soap. The events ended with community members taking a

pledge to continue their fight against malnutrition.

Similarly, 40 UCs across PINS ER-3's districts commemorated World Toilet Day in November 2019 where the importance of latrines in the

journey to eliminating malnutrition was highlighted and community members who constructed latrines spoke of the impact as a result of constructing and using a latrine to encourage a wider adoption.

Rainwater Harvesting Ponds

In areas where there are heavy rains but are prone to prolonged drought seasons, nine rainwater harvesting ponds have been rehabilitated/constructed to date (Dadu, Jamshoro and Kamber Shahdadt). A further 152 viable sites for rainwater harvesting ponds have been identified for construction in the coming year. These rainwater harvesting sites will help towards irrigating Farmer Field Schools (FFS), kitchen gardens and provide drinking water to nearby communities.



Dr Abdul Malik, Technical Officer - Aquaculture stocks a community-managed fish pond

ER-2: Improved community-level nutrition sensitive food production systems adapted to climate change in rural areas of Sindh

Farmer Field Schools

Farmer Field Schools (FFS) are participatory interactive and experiential hubs where communities improve their agriculture and livestock management knowledge and practices. The hands-on experience and community learning at local FFSs increase food diversity at both the



Aerial view of a Farmer Field School

household and community levels. 1,938 FFS have been established across 10 districts where community members are increasing their capacity in agriculture and livestock

management (e.g. kitchen gardening, poultry and livestock management, nutritional contents of vegetables, improved climate-smart cultivation practices for rice

and wheat). At the time of COVID-19 lock down, many FFSs practised community philanthropy and distributed free vegetables to local needy families.

Kitchen Gardening

As a result of regular sessions at their local FFS, PINS ER-3' communities across the 10 Districts are cultivating kitchen gardens at household level. Over 90,310 households have begun cultivating organic produce through their kitchen gardens using seeds given by PINS ER-3. This increased household access to fresh seasonal produce including tomatoes, brinjal, cauliflower, turnip, cabbage, carrot, radish, onion and cucumbers. Not only does this reaffirm their ability to grow their own food but has also built community spirit around farming and sharing within the community.



Shahida and her husband tend to their demonstration plot part of the Farmer Field School they manage at VO Ishaq Dar Khuaro, Larkana

Promoting bio-fortified wheat

Zinc deficiency is linked to stunting in children. Access to sufficient zinc within the diet of PLW and children U5 is therefore another key factor in encouraging the consumption of a nutrient-rich diet. PINS ER-3 is implementing bio-fortification technology to improve nutritional quality of wheat crops and fighting chronic zinc deficiency

prevalent in the area. As well as orientating on bio-fortified cultivation, 10 small farmers were provided Zincole, a bio-fortified wheat seed variety. A demonstration plot in each of the 10 Programme districts were also established to showcase and promote zinc-fortified wheat for wider adoption across the communities.



Muhammad Ramzan, a progressive farmer, shows off his harvest of zincole, a zinc-fortified variety of wheat

Extension services to farmers in areas prone to drought, waterlogging and salinity

Challenges like water logging and salinity reduce agricultural yields and availability of food directly affecting nutrition. These can be overcome through adaptation and improved farming techniques. PINS ER-3 has oriented over 27,812

farmers, through extension methods such as establishing 175 demonstration plots and training sessions to increase knowledge and behaviour change in farmers while 10,285 were provided financial inputs. This improves yields to ensure

food security, particularly in areas prone to drought, waterlogging and salinity. Improved adaptive cultivation methods are expected to increase crop yields and increase food diversity and security and improve nutrition.

Promotion and adoption of integrated model of rice-fish farming system in Sindh

Integrated rice fish farming is a technique of fish culture with rice which introduces fish in water-laden fields. The fish droppings act as fertilizer while the fish eat any insect pest and improve oxygen circulation around the field, increasing rice yields by up to 10%. 20 farmers in four agro-ecological suitable districts including Sujawal, Thatta, Dadu and Shikarpur introduced fish.



Rice-fish farming system using the integrated model. This technique cultures fish with rice

Improving Access to Fish through LSO-level Community Fish Ponds

PINS ER-3 is working on improving household-access to fish through 20 community-level fish ponds. This will improve dietary diversity and encourage fish consumption, an important source of essential nutrients. 10 fishponds have been constructed and are functional with the remaining 10 expected to be completed in during July/August 2020. Along with

collaborating with the Fisheries Department, Government of Sindh on the design, the field teams carried out field visits to possible sites and to meet local fish entrepreneurs for their insight. The ponds constructed are based on design approved by the Government of Sindh. To ensure that the fishponds are managed, a pair of community fish entrepreneurs (one male

and one female) have been trained on pond water management; fish farming; processing and storage; distribution among poor households; as well as forming market linkages for the sale of surplus fish. As of June 2020, all fishponds have been stocked with fish seed which is to be harvested by the end of the year.

Liaising with the Government

Two-day Learning Visit and Experience Sharing Workshop Organised in Shikarpur and Sukkur

PINS ER-3 organised a two-day learning visit and experience sharing workshop (25th - 26th October) in Shikarpur and Sukkur for members of Government of Sindh's Accelerated Action Plan which PINS ER-3 is supporting. Participants spent the first day in Shikarpur interacting with communities and observing their participation in different interventions such as paddy-fish farming, Farmer Field Schools and kitchen gardens. On the second day, an



Learning visit and experience sharing workshop (25th - 26th October) in Shikarpur and Sukkur for members of Government of Sindh's Accelerated Action Plan

experience sharing workshop was arranged where members from LSOs across Shikarpur, Larkana and Kambar Shahdadt had a chance to

talk about the strides they have taken towards better nutrition, the issues they have faced in the year of implementation and the way forward.

MoUs Signed with Government Departments

A three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Government of Sindh Livestock Department, on 1st September 2019 to benefit from its existing technical resources and expertise for the implementation of livestock and poultry-related

interventions. The MoU will also facilitate the Community Livestock Extension Workers (CLEWs) in procuring critical inputs for providing extension services such as vaccinations.

In order to provide technical assistance to implementing partners on water interventions, a five-year

Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resource (PCRWR). Along with providing on-the-job refresher sessions for field engineers, this has helped accelerate the implementation of water-related activities.

Development and implementation of an ODK App-based tracking system

PINS ER-3's Monitoring and Evaluation function developed ODK-based forms to conduct an internal assessment. 121 members of the field staff was then trained on its use in each district for tracking Programme

performance. After an initial sampled-based implementation of the tracking and assessment tool, field staff collected 2,474 forms focusing on key Programme interventions such as goat

beneficiaries, kitchen gardening, orienting progressive small farmers and latrine construction. Results and its analysis are expected to be released in July 2020.

COVID-19 Response

Raising Community Awareness on COVID-19

PINS ER-3, as a part of Sindh WASH Sector partners, actively engaged in the COVID-19 response in rural areas that it operates in with its implementing RSPs – NRSP, SRSO and TRDP. The prevention messages were designed, developed and customised by consulting active players including Local Government Department, GoS and UNICEF Pakistan. The messages were developed for both smart and cell phone users (in print and audio) in Urdu and Sindhi and were

disseminated through the field staff and members of the community institutions that PINS ER-3 works with.

Community Resource Persons (CRPs) also incorporated these messages as part of their regular community awareness sessions modifying session structure to ensure safety protocols such as reducing number of participants, wearing mask, social distancing and reiterating key hygiene messages, specifically on handwashing.



CRP delivering a session on preventive measures against COVID-19

Communities Pitch In

Agriculture Entrepreneurs (AE) harvested vegetables from demonstration plots and distributed them to families who attended sessions at their FFS. Under normal circumstances, these

vegetables would be sold but seeing as how families were finding it difficult to afford fresh vegetables and to discourage them from going to the market as part of social distancing, AEs were quick to pitch and

handed out their harvest from the FFS. Similarly, women who were given goats as part of a grant have been handing out small quantities of milk that they are able to spare to their neighbours.

PPE Distributed to Ensure Continued Implementation

To ensure that members of the field staff were able to safely carry out field activities, personal protective equipment in the form of masks and

gloves were provided along with sanitisers. Over 320,000 bars of soaps were also distributed mainly to the community, which was aligned

to a stronger emphasis on handwashing in light of public health experts' recommendations in combatting COVID-19.

CASE STUDY:

Muhammed Khan Thaheem Sets a Milestone for PINS



CRPs, Megha and Allahdino, delivering an awareness session on improving hygiene and dietary practices
* Image captured pre COVID-19 pandemic

Megha and Allahdino are cousins and were neighbours growing up in VO Muhammad Khan Thaheem, Tando Muhammad Khan. After a dialogue with their LSO (Sheikh Bhirkio) about PINS, they were selected as the Community Resource Persons for their VO, something that they took in stride having previously worked under the EU-funded Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support Programme.

'We were trained for PINS in March (2019) and it was exciting because I wanted to work for my community. Being a mother, I live for my children and knowing that so many

children in our village suffer because of their health was the motivation I needed,' said Megha who lives with her husband and two children across Allahdino's house.

Both of them surveyed the 263 households in the VO and conducted monthly community awareness sessions on improving hygiene and dietary practices. 'I conduct the session for the men and Megha holds sessions for the women. We struggled with attendance at first but in about two months, we had a full house.' Allahdino and Megha also worked proactively on developing their Village Action Plan, which has been

instrumental in motivating their community to build latrines among taking other steps like designating a spot for disposing their trash.

'It was a chance for us to collectively work on cleaning up our village and towards improving nutrition for ourselves and more importantly, our children who we want the best for,' says Allahdino, a father of four himself. Megha and Allahdino connected community members who were interested in building latrines to masons. This would incite interest in those who weren't able to and saved up.

'In a period of 7 months, we were able to motivate 120 households to build latrines which allowed every household in our VO to have access to one and stop defecating in the open,' Megha says proudly of their achievement.

Muhammed Khan Thaheem became the first VO in PINS to be certified open defecation free in October 2019 by district ODF committee lead by the Deputy Director, Local Government Department.

Muhammed Ramzan has been cultivating wheat for the past 40 years. He took the charge from his father when he turned 32 and taught his only son the way his father did. With the exception of a few years, when the flooding was bad, Ramzan's had a good yield. Given his experience and his jovial nature, he is popular among his community who often come to him for advice – crop and otherwise.

With nearly 22% of women (15 – 49) in Sindh deficient in Zinc, the European Union-funded Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh piloted zinc-fortified wheat with 1 farmer in each of the 10 districts that it operates in, providing technical assistance and zinc-fortified seeds. In Tando Muhammed Khan, Ramzan stepped up, having an interest in using new varieties and worked with the Agriculture and Food Security

Officer, Jamil, to cultivate wheat using the bio-fortified variety.

By March 2019, Ramzan had successfully harvested wheat using bio-fortified wheat which many he claims were sceptical of. 'I had many of my fellow farmers tell me that I was taking a risk and that this would not work – they are afraid of doing something different but I want what's best for my family, even if it means taking a risk', Ramzan said. He also said that the taste of wheat was no different and felt that the roti made from the wheat like how they had been before. He also reported an increase in yield – which on average has gone from 28 to 31 mounds per acre.

Like the other farmers who had volunteered to participate in the pilot, Ramzan went on to invite other farmers who had been sceptical to come and see for themselves while selling giving them seed helping to scale the number to 10 farmers who grew the bio-fortified variety.

When we spoke to Ramzan almost a year later, in February 2020, he was getting ready to harvest the new round of wheat using the seed from his previous harvest. He also told us proudly that his son was in his first semester at Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam and had been the recipient of a scholarship to pursue a

degree in crop production, 'I had encouraged him after being a part of this pilot and my son got to interact with Jamil Sb. which really piqued his interest in applying. My hope is that one day, he works for his community, helping farmers achieve the best yields.'

Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) Nutrition Specific – ER2



Donor:



EUROPEAN UNION



Names of Districts:

Shikarpur, Larkana and Kambar Shahdadkot

Implementing Partners:



Start Date:

July 2018

End Date:

June 2021

About the Project

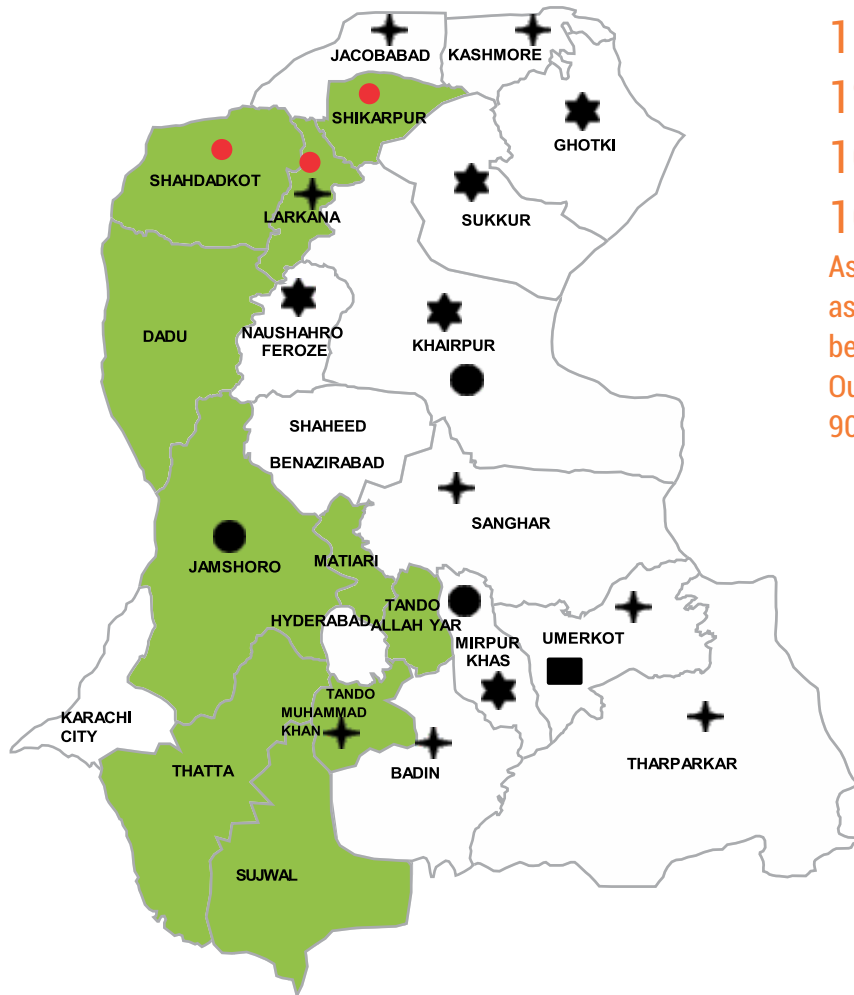
RSPN is implementing the European Union (EU) supported and Action Against Hunger (ACF) managed Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) Nutrition Specific Project in partnership with Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) in three districts of Sindh province. The

Programme's specific objectives include provision of nutrition care and treatment for children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), prevention of undernutrition in early childhood through promotion of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, prevention of micronutrient

deficiencies in women and children through provision of Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) and strengthening local capacity to integrate Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) into primary healthcare systems.

Objective of the Project

The overall objective of the intervention is to sustainably improve the nutritional status of children under five (U5) and of Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) in Sindh in-line with the second target indicator of the SDG 2.



- 1.5% reduction in wasting per annum
- 1% reduction in stunting per annum
- 100% of UCs have an active OTP
- 100% of districts have an active SC
- As per standards, supplies procured assuming 60% coverage of SAM beneficiaries
- Outreach coverage anticipated to be 90% in uncovered areas

Programs	Legends
PINS	
NSP (WB)	
Nutrition(AAP)	
Right Start	
CMAM Surge	

Community Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Keeping in view the COVID-19 situation PINS ER-2's frontline workers were provided with PPEs and they (CHWs) did not stop working for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women of their catchment/assigned areas.

Their hard work in this pandemic situation resulted in successful referral of 3510 Severely Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children to their nearby OTP sites from all three target districts followed by distribution of Multi-micro

Nutrient Powder (MNP) sachets to 53,195 (6-23 month) without SAM children and distribution of Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) tablets to 28,340 PLWs.

Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh Nutrition-Specific Component in Dadu and Jamshoro (PINS ER-2 D&J)



Donor:



EUROPEAN UNION

Implementing Partners:



Names of Districts:

Dadu and Jamshoro

Start Date:

April 2020

End Date:

September 2022



About the Programme

The European Union-funded Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh is supporting Government of Sindh's multi-sectoral Accelerated Action Plan (AAP) for Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition with the objective of reducing the stunting rate from the existing 48% to 40% by 2021 in 10 districts of Sindh. Nutrition Specific Component (ER-2) of PINS programme for Dadu and Jamshoro has been awarded to RSPN by EU. Total award value of this project is EUROs 3.0 Million and total duration is 30 months (16th April 2020 to 17th September 2022). The implementing partners include Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) and People's Primary Health Care Initiatives (PPHI) Sindh.

PINS ER-2 aims to provide 100% availability of treatment for Severely Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children (with and



Validation of CHW identification in Taluka KN Shah, Dadu

without complications) with expected uptake of 90% against expected caseload across these districts. In terms of outreach/prevention activities, PINS ER2 partners are working in LHW non-covered locations/areas. Within these locations, the intervention aims to reach 60% of the target population. The interventions are targeted at children 0 to 59

months of age and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) in order to improve the nutrition status and feeding practices of children. The intervention covers the 1000 days' window of opportunity, awareness on exclusive breastfeeding, complimentary feeding from 6 to 23 months and supporting proper feeding practices till 5 years of age.

Objectives of PINS ER-2

- To sustainably improve the nutritional status of children under five (U5) and of Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) in Sindh in line with the second target indicator of the SDG 2.
- Treatment of malnutrition in the targeted districts in health facilities supported by an outreach programme to screen children, a referral system for their follow up and a behaviour change communication programme for improved childcare, sanitation and feeding practices.

Expected Results

ER 1: Outreach enhanced to facilitate preventions/treatment of undernutrition and behaviour change activities related to direct causes and identification of undernutrition across the target communities

ER 2: Strengthened facility-based treatment through skills enhancement, regarding Severely Acute Malnutrition (SAM) as per protocols in the targeted districts and linkage to other healthcare programs

Interventions are designed to ensure the following cross-cutting themes are incorporated:

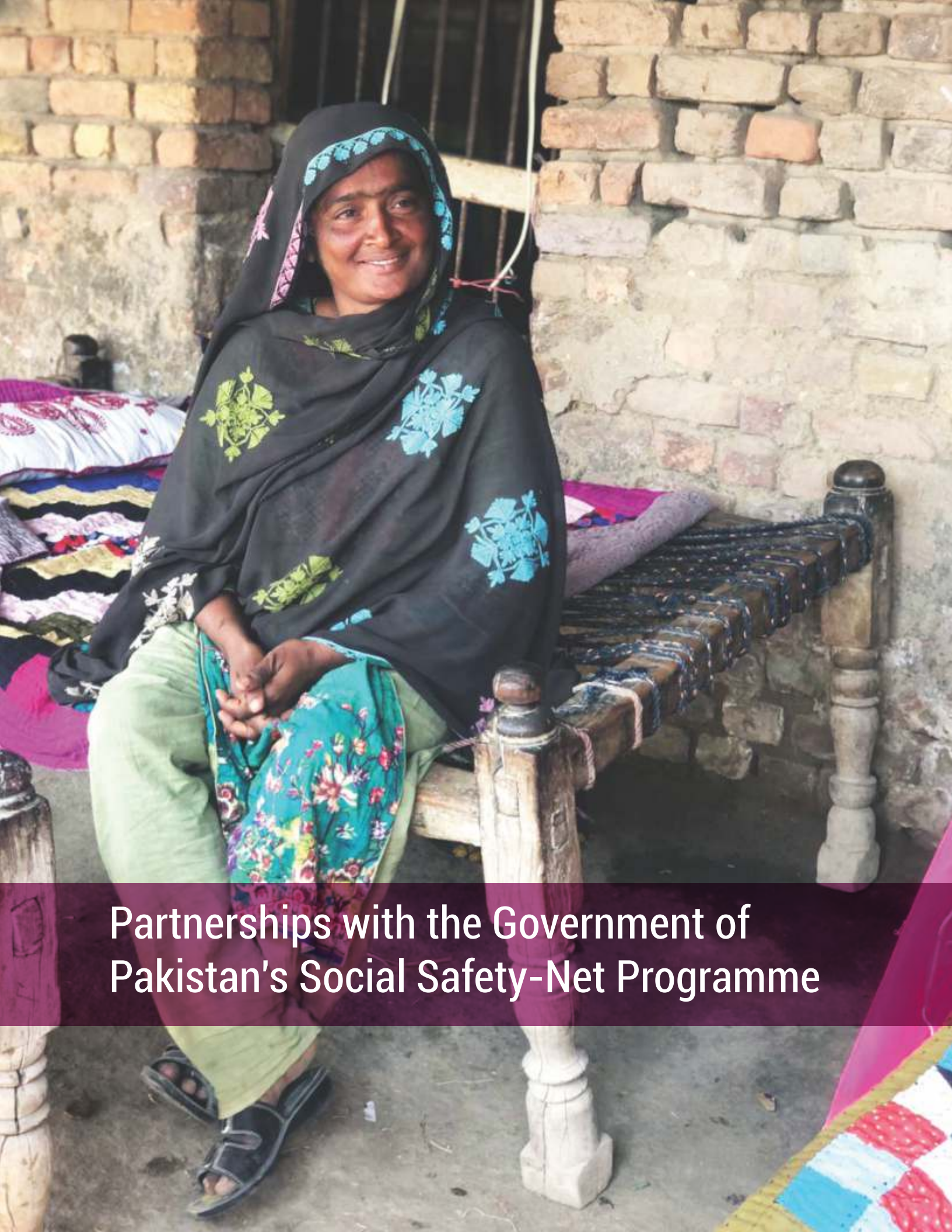
- Social Mobilisation
- A Rights-Based Approach
- Gender Integration

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

All activities and trainings under the Programme strictly followed SOPs. Given the seriousness of the pandemic, TRDP outreach team took initiative to hold awareness and demonstration sessions among community members. The sessions were arranged keeping precautionary measures like social distancing in mind. The following was part of the sessions:

1. Using boiled water at homes to avoid getting infected by water-borne diseases
2. Demonstration session on proper hand-washing practices using 7 steps for 20 seconds
3. Use of Home-made ORS and how to prepare it, in flood-affected areas of Taluka Johi in District Dadu due to lack of access to health facilities, in which 35 females participated





Partnerships with the Government of
Pakistan's Social Safety-Net Programme

Waseela-e-Taleem



BISP beneficiary under the Waseela-e-Taleem programme with her children
*Image captured pre COVID-19 pandemic

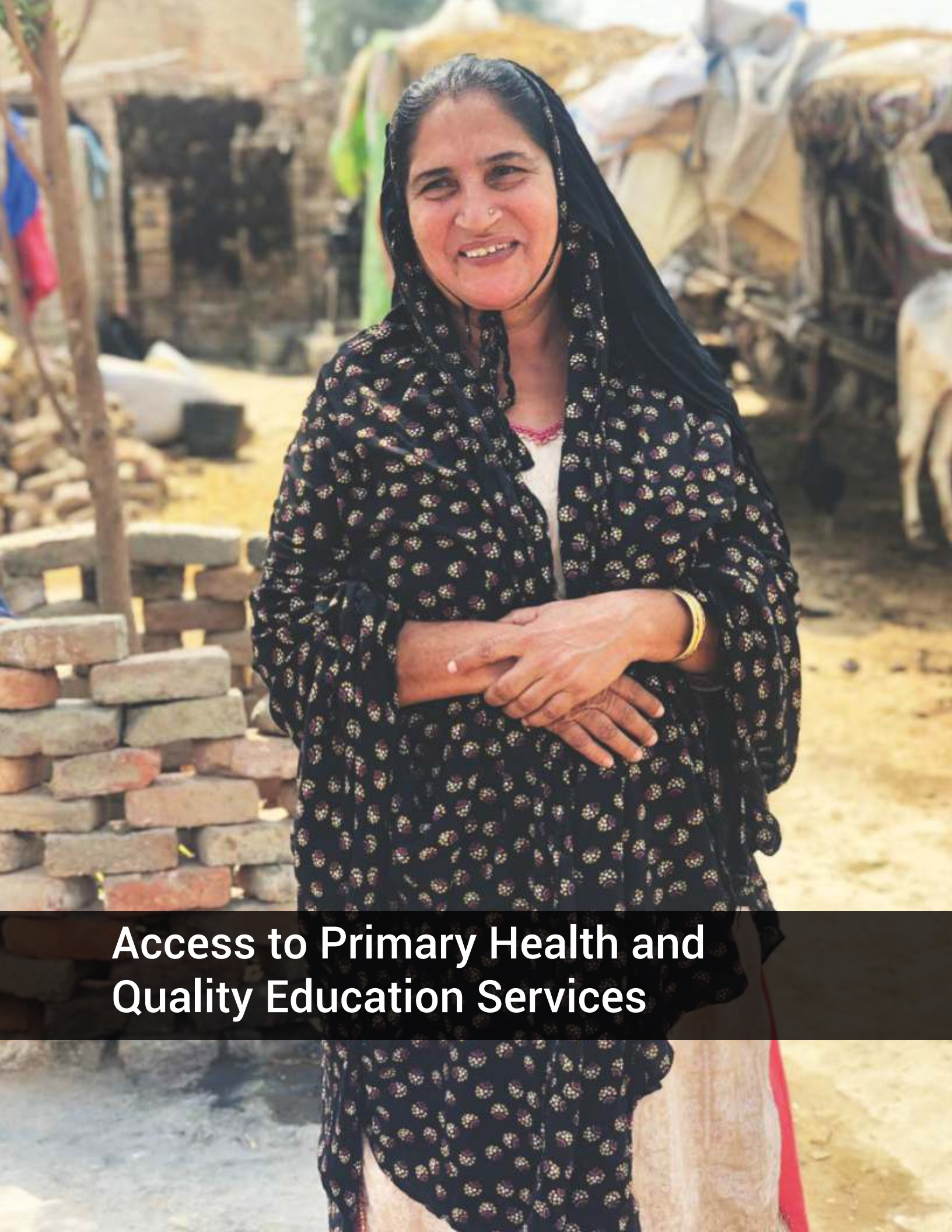
For the Benazir Income Support Programme's (BISP) Waseela e Taleem Programme (WeT), RSPN is implementing the project in two Clusters, in 18 districts. In Cluster 1 (Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkha, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir), WeT Programme is being implemented in partnership with NRSP, SRSP, and AKRSP in 10 districts. In Cluster 2 (Sindh and Balochistan), WeT Programme is being implemented with SRSO, TRDP and BRSP in eight districts. Primary school age children of BISP beneficiaries are enrolled with WeT Programme and upon 70% attendance at school their mothers receive Rs. 750 per

quarter per child. Out of school children are also enrolled in schools and with WeT Programme. This is a two-year project that began in February 2018 and is expected to register and enrol 1.6 million children between four and twelve years of age with WET Programme.

Under the initiative the children already enrolled in the schools will be registered with the WET Programme and those who are out of school will be enrolled at local schools and then will be taken on board for the benefits provided under WeT. Micro Supply Capacity Assessment (MSCA) of over 20,000 schools on the BISP Android application was conducted to identify and

map the schools.

This project also intends to mobilise 742,174 BISP beneficiary women to form BISP Beneficiaries' Committees (BBCs). The objective here is to mainstream deprived and vulnerable women into collectives for social awareness campaigns and regular meetings. The aim is to form 37,000 BBCs and 2,400 Clusters of Women Leaders. By June 30, 2019, this project has enrolled 1,330,826 children with WET Programme, organised 669,762 BISP beneficiary families in accessible, contiguous and homogenous groups to form 37,121 BBCs across the targeted districts.



**Access to Primary Health and
Quality Education Services**

Integrated Health Systems Strengthening and Service Delivery Activity



Donor:



Implementing Partners:



Names of Districts:

Charsadda, Mohmand, Lakki Marwat, Swat

Start Date:

October 2017

End Date:

June 2020

Objectives of the Project

The community component's interventions add to improving

1. Communities' access to basic health services
2. Civic engagement
3. Government accountability

About the Project

The Integrated Health Systems Strengthening and Service Delivery (IHSS-SD) Activity is a three-year, USAID-funded initiative to assist Pakistan with further consolidating and strengthening its post-devolution health system at the federal, provincial, district, and community levels. Led by John Snow Incorporated (JSI), the activity is implemented with consortium partners: Contech International, Jpiegeo, and the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN). The IHSS – SD Activity is being implemented in four target districts (Charsadda,



CRP holding a community awareness session
*Image captured pre COVID-19 pandemic

Mohmand, Lakki Marwat and Swat) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The RSPN implements the IHSS – SD

Activity's community component through its partner RSP: the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP).

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

IHSS – SD Activity has contributed exponentially by promoting hand washing with soap and distributing soaps around 125,000 enrolled students in 525 schools. Each trained teacher has also received soaps. The teachers and students received the soap in March 2020, at the time, when first cases of COVID-19 were reported in Pakistan. Thus, it has directly supported the enrolled children, teachers and their families to adopt prevention measures against COVID-19, by practicing hand washing with soap.



School children receive soap bars after an awareness session delivered on hygiene practice under the IHSS-SD activity
*Image captured pre COVID-19 pandemic

Population Services International (PSI) Supported Family Planning Programme



Women participating in zeal in a Village Health Committee session, being held in Shah Sadiq, Jhang
*Image captured pre COVID-19 pandemic

Donor:



Implementing Partners:

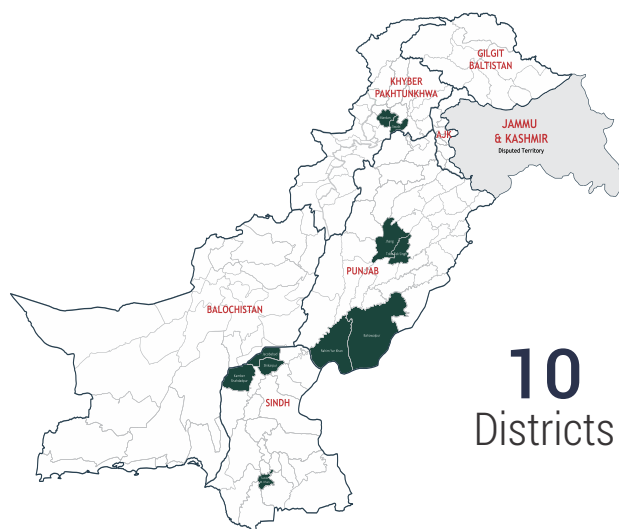


Names of Districts:

Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Rahim Yar Khan,
Bahawalpur, Mardan, Swabi, Shikarpur,
Jacobabad, Kambar Shahdadkot and Jamshoro

Start Date:
December 2017

End Date:
December 2021



10
Districts

About the Project

The PSI-Supported Family Planning Programme is a 49-month project that is being implemented by RSPN with the technical and financial assistance of Population Services International Pakistan, who in turn are a grantee under Delivering Accelerated Family Planning in Pakistan (DAFPAK). The Programme's vision is to

grow the health market and the use of sexual and reproductive health products and services so that poor and vulnerable rural communities in 10 Districts of Pakistan can improve their health.

Through the promotion and use of modern contraceptives, couples can safely plan their

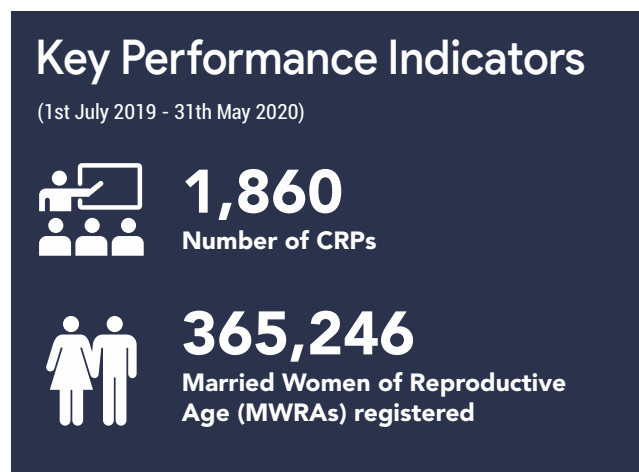
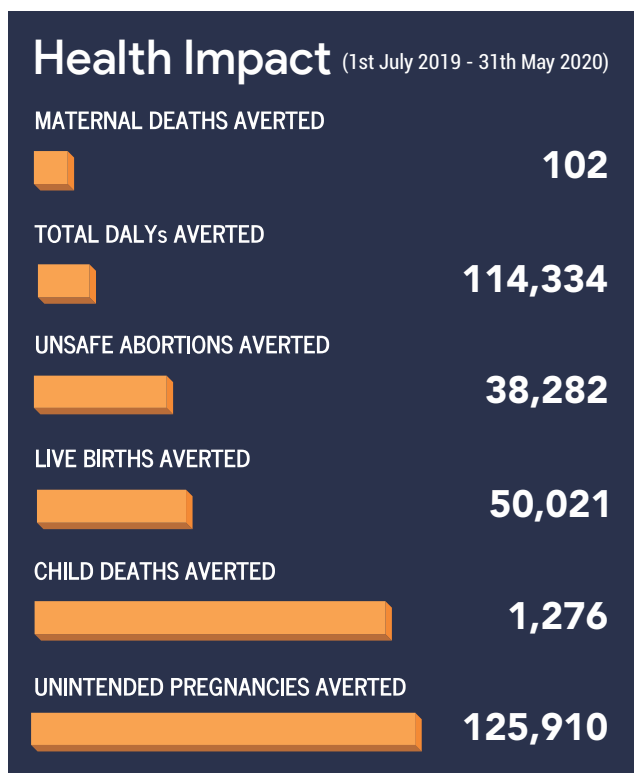
families in a manner permitting a minimum interval of three years between the birth of children, which in turn relates pregnancy-related risks for mothers and their infants. The Programme, in its 49-month life, will target a total uncovered population of 5.7 million to create 433, 541 new users of family planning services.

Response to COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Programme Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) are ensuring essential service delivery of contraceptive commodities to couples in rural communities so as to prevent

the discontinuation of family planning practices. Communities are also being sensitised on the threat of the pandemic, and preventive steps they can take to protect

themselves from COVID-19, though informative text messages and loudspeaker announcements being disseminated within the community.



Empowering Pakistani Women Through Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth



Donor:



Implementing Partners:



Names of Districts:

Punjab (Bahawalpur, Jhang, Rahim Yar Khan, TT Singh)

Sindh (Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Qamber, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allah Yar, Mitiari, Sujawal, Thatta, Larkana)

KP (Mardan and Swabi)

Start Date:

July 2018

End Date:

December 2021

Development Outcomes

Sustainable income opportunities are created, through increased revenue and enhanced skills for women retailers (JazzCash GuddiBajis) in Pakistan.

Women in Pakistan are financially included, through increased engagement with female agents (JazzCash GuddiBajis) and the use of mobile financial services.

About the Project

The project 'Empowering Pakistani Women through Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth' is working to increase women's economic opportunity and financial inclusion in Pakistan, by creating a commercially sustainable model of women retailers as mobile financial services agents. The project is a partnership between Unilever, who will support and supply the women with Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) products, RSPN, who will recruit and train the Guddi Bajis, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (Jazz), who will provide access to finance to retailers and customers via their JazzCash application, and BoP Inc, who is an expert in facilitating partnerships and developing inclusive business



A Guddi Bajji receiving everyday items to add into her basket

models with micro-entrepreneurs. RSPN's implementing partners in this project are National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) & Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO). The development objective is to create decent employment and income for 3,000 women retailers in 10 districts in Pakistan and to expand the

financial inclusion of women in Pakistan. The project is expected to grow exponentially after the life of the project to create increased income opportunities for 15,000 women and advance progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The project began on July 13th, 2018 and will be actively funded till December 31st, 2021.

The project targets the following SDGs:



SDG 8: As women retailers become JazzCash, GuddiBajis, they will increase their revenue, creating sustainable income opportunities and contributing to economic growth in Pakistan.



SDG 5: As JazzCash GuddiBajis interact with women customers, women will have greater opportunity to access and use mobile financial services, providing equal opportunity for financial inclusion and ultimately increasing financial security, prosperity and empowerment of women.



SDG 17: As the network of JazzCash GuddiBajis expands, Women's World Banking will demonstrate the business rationale for commercial partners, further promoting private sector partnerships in the financial inclusion space. For Unilever, this business rationale will be demonstrated through the growth of their distribution in rural areas, through the expanded GuddiBajji network. For Jazz, this business rationale will be demonstrated through increased numbers of women customers and activity by women customers, due to interaction with the female agents.



Special Initiatives

Saaf Sehatmand Services



Donors/Partners:



Implementing Partners:



Names of Districts:

10 Districts of Punjab

Start Date:

April 2019

End Date:

Initially it is a 5 years plan, may continue as required

Saaf Sehatmand Services Pvt. Limited (SSS) is a private limited company with a lean management team headed, initially by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from one of the product partners on pro bono basis for the first two years. A Business Manager and a team of Territory Managers and Officers will offer support. There are two types of stakeholders in SSS; product partners and social partners. All product partners are contributing equity in SSS, whereas, social partners have contributed both equity and act as facilitators. The social partners include the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) as an equity partner and facilitators or community outreach organisations such as Akhuwat, Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP) and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP). While RSPN, being a network of Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) is

connecting SSS to Punjab Rural Support Programme and National Rural Support Programme who have a wide base of Local Support Organisations (LSOs) in villages of Punjab and henceforth access to the customer base/markets. On the other hand, Akhuwat, will be the custodian of the revolving fund to be set up to fulfil the working capital needs of Aapas (the rural women entrepreneurs). The functions of SSS are to: identify and develop new markets; identify, facilitate and manage rural women entrepreneurs; arrange working capital for women, facilitate distributors and carry out marketing and sales related activities. The major reason for limited outreach of Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCGs) distribution channels to rural areas is the challenge of distribution of products at the village shops due to unfavourable economies of

scale. Though SSS business is to fundamentally replicate the business model tested by Reckitt Benckiser (RB) and partners, and scale this up across rural areas in the Punjab and other provinces of Pakistan, where viable demand exists.

The pilot project, by Reckitt Benckiser, was implemented in 12 UCs (27 villages) of Sargodha and Narowal districts in order to reach to over 19,000 households. The pilot project demonstrated the potential of this business model and for its wider replication. It also showcased that the business model significantly impacted the lives of Aapas by empowering and enabling them to earn an income of their own. The initial replication of the business model by SSS will be in the same two pilot districts.

Our Objectives

- i) Analyse, map and harness demand for hygiene products in rural areas to improve health and hygiene conditions;
- ii) Extend FMCGs supply chain to rural areas by training and deploying village level women entrepreneurs (known as Bari Aapas (BA) and Sehat Aapas (SA));
- iii) Contribute to women's empowerment through sustainable livelihood and income generating opportunities.

There are more than 20 million rural households in Pakistan and most of these areas are underserved by formal FMCG's distribution channels; rather, they are either served through informal distribution channels or buy counterfeit products. Counterfeit products generally have inferior quality ingredients which are detrimental to health and may cause serious damage to the physical well-being of the rural population. Initially, SSS plans to reach more than 1 million households in 10 districts of rural Punjab over next 5 years by deploying around 800 Bari Aapas and 4,800 Sehat Aapas. The profits earned by SSS will firstly be used for expansion/outreach to households beyond 1.2 million. However, if profits beyond expansion needs are available, these may be distributed by shareholders.

The Reckitt Benckiser, Shan Foods, Shield, Santex and EBM, with support from the UK

Department for International Development (DFID) funded Business Innovation Facility (BIF) began exploring the health and hygiene market in selected rural areas, and created a basket of products focusing on health, hygiene and nutrition. The basket of quality products will be sold door-to-door through a network of local women entrepreneurs (Bari Aapas overseeing Sehat Aapas), who will earn profit on all sales.

Initially, product partners have including 17 products in the basket - soap, salt, women sanitary napkins, baby feeders, napkins, toothpastes and toothbrushes, recipe mixes, spices, Dettol and energy biscuits. Later more high-demand products can be to the basket for sale to the rural households. SSS' Territory Officers are responsible for facilitation of distribution to goods to Bari Aapas at the Union Council level. These Bari

Aapas act as local wholesalers, and then distribute goods to Sehat Aapas at the village. Sehat Aapas then make door-to-door visits to rural households within their catchment areas to make sales and earn profit.

Another key role of SSS is to promote and contribute to women empowerment, especially of Bari Aapas and Sehat Aapas. As their socio-economic status improves, they will become local role models by demonstrating that women can run micro businesses with double bottom line; profit and social good. Income in the hands of women is usually spent on the wellbeing of family members, particularly children. Consumers will have access to quality products at same rates as in urban markers. Products will contribute to improved health and hygiene of household customers of Sehat Aapas.

Total # of Bari Aapas enrolled are 10



45

Sehat Aapas



3

Districts reached



12587

HH reached

Improving Adolescents' Lives in Pakistan

Donor:



Implementing Partners:



Names of Districts:

Ghotki & Khaipur

Start Date:

January 2018

End Date:

December 2019

Improving Adolescents' Lives in Pakistan was an IKEA Foundation and UNICEF funded project which was implemented by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and its partner organisation Sind Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) in Sindh province of Pakistan. The project began in January 2018 and ended in December 2019. The geographical area of the project covered districts Ghotki and Khaipur, covering 44 union councils (17 in Ghotki and 27 in Khaipur) and 191 revenue villages (84 in Ghotki and 107 in Khaipur), ensuring intervention with 11% of the population in the two districts. The project activities centred around enabling adolescents to have increased access to and use of information, enhanced confidence and avenues to



form and express their opinions. Parents and communities under this project were also capacitated to understand adolescents' rights, support their realisation and access community-based structures that strengthen the protective environment around them. Such awareness among the adolescent age groups, parents and community leaders/influencers helped mitigate the exclusion of adolescents in socio-economic spheres in terms of their participation against vulnerability to violence, neglect and exploitation. The project also helped create much needed awareness regarding early child marriage, teenage pregnancies and girls' education.

Under this project, RSPN established 270 adolescent and youth groups (131 boys and 139 girls) along with identifying and training 2000 adolescent champions on Life Skill Based Education toolkit. By using the LSBE toolkit, these adolescent champions conducted trickle sessions with a total of 61,194 adolescents (30,077 adolescent boys and 31,117 girls). These sessions have given confidence to both girls and boys to talk to their peers and family members about their rights with regards to protection from early marriages and girls' education. These champions, through dialogues, helped enrol 173 adolescents (43 boys and 130

girls) to the Accelerated Learning Programme.

In addition, 1,200 (600 Men and 600 Women) Key Community Influencers were trained and they conducted 1,258 dialogues with parents regarding protection of adolescents against early age marriages. Furthermore, other activities under the project included celebration of international days and street theatres performances to raise awareness against child marriages. Inter-generational dialogues were also organised to discuss issues of child rights with 11,332 community members of which 2,866 girls and 2,950 boys participated.

Furthermore, a total of 100 boys and 100 girls have been provided the opportunity to attend vocational and skills trainings and have been provided initial support to start their businesses. The KCIs and trained Adolescent champions with support from the community have also taken actions to stop or postpone 162 cases of forced/early child marriages. From the catchment area of the programme, a total of 2,872 married adolescents/youths have been registered (1,980 girls and 892 boys) and all of them have been provided information about birth spacing and available contraception choices and were given services through outreach camps organised with



the Population Welfare Department.

At the end of the project, a provincial level experience sharing workshop was organised in Karachi. Participants included selected adolescent champions and their parents, KCIs and government officials including representatives from the labour department, child protection units and youth and sports ministry. During this workshop, overall progress of the project, material developed by adolescent champions and key lessons were shared with participants. Through this platform, adolescent champions presented policy recommendations to government officials for effective policy development.

Recommendations are as under

1. Child Protection Department should be made responsible for attending meetings of LSOs regularly to reinforce messages on Child protection and take note of issues raised by communities related to child and adolescent rights
2. Education is key to empower adolescents and is helpful in delaying child marriages. In Sindh, many of adolescent and young people do not have access to education, hence it is recommended that Government of Sindh should launch an emergency programme on Accelerated Learning Programme where out of school adolescents (boys and girls) should be enrolled
3. LSBE should be made part of school curriculum and for out of school children and adolescents, government should work with Communities and NGOs like SRSO to scale up LSBE programme
4. LSBE should also include sessions on child rights as well as Reproductive Health Rights of adolescents and young people
5. Health Department and Population Welfare Department should make their health facilities adolescent and youth friendly. In addition, both departments should work with Community Institutions (COs, VOs and LSOs) to organise outreach camps in rural areas where newly married adolescents can access Reproductive Health Services.
6. In order to gain full benefit from a large young population, there is a need to provide opportunities for employable skills to young people, their placement in private sector for jobs or provide support to start their own business.

Social Mobilisation



Social mobilisation is the process that leads to fostering of Community Institutions (CIs). This is a dynamic and participatory process of empowering people, especially the poor and socially excluded, for their socio-economic and political upliftment in a sustained manner. Once CIs have been fostered, then the poor households are enabled begin to identify, prioritise, plan and think about their developmental needs jointly. Community Institutions are formed on the following three-tiered structure:

- i. Organising 15-20 households into Community Organisations (COs) at neighbourhood or muhalla level;
- ii. Federating COs into Village Organisations (VOs) at village level, and;
- iii. Federating VOs into Local Support Organisations (LSOs) at Union Council (UC) level.



Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest public health challenge the world has faced in recent history. In Pakistan, the pandemic initially hit the cities, however, it gradually started spreading in the rural areas of the country as well forcing the government to initiate a lockdown. Awareness raising messages were not reaching the rural areas as fast as the pandemic. At this critical time, it was CIs, in the form of COs, VOs and LSOs that played a critical part in combating this disaster.

CIs initially, through their own resources and later on in collaboration and support of external agencies began helping the poor households. With the technical support of RSPs, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) from CIs started to provide awareness to community members on the pandemic, while maintaining COVID-19 SOPs. They used platforms like the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions to educate the community about safeguarding and preventive measures.

Some communities used their collective saving to buy ration for the poorest members. Others collected funds from well off families to buy ration for the vulnerable families.

During the initial days of COVID-19 spread, face masks were not available in market. Therefore, the community members, trained by RSPs in tailoring, started stitching cloth face masks and distributing them among poorest community members free of cost and to others on low prices. Some LSOs used CO savings to buy cloth in bulk for preparing face masks. In a few cases, the police also bought face masks from the LSOs. Some communities bought soaps from their own contribution and distributed among those members who could not afford soap. Members of CIs managing Farmer Field Schools in 10 districts of Sindh distributed vegetables to the needy households. The CIs also did a great job in helping registering the eligible poor families under the “Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme” and the “Ehsaas Ration Programme”.

As part of the COVID-19 response, RSPN and RSPs are working closely with the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to spread awareness about preventive measures. Under this collaboration, RSPs are undertaking awareness raising activities in 1,500 LSOs across Pakistan. At the district level,

RSPs and District Administration have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to implement the social mobilisation component of the Tracing, Testing and Quarantine (TTQ). Under this, the trained community leaders and CRPs are undertaking awareness raising component, distributing IEC material, arranging face-masks and soaps for communities, assisting the authorities in identification of suspected cases, contact tracing of suspected cases in their respective areas, and also helping government in disinfecting community places (mosques, streets, etc.) and doing door to door campaigns. Messages through FM radio, local cable network, mobile, announcement from mosques and loudspeakers, banners, billboards and posters are used for communication with the financial and technical help of RSPs and donors.

The RSPs are also linking the organised communities with the corporate sector to combat the pandemic. Unilever Pakistan provided 40,000 soaps for hand washing to RSPN; 30,000 soaps were given to National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and 10,000 soaps to Sarhad Rural Support

Programme (SRSP) for distribution to the communities in-line with developed and transparent criteria. Similarly, TRDP distributed 4,000 cartons of biscuits among some 16,599 poorest families, widows and orphans in its programme districts of Tharparkar, Umerkot and Jamshoro with the support of English Biscuit Manufacturers (Pvt) Ltd.

SMRT Meetings:

The Social Mobilisation Resource Team (SMRT) comprises senior social mobilisation staff of RSPs and RSPN. SMRT discusses social mobilisation challenges and opportunities, proposes solutions, agrees upon standards across the board and shares best practices for lessons learning and scaling up.

During the year, RSPN arranged three meetings of SMRT. Pre-COVID pandemic, the meetings discussed feedback from the RSPs on the key findings of the following research: SUCCESS Mid-term Review, Micro Health Insurance, Working of Joint Development Committees (JDCs) and RSPN's Beneficiary Safeguarding Policy. Feedback was also acquired on:

- Anti-money Laundering/ Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)
- Compliance requirements and implications for Social

Mobilisation and CIF

- Urdu Quaida with Social Mobilisation and Community Development Terms and Illustrations developed by NRSP
- Value Chain Development in PPRP
- Assessment of Immediate Results of new CMST module
- Key findings of the 2nd round of Institutional Maturity Index (IMI) Exercise in SUCCESS Programme, Sindh

The third SMRT meeting was conducted via Zoom in June 2020. The meeting discussed the impact of COVID-19 on social mobilisation activities i.e. CI meetings, savings, CIF/loan recovery, linkages with government and other agencies, and implementation of VO/LSO development and local plans; impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable families, in terms of economic hardships, health issues, education of children etc. and mitigation measures the communities are adopting to face these challenges. It also discussed challenged of the field staff in implementing programme activities and steps to address these challenges.

Gender and Development

RSPN and partner RSPs are committed to empowering rural women by supporting their socio-economic progress and helping them graduate out of poverty through our various projects and interventions. RSPN is working with over four million rural women in 8,412,543 organised households across Pakistan and 523,452 are working as women community

leaders managing community village groups. These women are imparted knowledge in leadership skills, community organisation and management through different trainings. These women leaders are active and at the forefront to represent their communal issues at government forums. These women collectively raise their voice to resolve their critical

issues of development and women's rights. They are taking charge of their own lives and actively participating in household and community affairs, and work for betterment of others. During the pandemic lockdown, women-led LSOs remained active to access food bags (ration), cash support, safety products, for poorest of the poor.

Response to COVID-19

The GRG consists of Gender Focal Persons from RSPs and was set up by RSPN to discuss and highlight gender issues and challenges of communities and RSPs staff. This forum also shares best practices and new initiatives on gender, women rights and development for lesson learning and scaling up. In this year three meetings were organised in which GRG members visited two programme area of BRSP and SRSO. The feedback shared included:

- RSPs should continue process of gender sensitisation of CRPs, LSO executive body members and male relatives of women Community Institution members
- Regularisation of women staff meeting and sharing with senior management

- Women representation in LSOs, women CRPs and facilitation and productive women vocational trainings, strengthening gender aspect in LSOs, women saving and safe utilisation, changing social behaviour and roles through trainings, ensure harassment free work environment etc.

"Impact of COVID-19 on Rural Women's Lives":

A special meeting was held where GRG members presented the findings on "Impact of COVID 19 on Rural Women's Lives". The GRG members shared that women, children and vulnerable adults in the community have been adversely affected economically, emotionally and health-wise. To make ends meet, women have had to take loans from landlords and shop keepers. It is expected that to

recover financially from the economic hardships there will be an increase in the dropout rates of school-going girls, who might be redirected to the domestic labour industry. Women's mobility in rural areas was restricted due to non-availability of transport and women couldn't access health facilities to deliver babies and for ante-natal check-ups. This has increased the workload for women and young girls i.e. more cooking, cleaning, washing. It was reported that both domestic and sexual abuse has increased, as has violence against children. Other issues discussed were stigmatisation of COVID-19 recovered patients. These findings and recommendations of GRG were presented to RSPN Board and shared with senior management for appropriate actions.

Technical Support to Special Programmes/Projects

BRACE Gender Guidelines for Programme Implementation

RSPN conducted a gender situation analysis and develop gender guidelines for BRACE Programme interventions. This document highlights issues and challenges RSPs faced to include women in Programme activities. This included recommendations on women participation in social mobilisation activities and income generating activities i.e. Community Investment Funds (CIF)/Income Generating Grants (CIF/IGG), Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET), Adult Literacy and Numeracy Centres (ALNC), women participation in capacity building trainings, women's involvement in CPIs.

Gender Review of Institutional Maturity Index (IMI) for BRACE project

A review of gender IMI was carried out and recommended to add gender indicators and mechanisms to measure quality and performance of women's organisations, gender sensitivity and focus on women inclusion in development work in LSOs.

Technical Support in finalisation BRSP Gender Policy

RSPN closely work with BRSP to review and finalise gender policy and action plan. The action plan included gender mainstreaming support structure in the organisation, ensuring safe and harassment free workplace environment, gender sensitive organisational policies and programme management cycle, gender equality aspects at community level, networking and campaigns. RSPN also extended its technical support in making recruitment process gender sensitive i.e. to include gender questions in interview evaluation, exit interview form etc.

Community Resource Persons (CRP) Dropout Study under SUCCESS project

A study was carried out to see the reasons of CRP turn over and to suggest ways and means for corrective measures. In SUCCESS Programme, all CRPs are women of 20-30 age group. The drop out reason were high travel cost, mobility issues, low literacy of women to maintain records, male dominance to seek permission to complete their work, cultural and social challenges for working, women's reproductive roles and timings issues etc. The study was presented to project oversight committee at the Board level for further action.

Policy Advocacy and Networking Under Gender and Development

a. Collaboration with Potohar Organisation for Development Advocacy (PODA) on International Rural's Women Day

RSPN and the European Union funded SUCCESS programme collaborated on the Annual Conference on Rural Women Day with Potohar Organisation for Development Advocacy (PODA). This year the 12th Annual Conference on Rural Women's Day took place on October 15-17, 2019 in Islamabad under the theme "Synergising Rural Women Leadership for Rights-Based Development".

This year RSPN and SUCCESS, is hosted a panel session on "Rural Women taking Charge through Social Mobilisation; Success, Lessons and Challenges". The discussion on the first day of the conference featured Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Chairperson Ms Nuzhat Shirin, RSPN Chairman Mr Shoaib Sultan Khan, RSPN CEO Ms Shandana Khan, NRSP CEO Dr Rashid Bajwa, SUCCESS Programme Manager, RSPN's Programme Officer of Gender and Development and women leaders/beneficiaries working with RSPs all over Pakistan.

b. International campaign "16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls"

Each year, RSPN and RSPs celebrate the international campaign on 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls (25 November to 10 December).

This year, BRSP in collaboration with Women Development Department hosted a launching ceremony on 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls on November 25th, 2019 attended by the Secretary of Women Development Department, Director General Social Welfare and other stakeholders. BRSP also hosted awareness sessions and gender sensitisation trainings for staff and community village organisation members (women and men) in district Loralai and Khuzdar.

NRSP received the Human Rights Award 2019 from Human Rights Observer for advancing the women rights agenda in the rural communities. NRSP also collaborated with White Ribbon Campaign and organised awareness sessions on Gender based Violence (GBV) in district Mianwali, Rahimyar Khan, D.G Khan, Rajanpur and Turbat.

RSPN organised trainings with auxiliary, support and professional staff on gender sensitisation and anti-sexual harassment law "The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010". Women staff meetings were conducted to ensure conducive work environment for all women and men. RSPN setup and inaugurated a in-house child day care facility to facilitate women staff.

RSPN has been implementing the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law since it was passed in 2010. RSPN participated in an event organised by *Mehergarh*, to review the success and challenges in implementation of this law since it was passed. RSPN shared its progress, efforts and challenges to make workplace conducive and harassment free.

Research & Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation

RSPN's Research and Knowledge Management (RKM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) section works closely with the RSPs for the purpose of promoting evidence-based learning. This is critical for programme improvements over time and serves as an important input into policies that impact the poor in the long run. These functions are integrated into the programming cycle to enhance the implementation

and achievement of outcomes and impact from current programmes and projects as well as the design of future programmes and projects. This section's work includes technical and institutional support to RSP M&E sections, research and M&E systems improvement, putting in place project monitoring and management information systems for projects managed by RSPN and executed by the RSPs, and working with RSPs

to develop tools to assess medium and long term impact through designing and implementation of impact assessments, evaluations, participatory action research, case studies, and institutional maturity index exercises. All the RKM and M&E exercises are results-oriented and include assessments of the relevance, performance and success of RSPN and RSP development interventions.

Strengthening RSP M&E Systems and Capacities

M&E Resource Group: RSPN coordinated a Monitoring and Evaluation Resource Group (MERG) consisting of technical experts on research and M&E from all RSPs. The main aim of this ongoing strategic platform is to review RSPs' monitoring, evaluation and research related initiatives; share learning experiences along-with imparting new skills and knowledge of improved systems to the RSPs. During the reporting period, RKM and M&E section organised one MERG meeting in Islamabad on 26th February 2020.

M&E Support to RSPs: RSPN's RKM and M&E section continued to facilitate and

provide technical assistance to RSPs in strengthening their M&E systems and capacities during the year 2019-20. Technical monitoring and evaluation frameworks along-with toolkits were developed and operationalised for all major projects and development initiatives including EU-funded PINS, BRACE and SUCCESS Programmes. RSPN has also developed and operationalised the project monitoring plans for the DFID-PSI funded DAFPAK, USAID-JSI financed IHSS, BISP supported Waseela-e-Taleem and NSER initiatives to ensure that the project is delivered efficiently, and the outcomes

and impact are measured and reported in a timely manner. Additional assistance was provided to RSPs for conducting baseline surveys, rapid assessments, tracking and reporting against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). In this regard, RSPN has organised several capacity building sessions for RSPs on M&E, impact evaluation design, IMI and knowledge management components of projects during the reporting period.

Revision in Log frames of EU-funded Programmes: RSPN facilitated the EU's Results Review team and RSPs in revising the log frames of

PINS-ER3, SUCCESS and BRACE Programmes and made it compatible with the EU's PCM guidelines of 2004 and OPSYS as well. RSPN M&E also facilitated the EUD-PAK in pilot testing of OPSYS by aligning the PINS global log frame with the results framework and then updated the system through an input of details on overall objective, specific objective and expected results. Furthermore, baseline values along-with targets, source of verification, timeline and assumptions were also added into the system. For this action, EUD-PAK provided an access to RSPN to the system for attending orientation webinars and use the information system for the input of PINS log frame.

Technical Assistance for Reporting Performance of COVID-19 Response Initiatives:

RSPN provided core support to projects in establishing mechanisms for collecting and analysing the overall COVID-19 response indicators against planned actions to ensure accountability and transparency in monitoring and reporting progress. RSPN also collaborated with the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) working in villages on the social mobilisation strategy for awareness raising about COVID-19 and the government's the TTQ (Trace, Track and Quarantine) strategy.

International Collaboration on Evaluation and Research:

RSPN collaborated with the University of Mannheim (UM) and its Centre for Evaluation and Development (C4ED) in Germany, in 2015 concerning cooperation in M&E, research and knowledge management for development specific to poverty, participatory development and rural development programmes in Pakistan. UM and C4ED have a robust relationship with RSPN, and in particular with the EU-funded SUCCESS and BRACE Programmes. They are providing technical assistance to RSPN on action research and strengthening evaluation component of the SUCCESS and BRACE Programmes since its inception on "gratis basis". They have provided technical support to RSPN in finalisation of the approach and methodology for BRACE socio-economic baseline surveys implemented through third-party consultants by BRSP and NRSP. During the reporting period, they have assisted RSPN in finalisation the approach and methodology for the midline surveys. This entire technical support will be continued in the subsequent financial year for undertaking the midline socio-economic surveys to RSPN, BRSP and NRSP.

Institutional Maturity Index

(IMI): RKM and M&E team has also developed IMI tools and

guidelines for assessing the maturity of randomly selected representative community institutions (COs/VOs/LSOs) fostered under EU-funded BRACE and SUCCESS Programmes. The second round of IMI surveys in SUCCESS Programme and the first phase of similar exercise under BRACE Programme successfully completed in the reporting year of 2019-20.

International Training on Impact Evaluation Design:

RSPN's M&E section mandated by RSPs to facilitate, capacitate and provide technical assistance to RSPs in strengthening their M&E systems through various strategic initiatives. RSPN assisted NRSP, UM and C4ED (Germany) in designing an 'International Training on Impact Evaluation Design' and the first round was held in Germany in October 2017. Subsequently, the senior colleagues working in M&E and programme implementation components of NRSP, SRSO and RSPN attended the second round of the training in Germany in November 2018. To continue this strategic partnership with UM and C4ED in research, M&E and capacity development- the third round of the training was scheduled in the reporting period, however the activity is postponed to the subsequent year due to global prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic.

Impacts and Evaluations (Internal and Third Party)

PINS Impact Evaluation: RSPN with technical assistance of University of Mannheim (UM) and Centre for Evaluation and Development (C4ED), Germany has developed an impact evaluation design for the EU-funded Nutrition Sensitive Component of the Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS ER-3). A quasi-experimental approach to impact evaluation, without the random assignment to treatment or control, is adopted to estimate the causal impact of PINS ER-3 interventions on target population. The control Union Councils (UCs) are taken from Government of Sindh's Accelerated Action Plan (AAP) sub-districts where delayed implementation was scheduled. A 'Difference-in-Difference' approach, combined with propensity score matching is adopted in the design. Using a before, midlevel and after intervention design, the evaluation will measure overall development impact in the programme areas.

In 2019, RSPN, with the support of UM and C4ED, conducted a third-party baseline survey covering about 5,000 randomly selected households (2,500 in treatment and 2,500 comparison group) from all 10 programme districts before PINS ER-3 was

rolled out. During the reporting period, RSPN closely worked with the UM and C4ED and finalised all the arrangements for the midline survey of PINS ER3. As per the project timelines and evaluation design revised in light of reviewed log frame by EU's Result Review (RR) team, the midline survey will be conducted in 2020-21 and the end-line will be conducted in 2022 after the completion of all programme interventions.

Internal Assessment of BRACE Programme's Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills (ALNS)

Intervention: RSPN undertaken an internal assessment of the ALNS component of the BRACE Programme during the reporting period. The main aim of this internal assessment was to gauge the immediate results from this intervention being implemented with women, how this component is empowering women and document the social and economic outcomes of this training. Initially, three districts ie Khuzdar, Loralai and Kech (Turbat) were selected for the study, however due to COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on travel and public gatherings, the team only able to implement the study in Khuzdar district. This qualitative study utilised the method of Focus Group

Discussions (FGDs) with two women groups and in-depth semi-structured interviews conducted with six women who attended the ALNS centres. The team also interviewed three Community Resource Persons (CRPs), a teacher and held FGDs with 38 village women. Key findings from this internal assessment will be shared in the first Policy Advocacy Workshop will be organised in September 2020.

BRACE and PINS ER3 MTRs:

EU has commissioned MTRs during the reporting for each PINS ER3 and BRACE Programmes, separately. The BRACE MTR has started its inception phase activities and RSPN in coordination with BRSP and NRSP, facilitated the MTR team during Apr-May 2020 in formulation of a detailed methodological design and the inception report. Similarly, RSPN has initiated an internal participatory self-assessment for the PINS ER3 as an internal assessment of the past performance, paying particular attention to the results of the programme against its objectives and key lessons and recommendations in order to improve current programme and to further guide the development, implementation and strengthening of the policy environment. During the

subsequent reporting period of 2020-21, the RSPN will continue to facilitate these external evaluations under BRACE and PINS ER3 by

participating in inception and programme review meetings, ensuring provision of monitoring data, research reports and policy briefs,

reports of internal and external assessments, documentaries, case studies, and event reports as means of verification.

Research and Documentation

SUCCESS Research

Component: The research team at RSPN continues to collect, document, analyse, publish and disseminate insights about poverty dynamics. A quasi-experimental design of Randomised Control Trial (RCT) has been set up in two union councils of Tando Allahyar district aims to quantify the impact of the SUCCESS programme on access to information and services, and civic engagement; women empowerment; economic welfare; and social cohesion.

After the first socio-economic baseline survey of 2016, the second survey as midline has been launched in January 2020. As part of the research design, this survey is repeated with the randomly selected 2,300 households, to track changes in the socio-economic indicators of the households and overall household poverty dynamics. This study compares midline outcomes of 12 Village organisations (VOs) that are treated by the SUCCESS Programme interventions with the 11 VOs

that are lately treated by the SUCCESS Programme. The research tools are reviewed and revised in collaboration with University of Mannheim, Germany and Lahore School of Economics. A pre-analysis plan of the data is configured to further improve the RCT in the research UCs. This allowed the team to improve the data collection and questionnaire in the midline. The data collection firm engaged in February 2020, successfully completed the assignment's inception phase and expected to start the field data collection in July once the lockdown is completely eased and travelling to the field is allowed.

Moreover, during this reporting period the subsequent follow-up survey was launched, changes were tracked using 90 dimensions to socio-economic status of 20 households. The data from the follow-ups is utilised to inform the poverty reduction discourse and to provide instant feedback for real-time course correction in the SUCCESS programme.

Another study under the thematic/sectoral study

planned this year includes assessment on the approach and impact of financial access interventions of SUCCESS Programme on poor households. The overarching objective of this study is to assess the CIF, IGG and Community Saving components in achieving its objectives and contributing to the overall impact of the programme with the purpose of documenting learnings for wider dissemination and accountability of the stakeholders implementing the programme. During the reporting period the ToR for this study was prepared, launched the call for proposal and selected the consultant firm through a competitive bidding in June 2020. The consultant firm will complete its inception phase activities including preparation of inception report, hiring and training of field teams, formulating and pre-testing of data collection tools by August and start field data collection from September 2020.

BRACE Research Component:

RSPN has developed a research framework for EU-funded BRACE Programme that serves as a guiding document and calendar of research activities over the programme life and describes in detail the logic and rationale of the research activities to be conducted. In this regard, a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has been formulated with membership from LG&RD Department of Govt. of Balochistan, RSPs, RSPN, the EU-TA for BRACE and Department of Anthropology of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. RAC serves as guiding and advisory committee for the overall research component of the BRACE Programme throughout its implementation period so that required evidence-based policy recommendations are generated and disseminated to inform the development of local development policy framework for Balochistan.

Two out of three, Participatory Action Research (PAR) studies i.e. "Dynamics of household poverty in Balochistan" and "Dynamics of inclusive development with focus on women empowerment and gender issues" have been initiated while the third study will commence in subsequent reporting period. RSPN has developed a brief research design for the first longitudinal

study successfully carried out in Loralai, Khuzdar and Kech (Turbat) districts through a third-party consulting firm during the reporting period. Initial findings from these studies are available in the form of policy and research briefs to inform the design of appropriate poverty reduction interventions for Balochistan. The first round of Policy Advocacy Workshop will be organised in September 2020 to share the findings and recommendations from the first wave of this longitudinal study. This information will be instrumental in advocacy with relevant stakeholders, policy makers and donors for developing the community-led development framework for Balochistan and scaling up the successful CDD approaches across Balochistan. Moreover, thematic and sectoral studies and assessments will also commence in this regard from the subsequent year. Necessary preparations have been made in this regard including meetings with stakeholders and topic prioritisation of the studies.

Since its inception, the research and knowledge management component of the EU-funded BRACE Programme has been instrumental in monitoring, evaluation and assessment of poverty-related indicators in rural Balochistan. These

indicators include agricultural landholdings, means of livelihood, social protection, financial inclusion, poverty graduation, local development planning, women empowerment, youth and Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET), community driven development and local governance system in Balochistan province. From field observations and assessment of the aforementioned themes, knowledge products in the form of articles and blogs published in national daily newspapers have served as robust policy recommendations for the government of Balochistan and other stakeholders to prioritise community driven initiatives in the province. Drawing on policy recommendations in knowledge products, the provincial government is now well placed to develop a comprehensive provincial local development policy and further implement ongoing community driven programmes, with the potential to extend this kind of intervention to all districts.

Special Projects Wing

The Special Projects Wing (SPW) works with the dual objectives of adding value to RSPN and RSPs through programme design and resource mobilisation and contributing to RSPN's financial sustainability and portfolio diversification. It took the lead in preparing concept notes and proposals for funding under various government and donor funded programmes and drawing on the expertise and experience available within RSPN and the RSPs, especially for COVID-19 related funding opportunities. It then facilitated the hiring of project teams to come on board and manage these projects. In turn, SPW provided every project with support in management, compliance, implementation, monitoring and reporting as per contractual requirements. SPW also provided technical support to partner RSPs for designing of their new projects. For instance, the Special Projects team facilitated technical discussion for Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) for designing of their upcoming Nutrition Programme. RSPN also facilitated partnership of National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) with Community Health Solution (CHS) for a pilot project "Rural

Tele-Healthcare Hub for Women" on Tuberculosis. RSPN also provided inputs for designing of this project that is being implemented in Tando Allah Yar by CHS in partnership with NRSP, Ahang and Sehat Kahani.

Furthermore, in March 2020, the Social Sector Resource Group Meeting was held with all focal persons from RSPs. Through RSPs Social Sector Resource Group (SSRG), SPW also provided an opportunity to partner RSPs to share their best practices for various social sector programmes and project management. This forum also offered an opportunity to RSPs to interact with national level experts for integration of Nutrition Specific and Sensitive Interventions in RSPs social mobilisation work. In addition, this meeting also served the purpose for sharing of RSPs experience to work on Reproductive Health and Rights of Adolescent and Youth and how to engage communities for prevention of Tuberculosis and agree on common strategy to work on Adolescent, Youth and TB related projects. Throughout the year, also provided technical support to RSPN and partner RSPs SUCCESS and BRACE teams for

implementation of Community Awareness activities on critical issues and fostering their linkages with government departments for improving access to social sector services.

In the past year, SPW has added several new functions to further strengthen and streamline project management at RSPN. SPW now prepares a monthly project-wise update for senior RSPN management's review. This is based on the reports submitted by project managers. Through this mechanism, senior management is informed about the project progress, successes and lessons learnt/issues faced.

Policy Advocacy

The government and donors have increasingly recognised the importance of social mobilisation approach for community-driven development and the role of the RSPs as partners in community driven development for combating widespread poverty. RSPN's success on the public policy front has centred on advocacy with the government and donors to internalise the key principles of the social mobilisation approach of RSPs for community-driven development. Results of such advocacy primarily materialise in the form of new partnerships and resources for the RSPs; in particular situations RSPN is often called upon to act as a coordination and fund-management agency between the donors and the RSPs.

Strategic Partnership with EU and Provincial Governments for Promoting Community-driven Development in Sindh and Balochistan:

Policy advocacy has been encouragingly successful, particularly with the Government of Sindh. Under Federal and Provincial agreements with the government, the European Union is supporting the Sindh Union Council and Community

Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme that is being implemented by RSPN, NRSP, SRSO and TRDP in eight districts of Sindh. The Government of Sindh supporting SRSO for implementation of People's Poverty Reduction Programme (PPRP) in eight additional districts of the province. Under these implementation arrangements, RSPN worked closely with the SUCCESS Technical Assistance (TA) Team of the EU to the Government of Sindh for the formulation of the Community Driven Development (CDD) component of the Sindh Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), which the Sindh Cabinet formally approved and adopted, and agreed for implementation over an initial five-year period.

RSPN is providing technical support to all RSPs to respond to major external monitoring missions and evaluations i.e. the EU funded SUCCESS and BRACE programmes. Work is being continued with the SUCCESS and BRACE external monitoring and evaluation teams as well as written feedback are being provided by RSPN. RSPN also had input into the Exit Strategy for the EU funded BRACE programme,

which included working with the BRACE TA Team and RSPs.

The EU partnered RSPN to implement the nutrition sensitive and specific components of the Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS). This Programme is being implemented with the community institutions fostered under the SUCCESS and PPRP programmes in overall ten districts of Sindh. PINS is being managed by RSPN, and implemented by NRSP, SRSO and TRDP, with Action Against Hunger (ACF) as a technical programme partner. During the reporting period, RSPN partnered with TRDP for the implementation of community outreach activities for Nutrition Specific (ER-2) component of PINS in Dadu and Jamshoro districts. All three PINS- ER3 and PINS ER-2 (SRSO) and PINS ER2 (TRDP) complement the efforts of government of Sindh's multi-sectoral Accelerated Action Plan (AAP) for Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition by involving the community institutions fostered by the SUCCESS and PPRP Programmes.

The EU supported Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme

successfully completed the third year of implementation by RSPN, NRSP, BRSP and DAI (EU's Technical Assistance) in collaboration with Local Government and Rural Development Department (LG&RDD) of the government of Balochistan. BRACE focuses on to empower citizens and communities and provide them with means enabling them to implement community-driven socioeconomic development interventions. The BRACE Programme is being implemented in nine districts

of the province, eight by BRSP and one by NRSP.

Registration of Poor Households with Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme:

Keeping in view the negative impacts of the COVID-19 on the means of the livelihoods of the people particularly the daily wage labourers and poor households, the Government of Pakistan has announced Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme which will help 12 million families by providing them financial assistance of Rs. 12,000 per family and the

total budget approved for this initiative is Rs. 144 billion. On the request of the local government authorities, the RSPs have engaged Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and Community Leaders for helping poor households to register themselves with the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme. As of 30 June 2020, a total of 223,371 households have been facilitated for registration with the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme by RSP fostered community institutions.

Regional Cooperation and Networking

BAM-E-DUNYA WEBINAR

SERIES: Building a Resilient Bam-e-Dunya: Untold Stories, Lessons, & Opportunities:

Chairman and CEO RSPN participated in a webinar concerning the rapid changes and impact narratives for a resilient "Bam-e-Dunya" ("roof of the world" in Persian). The webinar was open to development practitioners; conservationists; experts on tourism, trade, and agriculture; agricultural economists; community mobilisers; policy makers; academics; and researchers. The ICIMOD's Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape (HKPL) initiative addresses cross-border challenges and opportunities in development and conservation across four countries in this

landscape: Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Tajikistan. Chairman RSPN shared the potential and resilience of rural communities through participatory development experiences in Northern Pakistan and CEO RSPN presented the RSPs work on gender and resilience in the Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape.

Networking: in order to increase collaboration both within the network and between the RSP network and key external stakeholders, RSPN has undertaken the following main activities

- Active participation on key government, non-government and private sector forums;

- Regular meetings with decision-makers, policymakers and development actors at the international, national and provincial levels
- Exposure field visits of government officials to rural areas where RSPs are actively working with communities
- Social and networking events to engage important stakeholders
- Annual RSP strategy retreat
- Annual national convention of LSOs

Communications

The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected the rural population in Pakistan especially the vulnerable groups such as women, the differently abled, children and the elderly. In such circumstances, the RSP Network rose to the challenge in a bid to combat the

pandemic and help the rural communities fight the virus. Keeping in mind the importance of social distancing, RSPN moved its traditional mechanisms of communication to digital platforms. Video conference applications like Zoom were introduced as a replacement

for one-on-one meetings. Events such as the GRG, FACT, SMRT and FACE meetings were moved to the online platforms where members appeared on Zoom to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and the specific challenges that rose with it.

RSPN COVID-19 Webpage

A specialised webpage was created by the communications department in association with RKM and M&E departments of RSPN to consolidate and disseminate data pertaining to the COVID-19 efforts being undertaken by the RSPs and the communities. The webpage is updated regularly and showcases performance indicators, community philanthropy stories, case studies, media coverage and the collaboration with the National Command and Operation Centre.

Link to Webpage: <http://www.rspn.org/index.php/pakistans-rural-communities-fight-covid-19/>



[RSPN Fight Against COVID-19](#) | [RSPN's Latest Relief Response](#) | [Emergency Relief Response](#) | [Multi-SRC Reports](#) | [News & Updates](#) | [Resources](#)

Pakistan's Rural Communities Fight COVID-19

The Rural Support Programmes Network and its partner RSPs are working with the local governments and other international donors to undertake numerous activities in order to raise awareness against COVID-19, in a bid to reduce the spread of the virus in the rural communities such as:

Call to Action Webpage

In a bid to provide aid to the rural communities, a Call to Action page was developed under the communications department whereby donations were collected and disseminated to the deserving poor women in Balochistan.

Link to Webpage: <http://www.rspn.org/index.php/donation/>



Forum for Advancement of Communications Expertise (FACE) Meeting

Members from all RSPs were invited to be a part of the FACE forum to discuss the Communications Strategies during the pandemic where they highlighted the RSPs' achievements, challenges and discussed ways to move forward with improvements in the communications ambit.

RSPN Representation in the Media



Webinar with Dr. Amjad Saqib

Chairman RSPN Shoaib Sultan Khan joined Akhuwat's founder, Dr. Amjad Saqib for a candid conversation in the meaning of life and how one person can make a difference in the society.



HUM TV

CEO RSPN, Ms. Shandana Humayun Khan and COO RSPN, Mr. Khaleel Ahmed Tetlay appeared on the national channel, Hum TV to speak about the Improving Adolescents Lives in Pakistan (IALP) project funded by UNICEF.



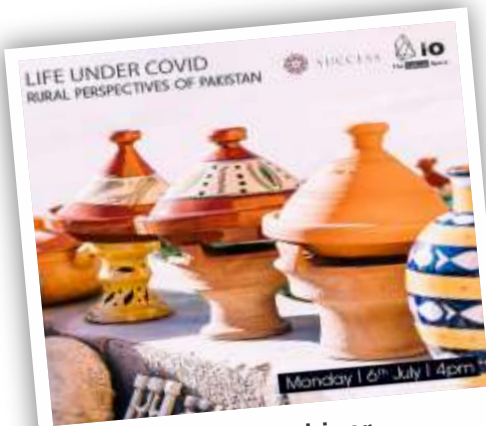
Roze TV

CEO RSPN, Ms. Shandana Humayun Khan and CEO NRSP, Dr. Rashid Bajwa appeared on popular current affairs show, Sachi Baat with S.K. Niazi on the national channel, Roze TV to iterate the work being done by the RSPs to combat against the COVID-19 pandemic in the rural areas of Pakistan.



Instagram Live Session with Tauseeq Haider

CEO RSPN, Ms. Shandana Humayun Khan appeared in a tete-e-tete with Tauseeq Haider on his Instagram Live Session where she spoke about the community-driven development approach of RSPN and the RSPs.



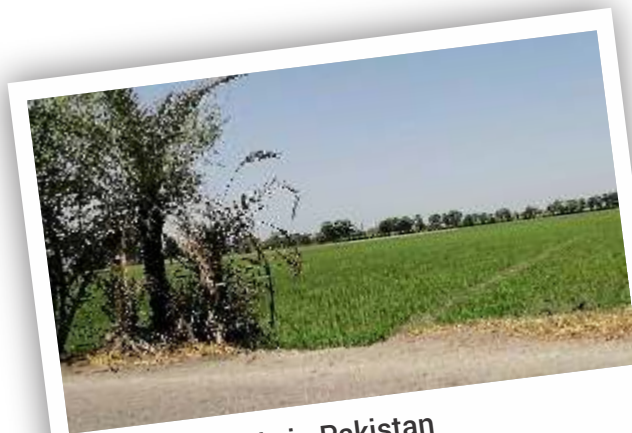
iO – The Space Webinar

SUCCESS Team members Anjum Mailk (RSPN), Sultana Kori, and Fozia Khaskheli (NRSP) spoke about the response of Sindh's rural communities to the COVID-19 pandemic.



JUST Future Conference

SUCCESS team members represented RSPN in the JUST Future Conference in the Cultural Economics panel and engaged in a rich discussion on the cultural and economic grassroots contexts of women in rural Sindh.



It Happens Only in Pakistan

SUCCESS team members at RSPN and SRSO submitted the programme's first in-house produced short film to the annual Pakistan Dawn and German DW film contest called "It Happens Only in Pakistan" with this year's theme of "Creative Distancing."

FINANCIALS

RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

(A Company licensed under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT JUNE 30, 2020

	Note	2020 Rupees	2019 Rupees
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property and equipment	6	77,407,031	74,286,815
Right-of-use assets	7	59,209,586	-
Investment in associated company	8	12,999,879	-
Long-term deposits	9	3,342,548	3,162,548
		152,959,044	77,449,363
CURRENT ASSETS			
Project receivables	10	15,726,183	25,486,429
Costs to fulfill the contracts	11	-	-
Advances, prepayments and other receivables	12	597,141,954	156,539,548
Accrued mark-up		47,500,820	9,271,234
Income tax refundable	13	148,020,379	147,677,419
Short-term investments	14	450,000,000	450,000,000
Cash and bank balances	15	1,116,303,892	567,386,775
		2,374,693,228	1,356,361,405
TOTAL ASSETS		2,527,652,272	1,433,810,768
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
FUNDS			
Reserve fund	16	99,000,000	98,500,000
Accumulated fund		720,563,319	720,330,254
		819,563,319	818,830,254
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Deferred capital grants	17	46,440,770	55,661,256
Restricted grants	18	1,526,433,585	441,288,662
Lease liabilities	19	42,418,902	-
Security deposit		180,000	180,000
		1,615,473,257	497,129,918
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payable to related parties	20	21,399,794	204,812
Project and other payables	21	58,854,125	117,645,784
Current portion of lease liabilities	19	12,361,777	-
		92,615,696	117,850,596
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		2,527,652,272	1,433,810,768
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS	22		

The annexed notes from 1 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements.

[Signature]

[Signature]
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

[Signature]
DIRECTOR

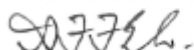
RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

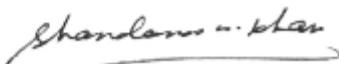
(A Company licensed under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Note	2020 Rupees	2019 Rupees
INCOME			
Grant income	23	1,386,030,836	1,137,124,746
Revenue from contracts with customers	24	38,195,228	780,596,885
Management fees	25	70,786,027	70,233,552
Exchange gain		2,291,356	2,692,574
Other income	26	122,742,660	79,282,119
		1,620,046,107	2,069,929,876
EXPENDITURE			
Programme costs	27	1,385,149,452	1,146,108,658
Operating costs	28	137,489,665	114,757,928
Share of loss from associate	8.1	2,000,121	-
Consultancy services costs	29	92,374,975	692,866,531
		1,617,014,213	1,953,733,117
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>3,031,894</u>	<u>116,196,759</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements.




CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


DIRECTOR

RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

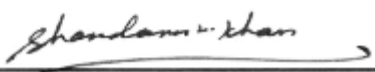
(A Company licensed under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Note	2020 Rupees	2019 Rupees
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		3,031,894	116,196,759
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS FOR THE YEAR			
Other comprehensive loss not to be reclassified to statement of income and expenditure in subsequent periods:			
Re-measurement loss on employees' defined benefit plan	12.5	(2,798,829)	(5,588,523)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>233,065</u>	<u>110,608,236</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements.

SJFKC.


CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


DIRECTOR

RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

(A Company licensed under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
		Reserve fund	Accumulated fund	TOTAL	
Note		Rupees	Rupees	Rupees	
	Balance as at June 30, 2018	97,500,000	623,364,791	720,864,791	
	Effect of changes in accounting policy due to adoption of IFRS 15	-	(13,642,773)	(13,642,773)	
	Balance as at July 01, 2018 - restated	97,500,000	609,722,018	707,222,018	
	Total comprehensive income for the year				
	Surplus for the year	-	116,196,759	116,196,759	
	Other comprehensive loss	-	(5,588,523)	(5,588,523)	
		-	110,608,236	110,608,236	
	Contributions by Rural Support Programmes				
	Funds received during the year ended June 30, 2019	16	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
	Balance as at June 30, 2019	98,500,000	720,330,254	818,830,254	
	Balance as at July 1, 2019	98,500,000	720,330,254	818,830,254	
	Total comprehensive income for the year				
	Surplus for the year	-	3,031,894	3,031,894	
	Other comprehensive loss	-	(2,798,829)	(2,798,829)	
		-	233,065	233,065	
	Contributions by Rural Support Programmes				
	Funds received during the year	16	500,000	-	500,000
	Balance as at June 30, 2020	99,000,000	720,563,319	819,563,319	

The annexed notes from 1 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements.

S.S.F.E.L.


CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


DIRECTOR

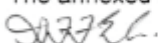
RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

(A Company licensed under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017)

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Note	2020 Rupees	2019 Rupees
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating deficit before working capital changes	30	(1,368,880,949)	(1,051,386,842)
Working capital changes:			
Decrease / (increase) in current assets			
Advances, prepayments and other receivables		(439,995,408)	169,571,193
Receivable against contracts		-	42,191,947
Costs to fulfil the contracts	11	(45,810,992)	28,549,174
(Decrease) / increase in current liabilities			
Payable to related parties - unsecured		21,194,982	(1,148,671)
Project and other payables		(62,272,647)	47,386,798
		(526,884,065)	286,550,441
Decrease / (increase) in long-term deposits		(180,000)	2,018,385
Grants received during the year (including interest income and foreign exchange gain)		2,455,952,320	819,107,814
Income taxes paid		(342,960)	(26,367,411)
Payments made to employee's provident fund		(11,464,436)	(10,268,537)
Staff retirement benefits paid - gratuity	12.5	(17,204,526)	(15,052,965)
Net cash generated from operating activities		530,995,384	4,600,885
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Capital expenditure		(29,444,262)	(18,718,354)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		3,707,250	4,528,750
Investment in associated company		(12,999,879)	-
Short-term investment matured during the year		450,000,000	475,000,000
Short-term investments made during the year		(450,000,000)	(450,000,000)
Profit on short-term investments and bank deposits		80,637,772	77,090,892
Net cash generated from investing activities		41,900,881	87,901,288
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Amounts received in respect of reserve fund	16	500,000	1,000,000
Repayment of lease liability		(24,205,489)	-
Net cash generated from financing activities		(23,705,489)	1,000,000
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		549,190,776	93,502,173
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		567,386,775	476,092,378
Effect of changes in exchange rate		(273,659)	(2,207,776)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR	15	1,116,303,892	567,386,775

The annexed notes from 1 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements.




CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


DIRECTOR

OUR TEAM

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan	Chairman, Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)
Mr. Allah Rakha Asi	CEO, Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP)
Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan	Ex - Chief Secretary, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Mr. Agha Ali Javad	General Manager, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP)
Dr. Shahida Jaffery	Ex - Vice Chancellor Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University, Quetta
Mr. Masood ul Mulk	CEO, Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)
Mr. Fazalullah Qureshi	Ex - Federal Secretary Planning, Government of Pakistan
Mr. Nadir Gul Barech	CEO, Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)
Mr. Nazar Memon	Ex - UNICEF Programme Coordinator
Mr. Khalid Mohtadullah	Senior Advisor Global Water Partnership
Mr. Faiyaz Ali Khan	CEO, Foundation for Integrated Development Action (FIDA)
Mr. Malik Fateh Khan	CEO, Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI)
Mr. Muzaffar ud Din	General Manager, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)
Mr. Roomi Saeed Hayat	CEO, Institute of Rural Management (IRM)
Dr. Allah Nawaz Samoo	CEO, Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP)
Mr. Rafique Ahmed Jaffri	Chairman, Sindh Graduates Association (SGA)
Ambassador Amir Usman	Chairman, Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI)
Mr. Naseer M. Nizamani	Chairman, Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP)
Mr. Muhammad Dittal Kalhoro	CEO, Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO)
Mr. Javed Iqbal	Ex - Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab / Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Mr. Aziz Boolani	Chairman, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)
Mr. Sohail Khoja	Ex - Vice Chairman, Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) Pakistan / CEO, Spatial Concepts
Ms. Khawar Mumtaz	Ex - Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)

Advisors to the Board of Directors

Dr. Rashid Bajwa	Mrs. Munawar Humayun Khan
Mr. Ejaz Rahim	Mr. Ali Noor Muhammad Rattansey

Company Secretary

Mr. Assad Ali Hashmi

Core Team	
Shandana Khan	Chief Executive Officer
Khaleel Ahmed Tetlay	Chief Operating Officer
Social Mobilisation	
Mohammad Ali Azizi	Specialist
Social Sector	
Bashir Anjum	Specialist
Monitoring & Evaluation	
Khurram Shahzad	Specialist
Gender & Development	
Sadaf Dar	Programme Officer
Communications	
Foha Raza	Programme Officer
Special Projects Wing	
Bashir Anjum	Manager
Bader ul Islam Siddiqui	Manager Compliance
Ayesha Tariq	Programme Officer
Finance & Accounts	
Assad Ali Hashmi	Chief Financial Officer / Company Secretary
Muhammad Nadeem Akhtar	Manager
Syed Sheraz Ahmad	Accounts / FIS Officer
Nasir Ahmed Khan	Finance Officer
Human Resources & Administration	
Jawad Khan	Manager
Ali Akbar Qureshi	Programme Officer Administration & Procurement
Hasnain Gul	Programme Officer Information Technology
Umar Daraz Khan	Admin Assistant
Internal Audit	
Qazi Haseeb Rauf	Chief Internal Auditor
Chairman Office	
Abdul Rauf	Programme Office Manager
European Union: Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme	
Fazal Ali Saadi	Programme Manager
Ghulam Sarwar Khero	Programme Coordinator
Amna Ejaz	Team Leader Research
Tahira Tarique	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Anjum Malik	Communications Officer
Meha Pumbay	Knowledge Management Officer
Asad Ejaz Umer	Administration & Procurement Officer
Muhammad Abdullah Bin Javaid	MIS Officer
Nadir Ali Shah	Field Researcher
Sultana Kori	Field Researcher

European Union: Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme	
Fehmida Hassan	Programme Manager
Rahim Baksh	Research Coordinator
Ghulam Farid Khan	Finance Manager
Zahra Rao	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Omer Farooq Ramay	Communications Officer
Savaila	Documentation & Reporting Officer
Sadia Rashid	MIS Officer
European Union: Implementation of the ER-3 Component (Nutrition-Sensitive Component) of the Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS)	
Mudassar Ahmed	Programme Director
Musaddiq Rashid Kayani	WASH Specialist
Munawar Alee Kapri	Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator
Dr. Abdul Khaliq	Government Technical Liaison Officer
Abdul Malik	Technical Officer Aquaculture
Uswa Ali Memon	Knowledge Management & Reporting Officer
Syeda Rabab Jaffar	Communications Officer
Zaheer Ahmed	Capacity Building Officer
Mohan Thakur	WASH Engineer
Imtiaz Ali	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Shahana Ali	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Aaliya	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Muhammad Naeem Khan	MIS Officer
Abdul Ghani	Finance Officer
Affan Muhammad Baig	Procurement Officer
Ghulam Sarwar Memon	Admin & Logistics Officer
European Union: Implementation of the ER-2 Component (Nutrition Specific Interventions) of the Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS)	
Anis Memon	Project Manager
Rukhsana Rind	Training Officer
Syed Saleem Ali Shah	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Shayaah Raza	Finance Officer
Adil Shahzad	Admin & Logistics Assistant
European Union: Implementation of the ER-2 Component (Nutrition Specific Interventions) of the Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) in Jamshoro and Dadu districts	
Dr. Shahmeen Nazar	Project Coordinator
Rimsha Taj	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Fahad Ullah Khan	Finance Officer
Population Services International: Delivering Accelerated Family Planning in Pakistan (DAFPAK) Project	
Manzoor Hussain	Project Manager
Nasreen Shaikh	Provincial Coordinator Sindh
Dr. Razia Sadaf	Quality Assurance Officer

Usman Asif	MIS Officer
Zeehasham Jalal Malik	Communications Officer
Sana Azmat Rana	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Mahreen Liaqat	Training Officer
Qudratullah Khan Lodhi	Government Liaison Assistant
Nasir Abbas	Admin Officer
Unicef: Improving Adolescents Lives in Pakistan (IALP-II) Project	
Nadir Ali Khoso	Project Manager
Fareeda Gul Hassan	Training Officer
Mohammad Osama	Finance Officer
USAID/JSI: Integrated Health Systems Strengthening & Service Delivery (IHSS-SD) Project	
Enayat ur Rehman	Project Manager
Waqas Munir	Finance Manager
Atta ur Rehman	Community Development Specialist
Imran Masih	Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator
Shafia Mirza	Documentation & Communication Officer
Zia ul Qamar	Admin Officer
BISP: Waseela-e-Taleem Programme	
Fahad Ullah Khan	Finance Officer
Osama Tariq	Admin Officer
Cluster-I (Punjab, KP, AJK & GB)	
Humera Hussain	Team Leader
Asma Ejaz	Communication and Social Mobilisation Expert
Khalid Saeed	Capacity Building Expert
Ejaz Ali	Compliance, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert
Muhammad Haroon	MIS Expert
Cluster-II (Sindh & Balochistan)	
Ashfaque Ahmed Burdi	Team Leader
Khalid Ishaque	Communication and Social Mobilisation Expert
Ambreen Chandio	Capacity Building Expert
Rajesh Kumar	Compliance, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert
Zafar Ali Soomro	MIS Expert
DMDP: Empowering Pakistani Women through Financial Inclusion and Economic Growth	
Ayesha Tariq	Project Manager
Muhammad Nazir	Capacity Building Officer
Bakht Yar Haider	Capacity Building Officer
Muhammad Akram	Finance Officer

ACRONYMS

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme	AKRSP
Alternative Dispute Resolution	ADR
Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme	BRDCEP
Balochistan Rural Support Programme	BRSP
Benazir Income Support Programme	BISP
Business in a Box	BIB
Community Awareness Toolkit	CAT
Community Driven Development	CDD
Community Driven Local Development	CDLD
Community Institutions	CIs
Community Investment Funds	CIF
Community Organisations	COs
Community Physical Infrastructure	CPI
Community Resource Persons	CRPs
Department for International Development	DFID
Disaster Risk Reduction	DRR
District Disaster Management Authority	DDMA
Ernst and Young	EY
European Union	EU
Family Planning, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health	MNCH/FP
Foundation for Integrated Development Action	FIDA
Ghazi Barotha Tarqiati Idara	GBTI
Gilgit Baltistan	GB
Government of Balochistan	GoB
Government of Sindh	GoS
Hulla & Human Dynamics	H&H
Income Generating Grants	IGG
Information, Education and Communication	IEC
Institute of Rural Management	IRM
Institutional Maturity Index	IMI
Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics	JHPIEGO
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	KP
Lady Health Worker	LHW
Local Support Organisation	LSO
Married Women of Reproductive Age	MWRA
Micro Health Insurance	MHI
Monitoring and Evaluation	M&E
National Disaster Management Authority	NDMA

National Rural Livelihoods Mission	NRLM
National Rural Support Programme	NRSP
Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance	OFDA
Poverty Reduction Strategy	PRS
Poverty Score Card	PSC
Programme Implementation Manual	PIM
Provincial Disaster Management Authority	PDMA
Provision of Reproductive Health Services through Social Marketing	PRHSSM
Public Finance Management	PFM
Punjab Rural Support Programme	PRSP
Quality Assurance and Control Plan	QACP
Rural Support Programmes	RSPs
Rural Support Programmes Network	RSPN
Sarhad Rural Support Programme	SRSP
Sindh Graduates Association	SGA
Sindh Rural Support Organisation	SRSO
Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support	SUCCESS
Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty	SERP
South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme	SAPAP
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	SAARC
Strategy Policy and Dialogue Committee	SPDC
Technical and Vocational Skills Training	TVST
Technical Assistance	TA
Terms of Reference	ToRs
Thardeep Rural Development Programme	TRDP
The Aga Khan Foundation	AKF
The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme	AKRSP
Union Council	UC
Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme	UCBPRP
Union Disaster Management Committee	UDMC
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
United States Agency for International Development	USAID
University of Mannheim	UM
Village Disaster Management Committee	VDMC
Village Organisations	VOs
Violence Against Women	VAW

OUR PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT



THE NETWORK OF THE RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES





RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

3rd Floor, IRM Complex, Plot # 7,
Sunrise Avenue, Park Road,
Near COMSATS University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Phone: 92-51-8491270-99

Email: info@rspn.org.pk

URL: www.rspn.org



RSPNPakistan



RSPNPakistan