RSPN

Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), Pakistan
(Supported by DFID)

INCLUDING THE POOR IN THE PRSP PROCESS BY CONSULTING THE POOR AT THE GRASSROOTS

Islamabad
March 2003

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Foreword

The largest network of non-governmental rural development organizations in Pakistan is that of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). Historically known for their work with poor, rural communities, the RSPs have pioneered a highly successful approach to participatory rural development which has been widely acknowledged internationally and by the Pakistan government. There are currently nine RSPs in Pakistan which are members of a Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN). The RSPs have fostered the largest network of grassroots, civil society organizations in Pakistan through their social mobilization efforts - 39,000 Community Organizations (COs) of women and men, as of December 2002. The RSPs conducted consultations with some of these COs for input into this PRSP.

The basic premise of the RSPs' work is to enable the poor to reach their potential, through social guidance and organized community forums. The objective of the RSPs is to create a countrywide network of COs that can undertake certain development activities themselves. The RSPs have long understood that working *with* the government is the way to realize the goal of countrywide poverty eradication. Now with the government actively coming round to the RSP view that participatory development through social mobilization is the only way to address poverty at the grassroots, the RSPs naturally see a role for themselves in facilitating participatory community consultations on the I-PRSP.

The RSPN coordinated pilot community dialogues on the government's I-PRSP by the RSPs, during November 2002 to February 2003. In view of the importance of the I-PRSP document and the absolute need for community consultations, on their own initiative the RSPs began these consultation dialogues with communities. As a first step, in November-December 2002, the RSPs invited concerned government officials (from the Planning Commission) to brief them about the I-PRSP document and the process. Towards the end of January, 2003, in recognition of the RSPs' initiative, the Finance Division of the GOP wrote to RSPN to undertake community dialogues on the I-PRSP and to provide input into the process.

The work of the RSPs over the past two decades and the results of consultations with COs on the PRSP have shown that social mobilization and the work of the RSPs provides some simple but critical answers to issues of services delivery and governance raised by communities. The RSPs found the I-PRSP community consultation process extremely useful in further understanding the situation and the community needs and priorities. The RSPs have also learnt much from this experience about how to better conduct such a dialogue process. In case the government wishes to have further dialogues done or to repeat such a process at a later stage, the RSPs would be more than willing to undertake the community dialogues process.

I hope the government of Pakistan will seriously consider the results of our dialogues held in 49 districts of the country. I want to thank the Planning Commission, in particular Dr. Pervez Tahir, and the Finance Division for taking a keen interest in our community dialogues process and for always being available whenever we sought their assistance.

Shoaib Sultan Khan

INTRODUCTION

This report contains the views of rural communities in Pakistan on why they think there is growing poverty in the country. It also contains their solutions to their poverty, as active contributors and participants in the development process. These voices are those of communities who have organized to address micro-development issues in their own villages and neighborhoods. Through consultation with these community organizations, they have provided invaluable input for Pakistan's future development framework ie the Pakistan PRSP. Their key input into this framework are the simple solutions they have identified to address some aspects of their poverty and they are willing to contribute their share of a partnership with the government in order to improve their own condition. Their priority is that they first be organized into small, development organizations, as a first step in this long journey.

The largest network of non-governmental rural development organizations in Pakistan is that of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). There are currently nine RSPs in Pakistan which are members of the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN). RSPN was set up in April 2001 as an institutional mechanism to bring the RSPs together on a common platform. The Network is currently funded by the Department for International Development of the government of the United Kingdom. It serves as an operational think tank for the RSPs, a policy advocacy body on behalf of the RSPs with the government, donors and others and undertakes selected research with the RSPs on issues that have bearing for overall, RSP strategies. The RSP Network has been instrumental in undertaking work with the Pakistan government on the PRSP process. It has also been active in providing programmatic support to the RSPs in various sectors of their work and in assisting the government in integrating social mobilization into its new devolution plan.

To effectively include poor people in the PRSP process, the RSP Network coordinated an all-RSP effort in Pakistan to conduct dialogues with organized communities. The RSPs of Pakistan undertook 121 dialogues with Community Organizations across the country. The results of these consultations show that social mobilization and the work of the RSPs provide simple but critical answers to the two main constraints to poverty identified by the people ie poor services delivery and poor governance. Details of

findings as well as dialogues with communities are included in this report. The RSP Network has also prepared a short documentary on the consultations held across the country which is available upon request.

The RSP Network and the RSPs have received meaningful support from the Government of Pakistan during this consultation process. The Government has acknowledged the consultative process undertaken by the RSPs and this report has been presented to the Government's PRSP Secretariat. This report also contains suggestions from communities for inclusion in the final Pakistan PRSP. The Government has welcomed these suggestions.

The RSP Network and its member RSPs would like to thank the Government for its support to this process, without which significant input from poor communities could not be reflected in the Pakistan PRSP. The RSP Network also offers to the Government its support in future PRSPs by arranging similar, broad-based consultations on this important development framework. This has been a learning process for the RSP Network and the RSPs. Our challenge in future is to collaborate with the Government in refining these consultations and in supporting Government to make the changes that the people have themselves suggested as answers to addressing their poverty.

Shandana Khan
Chief Executive Officer
Rural Support Programmes Network
Pakistan

PART 1

Summary

1. The RSPs have a presence (as distinct from full coverage) in 82 districts of the country and, as of December 2002, had helped form 39,000 Community Organizations (COs). About one third of these organized forums are women's COs. At present, by far the majority of these COs are in rural areas. This vast outreach in rural areas, close contact and credibility with organized forums, and staff trained and experienced in participatory consultation with communities, gives RSPs a unique opportunity to contribute to the I-PRSP community consultation process. In view of the importance of the I-PRSP document and the absolute need for community consultations, on their own initiative the RSPs began these consultation dialogues with communities. In recognition of the RSP's initiative, the Finance Division of the GOP wrote to RSPN to undertake community dialogues on the I-PRSP and to provide it input.

The RSPs undertook community consultation dialogues in 49 districts of the country, in all provinces and in the Northern Areas and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In all, 121 dialogues were held, with a total of some 4,500 participants, including 3,000 males and 1,500 females.

2. **Reasons for poverty:** Major findings from the grassroots that need to be included in and supplement the content of the Pakistan PRSP relate largely to the issue of effective implementation. Organized communities not only spoke of poor access to and quality of public services across all sectors, they also spoke of poor governance affecting such services. Hence, whereas the implementation level was of immediate concern, they were very clear that it is a failure of governance, eg, corruption, mismanagement, lack of accountability, etc, that leads to wastage of resources and hence poor services for the poor.

The bad governance issue was repeatedly and strongly raised by all communities the RSPs spoke to. There was constant comparison between how government prioritizes the needs of the poor and how their real needs are never reflected in government planning and budgets.

At the end of the day, the main issue to deliberate upon from the community point of view is that poor people need to be organised and government needs to learn to trust them to effectively deliver pro-poor development. This country is replete with good examples of how people can be involved in bottom-up planning and service delivery. Community organisations are offering to government their collaboration and it is time

that government took them seriously in order to make its own job easier and in order for it to achieve its own objectives of pro-poor development.

In dialogues with communities, the reasons for poverty that people identify include: Discriminatory education system, very low standard of education accessible to ordinary people or else it is too expensive for them; children leave school and do not reach their full potential. Due to unsanitary conditions (including unsafe drinking water) and poor nutrition etc, high incidence of health problems, and the generally accessible health care is very low quality or else too expensive. Widespread unemployment, even among the educated. As public sector employment is not merit-based many deserving people do not get jobs there. For ordinary people, capital is not accessible from traditional sources to start productive enterprise.

Women have few opportunities to earn a livelihood, especially near to their homes. Vocational skills' training is not widely available, therefore reducing opportunities. Agriculture (including livestock) is a mainstay of many people; but the necessary support and services are not reaching the poor. The supply and equitable distribution (including between subsistence farmers and those with influence) of water remains crucial. A rapid rise in population is further exacerbating the shortage of facilities and the need for additional resources.

The participants point out that planning by government agencies is not according to their priorities and the local needs, and there is a lack of coordination among government agencies. At the macro-level, rising prices (this includes indirect taxes) are especially hard on the poor and the poorest, high (and flat) rates of electricity (eg, for tube wells), and rising price of fuel (diesel) are also frequently cited as reasons for economic difficulties for the poor. Those without the right 'connections' cannot reach government officials to seek what is due to them. The legal system does not provide quick and affordable justice.

On the one hand there are all these factors that cause poverty and on the other hand the supposed social security/social safety net is not reaching a majority of the deserving. Social security benefits are not readily accessible, not always given on merit and are of inadequate amounts.

3. What to do to alleviate poverty:

3.1 In our community dialogues, the underlying theme was always that "nizam kharab hai"- **Governance issues**: ordinary people have no access to government officials; influence and contacts/relationships, not merit or what is a due right,

determines what people get; planning without reference to the people's priorities and needs; corruption and improper utilization of funds; non-merit based hiring in the public sector; the corrupt "contractor system" resulting in improper work at inflated costs; the "patwari" system needs to be replaced by a more objective and accountable system; the need for efficient supply of and equitable distribution of water; injustice and delays in the legal system; ineffective monitoring system of public services; the futility of referring to the police and the legal system, etc.

The community dialogues highlight that facilities, services and support that are supposed to be in place for the people are not in fact reaching the poor and those without the 'connections'. The dialogues underscore that mechanisms to operationalize plans and programs are crucial. Implementation is hampered by elements which are now lumped together under governance; unless governance issues are addressed, proper operationalization will not happen and the objectives cannot be achieved.

Everywhere in our grassroots dialogues, the people unanimously supported the need for community participation in local and at micro-level, ie, at village or mohallah level: in planning, in implementation and management, as well as in monitoring. Unless people are organized, they cannot participate and try to ensure that programs are implemented properly and that the deserving get what is due to them.
Therefore, social mobilization is necessary and must precede poverty alleviation.

The communities consulted believe that the government can encourage ownership by the people and achieve transparency and accountability of projects by involving the local people, through organized forums (of community organizations). To foster social mobilization and to nurture the organized communities, whether CO's (Community Organizations) or whether CCB's (Citizen's Community Boards), intermediate Support Organizations are required.

3.2 Human Development: Undoubtedly, the education sector is a major priority for people everywhere, often ranked as their number one priority. However, it is vital to understood that people speak of the need for literacy, for "awareness", for vocational skills training, and for technical and professional education, not just regular schooling. People want equal access for all to the same standard of education (not a discriminatory two-track system, one for the rich and one for the poor). Vocational skills trainings is now considered very important by the people.

Healthcare facilities ordinarily available are very low quality and sometimes non-functional. High quality healthcare is generally very difficult to access for ordinary people and/or is too expensive. Access to quality healthcare is particularly difficult for females. People ask for safe drinking water. In our community dialogues, the people identified the dire need for free or affordable, accessible and properly functional healthcare facility for the poor.

3.3 Economic Development: Facilities to support small farmers, such as extension services, are not reaching them effectively. Agri-Inputs, such as seeds, pesticides and fertilizer, are expensive for small farmers, yet of quite unreliable quality. Livestock, a mainstay for many families and communities, does not receive proper extension support and lacks proper facilities for preventive and curative treatment of animals; this is of particular concern to rural women.

Credit facilities from traditional sources are often inaccessible to the poor. In areas where Rural Support Programs and other development programs work and provide micro-credit, people have better access to credit but they still strongly suggest that loan ceilings be higher and mark-up lower. And subsidized or free of charge credit for those who would otherwise be unable to avail the facility.

Water is a priority need, with water wastage due to poor irrigation systems, lack of water harvesting arrangements/reservoirs and the equitable distribution of water, major issues. Inadequate rural link roads add to difficulties. The small farmers need effective support in their entire Chain of Activities.

The small farmers stressed that they are directly affected by rising prices of diesel and by rising rates/high flat rates of electricity for agri-machinery (eg, tube wells). People are very concerned about the general price rise and would like the price inflation to be controlled, especially of basic necessities of the poor. Taxes on items purchased by everyone (indirect taxes) are a heavier burden on the poor, they would like introduction of a tax system that has proportionately less impact on the poor. At a macro level they would like a better ratio of development to non-development expenditures, in favor of development expenditure.

There is widespread unemployment and underemployment. In particular, for most rural communities there is a dearth of employment opportunities at a reasonably near distance to them; this applies even more acutely to women. In addition, sought after public sector jobs are generally not obtained on merit. In our dialogues, participants

suggested the promotion of employment opportunities in the local area, through cottage industry and small-scale enterprise.

3.4 Social Safety Net/ Special programs for the poorest: Community dialogues everywhere show that the vast majority of the needy and deserving are not able to benefit from the social safety net facilities supposedly available for them. The overwhelming view is that in general, services and facilities supposedly there are not actually accessible to the majority of the poor or those without the right 'connections'. The amounts available to families under social security schemes are also small, sometimes little more than nominal. Clearly, the objective of providing special programs of support to the needy deserving is not being met.

4. Budget:

The IPRSP budgetary expenditures (2001-2004) table (page 54, table 5.1) shows that at present there is very little space in the IPRSP to incorporate the voices of the poor. It follows that if the government is willing to create space in which to include the voices of the poor, then the budget would need to be revised to reflect the priorities identified by the community. Table 5.1 (in the IPRSP document) shows that only 2.4% of GDP is allocated to human development – including education, health, population planning, social security and welfare, and natural calamities and other disasters. If Water supply and sanitation, and food subsidies are also included with the above, then altogether this makes up 2.8% of the GDP. Clearly, this is a very small percentage and it does not reflect the priorities and the needs of the people.

5. Contribution of community members: In the community dialogues, the people were highly interested in and enthusiastic about development efforts and offered to actively participate in and to contribute as much as they are able towards such efforts. While the poor cannot make large monetary contributions they can nevertheless make important contributions. The ordinary community members have local knowledge, they can best identify the needs, priorities as well as the opportunities; they can give vital input in planning and in program design. They can perform a significant role in local level supervision and monitoring. Organized communities, in Pakistan, have a remarkable record of implementing village level/'mohallah' level infrastructure projects of required quality at comparatively much lower costs than government contractors.

In monetary terms, the poor can sometimes contribute part of their labor for projects for their own uplift. Where applicable, they do offer to provide land or premises free of cost for facilities for their communities benefit. In addition to the roles mentioned above, organized communities can perform the role of advocacy and lobbying with

departments and agencies. Organized communities provide the mechanism to overcome many of the governance problems faced today – from local level planning, to management and implementation, to monitoring. The peoples willingness and active participation in organized forums is the key to successful operationalization of the governments plans and programs.

6. Conclusions:

The above findings highlight that facilities, services and support that are supposed to be in place for the people are not in fact reaching the poor and those without the 'connections'. In general, the people don't ask for all new initiatives or facilities but that whatever is there is implemented properly. The dialogues underscore that the mechanisms to operationalize plans and programs are crucial. It is not just a lack of resources that is the issue, but resources must be used according to right priorities, and used efficiently and effectively.

- Plans and programs need to be properly implemented, in the past that has not always been the case. Implementation is hampered by elements which are now lumped together under governance – lack of participation, mistaken priorities, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption, etc. Unless governance issues are addressed, proper operationalization will not happen and the objectives cannot be achieved.

- The I-PRSP speaks of the need for special initiatives for those below the poverty band and of a social safety net. Our dialogues clearly show that the social safety net, eg, Zakat and other special programs, are not reaching a majority of the deserving and where it does, it is inadequate for all their needs.

- One of the best means to improve governance at the local level is to include and involve communities in local level planning, implementation and in monitoring. In our community dialogues the people are very much in favour of social mobilization and value its benefits. Social mobilization is an ideal way to include communities in local level planning, implementation and in monitoring – social mobilization precedes poverty alleviation. To foster social mobilization and to nurture the organized communities, whether CO's (Community Organizations) or whether CCB's (Citizens Community Boards), intermediate Support Organizations are required to nurture them. The government agencies and even district administration just do not currently have the capacity and the qualities that are required to fulfill that support function.

For a more comprehensive discussion, see chapter Main Findings, “From IPRSP to PRSP – The RSP Way”.

Chapter One

The starting point

Pakistan has always had a large number of people living in poverty. However, the percentage of population below the poverty line had been declining until the advent of the nineties. The trend reversed during this decade, described as a "lost" decade, with the economy witnessing a rising percentage of those eking out a living under the poverty line. There are many ways to measure poverty. But the increasing trend in the nineties is established, whatever the chosen method of measurement. Broadly, poverty has become the lot of more than 1/3rd of population today compared to less than 1/5th of population in the past.

In 1999 the Government of Pakistan started work on the formulation of a holistic strategy to reduce poverty. These efforts culminated in the publication of Pakistan's *Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper* (I-PRSP) in November 2001. In its own words, the I-PRSP "marks a paradigm shift in the government's anti-poverty efforts. It is a response to the realization that poverty reduction requires a holistic effort that should target all the elements that cascade into inequality, human deprivation, and social exclusion. Pakistan's I-PRSP is a testament to the government's pro-poor policies and an affirmation that poverty reduction is not a battle that can be won by the efforts of any single government agency or department. In fact, it is a war that has to be fought concurrently on all fronts with keen involvement of all government agencies, the civil society, and the private sector."

The rationale behind the prefix 'Interim' was given in these words: "Pakistan's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) is not a static document of policy actions rather it is a dynamic framework of thought. It is an instrument that attempts to provide an integrated focus to a diverse set of factors that impact poverty. By adopting this framework the government aims at enhancing understanding of the complementarities and the tradeoffs that are inherent in the complex task of social and economic policymaking. An appreciation of the conflicting policy tradeoffs and competing

resource demands will ultimately instill a better understanding of the challenges faced by the nation and the unprecedented reform efforts being undertaken in response."

It was also claimed that "the I-PRSP is a concerted effort aimed at pooling poverty reduction efforts at the federal, provincial, and district levels, across various ministries, departments, and divisions, to ensure realization of desired outcomes by focusing on key success drivers." Further, "I-PRSP process is an innovative initiative of the government and will be completed after October 2002 with the publication of the full PRSP."

The participation of the provinces was stated as the most important ingredient in formulation of the full PRSP. The roadmap involved consultations with the provinces, district level consultations led by provincial governments, encouraging elected Nazims to make medium term district development plans in line with the macroeconomic framework of the I-PRSP and making these programmes the basis of the costing exercises feeding into the formulation of provincial PRSPs. Eventually the full PRSP would be realized by the elected federal and provincial governments after October, 2002. Until October, the participation of the elected district government was to be sought in the formulation of provincial PRSPs to make Pakistan's full PRSP "reflective of the views and concerns of all sections of society" so that "Pakistan's development process is made even [*sic*.] more participatory."

The Development Committee, a joint IMF – World Bank policy-thinking body, issued a Communiqué on September 26, 1999, announcing this new approach to the challenge of reducing poverty in low-income developing countries. It is based on country-owned, country-driven, results-oriented, and transparent poverty reduction strategies. From now on, poverty reduction efforts would be comprehensive and long-term in perspective and involve broad participation of domestic and external actors. Domestic actors include not only the central, provincial and local governments, but also private sector, trade and social groups, parliamentarians, NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Village Organizations (VOs). External stakeholders include bilateral and multilateral donors and International Finance Institutions (IFIs). According to the Communiqué the design of poverty reduction strategy should be more appropriate to local needs, including analyses about the causes of and trends in

poverty; quantitative targets for poverty reduction and a well-designed monitoring and evaluation system. The goals and targets set for poverty reduction had to be linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as it helps countries to set short and medium-term national priorities as the foundation for building partnerships with donors.

Thus, the PRSP has replaced the IMF-World Bank PFP, the so-called Policy Framework Paper. While the PFP was prepared by the donors, the PRSP has to be home-grown and evolved through broad-based participation. Before they can access any debt relief or concessional foreign assistance, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) and the countries eligible for what used to be the Extended Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) of the IMF, are now required to prepare a PRSP that meets with the approval of Boards of the IMF and the World Bank. Indeed, the ESAF has been replaced by the new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF). As foreign assistance is generally provided in a coordinated framework, Asian Development Bank and bilateral donors too have joined the process. Since the PRSP is also seen as the main instrument of realizing the Millennium Development Goals, whose monitoring has been assigned to the United Nations system, no concessional assistance can flow to ESAF countries without the framework of an agreed PRSP.

The PRSP process cannot be hastened if a broad-based participation has to be ensured in any meaningful sense of the term. In the meantime, countries undertaking the process may need assistance. This is where the I-PRSP comes in. An I-PRSP outlines the existing poverty strategy and programmes and the changes required for full PRSP, as well as steps for a participatory engagement with the civil society. It also gives a roadmap for the transition towards full PRSP.

Pakistan is an ESAF country and, therefore, required to produce a PRSP. As noted earlier, she has prepared an agreed I-PRSP. It enabled her to conclude a PRGF agreement with the IMF with effect from 6 December 2001, under which the IMF will disburse $ 1.3 billion by 5 December, 2004. The PRGF carries an interest rate of 0.5 per cent and the loan is repayable over 10 years. Four trenches amounting to $448 million have already been disbursed.

While the I-PRSP has provided a transitional framework for external assistance, the situation has changed after the elections in October, 2002 and the consequent setting up of the democratic federal and provincial governments. Donors will expect the endorsement of the poverty reduction strategy, its objectives, policy content and priorities by the political governments, which in all likelihood will be in the form of proper parliamentary debate.

This is only one aspect of the ownership of the PRSP. The other crucial aspect is the consultation with the civil society. The extent and the quality of this consultation will be a key determinant of the graduation from the I-PRSP to the PRSP. It is only through this mechanism that the poor are seen to be consulted directly and can be expected to own the policy measures identified in the poverty reduction strategy. It is here that the poor communities are involved to see for themselves what *is* in it for them and to say and ensure what *should be* in it for them.

In this process, there is an opportunity for the poor to come out with their own assessment of the causes and extent of poverty, their own view of the policies and programmes that must form part of the strategy to reduce poverty and, most important, their involvement in monitoring to ensure effective implementation. For the first time, therefore, there will be the possibility of putting in place a bottom-up macroeconomic framework. Hitherto this framework involving macroeconomic targets such as GDP growth, fiscal deficit, credit expansion, inflation and external deficit, has been determined first and poverty reduction targets were in the nature of a residual or an after-thought. In the new approach, poverty targeting has to be carried out first, with each project, programme and policy povety-tested in a prescribed manner. The resulting financial requirements at the micro level would then form the basis of achievable macro targets. In this way, the PRSP is expected to achieve desired consistency between the social gap and the financial gap, leading to fiscally sustainable poverty reduction.

Chapter Two

Why should the RSPs get involved and how

The RSPs work on the basic premise that the poor have potential, which can be harnessed through social guidance aimed at organizing them at the grassroots level. This network of grassroots organisations makes the development process demand-driven, establishes ownership and ensures transparent and cost effective implementation. On the supply side, the RSPs have long understood that working with the government is the *only way* to realize the ultimate goal of countrywide poverty eradication on a sustainable basis. The RSPs were the first to develop and practice the concept of linkages with the government departments. Again, as power was devolved to local levels, the RSPs took the lead to assist in the operationalisation of the concept of Citizens Community Boards (CCBs). And now, with the Government finally coming round to the RSPs viewpoint that poverty reduction ought to be the centerpiece of development strategy, the RSPs are its natural allies to ensure that the poor are present in this strategy in proportion to their numbers and the strength of their ideas.

The RSPs do not just articulate or advocate strategies of working with the government. In fact, they have evolved over the years the largest institutional infrastructure available in the country to engage the poor in direct consultation. With a network of around 39,000 community organizations spread over 82 districts in all provinces and special areas of the country except FATA, the RSPs possess the capacity to arrange a meaningful dialogue with the communities at the grassroots level on critical issues of their concern and which must, therefore, be the concern of those involved in national strategizing.

A major lesson learnt from two decades of development in the first RSP, the AKRSP in Northern Areas, is that village organisations have worked in partnership with the Government line departments and several other development agencies for the implementation of productive and social sector projects. Moreover, they have played key roles in creating an enabling environment for the local government structure under the Government's devolution initiative. Their partnership and involvement in public

sector projects have brought tremendous improvements, including accountability and transparency in Government systems, made Government officials and politicians more responsible to those they are working for.

AKRSP worked hard to link communities with the Government line departments and other development agencies. Communities then worked in partnership with them on a number of social and economic development projects. Incomes of households thus increased resulting in reductions in the incidence of poverty. Per capita incomes have increased dramatically. Per capita income was recorded as being 30% of national average in 1980s, but rose to 60% in 1990s.

Responding to the criticism by the civil society organisations, the IMF and the World Bank have offered an opportunity to civil society organisations to participate in the formulation of poverty reduction strategy. Although the I-PRSP was prepared by the Government of Pakistan is November 2001, and the donors reacted towards the end of the same year by letting the Government know that the full PRSP would require genuine participation of the poor, nothing of note happened in this regard for nearly an year.

In this background, the RSPN, a network of nine rural support programmes of Pakistan set up to provide strategic support, decided to take the initiative. It invited the Chief Economist of the Government of Pakistan, Dr. Pervez Tahir, at the 5th meeting of its Board of Directors held on 24 September, 2002 to brief the Board on the PRSP process and the parameters of community participation for ensuring country ownership of the PRSP. The relevant minutes of the meeting are placed at Annex-I.

However, in the light of the points made by Dr. Tahir, the Board noted that the I-PRSP lacked a proper implementation framework. The RSPs could add value in this regard. Gender mainstreaming was another missing dimension. In the view of the Board, the first task was to understand and absorb the I-PRSP document prepared by the Government. Only then could an action plan be prepared to consult the communities at the district levels.

A presentation was made at the RSPN on November 9, 2002 by senior Planning Commission/GoP staff. Annex-II gives the minutes of the meeting, attended by senior managers of the RSPs. The text of the presentation is placed at Annex-III. Here only the main features are presented.

The PRSP provides a holistic framework for poverty reduction within which all stakeholders will act through a participatory process. The IPRSP is the basis on which all future donor assistance would be provided to the country including debt relief and concessional assistance. The main objective of IPRSP is to identify key actions for poverty reduction that include policy changes, institutional reforms, programmes and projects for the medium and long-term development that are sustainable, robust and effective. It also envisages empowering individuals and communities to participate fully in poverty reduction activities by strengthening partnerships with national, provincial and local institutions.

A consultation process that was undertaken by the Government revealed that people desire social empowerment and decentralization. The people also feel that they should identify programmes/projects on need basis. The major development thrust indicated by them covers agriculture and development, developing water resources for irrigation and consumption purposes, providing price support system, farm to market roads, support centres for small scale industries, micro finance, efficient delivery of public services, preventive health services, vocational training, a uniform education system, staff for schools and hospitals, capacity building, simplifying rules and procedures, reforming judicial system etc. It was further explained that minimum participation of NGOs has taken place in the formulation of the IPRSP.

There are six main guiding principles of the IPRSP. These include country ownership of the IPRSP, transparency of service delivery, broad-based inclusion of the poor, heavy reliance on the participatory process, mainstreaming and institutionalization and outcome-oriented consultations. It looks at creating opportunities that would help in reducing barriers to accessing resources by the people. It will also help in unleashing capabilities in order to ensure that basic services may be effectively delivered. Similarly, it will lead to empowerment of the people and thus to sustained practices of

good governance. Lastly, these conditions would help in providing better security so that vulnerabilities can be reduced.

Understanding IPRSP presupposes the understanding of the concept of poverty being used. Many researches have been carried out in the country covering quantitative analysis. Qualitative assessment of poverty did not receive much attention in the past. Recently, participatory poverty assessment (PPA) has been conducted on the basis of indicators falling under natural assets, drought, gender dimension of poverty, lack of political power and institutions. The results are still being processed. A study by Social Policy and Development Centre indicates that the causes of poverty are different in the urban and rural centres of Pakistan. The analysis of rural areas indicates that 55 percent of the range of causes is due to lack of assets, 18 percent due to employment, 15 percent to transfers, 8 percent due to education and 1 percent due to lack of family support. In the urban areas, on the other hand, 45 percent of poverty is due to employment factors, 12 percent due to education, 11 percent due to transfers, and 9 percent each due to lack of family support and lack of assets.

The Planning Commission indicates that poverty should be considered as a band rather than a line. Above this band, there are people who are in the vulnerable zone. People falling in this zone are vulnerable to external shocks and may fall into poverty. Below the band, the people are in the transient zone, which means that they are more likely to move out of poverty. Below the transient zone are those people who are in absolute poverty. Different policies re needed for different zones. But there is a need for special projects and programmes to protect the absolute poor.

The quantitative analysis of poverty is based on the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES). According to the HIES, poverty based on the most commonly used measure, the Head-Count Ratio (HCR) has increased from 24.9 percent in 1992-93 to 30.6 percent in 1998-99. Based on the caloric intake of 2,350 per adult equivalent per day, poverty line is estimated at Rs.673.54 per capita per month in 1989-90. This implies that a family of 6 with an income of Rs.4,041 is living below the poverty line. The data set also indicates that rural poverty has remained higher than urban poverty.

The analysis of poverty has also identified three key gaps which must be confronted simultaneously to help in improving the poverty situation in the country. These include financial, social and managerial gaps. Public expenditure is suffering from weak prioritization, inadequate project screening and weak monitoring and supervision. Increased public expenditure has not been observed to make an impact on improving human development indicators and poverty reduction. The major examples are that of the Prime Minister's Five Point Programme, various MNA/MPA programmes and the Social Action Programme. Despite significant growth in the budget in the social sector including health and education, per capita expenditure in these sectors is low compared to most of the developing countries. Evaluation of various targeted programmes shows that more than $2/5^{th}$ of the budget is not reaching the target population. Around 80 percent of the total budget is current expenditure, while only 20 percent is available for development.

The IPRSP is the first step in the direction of preparing a comprehensive national anti-poverty strategy. It encompasses the economic structure, and social initiatives and has the proposed drivers for poverty reduction. It identifies poverty reduction indicators and monitoring mechanisms. It also outlines a participatory process for preparing the full PRSP. The IPRSP has five important drivers – economic reforms, creating physical assets especially for the poor, creating social assets, providing social safety nets and ensuring good governance. Economic reforms include stabilization efforts that would comprise tax reforms, expenditure management, debt management etc. These reforms would also require providing enabling environment for greater investment opportunities. It will also encompass infrastructure development.

The physical asset creation for the poor includes provision of land, housing and access to credit. The social asset creation includes education, health, nutrition, population programmes, water supply and sanitation. Provision of social safety nets includes programmers such as Khushal Pakistan Programme, Zakat, Food Support Programme, Social Protection Programme and indigenous philanthropy. Governance issues would be addressed through devolution of power, civil services reforms, access to justice and police reforms.

The IPRSP envisaged a public sector development expenditure of Rs.130.4 billion during 2000-01, rising to Rs.224.7 billion in 2003-04. The sectors would also receive higher allocations during subsequent years. The total private sector expenditure would rise from a figure of Rs.139 billion in 2000-01 to Rs.174 billion in 2003-04. The total public and private sector expenditure would rise from a figure of Rs.139 billion in 2000-01 to Rs.174 billion in 2003-04. The total public and private sector expenditure would rise from Rs. 269 billion during 2000-01 to Rs.399 billion during 2003-04. The total expenditure as percent of GDP would rise from 3.7 percent during 2000-01 to 8 percent during 2003-04.

The road to full PRSP presented, indicated that it should be fully participatory in which broader consultation on anti poverty strategy would have to take place. Similarly, the approach must allow bottom-up planning and the communities must express their views on the strategies and programmes. In this process the input of the local population in PRSP preparation will be critical in building up of the ownership of the PRSP. The process will help to divert national resources to projects and programmes originating from the local communities in a cost-effective manner. There is a need to develop a dialogue on PRSP at the grassroots level. For this purpose countrywide coverage has to be achieved in 108 districts.

After the presentation, a consensus of opinion emerged that the RSP support is required to incorporate social mobilization as a driver of poverty reduction in the PRSP. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan pointed out that unless people are mobilized poverty cannot be reduced. RSPs have a targeted programme and are able to address the needs of the poor. The government, he said, has to recognize the importance of targeting poverty. It has to take the lead role and NGOs alone cannot perform this task by themselves. Citing an example of Khushal Pakistan, he noted that it has helped in implementing 5,000 projects giving employment to 0.5 million people. On the contrary, the Community Physical Infrastructure Initiative Project (CII) implemented by SRSP showed, that adoption of similar targeted approach by the government could have permitted 50,000 projects within the same resources and extended employment to the greater number of 5 million people. Thus the people need to be involved in planning and implementing of projects and programmes.

Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan suggested that the RSPs can offer the districts in which they are present and the government representatives can hold their dialogues directly with the people. He however cautioned that the government should not approach the people with pre-conceived packages and listen first to their needs and opportunities. He advised the RSPs that while facilitating the consultation exercise between people and the government, it should be borne in mind that the support required by the people would not necessarily be that which is currently being provided by them. He said that the canvas of support would be much larger as it involves the government. In this regard, he further advised that the consultation between the government and the people should include larger forums representing the district.

In the light of the presentation, the discussion by the participants and the guidance provided by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, an action programme was prepared for consultation with the poor. It would be completed in four stages.

Stage I, to be completed by December 2002, would involve three-fold action. First, the process of critical understanding and informed absorption of the I-PRSP was to be taken to each RSP headquarter. The respective RSP representatives attending the briefing in Islamabad would, in turn, brief their own management and staff by making the same presentation. The RSPN would be present and stand ready to assist. Secondly, these sessions of internal reflection and analysis would identify broadly representative sites for pilot consultations. Thirdly, there would be the action in the field, i.e. the pilot sites. As a matter of strategy, the dialogue teams would not present the I-PRSP document to the communities, but use the information therein as background to guide and facilitate consultation. The idea was not to seek blanket endorsement of the I-PRSP but to elicit opinion of the community as to what the Government and people can together do to reduce poverty, within the broad parameters of PRSP.

Stage II would bring all the contact persons from the RSPs together for a workshop at RSPN in mid January 2003 to share different experiences with each other and to discuss methodologies employed in pilot consultations to arrive at a set of useful common denominators for dialogues beyond pilots in the future. Depending on the quality of the outcomes of the pilot dialogues, a seminar on participatory PRSP will be

arranged in January, to which all stakeholders, including the Government and donors, would be invited.

Stage III will involve the coverage of other RSP districts, based on the results of the pilot dialogues/consultation. This stage will be completed in March 2003.

Stage IV, the final stage, would result in an alternative "Chapter 3: PRSP Dialogue" of the I-PRSP and suggestions for improvement in other chapters to reflect the insights gained from the dialogue at the grassroots level. This stage would be completed in April 2003.

Chairman, RSPN, would present this document at the Pakistan Development Forum in end-April or early May. A 20-minute film, covering the entire process, will be part of the presentation. All RSPs will contribute material for the film.

The Community Consultation Process:

As given above, the RSP's have a presence (as distinct from full coverage) in 82 districts of the country and, as of December 2002, had helped form 39,000 Community Organizations (COs). About one third of these organized forums are women's COs. At present, by far the majority of these COs are in rural areas. In all areas where RSPs operate, their social mobilization and other staff remain in regular and on-going contact with the local communities. This vast outreach in rural areas, close contact and credibility with organized forums, and staff trained and experienced in participatory consultation with communities, gives RSPs a unique opportunity to contribute to the I-PRSP community consultation process.

As a first step, in November-December 2002, the RSPs invited concerned government officials (from the Planning Commission) to brief them about the I-PRSP document and the process. These briefings were then repeated at each RSP's head office, led by their own staff who had attended the earlier briefings. In view of the importance of the I-PRSP document and the absolute need for community consultations, on their own initiative the RSPs began these consultation dialogues with communities. The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) was entrusted the coordination role, while the 9 RSPs undertook the actual implementation of the pilot community dialogues, during November 2002 to February 2003. Towards the end of January 2003, in recognition of the RSP's initiative, the Finance Division of the GOP wrote to RSPN to undertake community dialogues on the I-PRSP and to provide it input.

Since initially conceived as a pilot stage, the nine organizations were given considerable latitude in how they conducted the dialogues. In most cases, dialogues with women were held separately from the men, and in some cases were conducted by women staff. Some dialogues were held with one CO, and in other cases members from half a dozen or more COs were invited to a joint dialogue. There was a deliberate effort to include the poor. In some regions, non-members were actively encouraged to also participate. Most of the dialogues were preceded by distribution of a questionnaire or a checklist outlining relevant issues. A Proforma developed by the Punjab RSP, also used by some other RSPs, is attached. Some dialogues were conducted in open-ended discussion format, as is the RSP norm in their routine community consultations,

though the majority of dialogues were held with the participants divided into smaller groups, akin to a 'focus group discussion' format.

The RSPs undertook community consultation dialogues in 49 districts of the country, in all provinces and in the Northern Areas and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In all, 121 dialogues were held, with a total of some 4,500 participants, including 3,000 males and 1,500 females. Initially, this was supposed to be a pilot process to be followed by a more comprehensive dialogue process, but due to time pressures it has been concluded at the pilot phase.

The I-PRSP document was deliberately not read out to community participants or distributed to them, so as not to influence or pre-empt their views. The key areas of inquiry were (a) reasons for poverty, (b) possible solutions, what government can do to alleviate poverty. While some macro-economic issues that communities are well aware off were discussed, it was not intended to necessarily cover all macro-economic issues found in the I-PRSP document. The community views, needs and priorities that came out in our dialogues are naturally related to the type of participants in the dialogues - the majority being subsistence farming households and the rural poor.

The reports from each RSP are given in the different chapters of this report and the Conclusion chapter, at the end, summarizes the findings, analysis and conclusions.

A list of districts where community consultations were held is annexed.

Chapter Three

Main Findings

"From I-PRSP to PRSP – the RSP way"

This chapter summarizes the findings and conclusions. Further details are given in the individual RSP reports.

1. <u>Reasons for poverty</u>:

Major findings from the grassroots that need to be included in and supplement the content of the Pakistan PRSP relate largely to the issue of effective implementation. Organized communities not only spoke of poor access to and quality of public services across all sectors, they also spoke of poor governance affecting such services. Hence, whereas the implementation level was of immediate concern, they were very clear that it is a failure of it is a failure of governance, ie, corruption, mismanagement, lack of accountability, etc, that leads to wastage of resources and hence poor services for the poor.

The bad governance issue was repeatedly and strongly raised by all communities the RSPs spoke to. There was constant comparison between how government prioritizes the needs of the poor and how their real needs are never reflected in government planning and budgets.

At the end of the day, the main issue to deliberate upon from the community point of view is that poor people need to be organised and government needs to learn to trust them to effectively deliver pro-poor development. This country is replete with good examples of how people can be involved in bottom-up planning and service delivery. Community organisations are offering to government their collaboration and it is time that government took them seriously in order to make its own job easier and in order for it to achieve its own objectives of pro-poor development.

In dialogues with communities, the reasons for poverty that people identify include: Discriminatory education system, very low standard of education accessible to ordinary people or else it is too expensive for them; children leave school and do not reach their

full potential. Due to unsanitary conditions (including unsafe drinking water) and poor nutrition etc, high incidence of health problems, and the generally accessible health care is very low quality or else too expensive. Therefore, because of sickness in a family, they can become very poor; this may be transitory or longer term.

Wide-spread unemployment, even among the educated; that is one of the reasons why parents sometimes prefer to put children to work instead (of schooling), so as to learn some skill as well as to earn even a meager amount to supplement the family income. As public sector employment is not merit-based many deserving people do not get jobs there. For ordinary people, capital is not accessible from traditional sources to start productive enterprise. Loans from traditional sources are usually given to the more aware and well connected. Women have few opportunities to earn a livelihood, especially near to their homes. Vocational skills' training is not widely available, therefore reducing opportunities, in particular for women, to fulfill their potential of income generation.

Agriculture (including livestock) is a mainstay of many people. The necessary support and services are not reaching the poor; proper agricultural extension services, quality affordable inputs, livestock treatment facilities, etc, are not reaching the poor. In addition, down-stream requirements of storage, processing, and efficient producer friendly marketing are also lacking. The supply and equitable distribution (including between subsistence farmers and those with influence) of water remains crucial.

A rapid rise in population is further exacerbating the shortage of facilities and the need for additional resources. The participants point out that planning by government agencies is not according to their priorities and the local needs, and there is a lack of coordination among government agencies. Government funded projects use the 'Contractor system', even at the local level/village level; according to the people this results in improper work at inflated costs. At the macro-level, rising prices (this includes indirect taxes) are especially hard on the poor and the poorest, high (and flat) rates of electricity (eg, for tube wells), and rising price of fuel (diesel) are also frequently cited as reasons for economic difficulties for the poor.

Those without the right 'connections' cannot reach government officials to seek what is due to them. The legal system does not provide quick and affordable justice.

On the one hand there are all these factors that cause poverty and on the other hand the supposed social security/social safety net is not reaching a majority of the deserving. Social security benefits are not easily accessible, not always given on merit and are of inadequate amounts.

2. <u>What to do to alleviate poverty</u>:

2.1 "Nizam Kharab hai" – Governance issues

In our community dialogues, the underlying theme was always that "nizam kharab hai": ordinary people have no access to government officials; influence and contacts/relationships, not merit or what is a due right, determines what people get; planning without reference to the people's priorities and needs; corruption and improper utilization of funds; non-merit based hiring in the public sector; the corrupt "contractor system" resulting in improper work at inflated costs; the "patwari" system needs to be replaced by a more objective and accountable system; the need for efficient supply of and equitable distribution of water; injustice and delays in the legal system; ineffective monitoring system of public services; the futility of referring to the police and the legal system, etc.

The community dialogues highlight that facilities, services and support that are supposed to be in place for the people are not in fact reaching the poor and those without the 'connections'. The dialogues underscore that mechanisms to operationalize plans and programs are crucial. Implementation is hampered by elements that are now lumped together under governance; unless governance issues are addressed, proper operationalization will not happen and the objectives cannot be achieved.

As individuals, ordinary people such as subsistence farmers and the rural poor do not have the information, the awareness, or the 'contacts' and resources to be able to obtain what is their due. Everywhere in our grassroots dialogues, the people unanimously supported the need for community participation at the local and micro-

level, ie, at village or 'mohallah' level: in planning, in implementation and management, as well as in monitoring. Unless people are organized, they cannot participate and try to ensure that programs are implemented properly and that the deserving get what is due to them.
Therefore, social mobilization is necessary and must come first before efforts for poverty alleviation can succeed.

The communities consulted believe that the government can encourage ownership by the people and achieve transparency and accountability of projects by involving the local people, through organized forums (of community organizations). To foster social mobilization and to nurture the organized communities, whether CO's (Community Organizations) or whether CCB's (Citizen's Community Boards), intermediate Support Organizations are required. The government agencies and even district administration just do not currently have the capacity and the qualities that are required to fulfill that support function.

2.2 Human Development:

2.2.1 Education

Undoubtedly, the education sector is a major priority for people everywhere, often ranked as the number one priority. However, it is vital to understood that people speak of the need for literacy, for "awareness", for vocational skills training, and for technical and professional education, not just regular schooling. People want equal access for all to the same standard of education (not a discriminatory two-track system, one for the rich and one for the poor). At present, in general, education facilities are considered to be of low standard and sometimes hardly functional. Good quality education is beyond the reach of ordinary people. In some dialogues, people asked for free access to education. There is a need for better access to education for females. The need for widespread availability of facilities for those with disabilities was pointed out.

2.2.2 Vocational skills training

A number of factors have made people give far more importance to vocational skills trainings than perhaps previously was the case: the low standard of regular schooling;

unemployment of the educated; public sector jobs without reference to merit; inflation and the short-term urgent financial needs of the poor; recognition of self-employment as an important opportunity for the future, etc. Now when the people speak of the need for “shaoor” and “taleem”, upon probing they explain that they consider vocational skills training to be an important part of it, for both males and females. Many would like vocational skills training to be part of regular schooling, starting from the early classes. Vocational skills training could be linked to credit facility and to promotion of small enterprise and cottage industry.

2.2.3 Healthcare

Healthcare facilities ordinarily available are very low quality and sometimes non-functional. High quality healthcare is generally very difficult to access for ordinary people and/or is too expensive (this includes associated costs of travel to access distant facilities where better treatment is available. Difficult link roads from rural areas add to this problem). Access to quality healthcare is particularly difficult for females. People ask for safe drinking water. There is need for a more effective population welfare program (awareness raising and services). In some dialogues, where applicable, people asked for proper planning and implementation of drainage and sanitation facilities. The need for close monitoring of healthcare facilities was pointed out. In our community dialogues, the people identified the dire need for free or affordable, accessible and properly functional healthcare facility for the poor.

2.3 Economic Development:

2.3.1 Agriculture (including livestock)

Facilities to support small farmers are not reaching them effectively, eg, extension services (including technical advice and training) and agri-machinery on rent or on affordable terms – the people complain that agri-machinery is available on rent to only those with the right ‘connections’. Agri-Inputs, such as seeds, pesticides and fertilizer, are expensive for small farmers, yet of quite unreliable quality. Livestock, a mainstay for many families and communities, does not receive proper extension support and lacks proper facilities for preventive and curative treatment of animals; this is of particular concern to rural women. There is need for additional support to the forestry sector. In areas where Rural Support Programs and other development programs

work and provide micro-credit, people have better access to credit, but they still identify the need for higher loan ceilings and for lower mark-up.

Water is a priority need, with water wastage due to poor irrigation systems, lack of water harvesting arrangements/reservoirs and the equitable distribution of water, major issues. Inadequate rural link roads add to difficulties. The small farmers need effective support in the entire Chain of Activities: in addition to the above, they need machinery for land leveling and for pumping water, stable prices and fair 'support prices', facilities for storage and cold-storage, and producer friendly marketing mechanisms. Some people suggested promoting agro-based industry that would help process and preserve produce. In some dialogues, people spoke against taxes on small landholdings and on agricultural produce, and suggested that the government ought to only charge water rates of those who actually receive water.

2.3.2 Macro-Economic Issues

The small farmers stressed that they are directly affected by rising prices of diesel and by rising rates/high flat rates of electricity for agri-machinery (eg, tube wells). It was stressed by community members that while rising diesel prices affect them in many ways, the small farmers cannot pass-on their additional costs to the consumer. People are very concerned about the general price rise and would like the price inflation to be controlled, especially of basic necessities of the poor. Taxes on items purchased by everyone (indirect taxes) are a heavier burden on the poor, they would like introduction of a tax system that has proportionately less impact on the poor. While people discussed mistaken priorities, inappropriate planning and projects, etc, at a macro level they would like a better ratio of development to non-development expenditures, in favor of development expenditure.

In the arid areas of Balochistan and even in the mountains of AJK, people stress the need for many localized smaller water catchments/water reservoir schemes, as more appropriate and cost effective compared to a few and distant mega water schemes.

2.3.3

There is widespread unemployment and underemployment. In particular, for most rural communities there is a dearth of employment opportunities at a reasonably near

distance to them; this applies even more acutely to women. In addition, sought after public sector jobs are generally not obtained on merit (leading to underemployment as well as disillusionment with formal education). In our dialogues, participants suggested the promotion of employment opportunities in the local area, through cottage industry and small-scale enterprise. The need for technical training and vocational skills training for income generation is stressed. The promotion of small-scale enterprise, in the local area, is especially relevant for women (though there also ought to be protections against exploitation of home-workers).

Credit facilities from traditional sources are often inaccessible to the poor. Even from development organizations the current mark-up rate (around 20%) on micro-credit appears high to the poor, while low individual loan ceilings limit opportunities of usage. They strongly suggest higher loan ceilings and low mark-up; and subsidized or free of charge credit for those who would otherwise be unable to avail the facility. Micro-credit is relevant for and needs to be marketed at both men and women.

Basic infrastructure, such as roads and (affordable) electricity, are needed to facilitate various aspects, whether to promote small enterprise, to transport agricultural produce, or to access healthcare and education facilities. In various forms, that comes up in the dialogues.

2.4. Social Safety Net/ Special programs for the poorest:

Community dialogues everywhere show that the vast majority of the needy and deserving are not able to benefit from the social safety net facilities supposedly available for them. One of the main components of the safety net, Zakat, is repeatedly said to be improperly administered and the Zakat Committees constituted do not enjoy the people's confidence. The overwhelming view is that in general, services and facilities supposedly there are not actually accessible to the majority of the poor or those without the right 'connections'. The amounts available to families under social security schemes are also small, sometimes little more than nominal. Women headed households are often among the poor and the poorest, and suffer as a result of not being able to access social security facilities. Clearly, the objective of providing special

programs of support to the needy deserving is not being met. Those below the 'poverty band' are not receiving the required support.

3. Budget

The IPRSP budgetary expenditures (2001-2004) table (page 54, table 5.1) shows that at present there is very little space in the IPRSP to incorporate the voices of the poor. It follows that if the government is willing to create space in which to include the voices of the poor, then the budget would need to be revised to reflect the priorities identified by the community. Table 5.1 (in the IPRSP document) shows that only 2.4% of GDP is allocated to human development – including education, health, population planning, social security and welfare, and natural calamities and other disasters. If Water supply and sanitation, and food subsidies are also included with the above, then altogether this makes up 2.8% of the GDP. Clearly, this is a very small percentage and it does not reflect the priorities and the needs of the people.

4. Contribution of community members:

In the community dialogues, the people were highly interested in and enthusiastic about development efforts and offered to actively participate in and to contribute as much as they are able towards such efforts. While the poor cannot make large monetary contributions they can nevertheless make important contributions. The ordinary community members have local knowledge, they can best identify the needs, priorities as well as the opportunities; they can give vital input in planning and in program design. They can perform a significant role in local level supervision and monitoring. Organized communities, in Pakistan, have a remarkable record of implementing village level/'mohallah' level infrastructure projects of required quality at comparatively much lower costs than government contractors.

In monetary terms, the poor can sometimes contribute part of their labor for projects for their own uplift. Where applicable, they do offer to provide land or premises free of cost for facilities for their communities benefit. In addition to the roles mentioned above, organized communities can perform the role of advocacy and lobbying with departments to obtain their due benefits. Organized communities provide the

mechanism to overcome many of the governance problems faced today – from local level planning, to management and implementation, to monitoring. The peoples willingness and active participation in organized forums is the key to successful operationalization of plans and programs.

More specifically, in the community dialogues, people offered to, for instance:

- provide free of cost accommodation to staff of healthcare facilities if properly functioning healthcare facilities are established, locally,

- contribute their labor for infrastructure projects. They offered to provide free of cost land for development projects such as the construction of irrigation channels,

- the community members give assurance that they would gladly enroll their children if proper education facilities are available,

- they want to actively participate in planning (eg participation in local level planning with officials), in management and implementation of local level infrastructure projects and School Management Committees, etc, as well as in the monitoring of projects. They are confident that broad based local participation will ensure good quality work at less cost,

- the community members offer to contribute to or even to shoulder responsibility for operation and maintenance of village level projects,

- they assure proper re-payment of credit facility if they could access credit for their needs.

5. Some specific provincial issues raised in the dialogues:

Sindh:

- There is a great need for the development and welfare of Katchi Abadi's
- There is a need for mechanisms for the proper inspection and regulation of prepared food sold in the market
- The sides of canals and watercourses offer an opportunity for plantations
- Arrangements should be put in place for disaster management

Balochistan:

- Support to the fishing industry is a major provincial priority
- In the province, water reservoirs and water harvesting is a major priority, including the rehabilitation of Kareez
- There is a need for health diagnostic facilities in remote areas
- Water treatment facilities are needed for remote areas
- Cold storage facilities are needed, at least at the district level
- The people would like that the government support collectively owned tube wells

Punjab:

- Training is needed in the proper usage of insecticides
- The 'Patwari' system needs to be reformed
- Need for equitable distribution of irrigation water
- Stable prices for sugar cane and cotton crops
- Bridge the gap between research institutes and the small farmers

NWFP:

- Some of the dialogue participants voiced support for the government initiates to control expenses on wasteful ceremonies, such as weddings and on dowry
- NGOs ought to be cognizant of the norms of the area they are working in
- International relations should keep the country's interest foremost

6. Conclusions:

The above findings highlight that facilities, services and support that are supposed to be in place for the people are not in fact reaching the poor and those without the 'connections'. This involves issues of prioritization, of planning and of implementation. It also highlights that key priority areas identified by the people, such as human development, are projected to receive under the I-PRSP a meager amount of the total GDP.

In general, the people don't ask for all new initiatives or facilities but that whatever is there is implemented properly. The I-PRSP document is comprehensive and includes almost all components that were brought up in our community dialogues. But the dialogues underscore that the mechanisms to operationalize plans and programs are crucial. It is not just a lack of resources that is the issue, but resources must be used according to right priorities, and used efficiently and effectively.

- Plans and programs need to be **properly implemented**. Unless **governance** issues are addressed, proper operationalization will not happen and the objectives cannot be achieved. The I-PRSP document speaks about initiatives to improve governance, but it cannot or does not lay out the detailed mechanisms for doing so. That is probably because those detailed mechanisms are not within the domain of the driving forces behind the I-PRSP, the Finance Division and the Planning Commission. Objectives and plans ought to be directly linked to measures for their implementation, as plans must take into account the 'realities' to be faced in implementation. The important thing then is to concentrate on why plans/programs don't work and how to make them work.

- The **priorities of the people** were discussed above. However, the **budget** given in the I-PRSP document shows that only 2.8% of GDP is earmarked for the peoples highest priority, human development. Even assuming that this budget is spent very effectively, it still does not as yet reflect the priorities of the people.

- The I-PRSP speaks of the need for **special initiatives for those below the poverty band** and of a **social safety net**. Our dialogues clearly show that the social safety net, eg, Zakat and other special programs, are not reaching a majority of the

deserving and where it does, it is inadequate for all their needs. Besides monthly cash support, a social security system could aim to provide the ground to develop healthy and productive citizens, eg, vocational training as well as education, basic healthcare, perhaps subsidized micro-credit to enable self-enterprise, etc. The social safety net must be easily accessible by the deserving and should be adequate for their needs, so that they can become assets to society. For proper program implementation, there needs to be an acceptable mechanism to identify and assess the deserving.

- One of the best means to improve governance at the local level is to include and **involve communities in local level planning, implementation and in monitoring**. In our community dialogues, which were with organized communities, they are very much in favour of **social mobilization** and value its benefits. Social mobilization is an ideal way to include communities in local level planning, implementation and in monitoring – social mobilization precedes poverty alleviation. To foster social mobilization and to nurture the organized communities, whether CO's (Community Organizations) or whether CCB's (Citizens Community Boards), **intermediate Support Organizations** are required to nurture them. The government agencies and even district administration just do not currently have the capacity and the qualities that are required to fulfill that support function.

- There is often a tendency to **monitor performance** by following financial expenditures and looking at program Inputs, eg, what activities were sponsored towards gaining certain objectives. But this does not account for inefficiency, ineffectiveness and misplaced priorities. It does not look at whether the desired outcome was achieved. Therefore, the PRSP monitoring and evaluation ought to stress Outcomes and the eventual Impact, of all key aspects, including community participation in planning and implementation, whether the social safety net is reaching the deserving, the standard of education and skills training, whether public sector hiring is merit based, whether agricultural extension services are reaching the small farmers and the quality of agri-inputs generally available to them, whether and how much are governance aspects improving – the key to successful implementation – and so on.

PART 2

SRSP

Part 2 RSP's Community Dialogue Reports

Chapter Four

Leading From The Frontier: Strategies For The Poor By The Poor

Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)

A meeting was held in Peshawar on 28 November, 2002 at the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), which has developed a close working relationship with the Government of the Frontier Province. Under the Mansehra Village Support Project (MVSP), SRSP has worked with the Government of NWFP in Mansehra and Battagram, and similarly under the Barani Area Development Project it has worked with the Government in Kohat, Karak, Abbottabad and Haripur districts. This relationship involved the linking up of CO and WO members to the Government's technical departments to procure training, demonstrations, inputs and advice. After the expiry of both projects, institutional mechanisms such as coordination meetings still exist and these linkages are continuing to endure in these areas. In Charsadda, SRSP works independently while maintaining informal linkages with the Government. SRSP's main donors are the PPAF, NOVIB (a Dutch NGO), Government of the Netherlands.

The meeting noted that development is an evolutionary process, which takes decades to root itself in a society. Many poverty alleviation projects are well designed but are often insensitive to the needs of major stakeholders. At least a decade worth of honest work is required to assess the changes in the lives of the poor. One such effort to work on sustainable basis for the poverty alleviation was to develop a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) ie a framework for pro-poor development, in consultation with relevant stakeholders but especially the poor.

The full PRSP for Pakistan is yet to be finalized. The Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper emphasizes the twin objectives of rapid economic growth and poverty reduction. Good governance is included not only as an important goal but also a fundamental pre-requisite for the achievement of economic growth and poverty reduction. The economic growth strategy outlined in the I-PRSP is based on stabilization measures and structural adjustment reforms including debt management, privatization of public enterprises, withdrawal of price supports and subsidies, construction of mega development projects, banking and tax reforms, liberalization of the economy to attract foreign investments etc. The fundamental premise is that rapid economic growth will help in reducing poverty.

It is claimed that the I-PRSP for Pakistan was prepared through a participatory process including policy dialogues and consultation with the newly elected local representatives, technocrats and civil society organizations. However, contrary to this, the mentioned stakeholders are still largely uninformed about the process. The earlier consultation process, in a few districts, is inadequate and most

importantly the real target group - the poor - were not properly included in the consultations when preparing the
I-PRSP.

For development to take place, effective participation of all the stakeholders is required and therefore the PRSP process should be country driven. The RSPs (SRSP having outreach in 11 out of the total 24 districts) are the major potential partners of government to facilitate this process of ensuring the participation of poor people at grass root level. SRSP is an obvious facilitator in this process as it has necessary expertise and credibility.

The following decisions were taken regarding holding of dialogues in their programme area.

1. At least two pilot dialogues (one each with men and women community organisation members) would be held in the following Regions of SRSP ie Kohat, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Mansehra, Charsada and Lachi.

2. An effort would be made to ensure the participation of poor community members. In this regard the Regions with the list of the poverty ranking of the communities could be used as a tool to gauge the level of the target group participation. Thus, COs where poverty ranking has been done will be preferred.

3. The video clips of the dialogues held at Balochistan would be distributed to the Regions as a guideline for dialogues. If possible, the SRSP dialogue teams should also film their dialogues. These will become part of a short video which will be useful to show to government and donors.

4. The Regions would be required to prepare detailed notes on these pilot dialogues, so as to formulate guidelines for ensuring effective and meaningful participation of the targeted group.

5. The pilot dialogues will be initiated and completed before December 31st 2002. A total of 10 dialogues (five each with MCOs and WCOs) will be conducted in five regions.

Section 1
Introduction and Background

Introduction to the Consultation Process

The Government of Pakistan is formulating a poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP). This is a process, which a total of 64 developing countries have also initiated. The donors would after the preparation of the country documents, would decide upon the funding arrangements. In the case of Pakistan and draft document called the Interim PRSP (IPRSP) has been prepared. There has been a wide criticism on the document by the donors as well as the civil society because there has been limited participation of the people at the grassroots level. As a result, these stakeholders feel that the document does not reflect the aspirations of the people of Pakistan. The GoP realizing this inadequacy approached the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) for wider consultation with the people, especially the poor.

As a result of this, the RSPN in participation with all the Rural Support Programmes (RSP) in the country decided to carry out the consultation for the finalisation of the PRSP. The RSPN organized a briefing on the IPRSP at Islamabad where all Heads of the RSPs as well as the Chairman of the BoD of RSPN participated. Dr. Parvez Tahir, Chief Economist and a representative from the Planning Commission participated in the briefing. At the end of the briefing and after a thorough debate on the subject, it was decided that each of the RSPs would conduct consultative workshops in their programme areas and document it. The documentation it was further decided would be in the shape descriptive form as well as crisply edited video.

To develop an understanding of the IPRSP, a further meeting was held for the core management of SRSP on November 28, 2002 at the Human Resource Development Center (HRDC). The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson, BoD, while other participants included Chief Economist, Planning Commission, CEO RSPN and members from the RSPN and core management of SRSP. At the end of the session, an action plan was developed and decisions taken included holding dialogues with men and women community members in five regions of SRSP. These dialogues as per the decisions were to be facilitated by the Head Office team.

1.1 Process /methodology of holding the consultation dialogues

1.1.1 Head Office Level

The process started with a one-day session at the head office, where a visit schedule was agreed upon in consultation with all the Regional Program Managers. The session outlined a framework to hold these dialogues at regional level with the community members to make them aware of the Federal Government efforts and get suggestions as to how the poor community members could be benefited from these activities/ initiatives. The video shots of the dialogues held at Killi Sawan Khan, Balochistan, conducted by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN, were also shown to the participants for having a basis or conducting effective dialogues by other RSPs.

1.1.2 Regional Level

Brainstorming sessions at regional level then followed the one-day orientation session. The first session, in this regard, was arranged on December 19, 2002 in Regional Office Abbottabad. An effort was made to ensure the presence of all the relevant regional and field staff. Some of the key staff members from Regional Office Mansehra also participated in the session. The brief sessions were also arranged for the regional teams of Kohat, Peshawar and Lachi to carry out the dialogues. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, its broader objectives, the role of Federal/Provincial and newly elected devolved structure in poverty targeting and the role of the community itself in overcoming the problems they face to improve their standard of life were discussed in details. The objective of the session was to brief the relevant staff so as to facilitate the community members to have an in-depth analysis of their situation and come up with suggestions for the government to take actions in formulating a pro poor policy. Poverty and its dimensions, causes of poverty, the role of government (federal/provincial and local government) and the community members were also highlighted during the session with an objective to enable the regional and field staff to further probe the issue and to ensure a meaningful participation of the community members to identify the areas for the consideration of the relevant agencies to address poverty. At regional level two teams were comprised for conducting these pilot dialogues. Careful steps were taken at regional to have a multi-disciplinary team for an in-depth analysis. These teams then visited the areas in the Districts mentioned in table 01.

The teams had an informal discussion on the proceedings and outcome of the session. The methodology was critically analyzed and it was therefore decided to encourage participation of community members from different areas with diverse experience to share and present innovative ideas pertaining to the issue. The findings of the dialogues conducted in District Mansehra, Haripur, Kohat and Peshawar were then compared and the suggestions compiled in to the presented document.

1.1.3. Community level

At community level, the emphasis was on the participation of the relevant stakeholders including. The non-members and especially poor/ poorest non-member participation was considered necessary for obtaining views from those who do not even have awareness. The combination given below was followed both with men as well as women. The wide spectrum of people participated in the dialogues in order to ensure district-level representation.

- Office bearers of the community organizations.
- General members of the community organizations.
- Non-members of the community organisations.
- Poor and very poor community organisations.
- Non-member poor and very poor people.

At community level, thematic discussions took place on the following areas.

- Who is poor?
- What are the causes of poverty?
- Initiatives taken by the government (federal and provincial) for reducing poverty
- Suggestions/views of community members for reducing poverty.

SRSP team members facilitated the sessions with men and women community members in the villages mentioned in the table 01. The pattern of dialogues followed more or less with men and women community members were the same. The community members had an open discussion on the relevant issues and thus presented their views to suggest possible solutions for eradicating poverty.

Structure of the document

The report is divided into four sections. Followed by introduction to section-1, section-2 highlights the field visits and major discussion points arising out of the debate at the regional level. The detailed minutes of the dialogues are attached with the report. Apart from the written minutes, a video cassette containing edited crisper version of all the dialogues is also enclosed for viewing for verifying the opinion expressed in this descriptive portion. Apart from that detailed videos of each of the dialogues numbering Five are also available with SRSP and can be provided. Section-3 indicates brief analysis that comes out of the debates held at various regions and finally section 4 gives SRSPs suggestion in improving the full PRSP and adding dimensions that would make it more practical and more realistic. The section 4 relies heavily on the opinions expressed by cross section of people that had participated in the dialogues but put in a way that clearly establishes a relationship with the full PRSP.

Section 2

Field Visits

2.0 Visit to SRSP Regional Offices

The pilot dialogues started from December 20, 2002 in District Haripur and concluded on December 27, 2002 in District Peshawar. The details of the venues for the dialogues along-with the dates have been presented in the table 01. A total of 360 men and 275 women participated in the dialogues.

Table 01: I-PRSP Dialogues Schedule

Place visited	Number of Participants		Date of visit
	Men	Women	
1. Abbottabad			
Village Kalali, Union Council Bandi Sher Khan, District Haripur	70	30	December 20, 2002
2. Mansehra			
Village Dakan Tarla, Union Council Pairan, District Mansehra	50	35	December 21, 2002
3. Kohat			
Village Pershai, Union Council Khishal Garh, District Kohat	70	84	December 23, 2002
4. Lachi			
Village Shagi Chorlaki, Shakardara Urban, Lachi	70	50	December 24, 2002
5. Peshawar			
• *Azakhel, Union council Azakhel, District Nowshera* • *Village Gujar Malago, Union Council Mera Kachori, District Peshawar*	100	78	December 27, 2002

2.1 Visit to District Haripur & Mansehra

2.1.1 Visit to Union Council Bandi Sher Khan and Pairan

In connection with I-PRSP pilot dialogues, the team from SRSP comprising of staff members from the Head Office and Regions (Abbottabad and Mansehra) visited Village Kalali, Union Council Bandi Sherkhan, District Haripur. The presence of office bearers of various organizations from all the settlements in the aforementioned union council, local leaders and the newly elected district representatives was made a pre-requisite during the dialogues conducted with men and women community members.

The proceedings always started with a brief background on the issue setting the tone for effective debate on the subject. The dialogue was opened by establishing that:

- Federal Government in the recent past has initiated programs and activities to help the poor and to reduce poverty but despite the relentless efforts of the government poverty is still on the rise and the programmes intended to reach the poor are ineffective.

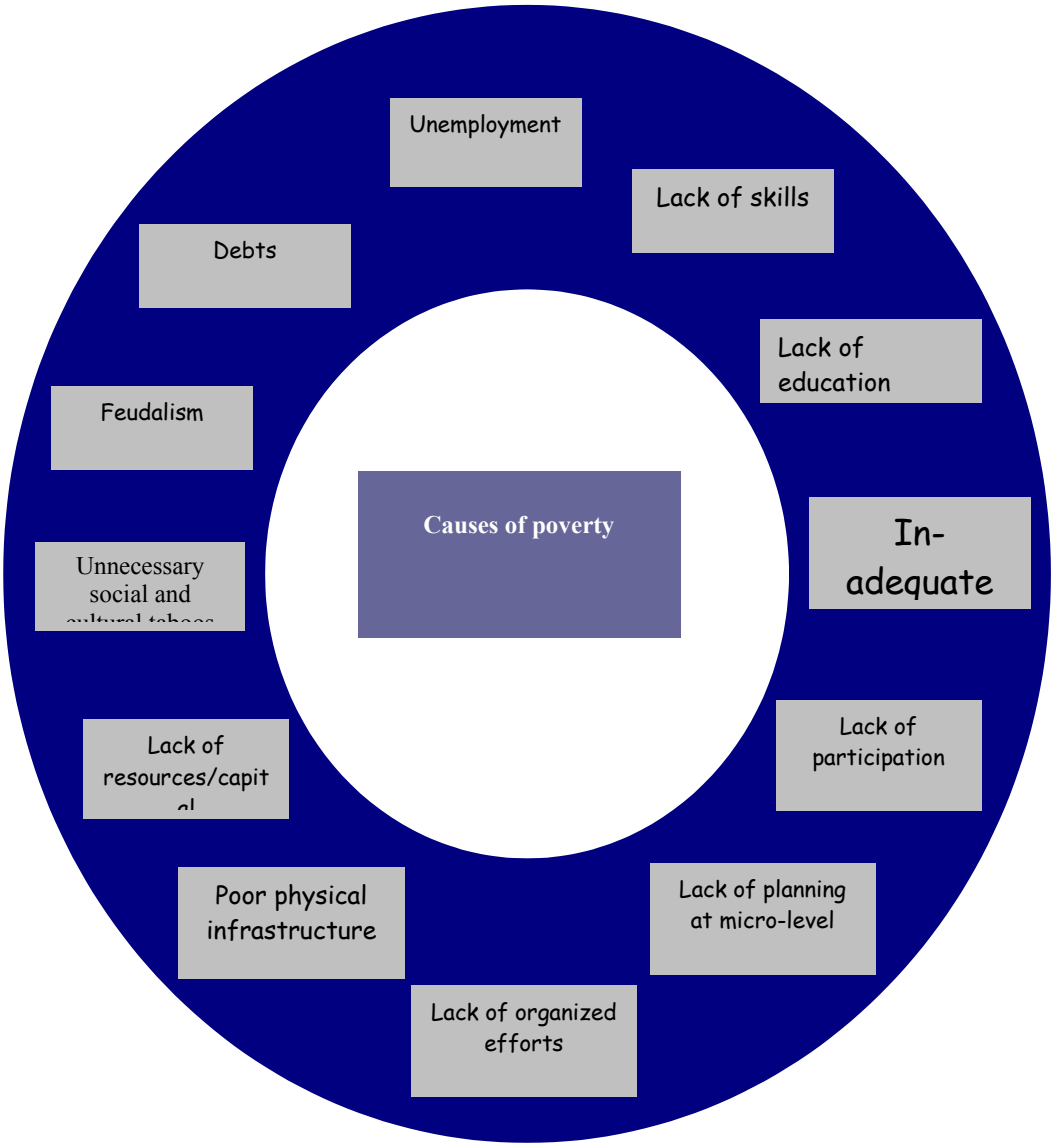
- Studies on poverty trends in the country conclude that poverty is increasing despite efforts to retard the process

- Various development initiative/activities have been taken under different regimes since independence with out any significant achievements in reducing poverty.

Keeping all these facts in mind, the people were informed that the federal government has now decided to hold dialogues with the community members and obtain their views for formulating a strategy that would really benefit the poor. The session there onwards enabled the team members to secure pertinent views of the community members on poverty, its various dimensions, possible solutions to the core issue of poverty and the role of the community members and the government combined for combating the menace of poverty?

2.1.2 Poverty in view of the men/women community members

- No proper source of income.
- Lack of assets and landlessness.
- Not being able to meet the daily needs (food, living and other expenses).
- Less income and more expenses.
- One bread earner with many dependents.
- Gets things mostly on credit, which is not affordable.



The community members shared their views on the initiatives taken by the present government for poverty reduction. The programs as identified by the community members were:

- Khushal Pakistan Programme.
- Bait-ul-Maal/Ushar and Zakat.
- Khushali Bank.
- Population welfare.
- Agriculture Development Bank Pakistan.

The negligence on the part of these organization/departments of not reaching the poor members and considering the deserving cases was openly discussed during the session.

2.1.3 Summary suggestions for Improvement (Men community members)

Following were the suggestions made by the communities of Union council Bandi Serkhan in District Haripur and Union Council Pairan in District Mansehra for solving their problems. The suggestions have been priortised as follows. Annexes contain detailed dialogue minutes.

1. **Social mobilization for organized forums at the village, union council, Tehsil and district level so that people's priorities get reflected in government priorities. Forums should comprise of people from all walks of life with special representation of poor/ very poor for advocacy, ensuring transparency and identification of pro poor programmes. These forums ensure accountability and transparency of public sector spending as these are empowered and people's priorities cannot be sidelined**. The devolution at the district level alone does not ensure transparency and accountability, social mobilization and organised forums at UC/ Tehsil and district level are the control mechanism of any centralization and nepotism efforts even in the devolved district government level.

   The issues of non-poor in development are invariably addressable through their own efforts because they are aware and have some standing in the society. Within the poor class, the poor can access resources, however, that too with difficulty, but the poorest have no chance of securing any resources. They are asset less, voiceless, powerless. Within the community no body is willing to stand for them or willing to extend guarantee on their behalf. This reduces their moral and financial standing to nothing within the community they live. The government must have a special programme for the poorest. They must graduate to poor level and than will have some assets to allow them to access resources for further economic development. Loan to the poorest is completely out of the question as he/ she has no capacity to pay and no body is willing to extend any guarantee on his or her behalf whether in the shape of financial or social collateral. A purely grant programme to build their assets.

2. Encourage micro level planning i.e village and mohallah level
3. Government must demonstrate its commitment to decrease poverty by making pro-poor policies, reducing income in-equalities, improved access to universal education and primary health care for all.
4. Allocation of special funds specifically for the poor and very poor members of the community in each and every department and reflected in annual budget.
5. Proper planning and implementation in consultation and participation of the local people/ direct and indirect beneficiaries.
6. Ensure effective implementation and monitor all programmes through its various tiers. The organized forums at higher level, union council, tehsil, and district level can help the government in monitoring implementation.
7. Special quota for poor/ very poor in departments/ institutions, employment, education and technical trainings.

8. Prioritization of development of far flung areas.
9. Disbursement of funds allocated for the union councils also through organized forums (relationship of people and CCBs) at union council/ village level to ensure transparency and accountability. It was further suggested that why government desires to involve itself with everything. It can allow the primary health care and primary education to the organized forums, which would generate funds for regular operation and maintenance. This would reduce recurrent expenditure of the government and the same can be channelised for more productive use.
10. Supportive mechanism for the poor and poorest e.g free medical services, free education and subsidies on food items.
11. Emphasize on human development and promote technical training centers keeping the area specific needs in mind for more income earning opportunities.
12. While planning the focus should be on bringing about a change in the behavior and attitude of the people and not in the organization/institutions.
13. Device a pro-poor mechanism for all the government development agencies and should be strictly monitored through an independent monitoring body.

2.1.4 Summary suggestions for Improvement (Women Community Members)

1. Providing employment opportunities in the local area can reduce unemployment that is one of the major causes of poverty.
2. Need for the schools were also identified by the community both for boys and girls at UC level. The absence of teachers was highly criticized, regarding this issue the community members suggested that the government should hire a teacher from the same village, as the local teacher would be more regular. They further suggested that apart from free education at primary level as well as at secondary level there should also be a school for disabled children.
3. Government should spend more for the welfare of the rain fed and semi mountainous areas and encourage afforestation. In addition the government needs to establish a more effective irrigation system to enhance the productivity, which may enhance the income of rural people.
4. For women contribution in income generation, the establishment of vocational centers was suggested. The centers would be very beneficial in providing technical skills to the poor women who in turn will earn for their families by utilizing the skills.
5. The poor infrastructure facilities in the rural areas were also identified by the community members in aggravating the poverty situation.
6. Higher number of dependents on single bread earners is another major cause of poverty. They were of the opinion that population should be controlled but at the same time they were not aware of the government family planning programme due to lack of communication between the government departments and local people.
7. Community members suggested that special allocation in annual budget should be made for the rural areas, as they comprise of about 75% of our total population.

8. The participants were of the opinion that government policies are not properly planned, implemented and monitored. For this they suggested that government should involve people in its planning, implementation and monitoring processes. Moreover the government monitoring process should be transparent for which local people's participation in different projects is must.
9. The government should involve newly elected representatives from the union councils in its planning process so that the needs of different areas are addressed. According to them these representatives can play an effective role while communicating between the government and local people.
10. Government should not only ensure the proper implementation of the project but also proper monitoring of it so that corruption on part of the contractors can be reduced.
11. Another suggestion made by the participants was that the government should adopt the NGO approach of organizing people. Different projects should be implemented through these organised people; as such people will then own the projects.
12. Community members also pin point the inadequate provision of health facilities. So they have suggested establishment of dispensaries at village level for providing better health facilities at the doorstep of the poor people.
13. Inflation being another contributor to poverty should be controlled by the introduction of a tax system that has lesser effect on the poor. Direct taxes should be promoted instead of indirect taxes.
14. The process of social mobilization should be continued in rural areas on regular basis.

2.2 Visit to District Kohat

During the second round of dialogues, areas in Kohat and Lachi were visited on December 23 and 24, 2002 to get the views of the community members on poverty, its dimensions and how to over come poverty?. In this regard village Pershai, Union Council Khushal Garh, District Kohat was visited and dialogues were conducted with men and women community members on December 23, 2002. Detailed minutes are annexed.

> *We are poor & cannot express ourselves. We are frustrated with the current situation. We need water, We need food, and we do not need industries*
> *(An aged participant in Kohat)*

2.2.1 Views of men community members on Poverty

- Social injustice is poverty.
- Lack of vision for development is poverty
- Lack of opportunities to grow
- Poor are always voiceless
- People with more children and less resources are poor
- Poor are those with whom Allah is annoyed.
- People are those having no permanent source of income
- One person said, "I am poor because I have no permanent source of income. I have been totally segregated by my villagers. I am neither allowed to sit with them in their functions nor I am allowed

to speak in front of them. I have never been asked to think for my betterment. This is the first time ever that I have been invited to sit with some good people and discuss my problems".

- Poverty is being used as a weapon to destroy the nations morally, culturally and socially. All social, cultural and moral crimes are by-products of poverty.

2.2.2 Causes of Poverty

- Water is the base of local economy. The continuous dry spell in the last 2-3 years is the basic cause of high-rise in poverty
- Government does not provide services in rural areas. People do not have health or education services at their doorsteps. For every patient, they have to bear extra cost of traveling, which is posing heavy burden on their economy.
- Most of the people are unemployed and they do not have skills to start income generating activities.
- Unnecessary expenses and lavish lifestyle is the cause of poverty
- Poverty is a "mean" as well as the "end", e.g., ailments are prolonged due to poor economic status. This affects the income earning capability and hence, compels people to be poorer.
- Social security funds (Zakat, Bait-e-Mail) etc do not reach the real poor and needy.
- Corruption and pilferage in the system
- Physical disability
- Lack of sense of responsibility
- Imprudent use of available resources
- Political instability → leading to decreased investment → less jobs
- Vested interests of the development authorities.
- Lack of sustainable policies
- Population explosion
- Lack of educational facilities + class differences in education
- Lack of vision for development
- Shyness to adopt income-generating activities like cobbler, barber etc.
- Unwise customs and traditions also bind people to spend more on their ceremonies
- Threats of war by neighboring countries are a problem, which diverts the attention of government from development to defense. Defense spending reduces proportion of money expected to be spent on development therefore, the development funds are drastically reduced.

2.2.3 Eradicating poverty (Men Community Members)

This question was further sub-divided into three portions:

- *What are the current initiatives to eradicate poverty from the country?*
- *What government can do to eradicate / reduce poverty?*
- *What people can do to get rid of poverty?*

Last Minute Suggestion

Mr. Musanif Shah of village Chorlaki gave a last minute suggestion that, "We (the people) need to think for the development of women on priority basis. They need education on so that to develop their own selves as well as for the benefit of their families. They also need vocational skills to play active role in development. We need to bring them in development mainstream".

2.2.4 Current initiatives for poverty reduction/eradication

- Khushal Pakistan Program for improving infrastructure.
- SRSP is pro-active to bring poor at the front and facilitate them to eradicate their poverty.
- Zakat and Usher program – however, Zakat distribution is mostly influenced by political will and hence, most of the poor are deprived from its benefits.
- The system of Devolved District Government is also a step towards poverty alleviation where people are given responsibility to keep a check on every development activity and ensure maximum benefits from it.

2.2.5 What the Government can do to eradicate/reduce poverty?

- Construct water reservoirs / ponds / dams for irrigation purpose
- Streamline the system of Zakat distribution for ensuring delivery of benefits to real poor and genuine needy. This should be done by Zakat Committees but names recommended by organized forums to the zakat committees. It was further suggested that instead of meager amount of zakat given to individuals lump sum amount should be utilised by establishing industrial units that would generate employment. The amounts distributed to individuals are used for immediate consumption, and dependency is the poor is not reduced.
- Control on corrupt practices at all levels
- Establish/reactivate industries for creation of jobs
- Provision of equal education facility should be the top priority of government
- Establish systems where people can easily utilize their available resources for productive purpose and for this purpose, establish local management systems for every service delivering facility (Health, Education etc)
- Establish technical training center at each village or at least at each union council for skills enhancement of local youth
- Provision of interest free loans for starting small enterprises
- Ensure people's participation in decision-making process
- Initiate the income generating activities through District Governments
- Since 70% population is depending on agriculture, so at least, 70% budget should be allocated to develop agriculture sector.

2.2.6 What the people can do to get rid of poverty? (Men community Members)

- Control unnecessary expenditures.
- Discourage evil practices in open.
- Own development initiatives and take part in its maintenance for its sustainability.
- Control population through family planning practices.
- Take active part in skill enhancement programs.
- Promote social justice.
- Should not feel shame to adopt income generating activities like cobblers, barbers etc.
- Strengthen social security.

- Should not be self-centered – rather should think for others, i.e., poor & destitute on priority and promote collective thinking

2.2.7 Suggestion for reducing poverty (women community members)

- Government should impose strict laws on drug use and supplies.
- Government should support the poor widows because they have no source of regular income and they cannot live even hand to mouth.
- Government should set a small-scale enterprise program for women, so those women could generate income and can support their family as men do.
- River is flowing nearby, Government should construct dam so that the entire area of Persai and Khushal Garh could be irrigated and could result in high yield.
- Government should provide and allocate special funds for women development.
- Government should establish more vocational center especially at village level to enable the poor girls to support themselves and their families.
- Government should monitor each and every activity, they should keep an eye on whether the funds are provided to the needy or not.

2.3 Visit to Lachi

In continuation of the dialogues for I-PRSP, village Shagi Chorlaki in Lachi was visited on December 24, 2002. The team from the head Office visited the village along with the regional staff. Detailed minutes are Annexed.

2.3.1 Poverty and its definition

A person who has no access to education, Health and job opportunities, furthermore his expenditure is greater than his income and can not meet necessities of life.

2.3.2 Reasons for poverty

- Lack of education
- Lack of standardization of education
- Drought in the area
- Lack of job opportunities.
- Migration of educated communities.

2.3.3 Suggestions for poverty Alleviation

- Need for re directing government policies.
- Uniform/standardization in education system.
- Provision of Technical training centers
- Creation of job opportunities
- Royalties of natural resources.
- Promotion of industries and job opportunities for the local.
- Establishment of strong monitoring cell

2.4 Visit to Peshawar

During its final stage for holding the I-PRSP pilot dialogues, District Peshawar and Nowshera were visited on December 27, 2002. The dialogues were conducted in Union Council Azakhel, District Nowshera and Union Council Mera Kachori, District Peshawar with men and women community members respectively. Detailed minutes are at Annexed.

2.4.1 Poverty in view of men community members

In response to this question the participants defined poverty by sharing the following views.

- Poverty is lack of skills and/or lack of capital for utilizing the existing skills
- The situation wherein a person is lacking skills thereby compelled to do daily wages; which income is not enough to meet his/her basic daily requirements.
- Low monthly income vis-à-vis huge family is called poverty. In addition to this, the poorest lack skills and can not utilize credit for productive purposes.
- The situations wherein a person/household cannot afford proper food two-time a day.
- The basic poverty is mental poverty, which in turn causes various faces of poverty. If a person is mentally poor he is not willing to accept change. He does not has the courage to deviate from his/her ancestral traditions and adopt innovations. He is also not willing to adopt family planning practices.
- Lack of basic facilities like education, health, clothing, food and other basic requirements is called poverty.
- The dependency syndrome is poverty

2.4.2 Reasons for poverty

- The people do not undertake efforts to change their status. If the people want they can do many things. In this regard, there is also lacking of proper planning. The population is growing day by day. The monthly income either remained the same or is decreasing. But in this regard there has been no planning to overcome the population growth rate in relation to the available income opportunities. As a result poverty flourishes.
- There is a conspiracy going on. The main weakness is lack of planning to utilize our resources to the best of its potential, which is exploited by the donors for their vested interest. It is a national problem. As a nation we are looking forward to grant, Zakat and debts. If we determined to do proper planning within our own resources we can do many things without any external support. For instance, a small link road can be constructed through community participation however we are begging others to do so and this is the basic cause of the problem.
- There is lack of employment opportunities and therefore there is no proper shelter, food and clothing. A poorest farmer cannot use an acre of land to the best of its potential due to lack of access to micro credit facility.
- The funds allocated for the development is not utilized properly. The fund does not reach the target group- the poorest/poor. The resources are wasted on other things rather than to spend it for

achievement of the objective for which it was allocated. In this regard there is also weaknesses on their part that they does not make someone accountable. So there is not only government weaknesses but we are equally to be blamed for it

- One of their colleagues mentioned that a conspiracy is going on. There is no conspiracy going on. If conspiracy is going on then it is due to their own faults and weaknesses. Institution can be streamlined and can be made responsive if they make their representatives accountable. If there is no accountability. Others would exploit this weakness. They will remain oppressed and the conspiracy will emerge and grow in scale and intensity.
- The basic reason of poverty is dependency. There is no poverty in other countries. Poverty exists only in Pakistan and this is due to dependency syndrome.
- If they determine to bring changes they can, however, they never determined for change. They never made their leader and representatives accountable. They never provided sincere and committed people the opportunity of leadership to deliver. This was illustrated by saying that The Allah almighty says in the Holy Quran "Until and unless a nation does not determine to change its condition, The Allah almighty will, undoubtedly, never change her condition".
- There is lack of vision for future planning. Population needs to be controlled. If they do not control the population growth rate the poverty will increase day by day in terms of scale and intensity from generation to generation.
- Poor education system is the main cause of poverty.
- First there is need to know what is poverty? And then they can do something for its eradication. Poverty has different definitions. Everyone has different perspective of the poverty. Poverty can be defined in comparison. Poverty can be reduced if they change their thinking and mentality.
- Poverty is not only related to Muslims; it is a human problem. There is lack of pro-poor government policies formulation. For instance, there is growing need to retain fertile irrigated land for cultivation and use wasteland for construction purposes but there has been no policy in this regard. Fertile land is decreasing day by day, population is increasing and there is growing pressure on the cultivable land. Even if they change their thinking and determine to do something productive it would not bear any fruit because the environment is not friendly due to lack of policy formulation.

2.4.3 Government policies/programs for poverty alleviation

- SRSP work properly in close coordination of the target groups, which the government is lacking.
- The common man has no access to government departments/facilities. Take for example The Khushali Bank. There are so many complications involved in availing the micro credit facility of the bank. The procedure is very lengthy. A poorest/poor man cannot benefit from it. And also there is high interest rate.
- The Agriculture Development Bank is accessible only to landowners. The well-off people can fulfill the requirements, involved. The poorest/poor cannot afford to meet these requirements.
- Overall government policies are not in favor of poorest and poor.

- There are hurdles from the government to avail the available opportunities and make innovations. Until and unless these hurdles have not been made poor friendly the situation will remain the same and will never change.
- Even Zakat and Usher Chairman has his own interest to serve. He is indulging in malpractices and favoritism. SRSP credit system is good but need to be streamlined. Loan size has been reduced by SRSP, which is not good. The reduced loan size is of no benefit for the poorest. SRSP should increase loan size. As far as the involved risk of default is concerned, the MCO/WCOs will take guarantee for its timely repayment.
- SRSP interest rate should be reduced and loan size should be increased
- No government policy is applicable and conducive for the poorest and poor
- Government services are not reaching the deserving people
- The contract system is the main hurdle. Due to this the government resources are not reaching the deserving people. For instance, thousands of rupees are spent on the desilting activities in the district but it is of no use. Status of the canal system remained the same. The same amount can be utilized through community participation with very good results as done by SRSP.
- There is need to take initiative. They can raise fund for welfare and development activities. This fund can be utilized for internal lending to get rid of interest based system, poverty reduction and can be used even in case of emergencies.
- There is lack of awareness about unity and the existing human resources and skills. SRSP did a lot in this regard but still there is too much to be done to realize the people their potential and skills to be taped.
- He was born on August 14, 1947 and since then he never seen any improvement as far as the government policy is concerned. The government should adopt the SRSP approach.
- The government approach should be development oriented rather than welfare oriented. Favoritism should be avoided. Very negligible amount from the Zakat fund is distributed and it even on the basis of political considerations. The amount is spent on non-productive activities. There should be proper policy and planning for utilization of the Zakat and Bait-ul-Maal funds so that the fund is used for productive purposes. The Zakat fund may be utilized for initiation of developmental activities on sustainable basis. In this regard the SRSP approach is outstanding.

2.4.4 Suggestions for improvement

- In order to enable the poorest and poor to stand on their own feet, the micro credit should be provided on the basis of long-term installments and without any interest, at least in the beginning. The loan size should be increased. Then the poorest would be able to establish his/her business on sustainable basis. The poorest take time to make profitable investment.
- There is intense need to solve health and education problems.
- There should be strict and across the board accountability mechanism which does not exist. An example of the local hospitals was quoted. Varieties of medicines are provided to the hospital for the disadvantaged segments of the society but the hospital personnel sell it for their income generation. There are bad policies, there is lack of planning, contract and commission is very common. There is

need to adopt the SRSP methodology for poverty alleviation. Khushal Pakistan program was initiated but is executed through the old contract system. 75% of the allocated budget of any development project is wasted in the form of commissions. In this regard an example of the area was quoted by saying that a government tube well was installed costing Rs. 11,00,000 while with the support of SRSP a similar tube well was installed with a total cost of Rs. 400,000, having more quality of work as compared to the government one. There is intense need to work beyond personal interests and think in the best interest of the nation and the country.

- The young generation needed to be imparted technical education. The land needs to be developed for cultivation. Marketing opportunities should be explored and created. The irrigation system should be improved. The district government system needs to be streamlined. The local government system is still fraught with so many faults. The contract system is still prevailing.
- Farming is the main income source of the majority of the population. Agriculture inputs are not easily accessible for the farmers. Farmers services center needs to be established at the union council level, which will be accountable and accessible to common farmers.
- Incentives should be provided to the industrialists and businessmen and investment friendly environment should be created. As a result, the businessmen will do investment in their own country, which will create employment opportunities thereby improved living standard.
- The education system should be improved. The textbooks should be improved. Number of textbooks should be reduced and instead quality of the books should be improved.
- Free and compulsory education should be ensured upto the high level. The Zakat and Bait-ul-Maal fund should be utilized for improvement of health and sanitation situation of the backward areas. The Zakat system is faulty and is not accessible for the deserving people. The Zakat system should be freed of corruption. Industries need to be established for creation of employment opportunities.
- There is need to improve tax and marketing system. The smuggling should be controlled. 11 trucks of cloths is smuggled daily near Azakhel to Nowshera and Punjab in connivance with the SHO of the local police stations of the area. Foreign items can be purchased on cheaper prices as compared to Pakistani items. One would hardly prefer to purchase the Pakistani one.
- The people are equally responsible for the bad situation. The government develops infrastructure like school, hospital etc. but used by the local people for other purposes like stable and hujras. We never dare to asked the reasons and make the culprits accountable. Initiative needs to be taken. He attended LMST and now secretary of the Pakistan Welfare Council. It changed his mind and applied the learning acquired during the training. We took the initiative of providing medicines to the poorest and poor on priority basis. Every one complained about the contract system but never mentioned about its remedial measures and their contribution in this regard. In this regard, the MCO/WCOs should take the initiatives to make the contractor accountable for any wrongdoings. In case of accountability a contractor will never dare to misuse the fund. As regard initiatives, a poorest can be supported by making contribution of one egg per households for establishing his micro enterprise on sustainable basis.
- Technical centers need to be established.

- Either the land is rainfed are the irrigation water is not enough to fulfil crop requirements. The land needs to be developed either through provision of irrigation water or improvement of poor irrigation system. Due to lack of irrigation water, the crops are destroyed. Even an acre of land cannot earn its operational cost. Installation of tube wells and improvement of irrigation system will not only benefits the well off and better-off but will also improve living standard of the poorest and poor by creating employment opportunities.

2.4.5 Communities' contribution in poverty reduction

- Better utilization of resources, proper implementation and supervision and maintenance
- All sort of support can be provided if the government trust them and follow SRSP concept and approach. The people are willing to contribute both in terms of cash and kind.
- They can maintain coordinated working relationship between the communities and district government and among the communities themselves to pool their resources for common purpose.
- Credit should be given to experience skilled persons. They can help in identification of deserving people and ensure utilization of credit for productive purposes.

Poverty in view of women community members

- No proper source of income.
- No proper shelter.
- More Children.
- More Daughters.
- Unaffordable/inaccessible health facilities.
- Unaffordable/inaccessible education.

Causes of poverty in view of women community members

- Over-population.
- Unemployment.
- Following those customs and traditions, which adversely affects the economic status like dowry etc.
- Low literacy rate.
- More daughters.
- Ignorance/lack of knowledge about rights.
- Poor health.
- Inflation.
- Corruption.
- Lack of capital.

2.4.8 Government role in poverty reduction

- Inflation Control.
- Provision of organized forum for collective efforts and better service delivery
- Building of community financial resources through personal savings
- Collective efforts for answering the social evils of the area

- Local initiatives on self help bases for solving some local problems
- Monitoring of government schemes for better implementation
- More linkages with the organizations Private/Public.
- More awareness about the rights and those institutes/ organization, which could support the community.
- Honest system of Zakat distribution that could be done through COs/WCOs or reliable people.
- Improve quality of education.
- Local teachers should be preferred.
- More skills and marketing channels.

Role of community members in poverty alleviation

- Community should more vocal against injustice.
- More focus on self-employment.
- Community should works as a pressure group.
- Unity.
- Hard work
- Learn skills.
- Full contribution/cooperation in the developmental process.

Section 3
Analysis of the dialogues

3.0 Analysis of the suggestions by poor/very poor

A careful analysis of these dialogues presents an interesting picture of the views presented by the poor and very poor community members. Despite low literacy rate in the areas visited, the awareness on the issues for designing programs for benefiting poor was quite commendable.

The following important points can be concluded from the community member viewpoint:

1. **Community members were advocating the need for *social mobilization* and carry out the activities through these organized forums. These organized forums can further be developed in to village, union council and district level networks, which further can influence public policies and ensure equitable distribution of resources at district level**. The point of non-equitable distribution of resources through the newly elected representatives/district government was strongly criticized by the community members. The need for developing an independent ***monitoring body/control group*** was also mentioned to ensure proper implementation of the activities design to support the poor and very poor members of the community.
2. ***Developing human resources*** and promotion of technical training/education supported by industrial units with an emphasis on the indigenous resources to generate employment in the respective areas.
3. The ***planning process*** should not be carried out in ***isolation*** or be an ***exercise of accountancy*** to balance the expenses and expenditures. The planning process should be a detailed list of priorities,

which clearly signifies the ***quantitative and qualitative targets*** of every social development area and more importantly with the ***participation*** of all the stakeholders.

4. Government must show its ***commitment*** to decrease poverty by making ***pro poor policies***, which include income equality measures, education, health and justice.
5. ***Participation*** with out ***redistribution*** of power and ***sharing*** of resources is an empty and ***frustrating process*** for the poor and powerless.
6. **Accountability** of the concerned authorities, groups, institutions and individual must be ensured.
7. Provision of **pro poor environment and opportunities**, where they have easy access to justice and basic social services to exercise their talents.
8. **Redefining** the long-term goals in to short term. The practical needs if fulfilled effectively can only lead to achieve the long-term strategic needs. The ***long-term monitoring indicators*** has to be redefined in to ***short term monitoring indicators*** to enable the monitoring teams under the LGO 2000 at Federal, Provincial and District level to assess the real impact of the programs initiated in various sectors including health, education etc.
9. ***Constitute forums*** comprising of people from all walks of life with special representation of poor/very poor for advocacy, ensuring transparency and identification of pro poor programs
10. ***Channeling*** the funds to the real target group through Social safety nets with a strong check and balance through the ***independent monitoring body/control group.***
11. Formulation of an effective and viable ***operational strategy*** and properly ensure the ***implementation and monitor*** the policies at all level.

3.1 General analysis of the dialogues

The following points are worth mentioning in this regard:

1. It needs an extensive effort to involve poor people in a real sense to share views and ideas for suggesting solutions to the government or any other relevant agencies for their development.
2. The community members in both the district were well aware about the nature of the programs and initiatives taken at community level specifically for the poor and very poor community members but at the same time the discriminatory attitude of the concerned people for not preferring the poor community members was highly criticized by them.
3. The hand to mouth life, tough routine with out social securities, lack of education and awareness are the determining factors for a poor community member to lack confidence and get isolated with in a community and discuss his/her problems openly.
4. The communities in both the districts identified operationalization and implementation of activities through organized forums at village and mohallah levels to ensure transparency and accountabilty.
5. The dialogues could be really helpful in areas of an open and supportive political environment. The community members in such areas takes interest in the policy actions at various levels and keeps an eye on the changing development scenario. The community, in such a setup, also interacts with the local political leaders in addition to the government officials of the respective department functioning

directly or indirectly in their areas. The community member from such areas can really contribute to the pilot dialogues and give suggestions for formulating pro poor policy.

6. It would have been more appropriate to hold these dialogues at different level because the level of understanding and the needs identified were different at different level. The members having political awareness and education were more inclined towards bringing a behavioral change and restructuring the delivery mechanism, while the poor members identified the provision of basic facilities and focused basic, physiological and social needs.

Section-4
SRSPs' Suggestions

4.0. SRSPs' suggestion

The following matrix contains people's opinions critical to poverty reduction, reflection of the same in the IPRSP/ gaps and suggestions, based on people's perceptions, recommendations that would make full PRSP more effective.

TABLE-02: SRSP suggestions for the full PRSP, Based On People's Views

Major Issues Raised by the People	Remedial Measures Available in the IPRSP and gaps	Recommendation for full PRSP
Social mobilization for men and women, especially the poor and poorest in Pakistan first than talk about poverty alleviation.	Role of local communities not explicitly mentioned in the IPRSP. No role to the district governments or CCBs has been given in the IPRSP.	Role of local communities should be explicitly mentioned in the full PRSP. Specific budget should be kept in the PRSP for their mobilisation and should be assigned to the civil society. The private sector participation would be ensured in the development process. Social mobilisation would ensure people's willingness to participate in development efforts of the government, help reduce its overhead costs. For instance, primary education and health care O&M can be effectively taken over by the organized forums. The government can monitor their functioning. This would further enhance the transparency and accountability that the full PRSP envisages. The social mobilization would help accountability and transparency, which would strengthen the district governments, and powers devolved to the grassroots. Full potential of the district governments would be realized when people in the districts are organized.

Major Issues Raised by the People	Remedial Measures Available in the IPRSP and gaps	Recommendation for full PRSP
Participation of the poor and poorest in the prioritization of their needs. The Poorest are voiceless, assetless and powerless. They need special support to graduate them from poorest to poor economic category	The IPRSP does not outline any strategy in targeting the poor or poorest. Zakat, Usher and Bait-ul-Maal are programmes or packages for the poor/ poorest but do not reach the needy.	The full PRSP must have poor targeting strategy. The strategy must outline how poor/ poorest would reach out at the household level. The zakat, usher and Bait-ul-Maal packages do not reach the poor and especially the poorest. The full PRSP must outline fool-proof mechanism of providing grant to the poorest possibly in the following manner

		• Grant to build assets of the poorest • Grant to provide for immediate needs of the poorest For delivering on these two objectives, civil society through its poverty targeting criteria can ensure true identification of the poorest.
Rigorous monitoring of the PRSP	The IPRSP has monitoring matrix that has long-term impact indicators. What it requires is short-term focused indicators and the roles and responsibilities clearly outlined. The implementation mechanism is not clearly laid out and planning is always the weakest link in Pakistan's development history and which needs to more clearly reflected. There is no mention of the devolved district governments, whose enhanced role in rigorous monitoring is manifested in the LGO 2000. The existing system of delivery is not transparent and accountable to the local communities due to lack of intermediary organization between the government and local communities. In IPRSP only budgets are being monitored. To ensure money properly spent for the intended purpose in reporting should be ensured rather than financial progress reporting.	Social mobilization and targeting the poorest should be clearly spelled out in the full PRSP. The short-term effect and output indicators should be formulated, clear roles and responsibilities at the federal, provincial and district government levels laid out and reflected in the full PRSP. Capacity building of government officials for carrying out their true monitoring, without policing, role should be budgeted and only when this capacity building is ensured, effective implementation would be realised.

Major Issues Raised by the People	Remedial Measures Available in the IPRSP and gaps	Recommendation for full PRSP
Consistency with poverty reduction strategy	Pakistan has always demonstrated inconsistency with a strategy. PRSP should be followed as a consistent policy. Poverty would be reduced over a period of 10-15 years, provided the achievement of this objective is consistently followed. IPRSP does not highlight any strategy as to how this policy would be consistently followed by succeeding governments.	The National Assembly of the country would approve the full PRSP. The full PRSP should indicate measures that the National Assembly can extend such cover that the policy by succeeding governments cannot be changed unless this objective is meant.

NRSP

Chapter Five

Grassroots, nationwide …..

National Rural Support Programme (NRSP)

The seventh follow-up meeting was held in Islamabad at the headquarters of the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) on 29 December, 2002.

NRSP has nationwide coverage and operates in 14 regions. It has recently rapidly expanded its coverage through the financial support of the PPAF particularly in community infrastructure projects. Currently, it is working closely with the Khushhali Bank to set up its operations throughout the country. NRSP also works with government projects which include assistance to GoNWFP under the Swabi SCARP for the formation of Water Users Associations, the Northern Education Project for the establishment of school management committees in Azad Kashmir and other area development projects. Innovative work includes low-cost sanitation schemes and management of Basic Health Units. With the support of Learning for Life, over 270 community based schools have been established and with the assistance of a credit line of Rs.2.2 billion from Habib Bank Limited onlending to poor communities was increased.

NRSP's core funding comes from its own endowment. Other donors include UNDP, Habib Bank Limited, Learning for Life, and the Government of Pakistan. A major donor is the World Bank/Government of Pakistan financed institution the PPAF.

NRSP Community Dialogues Report

Executive Summary

During the community consultations held in 28 Tehsils, NRSP's staff used different methods of gathering community members' comments, including individual feed back, written feed back according to established formats, and focus group discussions. In these focus groups, members were asked to identify the primary reasons for the existence of poverty and then to prioritise those reasons. Analysis of all 50 groups indicates that, regardless of the location or methods, the situation is similar everywhere.

Of these 50 groups, **22** indicated **Human development as their 1st priority.** Human development includes the lack of education and technical education facilities, lack of population planning, lack of drinking water supply facilities and inappropriate welfare facilities.

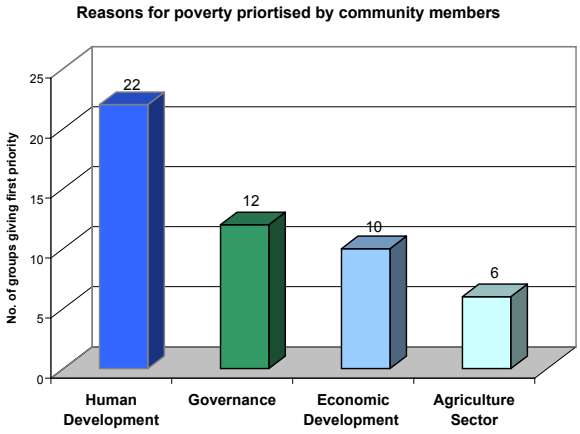
12 groups indicated **Governance as their 1st priority.** This includes injustice, a great imbalance between non-development and development expenditures, poor planning, corruption, an insecure law

and order situation, a weak and ineffective political system, an ineffective government departments, injustice and poor monitoring systems.

For **10** groups, **economic development was the 1st priority.** This includes unemployment, a weak manufacturing sector, economic instability, poor Zakat distribution and collection, extremely high utility bills, an unequal distribution of wealth, a mismanaged tax system, a weak export sector and the country's high dependence on external loans.

6 groups listed the **agriculture sector as 1st priority.** This includes the high cost of agricultural machinery, poor access to markets (both economic and infrastructures), low yields, inefficient irrigation systems, high taxes on agricultural land, inputs and equipment, exploitative landlords, no subsidies for agriculture inputs, and poor or non-existent farm to market roads.

The following graph shows these priorities in visual form:



With very few exceptions, most of the issues mentioned by community members are also mentioned in IPRSP, although in some cases there are differences in the perceptions of both stakeholders (community members and Government), as elaborated in later in this report.

The Table 5.1.1 of IPRSP Chapter 5 that Government is allocating only 2.4 percent of GDP on Human Development - including Education, Health and population planning, social security and welfare and disaster response/management. If we include water supply and sanitation and food subsidies (0.4%) then we see that 2.8 % of GDP is spent on the entirety of Human Development. This is very low, and does not meet the needs and priorities of the poor. *This Budget table and analysis shows that at present there is little space in IPRSP to incorporate the voices of the poor. It follows that if the Government is willing to create a space in which to include the voices of the poor, then the Budget should be revised to account for the priorities identified by the community.*

Community members who have benefited from human development in all its socio-economic forms will make significant contributions to national development. **The Government should acknowledge this by allocating a sufficient portion of the Budget to Human Development, and by ensuring good governance in every institution of the state. For example, existing Departments should be made efficient and effective instead of new ones being opened.**

An environment of Honesty

An environment of honesty in all departments of the country, with good governance and sound fiscal plans, could lead to development that could effectively reduce poverty. In the past policies have not always been bad, but they have not been implemented properly.

Community participation

During community consultation the participants also recommended community participation at grass root level and supported it by saying that it ensures the real need identification, exclude the contractor and ensure the completion of quality projects with less cost, ensure the easy access to micro credit, collective management for input arrangement and access to market hence all poverty reduction focused programmes should be initiated with real participation of community.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pakistan's Interim Poverty Reduction strategy Paper (I-PRSP) is not a static document of policy actions: rather, it is a dynamic framework of thought. It is an instrument that attempts to provide an integrated focus to a diverse set of factors that impact poverty. By adopting this framework, the Government aims to enhance the understanding of the complementarities and trade-offs that are inherent in the complex task of social and economic policymaking.

While reducing poverty helps growth by enabling the poor to participate productively in the economy, economic growth in itself is not sufficient for poverty reduction. The quality of growth, in terms of its relative impact on various segments of society, determines its impact on poverty. For growth to reduce poverty, it must emanate from sectors that have greater employment generation capability. Therefore, poverty reduction in Pakistan requires rapid growth in agriculture, small and medium industry and the IT sectors all of, which have strong potential to create jobs and associated self-employment opportunities.

The government realises that additional income alone, either through jobs or financial assistance, will not eliminate poverty unless the causes of poverty are addressed and eliminated. The government is committed to reducing the burden of poverty and is therefore assigning great importance to improving public services delivery mechanisms in achieving this goal. **Resource constraints are just one of the maladies that ail Pakistan. Weak ill-organised and inadequate public services delivery systems have, in the past, neutralised the best of plans and huge amounts of**

resources. The issue of improving governance is **central to fighting poverty, and thus cuts across all the elements of Pakistan's poverty reduction strategy**. Notwithstanding the debate on poverty data, it is generally believed that poverty in Pakistan is on the rise. Similarly, Pakistan's progress on almost every social indicator, *e.g*. education, health and nutrition, compares poorly with that of other developing countries.
(Reference to Interim - Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) Chapter 1 page1)

1.1 Participatory process

Since the participation of the target population is critical in formulating the poverty reduction strategy, the government had initiated a comprehensive process of consultations at the district, provincial and national levels. This entire process was designed to elicit views, share experiences and understand expectations of the stakeholders for the preparation of the I-PRSP.

(Reference to Interim - Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) Chapter 1 page2)

1.2 Institutional mechanism for monitoring outcomes

The I-PRSP is backed with a strong program of monitoring as well as capacity development, including that to gather and analyse information for impact assessment. The I-PRSP outlines new institutional mechanisms that will be employed for the regular/ periodic monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction expenditures and corresponding outcome indicators at the federal, provincial and district levels.
(Reference to Interim - Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) Chapter 1 page 2)

1.3 Resources for implementation

The availability of adequate resources for poverty reduction programs is an important consideration in determining the effectiveness of the strategy. In an environment where the main focus of the macroeconomic stabilisation program – the key to reviving growth -- had been controlling the fiscal deficit, generating resources for poverty reduction is a formidable task. (Interim - Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) Chapter 1 page3)

In the year 2001, the Government of Pakistan developed an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP). The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper is now an essential part of anti-poverty framework announced by the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

1.4 Consultation with the poor

The Government of Pakistan, through IPRSP, seeks to undertake the complex task of social and economic policy formulation/implementation after consultation with all stakeholders, chiefly the community/poor.

1.5 RSPN and NRSP

The Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN), an organization working at the grassroots, took the responsibility of beginning the consultation process with the organised poor rural community. In response, the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), as Pakistan's largest RSP initiated consultations in 28 Tehsils and 16 Districts across the country, to elicit feedback from community members regarding I-PRSP. Details of the Districts where the consultations took place are given below:

1.6 Province and district wise areas where NRSP consulted community members

Province	District	Tehsil	No. of Participants
Sindh	Thatta	Sajawal Thatta	32
	Hyderabad	Tando Allayar Tando Mohammad	100 84
	Badin	Golarchi Talhar Matli Badin	56
Punjab	RahimYar Khan	Ahmad Pur Lamma	24
	Bahawalpur	Bahawalnagar Bahawalpur	45
	Lodhran	Lodhran	25
	Khushab	Nowshera	73
	ICT	ICT	126
	Attock	Talagang Attock	148
	D G Khan	DG Khan	118
NWFP	Malakand	Malakand	63
Balochistan	Turbat	Turbat	46
	Gowadar	Pasni Gowadar	22
AJK	Bagh	Farward Kahutta Bagh	336
	Rawalakot	Hajira Rawalakot	145
	Kotli	Sehnsa Kotli	195
Total	**16**	**28**	**1638**

1.7 Methodology used

- Workshops were held in all provinces and AJK with the rural poor
- Participants were informed about the objectives of the workshops/consultations
- A questionnaire was given to literate participants
- Groups were formed to encourage discussions on
  - Causes of Poverty
  - Possible solutions/actions
  - Suggestions for implementation
- Participants' information was recorded and compiled (in print and video)
- Individual comments were recorded
- Discussion were held in an open forum of activists

1.8 Participants' profile

- Members and Managers of new and mature Community Organisations.
- Poor and very poor belonging to different ethnic groups.
- Co members and managers who have trained.
- CO members who have supervised micro credit and physical infrastructure projects.
- Participants representing irrigated as well as rain-fed, mountainous and desert areas, from all provinces and AJK.
- At a few locations government officials also participated

1.9 Topics of discussion

- The causes of poverty
- Possible interventions/actions
- Implementation strategies

1.10 Summary of Findings

1.10.1 Major causes of poverty

Taa'leem and Sha'oor main kami (rights and obligations, policies), equal access to same standard of education, technical skills, education curriculum and system. In Balochistan and Sind this problem is more chronic for women**.**

Population and family health: Resources Vs population, Local level health delivery system, and refugees

Nizam Kharab Hay: (inefficiency, indifferent attitude, Patwari, Contractor)

Unemployment especially in urban areas(Lack of cottage and small industry/ sick industry and non-availability of vocational and technical training, wrong use of Zakat, influx of Afghan refugees)

Improper distribution of wealth and resources

Inflation and rising price (especially the diesel price)

Ineffective Agriculture support system and scarcity of water: (no or little access to agriculture implements, no or little access to micro credit at affordable price (in comparison to formal lending to

industry), inadequate price of produce and ineffective procurement system and market linkages, taxes on small landholding, feudalism, water development/ management

Priority Sectors

Human Development (Education, training, awareness raising, community mobilization, family planning and health (women)

Good governance (Injustice , More non developmental expenditures, poor planning , Discontinuity in democratic system, corruption , law and order situation ,political system, Afghan refugees, Police department , poor monitoring system.

Economic development (Unemployment, Industries, Economy instability, Zakat ,Utility bills, Wealth, Difficulty in getting credit, external loans, tax system and less exports.

Agriculture Development (Easy access to all inputs, seed, water and technical advice etc)

Specific programmes for the bottom poor: Interest free or low cost credit, linkages with extension departments, subsidy on inputs and implements, training, cottage industry, equitable distribution of Zakat, elimination of feudal system, provision of basic health services

HOW

Good Governance (Actual community participation and , building capacity of people, local level community organizations, strengthening the existing govt. departments, better monitoring of projects and by creating easy access to justice, and involving peoples in budget allocation and checking budget utilization

Allocation of budget for different sector according to peoples' needs

2. IDENTIFIED ISSUES OF POVERTY AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

In this Chapter the reasons for poverty, as given by community members, are elaborated with order in which the Interim Poverty Reduction strategy paper (I-PRSP)[1] has been written.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
2.1	**Human development**		
2.1.1	*Lack of awareness and literacy are* major reasons for poverty everywhere in the country.	**100 % literacy through:** Universal primary education (UPE) both formal and non formal systems. Adult literacy Movement (15 years and above)	The community stressed the lack of *taleem* (awareness) as a core cause of poverty in society. The community does not perceive education as Quality Education for All (QEFA) but said that there should be

[1] *I PRSP draft 2001, all further references in this chapter are to the I PRSP*

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
		Quality for 100 % literacy through: Professional development of teachers and managers Continuous curriculum reform Examination reforms and assessment system. Education for all (EFA) 80% of the ESR covers six goals of education for all spanning, Universal primary education and quality EFA by 2015.reducng illiteracy by 50 percent with a focus on reducing the gender gap by 2015, eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, life skills and learning opportunities for youth and adults and early childhood education. Education for all spanning Universal primary education and quality EFA by 2015. Reducing illiteracy by 50% with a focus on reducing the gender gap by 2015 Life skills and learning Opportunities for youth and adults Early childhood education	enough awareness and education in the community so that household heads can earn for their families and ensure that adults behave as good citizens. Table 5.1 of IPRSP Budgetary expenditures (2001-04) shows that the Government will spend Rs 72,605 million (1.7 % of GDP) and Rs 83,046 million on education (1.8% of GDP during the 2001-02 and 2003-04 financial years respectively. If we include all the projected IPRSP expenditures, including education, health, population planning, social security and natural calamities and other disasters, the total expenditures projected for the year 2003-04 will be 2.6 % of GDP. This clearly reflects that Human Development and Education are not the Government's top priorities. If the Government is serious about incorporating the voices of the poor into PRSP, Human development should have top Budgetary priority.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
		The target groups for EFA goals belong to disadvantaged communities with minimal opportunities. An incentive package has been developed to meet the needs of the poor students such as free textbooks, uniforms, stipends, nutrition and vouchers. The Task force for Human Development will leverage the literacy targets. (I-PRSP Section 4.4.1, p. 40, sections 124, 126 and 127).	
2.1.2	**Technical education** opportunities are limited.	**Technical and vocational education through** • Area-specific skills programme in existing secondary schools • Setting up of one dedicated polytechnic at Tehsil level • Second shift in existing polytechnics, especially for women.	Government has plans to establish Polytechnic Institutes at Tehsil level: the question is whether these Polytechnic Institutes will provide the required skills to enable the poor to earn enough to meet their families' economic needs. The Polytechnics may provide education and diplomas but not enough skills to enable people to earn. In this regard there should be some change in the education strategy, with the focus on providing, education and skills. This again relates to the training needs assessment for adults so they can determine the skills they need to earn more.
2.1.3	**There is no uniformity in the education system.**		Uniformity in curriculum, and improving the efficiency of

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
			existing education structures through effective monitoring.
2.1.4	**High population growth rate** And inadequate family planning facilities.	**Population planning** National program for family planning and primary health care include improvement in the quality of services, expansion of coverage, strengthening of supervision, better management and further strengthening of family planning and reproductive health components of the programme. There will be all integration of all primary health care services to provide comprehensive health care to the population. In this respect steps will be taken to implement a reproductive health program and integrate it into the PHC system (Heading 162, p. 47 I-PRSP).	The cadre of lady health worker that is responsible for launching the family planning programme should be given targets and strictly monitored.
2.1.5	**Information technology facilities are lacking**	Pakistan has one of the lowest Tele-densities (2.5%) in the world. IT usage is also very low. Since the telecommunication sector acts as a vehicle for growth of the internet and other information Technology applications, it is important to lay maximum stress on the development and expansion of the telecommunication infrastructure in the country. (Section 4.1.3 p. 31 IPRSP)	The poor, especially poor students, should have easy access to the internet in schools and colleges.
2.1.6	**Drinking water and sanitation** There is a lack of *clean water*	**Water supply and sanitation** Only 63% of the population have	There should be direct community participation in

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
	supply and no proper sanitation and drainage facilities.	access to safe drinking water. Due to lack of funds, public water supply and sanitation facilities have failed to keep pace with growing needs of the rising population. Construction of water supply and sanitation infrastructure is already receiving the utmost importance under the Khushal Pakistan Program. (Section 4.4.3, p. 45)	identifying and implementing development projects and all small projects. This is especially the case for water supply and sanitation schemes.
2.1.7	**Asset creation**, especially for the landless and homeless poor, is lacking.	Housing for the poor **Housing is a fundamental human need as it provides physical economic and social security to the poor. Government policies regarding *Katchi Abadis* aim at regularising these settlements through the provision of basic services.** Land for poor farmers **Access to cultivable land has a positive impact on the food and nutrition requirements of poor households. Though significant tracts of land were distributed as a result of land reforms during 1959, 1972 and 1977. In the absence of follow- up support systems in terms of infrastructure (link roads, irrigation), micro credit facilities and other institutional support, these reforms failed to bring**	People recommended land reform and re-distribution of land to the landless and small farmers. Federal Land Commission and provincial Revenue Board figure show that 68,272 acres, 771,167 acres, 544,508 acres and 1,418,110 acres of land are available for distribution to the landless for farming in Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Baluchistan respectively. If we consider that 12.5 acres of land will be distributed to each landless family then 5,461 farmers in Punjab, 61693 farmers in Sindh, 43,560 farmers in NWFP and 113,448 farmers in Balochistan will benefit and across the country only 224,164 landless families will benefit. And after distribution of this barren land to the poor, it is still unclear how access to the

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
		about significant improvements in the living conditions of farmers who benefited from this redistribution. (Section 4.3.1, p. 37)	inputs required to cultivate the land, and to enable people to become self-reliant, will be provided. There are many small farmers who have land but have left Agriculture because of low profit margins and poor government policies for small farmers. They question how land distribution will help to make them self-reliant. The community, however, recommending subsidies on agricultural inputs.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
2.1.8	**Protecting the vulnerable through safety nets.** There is discrimination against women, children, the old, the disabled and the destitute and there is no social safety net for them. **Discrimination.** Child labour is still not prohibited and there are multiple discriminations against women and minorities The **Welfare system** is ineffective in supporting the needy and poor when they are in crisis **Pensions** and old age benefits	**Improving access to micro credit** is the surest way of empowering the poor and improving their income-generating opportunities. However due to the lack of collateral and a weak asset base it is very difficult for the poor to get credit from public and private financial institutions. The Pakistan poverty alleviation Fund (PPAF), Agriculture Development Bank (ADB), First Women Bank (FWB), the National Rural Support programme (NRSP) and the Government are involved in credit allocation to small enterprises. To supplement their work the Government has established the *'Khushalibank'* or Micro Finance	The community appreciated the RSPs' micro credit methods because they have easy access to it. At the same time they criticised the 20% service charge which is a burden on them. After accounting for inflation and paying instalments they find it very difficult to repay loans. They suggest that Credit disbursed by RSPs and NGOs should have lower service charges so that the poorest can also benefit.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
	are not given to the majority of private and semi-government employees. **Zakat.** The system created for the collection and distribution of *zaka*t is not transparent	Bank ' to provide micro credit to poor communities. In this regard *Khushalibank* already supports the activities of the NGOs and Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) which already deal with micro credit. (Section 4.3.2 page 38)	
2.1.9	**Environment** There is a lack of awareness regarding environment issues and not enough emphasis by Government on this issue. Polluted material •There are no arrangements for the disposal of polluted materials and waste. **Polluting vehicles** •No strict action against polluting vehicles **Forest protection** •No result-oriented forest protection arrangements. **Plantations** •There is no facilitation for plantations in the public sector.	**Environment** The National Conservation Strategy (NCS) is the broad national environment policy of Pakistan, within which the National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) has also been approved .The Government has formulated a comprehensive strategy to develop provincial capacity for implementing environment al protection laws and monitoring their effectiveness	Participants recommend that forest department, agriculture department and NGOs should closely co-ordinate their efforts to improve the environment.
2.1.10	**NGOs** The coverage of good NGOs is still not enough for many areas although there is a great need for good NGOs like NRSP. Civil society organisations should be	**NGOs and civil society** In recent years, the NGO sector has risen to meet the growing demand for social services. Interventions include empowerment through	They suggested that the Government should select some Districts for development activities by RSPs and if successful it should be replicated in other Districts.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
	strongly encouraged to engage in this work.	participatory development at the grass roots level towards raising consciousness about rights and responsibilities, capacity building and poverty reduction. At the provincial and national level, NGOs are also contributors to policy formulation planning and research.	
2.1.11	**Pensions and old age benefits** There is no provision for pensions and other old age benefits for the majority of private and semi-government employees and there is nothing for skilled and unskilled labourers who are not working with any organization.	Pakistanis social security system bypasses a large section of the population, especially in terms of provision and old benefits. (Chapter 4 heading 4.5.4 page no 53 IPRSP)	Although Government employees and their dependants are entitled to pensions and medical support, only a small fraction of private employers provide such support through employee old age benefit institutes (EOBI) Payment of old age pension 1,30,015 Payment of survivors pensions 46,122 Payment of invalidity pensions 4,107 Payment of old age grant 2,743 Total : 182,987l The Planning Commission figures support the communities' claim that EOBI payments are only for 182,987 beneficiaries. The PRSP should work out how many deserve such support and how the Government will reach those. A timeframe should also be established.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP

2.2 Governance

2.2.1	**Injustice** is prevalent and there are long delays in court decisions.	**Access to justice** The government recognises that judicial and legal reforms are necessary to stimulate economic growth and encourage private investment –both local and foreign. The Law and Justice commission (LJC) will develop policies for core systems (Human resources, management information, judicial statistics, etc). The new initiatives will ensure efficient and inexpensive justice, legal empowerment of the poor and vulnerable, and improvements in judicial governance. Under extensive police reforms proposed by government, the police are being depoliticised. (Section 4.2.3 p. 35)	The community recommends: • Village-level courts • Appointment of more judges. • Speedy decision making process. • Open courts.
	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	**Government response through I-PRSP**	**Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP**
2.2.2	**Non-developmental expenditures** by Government departments exceed development expenditures.	**Fiscal and financial transparency** One of the preconditions for achieving broad based, sustainable and pro-poor economic growth is better economic governance in such activities as banking, finance, telecommunications, power, oil and gas. The Government has instituted strong regulatory mechanism by independent agencies, whose members have security of tenure without being answerable to any	In all provinces the communities criticised the Government's non-development expenditures. They recommended that pro-poor strategies must mention current expenditures of specific Departments, and describe the methods and actual reductions proposed, within specific timeframes.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
		executive authority. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, easy access to information is critical for eliminating corruption and improving economic governance. Financial decentralisation will make more resources available to elected members and functionaries. Chapter 4 section 4.2.4 p 36.	
2.2.3	**Poor planning** by Government departments is a problem.		The community strongly recommending that micro planning is done by communities at the grassroots and that at the macro level, the Government should make the realistic plans in the best interests of Pakistan.
2.2.4	**Discontinuity in the democratic** system contributes to poverty.	The government is committed to reducing the burden of poverty and is therefore assigning great importance to improving public services delivery mechanisms in achieving this goal. Resource constraints are just one of the maladies that ail Pakistan. Weak ill-organised and inadequate public services delivery systems have in the past neutralised the best of the plans and huge amounts of resources. The issue of improving **governance** is **central to fighting poverty**, and thus cuts across all the elements of Pakistan's poverty reduction strategy. Chapter 1 p 1	How will the Government ensure that democracy will be continue and not interrupted by the Army?
2.2.5	**Corruption** and miss-utilisation of funds are prevalent in Government Departments.		This is like a cancer in all our Departments and only good governance can reduce it.
2.2.6	The **Law and order situation is** not good. One effect is that economic investment suffers.		How will the Government ensure that law and order are maintained?
2.2.7	**Political system i**s not transparent and it is impossible for the poor to participate in the political process.		Community suggested that the political system should be restructured so poor men and women can also participate in politics and elections.
2.2.8.	**Afghan refugees** are a burden on the budget.		The peaceful return of the Afghan refugees is necessary.
2.2.9	**Police department** is ineffective.	Under extensive police reforms proposed by government, the police	Police reforms are necessary, as is additional training, so that

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
		are being depoliticised. (Section 4.2.3 p. 35)	the authority of the police is limited to ensuring public safety and security, and not to exploit the public and create problems for people.
2.2.10	***Monitoring system*** There is a poor monitoring system in Departments including Health, Education, Revenue and the police.	The success of Pakistan's IPRSP will depend upon the institutionalisation of implementation mechanisms that not only track poverty- related expenditures but also monitor intermediate success drivers (or catalysts) and outcomes. (Chapter 5 p. 54 IPRSP)	The community is simply saying that departments should display and circulate the progress and details of all development activities to the public, because they are also accountable to the public.

2.3 Economic development

2.3.1	***Unemployment*** is a major cause of poverty.	**Creating income-generating opportunities.** Even sound macroeconomic polices may not automatically translate into an improvement in lives of the poor. Therefore one of the core principles of Pakistan's poverty reduction strategy is to empower the people and to create greater opportunities for increasing real incomes by improving access to productive assets, mainly housing, land, and credit**.**	The following suggestions were made to overcome unemployment: ▪ self employment schemes ▪ establish industries ▪ reactivate "sick" industries ▪ establish cottage industries ▪ Make micro-credit accessible with less service charge ▪ Equity / Merit
2.3.2	**Industries** There is lack of cottage and heavy industries and ultimately fewer employment opportunities.	Pakistan's small and medium enterprise (SME) sector has great potential for generating employment, adapting technology and creating an export base grounded in the country's true comparative advantage. An integrated approach has been adopted to encourage SMEs and for this purpose Small	Establishment of industry that can absorb skilled and unskilled labour. Cottage industry should also be encoureged in self-employment schemes.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
		and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is actively developing programs for developing managerial, technical, and informational support to SMEs. SBFC and RDFC are being merged to form a bank exclusive catering to the needs of SMEs. In addition to SME development, the government has also initiated formulation of export –oriented, open, transparent and consistent sectoral initiatives. and conducive environment for overall industrial growth. Value added textile is being encouraged for export	
2.3.3	***Economic instability*** is one of the major causes of poverty in Pakistan	**Improving access to micro credit** Access to credit is the surest way of empowering the poor and improving their income-generating opportunities. However, the lack of collateral and weak asset base makes it very difficult for the poor to get credit from public and private financial institutions. The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB), First Women Bank (FWB), the National Rural Support programme (NRSP) and the government are involved in credit allocation to small enterprises. To supplement their work the government has now established the **'*Khushalibank*'** or Micro Finance Bank ' for the provision of	Access is easy but the cost is high. The PRSP should include a strategy to reduce profits on micro loans. The RSPs methodology of credit disbursement is the best option of micro credit disbursement.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
		micro credit to poor communities. In this regard *Khushalibank* is already supporting the activities of the NGOs and Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) which are already dealing with micro credit. (Section 4.3.2, p. 38)	
2.3.4	**Zakat.** Collection and distribution of *Zakat* is not transparent.	The government's human development strategies focus especially on improving social outcomes for women and children. In addition, targeted interventions such as Pakistan Bait –Ul –Mal (PUB), Sakata and Sakata Foundation are involved in providing assistance to poor and indigent women and children through various schemes. These include assistance through the food support programme, individual finance assistance, medical assistance and educational stipends. Beside PBM are also running dastkari (handicraft) schools with the aim of including skill development among women. A key instrument for social rehabilitation and reducing vulnerability to exogenous shocks is the revamped system of Zakat and usher. At present annual Zakat collection is around Rs 500 billion. About 2 million beneficiaries received assistance from the Zakat fund (Section 4.4.6 pp. 39-40)	Zakat The community recommended the following measures for Zakat collection and distribution: • Merge into development • Fund • Measures should be taken to make the collection and distribution systems more transparent. • *Zakat* should not be given to communities just to make them dependent, but to enable self-reliance and help people establish their businesses. • In Sarhad they recommend that the Mosque Imam should be assigned to distribute *zakat*. • *Zakat* should be distributed through NGOs. • These suggestions can be incorporated in PRSP, to ensure the transparent collection and distribution of *Zaka*t Fund. The challenge is that *zakat*

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
			should be collected from all those who can pay and distributed to *Musthaqians*.
2.3.5	**Utility bills.** Increase in rates of utilities and utility bills (gas, electricity and telephone).		The rate of utility bills should be reduced.
2.3.6	**Wealth.** There is unequal distribution of wealth in country and the poor are becoming even poorer with the passage of time.		Tax reforms, Zakat and land reform for more even wealth distribution.
2.3.7	**Difficulty in getting Credit** Banks have a complicated process to disburse credit and loans are expensive.	The Pakistan poverty alleviation Fund (PPAF) Agriculture development bank (ADBP), First women bank (FWB), the National Rural Support programme (NRSP) and the government are involved in credit allocation to small enterprises	Increase coverage and reduce service charges**.**
2.3.8	**External loans.** Dependency of country's economy on external loans.	During the 1990s Pakistan's fiscal deficit averaged around 7% while the current account deficit in the balance of payments was around 5% of GDP. (Section 4.1.1 p. 21)	IPRSP should state how many external loans will be taken, for what purpose, and how the loans will be utilised.
2.3.9	***Tax system*** *Tax collection* and distribution is not satisfactory.	One of the main reasons behind Pakistan's persistent fiscal imbalances has been a weak tax effort, at around 13% of GDP: which has severely compressed the fiscal space needed for initiating poverty reduction initiatives.	Tax collected from an area should be invested in the development of that area.
2.3.10	**Less exports** Imports are more than exports and government fails to make good agreements with World Trade Organization.	Pakistan's current account has remained under pressure throughout the 1990s owing mainly to stagnation in exports and workers' remittances .The Government is committed for trade liberalisation and its macroeconomic framework aims at increasing exports to around	Government should make agreements with WTO that favour the small exporters.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
		10% and imports to a little over 6% per annum, over the medium term. (Ch. 4 p. 19 IPRSP)	

2.4 Agriculture sector

2.4.1	**Agriculture machinery** *Modern machinery* is not available for farmers, especially those with small landholdings. **Market access for** small farmers is very limited **Low yields.** The crop yield is low in case of all crops. **Diesel prices** High diesel prices have a negative impact on profit margins of agricultural produce and also increase rates of all other daily consumption items. **Drought** Drought period has negative impact, especially in Barani areas. **Barani land.** There is a lot of Barani land that is cultivable but not cultivated. **Orchard development** Under-development of orchards in Sarhad. **Toxic fertilisers.** Many fertilisers are toxic, making food poisonous and causing diseases.	Though the agriculture sector accounts for 25% of the country's GDP and employs around 45% of its labour force it has not received the importance that it deserves. Traditionally the agricultural sector was used for transferring surplus to the industrial sector by constantly under pricing agricultural produce. This is both ineffective and misplaced (Section 34 p. 22). Agriculture policies in the past have resulted in high import bills for wheat, edible oils, tea, and other agricultural items, despite the fact that with appropriate policies the sector had the potential to avoid them.	To increase production the Government should: ▪ Ensure provision of high quality seed to farmers ▪ Ensure provision of affordable and effective insecticides ▪ Ensure provision of fertilisers. ▪ Subsidise farmers ▪ Ensure provision of agricultural machinery, repayable in instalments ▪ Provide extension services. ▪ Farmers should be trained and provided with the latest market information for the sale of their agricultural products.
2.4.2	**Irrigation system** There is Wastage of water due to the poorly managed *irrigation system*	A critical factor impeding the development of the agriculture sector is water shortages emanating from deficiencies in storage capacities and poor use of available water.	The government should construct dams for water storage and small dams, irrigation channels at village level to fulfil the irrigation water needs.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
2.4.3	**Taxes.** Small farmers with low production must pay agriculture taxes.	Another critical element of the policy is to accelerate agricultural growth by raising per unit yields and increasing production of high value non-traditional crops like edible oils, olives, tea, spices and medicinal plants. The Government is also encouraged to corporate agriculture to bring vast tracts of uncultivable land and under cultivation. The role of ADB is being enhanced.	Participants suggestions: ▪ No tax on produce ▪ No tax on landholdings of less than 25 acres.
2.4.4	**Landlords.** Some farmers own thousand of acres of land while many tenants are without land.	Though significant tracts of land were distributed as a result of land reforms during 1959, 1972, 1977, in the absence of follow- up support systems in terms of infrastructure (link roads, irrigation), micro credit facilities, and other institutional support, these reforms failed to bring about significant improvements in the living conditions of farmers who benefited from this redistribution. (Section 4.3.1 p. 37). Access to cultivable land has a positive impact on the food and nutrition requirements of poor households. (Section 34 p. 22).	People recommended land reform and re-distribution of land to the landless and small farmers. Federal Land Commission and provincial Revenue Board figure show that 68,272 acres, 771,167 acres, 544,508 acres and 1,418,110 acres of land are available for distribution to the landless for farming in Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Baluchistan respectively.
2.4.5	**No subsidy on essential agri-inputs for poor farmers.**	**Subsidy on agriculture inputs** Fertilisers and high quality seed are not provided to farmers on subsidy**.**	Government should give subsidy to small farmers on seeds and fertilisers so that they can increase crop production and profitability**.**
2.4.6	**Credit for small farmers** Non-availability of credit for small farmers and, if available, the	Access to credit is the surest way of empowering the poor and improving their income generating	Accessible credit with lowers service charges.

	Common poverty issues identified by community of all provinces and AJK	Government response through I-PRSP	Community suggestions for particular issues that can be incorporated into PRSP
	process is complicated.	opportunities. However due to the lack of collateral and weak asset base it is very difficult for the poor to get credit from public and private financial institutions. The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) Agriculture Development bank (ADBP), First Women Bank (FWB), the National Rural Support programme (NRSP) and the government are involved in credit allocation to small enterprises. To supplement their work the government has now established the **'Khushalli bank'** or Micro Finance Bank ' for the provision of micro credit to poor communities. In this regard *khushhalibank* is already supporting the activities of those NGOs and Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) which already dealing with micro credit. (Section 4.3.2 p. 38)	
2.4.7	**Price of agricultural commodities.** Farmer does not receive good price for agricultural commodities in the market.		The farmers should be trained and provided with latest situation of market to sell their agriculture products.
2.4.8	**Farm to market roads.** There is a lack of roads from farm to market and roads linking villages with cities.		Construct more roads and improve the already existing roads

3. IDENTIFIED REASONS FOR POVERTY

In all provinces and AJK, the community identified a number of issues. These are given below. The specific issues that were identified by one or two provinces are listed separately. The community prioritised the reasons for poverty in the following order:

1. **Human development**
2. **Governance**
3. **Engendering growth and economic development**
4. **Agricultural sector**

3.1 Human development related reasons

- Poor education and high levels of illiteracy limit people's opportunities
- There are very limited opportunities for technical education
- There is no uniformity in the country's education system
- The population growth rate is very high and family planning facilities are inadequate
- There is a lack of basic facilities for health and a shortage of medicines
- There is a lack of facilities for information technology (IT)
- There is a lack of clean/potable water and there are no proper sanitation and drainage facilities
- Many poor people suffer from malnutrition and there is no food support programme
- Many conventional customs waste money and time
- There is no asset creation for the landless and homeless poor
- There is discrimination regarding women, children, the old, the disabled, and the destitute and there is no social protection net for these people
- Provision of pensions and other old age benefits do not exist for the majority of private and semi-government employees
- There is no effective welfare system
- There is a lack of public and governmental awareness regarding environmental issues
- There is no arrangement for the safe disposal of polluted and/or toxic waste material
- There is no Ban for polluting vehicles
- There is no result-oriented forest protection arrangement
- Plantations in the public sector are not facilitated

3.2 Governance related reasons

- Injustice and delays in court decisions are a problem
- Use less non developmental expenditures by government departments
- Poor planning by Government leads to problems
- There is discontinuity in the democratic system

- Corruption and the mis-utilisation of funds in government departments are a problem
- The law and order situation is not good and there is a lack of security and investment environment
- The police department is ineffective
- The political system is not transparent and it is impossible for the poor to participate in the political process
- Afghan refugees are a burden on the government budget.
- Most of the budget is spent on defence
- Monitoring systems in government departments like Health, education, revenue and police are poor
- Feudalism, landlords and *sardarism* are pushing the poor away from resources and opportunities to improve their living standard.

3.3 Economic development related reasons

- Unemployment and economic instability are major causes of poverty
- Collection and distribution of Zakat is not transparent
- Increases in rates of utilities including gas, electricity and telephone
- There is unequal distribution of wealth in the country and the poor are becoming worse off with the passage of time
- Banks have complicated processes for disbursing credit and loans are expensive
- The country's economy is dependent on external loans
- There is a lack of cottage industry and no measures are taken to restart "sick" industries.
- Tax collection and distribution are unsatisfactory
- Not enough exports, too many imports and poor agreements with the World Trade Organization limit the opportunities for economic growth

3.4 Agriculture sector related reasons

- Modern machinery is unavailable or unaffordable for farmers, especially those with small landholdings
- Small farmers lack access to markets
- Crop yields (in all crops) are less than established national standards
- There is wastage of water due to the poorly-managed irrigation systems
- Small farmers with low production pay high agriculture taxes
- Some farmers in country have thousand of acres of land while many tenants have no land
- There are no government subsidies on seed and fertiliser for poor farmers
- Credit for small farmers is either unavailable or, if available, subject to complicated procedures
- Farmers do not receive good price for their agricultural commodities
- There is lack of roads linking farms to markets and villages with cities
- The environment (land, soil, ecosystems) is being degraded
- Government poverty-alleviation programme are not focused on the poor
- Banks are not helpful for community relief

- The coverage of good NGOs is still non-existent in many areas where there is a need of such good NGOs like NRSP. Civil society organisations should be encouraged to work in rural areas.

4. PROVINCE-WISE CAUSES OF POVERTY

4.1 SINDH

The reasons given in this Chapter are in addition to the common reasons for poverty identified earlier by all provinces and AJK.

SINDH SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
Human Development	
1.1 Women's education Women are not encouraged to become educated.	Community mobilisation for women's education.
1.2 Lack of vocational skills There is a lack of skills and people need more training facilities in different areas and disciplines that may enable them to get more opportunities for income-generating activities.	Provision of skills by opening different technical institutes.
1.3 Hospitals at distant Hospitals are far apart and it is very difficult for women to get medical treatment when they require it. Medicines are not available in hospitals, and when purchased from the market they are expensive and low in quality.	Drug inspectors should do their duties honestly. Provision of high quality medicines. Ensuring the transparent distribution of these medicines to deserving patients. Ensuring that national quality assurance standards are met so that medicines available in the market are of high quality and priced fairly
1.4 TBA There is a need for TBA (traditional birth attendant) training for women in remote areas.	Health-specific training and monitoring institutions should be established
1.5 Food. Much of the food available is either of low quality or contaminated.	Food inspectors should perform their duties properly. Sale of low quality foods should be prohibited through a reliable monitoring system. Drug inspectors should be monitored to ensure they are working effectively and honestly.
1.6 Women's work. Women are encouraged to work with men but this creates social problems.	Encouragement of gender sensitised working environments. Policies to ensure good working environments in public and private sector Policies to ensure good working environments in public and private sector environments should be implemented and compliance monitored.
1.7 NGOs. Effective NGOs like NRSP are not involved in enough development work.	RSPs and NGOs should be encouraged to work. The Government should encourage the good work done by RSPs and other NGOs and provide funds allocated for community development
1.8 **Environment** There is a lack of plants around canals and watercourses.	Plantation should be done on sides of canals and watercourses. Forest Department policies and strategies should incorporate environmental concerns
Governance	
2.1 Katchi Abadies The *katchi abadies* are not supported properly and this has led to many crimes in society.	Development and welfare of Katchi Abadies is necessary. Government should improve physical and social conditions in the *katchhi abadies*.

SINDH SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
2.2 Freedom for journalists The media and journalist are not free and they have to obey whoever is in power.	Media and journalists should be free to get information and disseminate it without pressure from politicians and those in power.
2.3 Public opinion The public is not informed about the policy and decision-making processes and usually the policy makers not consider the opinion of community for which they are making the policy.	There should be regular contact between community leaders and elected government members to keep the public informed about government affairs and to ensure that the views and concerns of community members are heard. National and Provincial Assembly members must hold meetings with the community after attending the Assembly session.
2.4 District government performance. The District Government's performance is not satisfactory.	District Governments should work on merit. The devolution plan should be implemented with community participation
2.5 Open courts. The main issue is that there is political interference in the courts and most decisions are not made in good time. This creates problems for the public and makes more people poor.	There should be open courts at the village level with honest judges who will make cost-effective decisions in time and on merit. Judges should travel to the Tehsils and Districts to make minor decisions
2.6 **Sindhi Programmes**. Sindhi programmes are not telecast to create mass awareness.	There should be regular plan of TV and radio to telecast awareness programs.
2.7 Bureaucracy. Bureaucracy is not "public friendly" and always deals with the public with negative attitudes.	They should consider poor while deciding for them. Bureaucrats should change their attitude and make community favour decisions.
2.8 Disaster management During floods and droughts the affectees are not given proper and timely support due to lack of preparation from governments.	There should be arrangement in case of such crises. There should be proper allocation of funds for flood relief and such relief work should be assigned to NGOs with good credibility to make it transparent
2.9 Tickets for elections Feudal and landlords get the tickets to compete for elections and the poor cannot get Tickets.	The electoral system should be further restructured to make it possible for the poor to participate in elections. Make rules so that not only Feudal and Landlords can participate in elections

Economic Development

3.1 Only one wage earner for the whole family There is a lack of employment opportunities for family members: usually one family member earns and the others depend on that person.	Motivation and provision of opportunities for all those family members except children who are willing to do something for income generation. Motivation, training and provision of micro credit facility to men and women so that they can play a useful role in increasing family income.
3.2 Natural resource exploitation The Government is not making all the necessary efforts to explore and exploit the natural resources that could play a role in creating employment opportunities.	Explore the resources such as oil, gas, mines, gold and minerals that will create job opportunities for local communities. Government plans in this context to achieve the targets
Agriculture sector	
4.1 Crop diseases There is no control over crop diseases and sometime an entire crop is damaged or destroyed by disease.	Agriculture extension services for remedial measures for disease control.
4.2 Irrigation water Irrigation water from canals is not sufficient.	There should be construction of more canals and improvement of already existing canals to minimise water losses Government may allocate the funds on

SINDH SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
	merit basis and with proper long-term plans.
4.3 Tube well installation. The tube installation is not facilitated for farmers.	Tube well installation in areas where water table allows it. As grants cannot be made available for all that require it, this facility can be provided to needy farmers on credit with easy instalments.
4.4 Livestock development There is not enough support from Government for livestock development.	Extension services should be mobilised and there should be proper monitoring systems to ensure community accesses to livestock extension facilities. Monitoring of Livestock Department. Introduction of new breeds suitable for Sindh province and provision of credit for livestock development

4.2 BALOCHISTAN

BALOUCHISTAN SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
Human Development	
1.1 Books and Tuition fees Many poor parents cannot afford to purchase books or pay tuition fees to continue the education of their children.	There should be facility of free education and no Tution fee for children of poor. Government should provide free books for deserving children.
1.2 Women's employment Women are not encouraged to do service in all Departments.	Women's should be encouraged to work in all government and private departments. Government may allocate jobs for male and females on equal basis
1.3 Land less families There are million of families without land, homes and other assets and spending their lives without hope for improvement.	Government may take strong steps of land reforming and provide shelter to shelter less. They suggested that when government has fewer resources and not affords to provide shelter to all in such case government should provide this basic necessity of life to deserving on easy instalments
1.4 Quality of education For the poor especially, the quality of education is very low.	In addition to access to education quality should also be considered. Training of teachers and good monitoring system can improve the quality of education.
1.5 Respect for women There is a lack of justice and respect for women in our society**.**	Avoid all gender discriminations.
1.6 Health Laboratories There is no facility for diagnostic laboratory tests in villages.	Establishment of laboratories in remote areas so that patients can get true Diagnosis.
1.7 Medicines in hospitals	Medicines and food should be free for deserving.

BALOUCHISTAN SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
Medicines and treatment in hospitals are not free of charge.	Allocation of funds and then with strong monitoring system its transparent implementation
1.8 Drinking water The drinking water is brackish.	Treatment plants in such areas to make drinking water sweet. Government has to identify such areas to allocate the funds
1.9 Women's participation in development There is less participation of women in development programs.	Women should be encouraged to participate in development activities. NGOs should be involved to ensure women participation
1.10 Roads There is a lack of major roads.	Major roads especially with Karachi should be metalled. Government should consider while making next budget.
1.11 Hunting Hunting is not prohibited.	There should be probation on hunting of wild life and birds. Wildlife department with support of some NGO to give awareness to community.
1.12 Waste Bin The waste from houses is put into the streets, spoiling the environment.	The waste bin should be located in centre of each Mihama. Municipal committees in cities and Town committees and NGOs, CBOs in villages should be responsible to take such initiatives.

Governance

2.1 Politics in courts There is politics in court system	Courts should be independent. Government should take measures to make the courts free and independent
2.2 National affairs The public has no information about national affairs.	Government and all selected assembly members should always be in contact with Public in national affairs.
2.3 Public opinion The public never knows about the policy and decision making process and usually the policy makers do not consider the opinion of community for which they are making the policy.	National and provisional assembly member must have meeting with his community After attending the assembly session.
2.4 Female employment There are very few women employees in Government Departments	Women's should be encouraged to work in all government and private departments. Government employment structure should be attractive also for females
2.5 Narcotics The use of narcotics is increasing.	Anti narcotics department should be efficient. NGOs should play good role in control of Narcotics.

BALOUCHISTAN SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
2.6 Politics Politicians used the platform of National and provincial assembly to earn money only and serve their voters.	Electoral structure should one that allows and encourages the poor to compete. The electoral system requires restructuring

Economic Development

3.1 WAPDA tariff The electricity tariff is very high.	Government should reconsider the electricity consumer tariff. The fishermen should be provided with the credit to purchase the boat and net.
3.2 Zakat system It is not transparent.	Good NGOs for implementation with monitoring of government. Another option given that Zakat should be merged into development fund.
3.3 Defence Budget The defence budget is 30% more than requirement.	Army should consider that where they can reduce the expenditures without Compromising on defence of Pakistan.

Agriculture Sector

4.1 Karez Karezes that were in use in the past need maintenance and rehabilitation.	Rehabilitation of Karezes by local community with funding of Government.
4.2 Storage dams There is lack of water storage dams to store rainwater.	The establishment of storage dams will also improve the water table.
4.3 Fish factories There is a lack of fish factories.	The factories to process and pack the fish for marketing.
4.4 Fish marketing There is a lack of good marketing facilities for fish.	There is a need for markets that facilitate poor fisher families. Fishery Department, along with the Export Promotion Bureau should help to establish such markets.
4.5 Fishing equipment There is need for quality fishing equipment including boat, nets and engines.	There should be facilitation in this regard. Since the Government does not have enough resources to provide the equipment to deserving fishermen these can be provided on easy credit.

4.3 PUNJAB

PUNJAB SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Human Development

1.1 schools for females Schools for females are not sufficient	Female schools are not sufficient and sometime at distance and these should be opened on the basis of population density. Budget for opening of more girls' primary schools.
1.2 Women Rights Women rights are violated in the society.	Women rights should be given importance according to Quern and Sunni. NGOs and governments may

PUNJAB SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
	collaborate to change the attitude in society and Implementation of law that protects the violation of women rights.
1.3 Lack of religious education Islamic mode of governance is the best system that gives you the solution of all problems, which could provide justice and equitable distribution of sources.	Restructuring and reforms are needed in all government departments.
1.4Recycling of water Polluted water is not recycled to reduce pollution.	Water treatment plants that make the possibility of re using wastewater after Treatment. Government may introduce these technologies in some cities as experiment
1.5 Public awareness Awareness of community on environment by print and electronic Media is limited.	Print media should play role by giving importance to this issue of environment. Government gives some incentive and importance to media giving coverage to Environment protection.
1.6 Insecticide. There is wide use of insecticide in agriculture.	There should be control and necessary use of insecticide on crops. Farmers should be trained for insecticide use.
1.7 vocational schools There is lack of vocational schools to give skills to community.	Vocational schools should be opened. Again there is need identified for vocational trainings.

Governance

2.1Courts No of courts and judges are not sufficient.	They assess this from looking the situation that decisions are always late and many of decisions become late because of non-availability of judge's Governmnet may appoint more judges to solve this problem.
2.2 Lack of unity among Muslim countries Muslim countries are not one unit.	There are abundant resources with Muslim countries, which can be maximally explored and shared through unity. Muslim countries have to take initiative
2.3 Patwari The authorities of patwari always create problem for community.	He is the man who creates disputes among community individuals and always mis utilized the authorities and not facilitates them. He job descriptions may be changed and should be critically monitored
2.4 NGOs There is lack of NGOs.	There is need to establish more non- government organisations for development of the area and reduction of poverty Government should encourage.
2.5 No more government departments There are sufficient departments but with poor performance.	No need to establish more government departments but there is need of one sincere department for monitoring government projects and already existing department and it must be capable to take at the pot decisions. Government should ensure honest and strong monitoring mechanism.

Economic Development

3.1 Inflation The prices of all the things are high**.**	The income of the community is not increasing and prices are becoming high. Government long-term economy revival polices.
3.2 Diesel prices The prices of petrol/diesel have adversely effected the poors.	Reduction in prices of diesel/petrol and provision of electricity may help reduce He operational cost. Government efforts for price control.
3.3 Zakat distribution	They suggested that Mosque Amam should be used for

PUNJAB SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
Zakat distribution is not transparent	Zakat distribution

Agriculture sector

4.1 Irrigation Irrigation system is not monitored properly.	Transparent distribution of irrigation water by water management department
4.2 Sugar cane and cotton rates The prices of sugarcane and cotton sale are always fluctuating During peak season of crop sale.	Governmnet should fix the rates of sugarcane and cotton crop and ensure the crop purchasing.
4.3 Livestock development Less support from government regarding livestock development is also one of the reason of the poverty.	The price control system should be there so that farmer gets good prices of his crop. The price control and market system should exist there to facilitate farmers to in time sell their crop with good
4.4 Agriculture extension The extension work and technical support for farmers is not effective.	One of the participant in a workshop said that when we visited NARC it looks that they developed many varieties and techniques to develop our agriculture but when we see our agriculture fields the situation is opposite to this and a poor farmer has no information and input facility to improve his agriculture. Basically there is requirement of monitoring system for efficiency of extension services and to bridge the gap between research centres and farmers

4.4 NWFP

NWFP SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
Human Development	
1.1Education for degree Education is get only for degrees.	Education that may enable the degree holder to take self-initiatives for income generating activities and act as a good citizen.
1.2Technical centres Lack of technical centres.	That to provide the required skills to young and adult Unemployed**.**
1.3Education and business Education is deal as a business in private sector.	The private institution should also be monitored that they are only for business or quality is also good
1.4Traditional customs of marriages Traditional customs on marriages is not in control.	Government should make rule to prohibit dowery and more than one dish on vallima. IPRSP should have some strategy to overcome such traditional customs that are increasing poverty
1.5Homes and plots on instalments Provisions of homes and plots on easy instalments.	Residential plots and homes should be provided on instalments and IPRSP should
1.6 NGOs The attitude of some NGOs is not good.	NGOs should consider the norms and traditions of specific area.
1.7Hate for NGOs in NWFP There is hate for NGOs and public is not encouraged to participate in development activities in Sarhad province. **1.8Vehicles without cylincer** Those vehicles, which are without cylincer, are	Workshops and seminars to convince religious leaders Such vehicles should be prohibited

NWFP SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
not prohibited.	
1.9Factory pollution Pollution created by factories.	No relaxation to such factories those not working keeping in view to do production without creating pollution.
1.10 Social welfare There should be social welfare fund for poors that may enable them to invert on education and marriages of their children.	Welfare of poors on merit.

Governance

2.1Quran and Sunnah Our courts are not proceeding according to Quran and Sunnah.	There should be Islamic governance.
2.2Terrorism Control of terrorism in country.	Measures to reduce terrorism.
2.3Police Bad attitude of police with public.	Police reforms should include the capacity building of policemen.

Economic Development

3.1Lack of national unity Lack of unity as a Nation.	Good leadership that build National unity
3.2 Atom bomb Lot of fund in making and maintaining of atom Bomb.	Less fund on defence and more on development of poor.
3.3Textile industry Textile industry is less.	Encourage establishing more textile industry.
3.4Self employment schemes Lack of self-employment schemes.	Access to financial resources to those who have skill for self-employment. Allocate funds for that
3.5Roads Widen the roads.	Government should invest on widening of existing roads and construction of new roads.
3.6Afghan refugees.	Peaceful return of Afghan refugees.
3.7Relation with united States Relation with united Nations is also reason of poverty.	Relation with united states in country interest only Recommended that we should not make the relation with United states on cost of country interest

Agriculture Sector

4.1 Barani land There is lot of Barani land but that is cultivable but not cultivated.	Agriculture department should make strategy to develop Barani area by introducing new crops and fruit plants
4.2Orchard development Less development of orchards in Sarhad.	Farmers should be encouraged to establish orchards by providing true to variety plants on subsidy
4.3Fertilizers are Toxic Fertilisers are toxic and making food poisonous and in result human diseases.	Farmers should be trained so that they can be able to get good production with minimum application of chemical fertilisers

4.5 AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR

AJK SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
Human Development	
1.1 Lack of awareness Lack of awareness about rights and responsibilities of good citizens	Holding of workshops by all department among common people to create awareness
1.2 Education Education is not according to our conditions and not good enough to solve our problems.	Technical education should encouraged
1.3 Scientists Talented scientists should be encouraged to work in our country	Our government should encourage talented scientists to work for country.
1.4 Skills Those who have skill and education are not utilising it properly.	Create opportunities for those who have skills.
1.5 Discipline There is lack of discipline every where in our society.	Awareness for discipline in all sectors of life
1.6 Wastage of time Community used to spent their time by wandering in Bazars and sitting in hotels to discuss politics.	Create opportunities that will enable community to utilise time properly
1.8 Discriminations There are some discrimination in society on basis of religion, tribe, Bradary and designations.	Politics and other decisions should be on merit basis and not on basis of Bradry.
1.9 Moral education It must moral oriented also.	It should be part of syllabus of all schools, colleges and universities.
1.10 Intellectual poverty	Seminars and workshop for awareness.
Governance	
2.1 Justice Justice and equality not prevailing	Court reforms by government
2.2 Town planning not done	
2.3 Corruption Corruption in local government system	Eradication of corruption from top to bottom level
2.4 Family hold There is hold of few families in Bureaucracy, army and other key positions of governmnet departments.	Poor should also be given equal opportunities to get jobs
Economic Development	
3.1 Productive activities Local industry not developed	By good utilisation of all available resources.
3.2 Foreign Income Improper utilisation of foreign remittances (a large number of AJK population is residing abroad)	It should be invested in the area and not in foreign Banks Government should give some measures to attract investors to invest money with security.
3.3 Credit for women Credit for women (inaccessible)	Women should be provided with credit for income generating activities
Agriculture Sector	

AJK SPECIFIC REASONS FOR POVERTY	COMMUNITY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
4.1 Land development Land not developed	Land should be developed by adopting SALT (Slope agriculture land technology) and other techniques. Agriculture department may demonstrate.
4.2 Water storage Inadequate water storage / utilisation	Water storage by developing water harvesting structures and small dams, and giving awareness to community by introducing other techniques.
4.3 Poultry and livestock development Poultry and livestock development not adequate	Community assistance for poultry and livestock development with subsided financial support to selective farmers on merit.
4.4 Deforestation	Effectiveness of forest department.
4.5 Harvesting structure Rain water storage ponds by harvesting rainwater in mountains for agriculture and livestock.	Construction of harvesting structures.
4.6 Check dams There is lack of check dams to stop erosion.	Check dams to prevent erosion and land slides. Plantation and check dams for land conservation
4.7 Forest Forest area is reducing continuously.	Forest department may involve community for forest plantation.
4.8 Orchard development Orchard, kitchen gardening needed	Introduction and provision of true to variety fruit plants to establish orchards. Agriculture department may play active role to develop such orchards.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Prioritisation of reasons for poverty by community

During the community consultations held in 28 Tehsils, NRSP's staff used different methods of gathering community members' comments, including individual feed back, written feed back according to established formats, and focus group discussions. In these focus groups, members were asked to identify the primary reasons for the existence of poverty and then to prioritise those reasons. Analysis of all 50 groups indicates that, regardless of the location or methods, the situation is similar everywhere.

Of these 50 groups, **22** indicated **Human development as their 1st priority.** Human development includes the lack of education and technical education facilities, lack of population planning, lack of drinking water supply facilities and inappropriate welfare facilities.

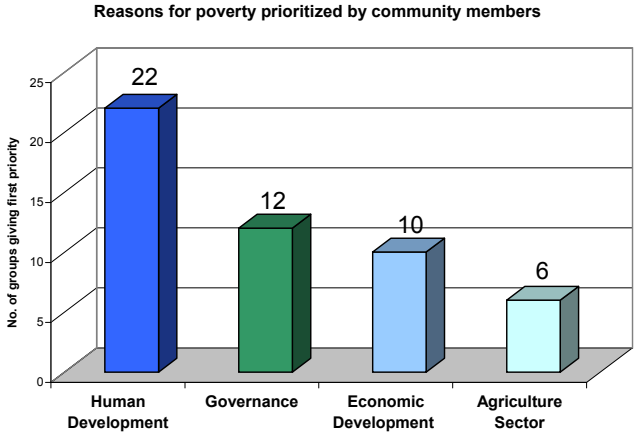
12 groups indicated **Governance as their 1st priority.** This includes injustice, a great imbalance between non-development and development expenditures, poor planning, corruption, an insecure law and order situation, a weak and ineffective political system, an ineffective police department and poor monitoring systems.

For **10** groups, **economic development was the 1st priority.** This includes unemployment, a weak manufacturing sector, economic instability, poor Zakat distribution and collection, extremely high utility

bills, an unequal distribution of wealth, a mismanaged tax system, a weak export sector and the country's high dependence on external loans.

6 groups listed the **agriculture sector as 1st priority.** This includes the high cost of agricultural machinery, poor access to markets (both economic and infrastructures), low yields, inefficient irrigation systems, high taxes on agricultural land, inputs and equipment, exploitative landlords, no subsidies for agriculture inputs, and poor or non-existent farm to market roads.

The following graph shows these priorities in visual form:



Reasons for poverty, as prioritised by community members with very few exceptions, most of the issues mentioned by community members are also mentioned in IPRSP, although in some cases there are differences in the perceptions of both stakeholders (community members and Government), as elaborated in previously in this report.

5.2 IPRSP Budgetary expenditures (2001- 04)[2]

IPRSP Expenditures	Actual		Budget estimates		Projections (Based on 2001-01actual expenditures)					
	2001-01		2001-02		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Rs mil	As a% of GDP	Rs mil	As a% of GDP	Rs mil	As a % of GDP	Rs mil	As a % of GDP	Rs mil	As % of GDP
Development	23,021	0.7	35,292	0.9	34,552	0.9	45,395	1.1	63,623	1.4
Current	96,284	2.8	115,391	3.0	101,816	2.7	113,407	2.7	120,799	2.6
Total	119,305	3.4								
A. community services										
Roads highways and bridges	7,148	0.2	6593	0.2	8,871	0.2	10,213	0.2	11,702	0.3
Water supply	4,499	0.1	5799	0.2	5519	0.1	6326	0.2	72,16	0.2

[2] *Page 54, IPRSP*

and sanitation										
B. Social services										
Education	56,362	1.6	69,475	1.8	63166	1.7	72,605	1.7	83,046	1.8
Health	17,494	0.5	22,728	0.6	19,275	0.5	21,098	0.5	22,960	0.5
Population planning	1,552	0.0	1,837	0.0	2,116	0.1	2521	0.1	2983	0.1
Social security and other welfare	15,68	0.0	38,64	0.1	1681	0.0	1816	0.0	1949	0.0
Natural calamities and other disasters	912	0.0	185	0.0	964	0.0	1035	0.0	1103	0.0
C. Economic services and others										
Irrigation	8,157	0.2	16,064	0.4	9372	0.2	14576	0.3	21387	0.5
Land reclamation	1,014	0.0	1,743	0.0	1481	0.0	1590	0.0	1694	0.0
Rural development	11,976	0.3	9,312	0.2	15214	0.4	17674	04	20,426	0.4
Food subsidies	8,236	0.2	13,106	0.3	8709	0.2	9348	0.2	9957	0.2
Total (A+B+C)	119,305	3.4	150,683	4.0	136368	3.6	158802	3.8	184422	4.0

Source: MOF estimates

.

From this Table it is evident that IPRSP is allocating only 2.4 percent of GDP on Human Development - including Education, Health and population planning, social security and welfare and disaster response/management. If we include water supply and sanitation and food subsidies (0.4%) then we see that 2.8 % of GDP is spent on the entirety of Human Development. This is very low, and does not meet the needs and priorities of the poor. ***This Budget table and analysis shows that at present there is little space in IPRSP to incorporate the voices of the poor. It follows that if the Government is willing to create a space in which to include the voices of the poor, then the Budget should be revised to account for the priorities identified by the community.***

Community members who have benefited from human development in all its socio-economic forms will make significant contributions to national development. The Government should acknowledge this by allocating a sufficient portion of the Budget to Human Development, and by ensuring good governance in every institution of the state. For example, existing Departments should be made efficient and effective instead of new ones being opened.

An environment of honesty in all departments of the country, with good governance and sound fiscal plans, could lead to development that could effectively reduce poverty. In the past policies have not always been bad, but they have not been implemented properly.

BRSP

Chapter Six

The Balochis Talk About Their Poverty

Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)

A follow-up meeting took place at the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in Quetta. During 1991 - 1997 period, more than five hundred Cos had been formed. BRSP now intends to expand its programme to ensure implementation of quality interventions to reach the deserving communities of Balochistan, including reactivating the old COs. The revitalised BRSP has started operations in two union councils (Dasht and Panjpai) near Quetta, and is in the process of mobilising communities to undertake activities for community infrastructure, micro-credit, and capacity building. BRSP is balancing its current operations to build upon the succeses of the legacy of BRSP, particularly in human resource and skill development among other accomplishments and to undertake new initiatives with a renewed vigour. It is being funded by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) for an initial project cycle of one year (April 1, 2001 – March 31, 2002).

IPRSP Pilot Dialogue at BRSP
Sawan Killi, District Mastung, Balochistan
18 November 2002

After the briefing on I-PRSP to the BRSP management and staff on 17 November, 2002 a team comprising the BRSP and RSP Network undertook the first pilot dialogue in the IPRSP consultation process. The dialogue was with members of ten community organisations (women and men) in Sawan Killi, Mastung District and conducted by SSK. The Chairman BRSP, CEO BRSP, staff also participated in the dialogue.

The dialogue gave some useful insights into how the consultation process can be carried out with communities. Below are some potential pointers for RSP teams that will be undertaking pilots in their respective programme areas.

As decided at the IPRSP briefing at the BRSP office, the RSP team was not to go to communities with the IPRSP, during this pilot stage. It was to first ask communities **what they identified as major causes of their poverty and what the government could do to address these – possibly also suggesting implementation modalities as to what communities themselves can do to assist government in findings and implementing solutions.**

The Dialogue Process

Step one: Introducing the topic

As an obvious introduction, the issue to talk about is poverty. SSK thus introduced the topic by saying that poverty in Pakistan is increasing in depth and scale, despite the government having put vast amounts of resources into programmes that intended to reduce poverty. A discussion will most probably result from this where one will hear the familiar causes of poverty, the inefficiency of government services, etc, etc. The key thing is to channelise this discussion to make it more useful for our purpose – as follows:-

Step Two: what do you see as the major factors contributing to your poverty and how do you think these can be addressed

In Sawan the CO members identified the following factors contributing to their poverty, at various levels:

- lack of water (men)
- unemployment (men)
- lack of education (women)
- poor health (women)
- inflation, rise in fuel and food prices is a major cause – macro issues – (men)
- government's lack of commitment and attitude need changing – governance issues – (men).

CO members elaborated on this and included possible solutions to these problems as follows: 'Due to solving our water problem through BRSP support, we now have more time to devote to labour and are able to earn more. If work is done through the COs, in three years we expect that poverty in our village will reduce by 25-30%. Tubewells and water storage are the answer to our major problem. One tubewell can serve 150-200 households and larger numbers of livestock.

Dialogue Guide:

- COs will identify numerous and different factors at different levels e.g. inflation as a macro factor and water as a micro factor, government 'attitude' is a 'governance' factor identified.
- COs may need to prioritise these according to these levels e.g. the women said that credit was most useful at the household level but that social sector interventions would address poverty at the village and higher levels.
- COs (where possible and where they have had experience) will provide solutions in terms of suitable implementation mechanisms i.e. based on their expedience with the RSPs. These ideas can be very useful as input into the PRSP as communities can assist government in solving many implementation type problems, if they are appropriately involved.

Step Two: **how can the government address/solve these problems i.e. you need to tell government what YOU want to do, not what government thinks it should do for you.**

CO members said that:

- Government can set up factories to employ us
- Can undertake small and large scale water supply schemes
- Can set up more schools for us, etc.

Dialogue Guide:

- We need to assist COs in identifying what is feasible and doable. In this case the response was that factories cannot be set up in each village – this is a macro issue. Shoaib Sahib explained to the members that 'Your strength is that you are organised and are able to provide answers to a lot of the questions that government is asking you. What can you tell the government about 'how' your problems can be solved?
- Try and look at your problems at three levels i.e. village, tehsil, district and province and assist COs in identifying solutions accordingly.
- Poverty is not just income poverty. There can be 'poverty of education, of health of your inability to access government services (governance).'

Step Three: CO representatives were advised to discuss these issues with all their members and then to reconvene in a cluster conference to give further details of problems and potential solutions.

Dialogue Guide:

- COs were advised that they MUST consult and include their poorest members.
- COs MUST also include women and a separate women's conference MUST be arranged to address the gender gap in the IPRSP.

BRSP Community Dialogues Report

In all six dialogues were held in three Union Councils with 172 men and 16 women community members (including non-COs members). Each dialogue started with an introduction of the pilot consultation process in reference to checklist of poverty reduction in Chapter 4 of IPRSP as well as overall structural Reforms for Economic revival programmes. Special reference was made to improving access to productive assets such as housing, land, credit, assets creation, human development, social safety net, reducing vulnerability to shocks, education for all and health related improvement.

It is the joint responsibility of the government and general public to plan workable solutions for the poverty reduction. The government is spending adequate resources and funds on various development programmes for reduction in poverty of the people. In spite of all efforts, the poverty is increasing in depth and scale. If the trend of increase in poverty continues, majority of the population will certainly suffer.

The government is now working on finalisation of Poverty Reduction Strategy to overcome the increasing trend in the poverty. It has been considered necessary to consult the poor communities about the major causes of poverty and their solutions and to what extent they can assist the government in her efforts, especially in implementation issues and modalities. What the government can do to address the problems relating to poverty.

After this introduction, the community members were put the following questions for their candid opinion. They were guided in light of IPRSP checklist, region specific problems and ranking the causes in High, Medium and Low Priority.

1. In your opinion, what are the major causes of poverty – Region specific, High, Medium and Low Priority.
2. What steps are necessary for reducing poverty and overall economic growth. How the government should address the problems of poverty.
3. To what extent they can provide support to government in reduction of poverty, how and in what way?

Gist of all Dialogues

1. Access to justice by the poors and others is very difficult. The civil/judiciary and police need complete overhauling. The present government has given more powers to police who never do justice. There is no access to any government department as well. The poors are pressed by the jagirdars and elites of the area. The police cannot dare to even listen to the oppressed. The police should be made accountable to a committee comprising of honest, just and sincere community members including poor members.

2. The government should not take bribe and commission from the contractors and check the quality of their work. None of the contractors will dare to implement any substandard project. The community should also be involved in checking the quality of work of the contractors. Small projects may be executed through sincere and honest people from amongst communities. They will not only ensure the best quality of work but also own the work done and shoulder the responsibilities of operation and maintenance.

3. Providing housing, land, human development, micro-credit for assets creation is wishful dreams. How many poors have so far been benefited this way. What is the use of education for all upto primary level. This cannot help the poors. High cost of living has put the poors in miserable condition. Social safety net never reaches to the deserved destitute, widows etc. Zakat etc. is distributed amongst the kith and kin for favorites. The Zakat committees are constituted by the blue eyes people. Zakat committees should be constituted from amongst the honest and sincere community members.

4. Political instability is a major cause of economic growth and increase in poverty. Also elected representatives are not sincere. The people are trying different people since partition but all in vain. No development plan of the government is rightly implemented. Each government has her own mandate and priorities. The devolved government is not working for the people. They remain engaged in protecting their positions. No work has been done during the last one year.

5. In all the six dialogues, the community members identified severe problem of water for irrigation for the entire Mastung district. There were 360 community owned Karez for irrigation, out of which only 5 to 6 are operational with little quantity of water and remaining dried. The government should install community owned tubewells for these Karez. All land holders including poors with small holding will benefit equitably. Water contributes to life and death. Alternatively the government should provide easy credit without interest amounting to Rs. 5 to 7 lacs. The community will themselves install collective tubewells for the Karez. Individual tubewells must be discouraged to control the underground water table which has gone down from 400 to 700 feet. This arrangement will certainly boast the income of every one and control

poverty increase. About credit from available sources such as ADBP, SME etc; they told that it is very difficult to access that loans because of lengthy procedures, bribe and guarantee.

6. The standard of existing education and health facilities should be improved by posting trained and qualified staff, necessary equipments, laboratory and medicines. Where there is absence of education and health facilities, these should be provided on priority basis. Technical education should be included right from the primary level so that the students learn different skills for self-employment.

7. Marketing system for the agriculture produce, fruit and vegetables should be arranged for appropriate prices of the produce. During the season, smuggling of these produce from IRAN and Afghanistan should be stopped.
   Cold storage at least at district level for control of wastage.

8. Agro-based industries will help the farmers in processing and preservation of their farm produce. The poors will also get employment.

1st Pilot Consultation Dialogue on IPRSP at Killi Karez Kamal, UC Sourgaz, Mastung (70- men community members participated)

Major causes of Poverty and Suggested Solutions as reported by men community. They have ranked all these as "High Priority".

1. Access to proper justice

(a) Access to justice is very difficult and public is disappointed. Merit should be given preference in all walks of life. Police and civil/judiciary are the worst. Accordingly the other departments.

(b) Equal opportunities in employment for all and non-merit based favouritism/ nepotism be eliminated.

(c) Government facilities should be provided on the basis of needs of the poors and not on political considerations/affiliations.

In our area, 40% of the people are not engaged in agriculture. Employment opportunities should be created for them i.e. self-employment and work place and adequate credit without interest.

2. Severe problem of irrigation water for agriculture:

The community members reported that out of 360 Karez in district Mastung, only five/six are functioning with little water. All the remaining Karez dried up. Small landholders cannot afford tubewell for cultivation of their land. It has caused extreme poverty in the area. Due to drought and installation of individual tubewells, the water for drinking and irrigation has become a severe problem.

Suggested Solution:

(a) Community owned tubewells be installed like that of old Karez system. All land owners will benefit equitably. Two community tubewells were installed in area of MOBI and the migrated 300 to 400 households returned and started cultivation of their land, earning Rs. 40 to 60 thousands a year.

(b) Delay dams and check dams be constructed for control of underground water table as well as individual tubewells may be discouraged.

3. Agriculture related problems

(a) No proper Marketing System and appropriate price of agriculture produce, fruit and vegetables.

(b) High cost of agricultural inputs (seed, fertilizer, pesticides/insecticides).

(c) No cold storage in district Mastung to control wastage of farm produce.

(d) Lack of Farm to Market Roads. Middlemen exploit the farmers.

(e) Ignorance of farmers about technological innovations.

(f) Smuggling of agricultural produce from IRAN affecting the prices of farmers.

Suggested Solution

(a) Efficient marketing system by government and appropriate prices.

(b) Subsidised agricultural inputs of good quality. Sub-standard inputs be banned.

(c) Cold storage for farm produce

(d) Construction of farm-to-market roads

(e) Farmers be kept apprised about technological innovations

4. Lack of Standard Education:

(a) Technical education may be included in all educational institutions; such as computer learning, tailoring, electronics, auto-mechanics etc.

(b) Improve the standard of education by placing qualified trained staff, establish science laboratory with necessary equipments/instruments. The government should prepare a workable policy for the training of teachers and provide incentives to them. Preference be given to local teachers in the scattered and long distance areas.

(c) There is no productive opportunities for poor students. Demand oriented education system be introduced.

5. Health – Human & Livestock

(a) The casualty department of district hospital Mastung is deplorable. Patients are taken to Quetta. It should be made fully operational by posting qualified doctors and providing modern machinery.

(b) Health facilities and qualified doctors are not available in most of the villages or nearby. Establishment of BHU/RHC with qualified doctors and staff is required.

(c) No facility for the treatment of **livestock**. Livestock is the main source of income especially the poors.

6. Credit: Access, ceiling and period

(a) It is very difficult for the poors to access the Bank's credit due to lengthy procedures and bribe. Poors cannot rightly benefit from short period micro-credit.

(b) However, BRSP procedures of credit are very simple but the amount of credit is very small and little for any productive venture in Mastung district. The poors mainly depend on livestock for which adequate amount of loan is needed.

(c) Lack of agricultural machinery/tractor.

Suggested Solution:

(a) The volume of credit be increased for productive work especially livestock and for longer duration (Rs. 50,000 to 150,000).

(b) Effective system of credit for unemployed educated persons.

(c) Two tractors on easy credit in each village. The government tractors are either not available for small farmers or not in working order

Community Support to Government

1. Community will provide free of cost land to government for the development project relating to their uplift.
2. Provide cheap labour
2. Supervision and monitoring of work
3. If involved, community will ensure good quality work in lesser cost
4. Shoulder responsibility of operation and maintenance.

2nd Pilot Consultation Dialogue on IPRSP at Killi Aisha, UC Sourgaz

(30 non-organised community members participated)

Major causes of poverty and suggested solutions as reported by community members. Ranked as "High Priority".

1. Severe Problem of Irrigation Water for Agriculture (Major source of income)

Due to non-availability of irrigation water, agricultural land is lying barren. The cultivators cannot afford installation of tubewells, therefore, poverty is increasing.

Solution:

The old Karez system needs to be rehabilitated by installing community owned tubewells and not that of individuals. The tubewell water can be taken to the land in tunnel like Karez for community land irrigation as was done in Karez system.

2. Education Problems

The standard of education is poor. Full strength of staff in schools is not in place. Technical education is not included in the present education system.

Suggested Solutions:

(a) The teaching staff should be given training and their presence in the schools be ensured.

(b) English medium be made compulsory right from the primary level. Female teachers be recruited for girls education in place of men.

(c) Technical skills/trade should be made compulsory in the schools to ensure self-employment.

3. Agriculture related problems and solutions:

Non-existence of proper **marketing system** for agricultural produce. The cultivators do not get the right prices of their produce. Another major reason is the smuggling of agricultural produce from IRAN affecting the prices.

Solution:

The government should buy the agricultural produce from the farmers eliminating the role of middlemen so that they are not victimized by the agents. Ban on smuggling on the farm produce from IRAN to control market surplus.

4. Unemployment:

40% of the people in their area are not involved in agriculture. Employment opportunities need to be created for them.

If adequate credit of Rs. 25,000 to 30,000 is provided, they can be self-employed by starting appropriate productive enterprises. Small loans are not helpful for reasonable livelihood due to lack of basic infrastructure in the area. Productive enterprises can be started in the towns.

3rd Pilot Consultation Dialogue on IPRSP at Killi Babbary, UC Sheikhwasil Kanak – Field Unit Mastung (38 men community members participated).

Major causes of poverty and suggested solutions as reported by community members. Rating all problems "High Priority".

1. **Lack of Justice & Government responsibility**
   (a) Equal access to justice be ensured for all, particularly poors. The courts and police never listen to poor public.
   (b) Employment opportunities according to quota system and ban on favouritism/nepotism.
   (c) Community participation in the developmental projects

2. **Unstable political system**

Since independence of Pakistan, there has been no stability in the political system which has continuously affected long-term developmental programmes in every walk of life. Mega projects gravely suffered due to instability resulting into overall weak economic growth. As a result, the overall burden lies on the common man. The poors are becoming poorer day by day. The bribe and commission from the contractors should be stopped so that best quality of work in little funds is ensured.

3. **Severe problem of irrigation water for agriculture/drinking**

With the installation of individual tubewells, the water table has gone down from 400 to 700/800 feet. Out of 360 Karez in Mastung district only 5/6 are functional. The remaining Karez dried up. The poors have no water for cultivation of their land.

Solution:

The old community owned irrigation system of Karez may be rehabilitated so that the small farmers could also use water for irrigation of their small holdings.

The water from community based installed tubewells can be taken into tunnels like Karez for irrigation purpose. All land holders will benefit equitably particularly poor landowners. Check dams and Delay Action dams be constructed for control of ground water table. Present flat rate of electricity charges of Rs.4,000 per month should not be increased. The new cultivators should be given concession once the water gets available. Assistance by government in trickling irrigation system is required.

4. **Agriculture related problems & solutions:**
   (a) Certified agricultural inputs on reasonable/subsidized rates.
   (b) Appropriate agro-based marketing system for agricultural produce such as vegetables, fruit ensuring right prices and exclusion of middlemen.

(c) Cold storage for vegetables and fruit to control wastage.

(d) Ban on smuggling and transit of vegetables and fruits from Iran and Afghanistan**.**

(e) Water resist species by introduced.

(f) Technological innovations – keep the farmers appraised from time to time.

5. Education – Problems and solutions

(a) Upgradation of girls primary school to middle level.

(b) Training of existing staff in the schools.

(c) Technical education in the schools.

(d) More rooms are required in high school

(e) English medium be started from the primary level.

6. Rapid increase in the cost of living

It has completely paralysed the poors. They are not in a position to afford even two times meals. The salaries are also not in accordance with the increased cost of the living. This must be controlled so that the poors could survive.

Community support to Government

Free of cost lands, cheap labour, monitoring, timely repayment of credit, operation and maintenance.

4th Pilot Consultation Dialogue with women at Killi Babbary, UC Sheikhwasil, FU Kanak, Tehsil Mastung (16 women participated)

Major causes of poverty and suggested solutions:

1. Majority of women are not engaged in productive work. Skill upgradation in embroidery, sewing, galabandi, poultry farming.
2. Marketing arrangement for their handicrafts in Quetta and Karachi at appropriate prices.
3. Drinking water supply – The discharge of the present tubewell for water is inadequate and needs to be increased and accordingly increase in the capacity of the water storage tank.
4. Credit for livestock, handicrafts, poultry farming. Interest free credit be given in the range of Rs. 4 to 5 lacs to be repaid in 2/3 years period. No access to Bank's credit.

Community Support

Free of cost land, cheap labour, supervision of work, repayment of credit on time .

5th Pilot Consultation Dialogue on IPRSP at Killi Sar Band, UC Sheikh Wasil, Tehsil & District Mastung (20 un-organised men community members)

Major causes of poverty and suggested solutions: High Priority:

1. **Access to Justice**

   Access to justice is very difficult without bribe. One has to even pay bribe for obtaining credit from the Banks. In case a loan of Rs. 50,000 is obtained, one has to pay Rs. 2 lacs. Access to government departments specially police and judiciary is not even possible. The judiciary and civil suits should be decided in months without bribe than in years. Police requires complete overhauling. The poors cannot think of justice by police.

2. **Severe problem of irrigation water for agriculture.**

   The most important problem is the irrigation water for agriculture. Due to drought the people are now depending more on tubewells resulting in lowering ground water table (on average 20 feet/year). All the orchards in district Mastung were green when the 360 Karez were in operation. Only 5/6 Karez are now in operation. The remaining dried and most of the orchards cut down. The poor cultivators can't afford installation of tubewells.

   Suggested Solution:

   With the installation of community owned tubewells, the dried Karez can be made operational. All land owners (particularly small) will cultivate their land.

3. **Agriculture related problems and solutions**

   Agricultural inputs are very expensive. The government is required to provide seed, fertilizer, pesticides/insecticides and tractor on cheap rates. Pure improved quality inputs should be ensured.

4. **Health related problems and solutions**

   Basic health unit exists but there is no full time doctor. The BHU needs to be upgraded to small hospitals with posting of lady doctor and other full time trained staff.

Medium Priority:

5. **Continued high cost of living** is a severe problem for the survival of the poors. The government must control it.

6. **Access to Credit** should be made easier. Long duration credit with ceiling of Rs. 5 lacs may be arranged for agriculture, livestock and productive enterprises.

7. **Education:**

Technical education may be included in the curricula of all levels of educational institutions. Free education upto matric may be arranged for the poors. There should be some arrangements for higher education of the poor students after matriculation. The community of the village will also help them in getting higher education.

Community Support to Government

Provide free land and cheap labour. Repay the credit on time after productive utilisation. Pay utility bills and ensure the enrolment of students in the schools.

6th Pilot Consultation Dialogue on IPRSP at Killi Sawan Khan, UC Spezand, Tehsil Dasht, District Mastung (16 representatives from 4 MCOs representing 200 households in the nearby Killis/villages).

General:

The government funds do not reach to the poor communities. The community level projects should be implemented through community participation like RSPs. The government has not been successful to reach the poor communities as the poors do not have access to government. Timely and fair justice do not exist, especially for poors. The political system is not stable and the elected representatives never turn-up to their voters. We are trying different people since independence. The present devolved government is not working for the people. They remain engaged in protecting their positions. No work has been done during the last one year

High Priority causes of poverty and solutions:

1. **Acute shortage of irrigation water** for agricultural purposes and livestock fodder on which their livelihood entirely depend.

   Due to drought during the last 6 years, the water table has also gone down from 400 to 700 feet depth. As a result, their agriculture and fruit orchards have severely been affected and unemployment increased. The people along with their animals migrate from one place to another in search of water and livestock grazing area.

   Community owned tube wells and small dams may be constructed for agriculture, fruit and livestock production.

2. **Lack of access to credit**

   The community is even ready to obtain credit of Rs. 5 to 7 lacs free of interest for longer period for installation of joint tube wells repayable in two years period at the time of cropping/fruit seasons. For livestock and self-employment, credit of Rs. 50,000 to Rs.150,000 is required. About existing sources of credit (ADBP, SME etc.,) they told that they have no access and it is very expensive (expenses, banks interest, guarantee) with lengthy process.

3. **Proper and timely Marketing System**

   Marketing of their agricultural produce, fruit and vegetables needs to be ensured by the government at appropriate prices.

Medium Priority

4. **Health:** The required health facilities are not available in the entire tehsil of Dasht. In case of illness and emergencies, they have to take the patients to Quetta or Mastung spending huge

amount on transport and treatment. Small hospitals equipped with laboratory, equipments and medicines as well as full time trained doctors and staff.

5. Gas Supply

The communities do not have fuel wood for their needs. They buy fuel wood from outside and spend a big chunk of income especially in winter. Majority of the households along with their livestock migrate to other far-flung areas – adding to increase in expenses and poverty. If the gas is provided (produced in Balochistan), their expenses would be minimized.

Low Priority

6. Lack of Education

In the entire Union Council of Spezand (only two UCs in Dasht Tehsil), there are only one each primary and middle schools which cannot fulfill the needs of the population. The children have to travel long distance. Furthermore the standard of education is poor. The poors cannot afford to send their children to Mastung district HQ and Quetta for higher education.

The middle school should be upgraded to secondary level ensuring good standard of education by trained staff. Technical education may also be started in all the schools for skill learning enabling the students for self-employment opportunities.

7. Farm to market roads are required for transportation of agriculture produce and inputs.

8. Rapid increase in the cost of consumable and non-consumable goods.

Women:

Women are involved in agriculture, livestock and embroidery work. Proper marketing at appropriate prices of their products is necessary.

Community Support to Government

Free of cost land, cheap labour, monitoring of works, operation and maintenance, timely repayment of credit and utility bills.

PRSP

Chapter Seven

How economic growth bypasses the poor in the Punjab

Punjab Rural Support Programme

On 25 November, 2002 a meeting was held in Lahore at the Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP), currently active in 8 regions of the province: Lahore, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Multan, Muzaffargarh, and Narowal/Sialkot, covering a total of 20 districts. The PRSP has developed strong links with the Punjab Government and is currently implementing a number of projects with the technical assistance of line agencies including community based schools, village infrastructure and natural resource management activities. The PRSP operates off its own endowment of Rs. 500 million provided by the Government of Punjab. It has also secured a Rs.500 million credit line from the Habib Bank for the provision of credit to communities and recently began a partnership with the World Bank/Government of Pakistan financed institution the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund.

The PRSP decided to conduct consultation in all its regions and to complete the process by 31st December, 2002. Though all the participants agreed on the consultative process as suggested by the RSPN team some significant issues were highlighted during the discussion:

- It was felt that there is very little effort on local participation in the IPRSP; and important stakeholders like local civil society organizations, professionals and, most importantly, the poor themselves have not been consulted.
- Since the whole emphasis is on participation and consultation at the grass root level, the document does not provide specific measures to foster this as well as to provide a conducive environment for the growth of grass root level CSOs.
- While talking about excluded and marginalized groups, the document fails to exclusively focus on women, minorities and the poorest of the poor.
- Though it talks about asset creation for the poor, especially in the rural areas, as one of the means to alleviate poverty, it does not provide for any strategy to achieve this e.g. land reforms.
- The importance of an arbiter, or a mechanism, that would represent stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, government etc.) and that would reflect the views of these stakeholders was stressed. The existing PRSP implementation committee has not played any significant role in terms of stakeholder consultation. Moreover, this committee is not representative of all key stakeholders. This should be suggested to the government and the architects of IPRSP.
- The issue of 'political' input into the IPRSP was also discussed. It was noted that the manifesto of no political party mentions the IPRSP.

It was noted that though the Government had not specifically asked RSPs to do such consultations, IPRSP was a public document and RSPs are important stakeholders by virtue of their goal of working for the poor. The RSPs thus have their own mandate to carry forward such consultations with the poor.

PRSP Community Dialogues Report

Back ground:

Following the guidelines given by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank Pakistan's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) marks a paradigm shift in the Government's anti poverty efforts. This paper is actually prepared in response to the realization that poverty reduction requires a holistic effort that should target all the elements that flow into inequality, human deprivation, and social exclusion. It has been well realized in the paper that poverty alleviation is not a battle that can be won by the efforts of any single government agency or department. In fact, it is a war that has to be fought concurrently on all fronts with keen involvement both by the Government, the Civil Society Organizations, and the Private sector.

This paper is an instrument that attempts to provide an integrated focus to diverse set of factors that have real impact on poverty. By adopting this framework, the government aims at enhancing understanding of the complementarities and trade-offs that are inherent in the complex task of social and economic policy making.

During RGMs meeting held at Head Office on 25 November, 2002, the 'objective' of the I-PRSP paper was clearly stated to the participants. It was given to understand that the above document is outcome of the series of discussions held by the Central & Provincial ministries, Civil Society Organization involved in Poverty Alleviation, academicians, researchers etc. on the issue of poverty and strategy to alleviate it. Since the document is draft in nature, it was further realized by the participants that the grass root people who are major affection of the policies of the document must also be consulted in this regard. In this background, Regions were asked to organize 'Activists' and 'Managers' Conferences to familiarize the grass root people for collection of the information related to poverty, means of alleviation, and degree of involvement of the poor to be required at all levels of poverty alleviation efforts. During discussion, special emphasis was given to acquire information from those individuals who were educated and seemed keen and interested in the issue by general observation.

Participants (Sample)								
Male								
Faisalabad	**Guranwala**	**Lahore**	**Multan**	**Muzaffargarh**	**Sargodah**	**Sahiwal**	**Sialkot**	**Total**
93	**43**	**455**	**157**	**-**	**30**	**145**	**50**	**973**
Female								
Faisalabad	**Guranwala**	**Lahore**	**Multan**	**Muzaffargarh**	**Sargodah**	**Sahiwal**	**Sialkot**	**Total**
-	**20**	**245**	**78**	**-**	**-**	**109**	**50**	**502**
Male and Female *(Total)*								
Faisalabad	**Guranwala**	**Lahore**	**Multan**	**Muzaffargarh**	**Sargodah**	**Sahiwal**	**Sialkot**	**Total**
93	**63**	**700**	**235**	**-**	**30**	**254**	**100**	**1,475**

Limitations of the Questionnaire used for Feedback:

Although the participants (CO members) were very much cooperative and helpful during the whole process of discussions yet the following limitations were unavoidable;

- Most of the respondents (CO members) had never been involved in such exercise; it took more time to familiarize them with the idea and its objective.
- Lack of knowledge about some of the issues asked in the questionnaire (like WTO and Information Technology) could not be responded by the majority of the CO members.
- Most of the CO members were illiterate thus it became difficult to express fully on all matters and they could not answer all the inquired questions.
- Time constraint was obvious, as the Regions had to arrange Activists and Managers conference especially for this purpose and thereupon obtain the required information from far flung areas. However, a regular follow up and enthusiastic approach adopted by SOs makes it possible to overcome this hurdle to a great extent.

A brief summary of outcome of the discussion held at Activists and Managers Conferences in all PRSP Regions is as follows:

Main causes for Poverty?

- Inconsistency in planning and prioritization of the meager resources.
- Inequalities and lack of merit in society (nepotism and favoritism).
- Short term, non persistent government polices.
- Little awareness about civic rights and duties.
- High population growth rate of Pakistan and in the South Asian Region
- Funds for development at grass root level are not sufficient.
- Weak public- private Partnership.
- High price of agricultural inputs and government price support mechanism.
- Lack of political and social awareness.
- Meager participation of women in earning livelihoods.
- Lack of vision for dignity of work
- High illiteracy and unemployment
- Lack of hope for prosperity and development.

- Unequal distribution of wealth.
- High wastages of natural resources.
- No guiding source for poor.
- Lack of agriculture facilities e.g. drought, high prices of agri inputs.
- High mark-up on agriculture loans.
- Unequal division of land.
- Inadequate/instable market price of crops.
- Delay in payment of crops by the middleman (Arti).
- Unaffordable high charges of electricity for tube wells
- Non availability of veterinary doctors and timely treatment
- Low standards of education in Govt. Schools/ access to education especially women
- Lack of resource mobilization and opportunities.
- Lack of irrigation water.
- Lack or no access of poor farmers to modern technology.
- Absence of on time availability of good seed, fertilizers, and pesticides to small farmers due to lack of capital.
- Absence of marketing structure for agri outputs.
- Social disputes
- Customs and traditions.
- Lack of basic needs i.e. food, clothing, shelter, education, and health.
- High unemployment and underemployment.
- Pakistan is a country with high manpower is available in rural areas, but there are no small industries due to which the unemployment rate is drastically increasing.

Means for reduction in Poverty

- Availability of justice on easy terms
- Community mobilization
- Jobs should be given on merit
- Creating awareness about civic duties and rights
- By establishing small agro based industries in both rural & urban areas there will be enhanced employment opportunities.
- Need to focus more on technical education through vocational & skills training
- Focused programmes for women should be started providing opportunities to increase income and enhance access to social-economic activities.
- By the provision of family planning services, the population growth rate can be reduced and resultantly will enhance access to limited natural resources
- Education for all needs to be facilitated in rural areas and quality of basic education should also be improved.
- Though primary health care programmes the health indicators like, Crude death Rate (CDR), Infant Mortality rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) could be improved.

- Water shortage is a country wide problem. Effective water management techniques should be facilitated by the Government for water conservation at local level.
- Wage for laborers should be fixed at five Rs 5,000/month minimum
- Physical Infrastructure Schemes must be implemented on participation basis
- Habit of savings by reducing unnecessary spending from individual to government level
- Productive use of the resources with a proper planning
- Government should plan to increase irrigation water through building of some small dams
- New technology on subsidized prices for small and poor farmers can change the situation
- Government should form a complete and stable market structure for agriculture produce/output and should device some polices to regularize the prices of agriculture inputs
- Industrialization at micro level and macro level
- Getting rid of harmful customs and traditions like excessive spending on death and marriages
- Eliminating nepotism
- Give promotion to domestic industry.
- Sick industrial units (which are not working currently due to some reason) should be revived.

Good Governance

Political system

- Our political and democratic system need reforms
- Corruption of funds through politics must be reduced and avoided
- Nation should select the president by themselves; means there is need for direct voting system.
- Young people should come forward to role the country
- Strong Accountability System from the district government to the Federal government level

Economic development:

Tax system, Implementation and collection:

- Tax collection system needs to be improved and based on progressive taxation
- Tax system should be easy and simple
- Tax rates should be discussed before their implementation
- Need to reduce the taxes in number
- There should be no taxes at district level or at market level
- Tax on small business should be implemented according to the size of business
- There is a great need to reduce and finally eliminate corruption from tax department.
- Taxes received should go straight into government treasury

Agriculture Tax

- Need to implement agriculture tax on big land lords.
- No income tax on less then 12 acre of land, and taking into consideration the current economic situation, it is proposed that no income tax on less than 25 acres of land.

- Agriculture tax should be collected by local organizations rather then *"Patvary"*, it will help a lot in smoothing the revenue collection system.
- Under the current practice, Government charges water bill to all farmers whether they receive water or not, this should not happen.

Government development and non development expenditures

- There ratio of development expenditure to non- development expenditure must be increased
- There is a great need to take people view point before starting any development imitative
- Non development expenditures, if not eliminated then must be reduced.
- Projects/schemes which have package of basic facilities need more consideration.
- People need small loans on easy terms, therefore micro credit schemes to be enhanced

Defense expenditures

- Defense expenditures should be curtailed
- Relations with neighboring countries need improvement.
- There is huge spending on government officials, such spending needs reduction.
- People should have the right to know the spending on military.

Foreign Debt

- Nation in debt can not proceed for development, it is necessary that we must have a policy and strategy to retire the debt.
- Much of these loans are taken for the expenditure purpose of high government officials.
- Foreign loans should only be taken for investment and productive purposes.
- Self- reliance policy is the need of the time
- Loans with unfair and strict conditions should be avoided.

Banking Reforms

- Banking laws must be pro poor in nature
- Strong regulatory framework is required to get back the national money from affluent
- Islamic banking needs high consideration at present time
- There is need to eliminate corruption from the banking sector

World Trade Organization

- It's beneficial for the interest of country.
- The agreement is much needed, to be in trade with foreign countries,
- With such agreement the quality and price at international level will remain stable.

Providing Assets (land, house, and loans)

Agricultural laws

- The laws should be developed after consulting the small farmer
- Land lord system should be abolished
- There is a need for new techniques in farming

- Proper and just agriculture laws are the true means for poverty alleviation.
- There should be a scheme of 12.5 acre for each household (poor and without land)
- Land Reforms System must be reactivated

Employment

- More employment opportunities through industrialization of the small, medium and large scale industry
- Ban on government jobs must be removed.
- Merit should be taken high consideration for employment.
- Separate quota should be allocated for minorities and for underdeveloped and under privileged areas.

Access to Small loans

- In the present scenario it is very difficult for poor to have loan
- Limit for small loans should be increased and the interest on these loans should be decreased.
- Loan should be provided to the person in need productive use only

Social Benefits

Education

"If you want to plan for one year, sow rice – If you want to plan for 10 years, plant trees – And, if you want to plan for ever, educate people"

- Education is necessary for high growth and development.
- Education from nursery to primary level should be free
- There should be one primary school in every village, and high percentage of GNP must spend on education.
- Government school buildings and the administration in these schools need improvement.
- Education in privet sector needs more encouragement, in order to create competitive environment

Health

- Weak health infrastructure in rural areas.
- Attendance of doctors should be compulsory in village dispensaries and hospitals.
- There should be free medication for poor
- Survey of hospitals by higher authorities, at periodic basis, would make the situation better.

Clean drinking water

- It's a basic need
- Clean water is a preventive measure for diseases
- Government should ensure of supplying clean water to the public

Proposed Solutions for PRSP

Community Groups feels that

- There is need to reduce the Service charge on the loans awarded
- Amount of loan should be increased matching to the actual investment required
- Collective loan should be granted for the execution of small business

- Special programmes focusing education of women should be initiated.
- Healy infrastructure should be privatized in the rural and urban areas
- Group loaning for joint enterprises
- Skill enhancement through training according to the requirement of the members
- Training of carpet weaving, toys, decoration pieces, commercial jewelry making etc.

TRDP

Chapter Eight

The Desert Poor Speak Out

Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP)

A follow-up meeting was held in Karachi on 4 December, 2002. Both Thrardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) and Sindh Graduates Association participated.

TRDP operates in the district of Tharparkar through six field offices in Mithi, Islamkot, Chachro, Chelhar, Diplo and Mithrio Bhatti. It facilitates the formation of Community Organisations at hamlet and village level. It takes 'human rights' as an integral part and basic principle of the programme and institutional structure and practices, and strives to promote human values in whatever it does. Other activities include provision of credit, contributing in developing and promoting physical infrastructure particularly in the area of water security.

TRDP works in partnership with Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Save the Children UK, Swiss NGO Programme Office, UNICEF, Action Aid Pakistan, Human Resource Foundation. Philanthropists also extend support to TRDP for development and relief initiatives. Jaffer Brothers from the corporate sector is extending support in water development in Thar.

TRDP Community Dialogues Report

The event of 'Poverty Dialogue' started with welcome by Mr. Leemo Mal, General Secretary Village Development Committee village Pabuhar. Dr. Sono Khangharani, Executive Director TRDP, then highlighted the aims and objectives of the dialogue. He referred to the Government of Pakistan's decision to get public views on the poverty reduction strategy. According to the Planning Commission there exist 40% poor people in Pakistan; the person having less than 60 rupees per capita income. Dr. Sono elaborated that our different governments had been taken the debts of more than 38billion dollars so far in account of addressing the diversified issues of poverty but there was not any major difference in the overall situation. The Government of Pakistan intends to incorporate the suggestions of community regarding poverty alleviation, in next five years' Planning of Pakistan for this purpose, more than fifteen districts have been selected from Pakistan where such kind of poverty dialogues would be conducted to get the community suggestion. Dr. Sono gave the details of expenditures incurred by different departments of Pakistan for the cause of poverty eradication. He said that this is the first opportunity for the villagers to think about and suggest as to how the poverty issue can be tackled. Dr. Sono requested Dr. Suleman Sheikh, Chairperson TRDP Board of Directors, to facilitate the dialogue onward. Dr. Suleman Sheikh said that though it has been made clear by Dr. Sono that Government has done much for addressing poverty issues like opening of schools and road-constructions etcetera but the problem of

poverty is rather intact. Dr. Suleman Sheikh urged the villagers to give their suggestions and present the actual picture of poverty at household level.

Villagers' suggestions

Mr. Mohammad Mithin: Mr. Mohammad Mithin was of the view that poverty revolves round the corruption. He said that development budgets did not yield much due to misappropriations and embezzlements at all levels. The only way to tackle the issue of poverty effectively is to eradicate corruption – the termite that is spreading and de-rooting our society.

Mr. Ransingh, Union Council Nazim: Mr. Ramsing said that the government banks provide credit service only to those who offer commission. The need of hour is to ensure the easy access of the poor to the credit services and opportunities to utilize it effectively.

Mr. Togachi: He said that livestock is one of the major sources of income for Thari community but due to continuous droughts the survival of Thari livestock is gradually becoming very difficult. He stressed over provision of cheap fodder for livestock to eradicate the rural poverty.

Mr. Allahdino: Mr. Allahdino emphasized the need of road-constructions in entire Thar in addition, to electrification. Justifying the road facility he said that on the one hand people will able to bring fodder for their animals from cities and on other hand the milk of milch animals could be sold in cities. Furthermore he said that due to electricity the small industries can be introduced in villages in addition to dairy farms and milk chillers. Giving the solution of corruption he suggested that formations of village committees can reduce the illegal money-leakages. He gave the example of the village committee which itself took the contract of school repair and executed that perfectly in thirty thousand. He speculated that one strange contractor would have needed more than 130000 rupees to complete same work.

Mr. Noor Ahmed: Local councilors should be given power and budget for development works. There is nothing in the authority of local councilors to fight against poverty.

Mr. Haji Mohammad: He said that we waste our resources on irrational traditions. We need to ponder over such expenditures in order to reduce the poverty.

Mr. Lalu: He said that our government provides funds and budgets for development but there is no any monitoring system to check as how to money spent. He suggested to focus the area of family planning. He also suggested for proper monitoring of our education system.

Mr. Gordhan: He said that the habit of addict-ness and idleness are two core issue of rural poverty. He mentioned that in villages one earns in a family and other scores stay idle and consume cigars, tea and other addicting things.

He urged the government for creating employment and think over the issue of rural addictness.

Conclusion

- **Corruption in our society is the basic factor that jeopardizes every project/attempt for the cause of poverty-reduction. We need to tackle the issue of corruption before making any initiate to reduce the poverty.**
- The easy access of the poor to the credit services may facilitate a lot in the process of poverty reduction.
- Cheap and free of corruption credits should be provided to rural community

- Provision of electricity and construction of road networks in rural areas have proved their worth and value in reducing the poverty. We need to focus on these two core areas in the next five years' plan.
- Formations of village committees are very essential to empower the villagers and tackle the issue of corruption.
- We need to keep checks and balance on the different projects /and departments.
- Population control measures should also be introduced in rural areas
- It needs to regulate the education system and perfectly design the academic courses
- It is necessary to ponder over the issues of unemployment and addict-ness.

Concluding this poverty dialogue Dr. Suleman Sheikh suggested the villagers that there might be various rural problems which could only be addressed by community itself. We ourselves should also think over the solution of problems. He suggested the villagers to boost their handicrafts like embroidery and quilt making etc. He said that there is space in market for crafts. He suggested for vocational training to youths in order to prepare them for technical works in any future industry in Thar Dialogue ended with vote of thanks.

GBTI

Chapter Nine

Voices of the Displaced

Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI)

A meeting was held on 3 December, 2002 at Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI) at Hattian. GBTI was established to help rehabilitate the affectees of the hydroelectric project undertaken by the government. GBTI helps affectees in land compensation and resettlement and has recently expanded its mandate to include a typical RSP approach to social mobilisation and rural development. The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has provided an endowment as GBTI's core funding and funds its development projects.

The meeting noted the main objective of the IPRSP and brainstormed on its key aspects. It was understood that after studying the IPRSP, social organizers would have to go to the field without a preconceived package and with a holistic approach.

Despite a poverty reduction programme put in place by Government, poverty increased in 90's where as in earlier years it had decreased. Participants suggested that the reasons may have been because poor people were not consulted.

GBTI will carry out the programme pilot consultation in all 17 Union Councils of the project (GBHP) areas with community organizations and villagers. Initially one Union Council will be selected from each Field Unit and all the CO's and villagers of respective U/C will be invited to attend this meeting. This process of consultation will be completed in the month of December 2002. The methodology would be to contact the community directly with a holistic approach and without a preconceived package, ask them what they need from Government to uplift their living standards (poor, very poor and destitute) and what kind of measures will the villagers participate in to reduce their poverty.

GBTI Community Dialogues Report

Following the visit of I-PRSP team to GBTI on December 3, 2002, RSPN's Specialist Social Mobilization, in concert with the GBTI staff, held in depth dialogues with the community members in GBTI's area of work on December 19, 20 and 23, 2002. Separate dialogues were held with men and women in four of the total seventeen union councils (one each in three field units, Sarwala, Chach and Ghazi/ Right Bank Side).

The first session of the interactive dialogues included an introduction of the I-PRSP and the dialogues perspective. The second session of the dialogues revolved around the communities' perception of poverty and the issues contributing to poverty along with solutions.

The community members were invited to share their views on the following main aspects of the I-PRSP community consultation process:

- In your opinion what are the major causes of poverty?

- In your opinion what steps are necessary and should be taken; I) to reduce poverty and 2) to improve economic development along with suggested solution(s)?

- Are you willing to assist the government in reduction of poverty; how and in what way.

- Based on the primary findings of the communities' responses to these questions, these findings have been consolidated and summarized below in an annex from; A, B, and C and is separately done for women and men members of the communities:

Consolidation of Findings of Pilot Consultation Dialogues with Women:

Major Causes of Poverty

- Lack of thinking about poverty, lack of capital formation through savings, lack of consultation amongst themselves, non-attention to skills learning and working without planning.
- High dependency ration; on an average, one person earns and feeds nine members of a household.
- High tendency to non-productive expenses, i.e. marriages and deaths and other social events.
- Splitting up of joint families is resulting in an increase in expenses.
- Education facilities are not available. If any household spends its hard time savings for getting the children educated in the city, they do not get employment that results into more poverty.
- Non-existence of schools, health, roads, clean drinking water and electricity infrastructure. The serious patients die on way while not reaching to hospital on time.
- Due to lack of proper marketing at appropriate time, the agricultural produces get wasted or sold at through away prices. Lack of produce storage facility at village level.

- Decrease in agricultural productivity due to lack of irrigation water and improved quality agriculture inputs such as seeds, and fertilizers, etc.
- Skills learning facilities for women are not available; therefore, the women are helpless to earn and add to household income.
- Population growth without any proper planning, and is resulting in increase in household expenses.
- There is no health facility in the entire Union Council. This adds to death rate of ailing children and women in delivery cases. The husband then shoulders the responsibility of looking after children having no time to do some productive work. These households get poorer.
- Cost of medicine
- There are no opportunities for employment in the village. Earlier the men were cutting stones and wood in the mountains and were selling them. With the establishment of Atomic Energy Plant, the government has banned entry into mountains.
- No telephone facility is available. On the occasion of deaths and marriages, one has to go to Attock city at 20 km distance for informing relatives which is expensive. Sometimes proper messages are not conveyed to the concerned people. Neither we received any information about employment in the village.
- Most of the widows and orphans do not get Zakat. Others do not receive it on time.
- Education is expensive and its standard has fallen down. The parents now prefer to get them engage in some earning work, so as to run the household expenses. When the educated are roaming around unemployed, what is the use of educating others.
- There is no appropriate arrangement for drainage system in the village. As a result there are dumps / heaps of solid waste and its smell spread, causing different illness. How they can afford treatment in an income of Rs.3000/= per month. The treatment of illness has become very expensive and unaffordable. Illness is adding to poverty. There is no health facility available in the village or nearby. In events of delivery during night, it takes long time to reach the Doctor, and in most cases the patients die. If health facility had been available, both the lives and expenses would have been saved.
- No Transport facility. In case of emergency one has to pay Rs.400 instead of Rs.200/= if arranged from other places. The poors cannot afford and get into difficulty.
- The poor women are working in the houses of Well to do / Better off and they are not paid adequate emolument.
- No facility for the treatment of Livestock, being the source of income of the poors.
- There is no social protection for the widows and divorced women for working outside the house. No one is giving work to them in the houses.
- Inflation increases poverty rapidly
- The elected representatives forget the promises made with the people before the election and work only for their interest forgetting the poors.
- Lack of drinking water supply and fuel gas; and ill management as the existing water supply stops daily and no one cares.
- Women have no opportunities for earning livelihood to support household expenditure.

- Poor people do not get jobs because of nepotism. Honest people do not have place in the work place because of corruption.
- Poor do not get Zakat. Zakat Committees distribute zakat amongst their own people.

Suggested Solutions For Poverty Reduction and Economic Reforms/ Betterment.

- Vocational centers for learning skills and using as source of income within the prevailing social and cultural environment, employment for men/adults or guidance and assistance in enterprises.
- Provision of credit for Livestock, Shops, Transport etc for income generation and reducing poverty.
- Facilitate Diary Farming, Poultry Farming etc in the village.
- Establishment of Health Dispensary or basic Health Center with full time staff.
- Arrangements for drainage and sanitation for disease control.
- The excessive expenses on treatment of ailment should be minimized so that each category of people could avail health facility on time.
- Taxes on different utilities should be reduced. Half of the income of the poors goes into taxes. How they can meet the expenses of the house.
- The standard of education in the government schools should be improved and expenses minimized for access by the poors. The present school in the village should be upgraded.
- There is only one transformer in the village for 300 households resulting into frequent breakdown / load shedding. Electricity is very expensive which the poors can't afford i.e. Rs. 300 to 350 for one bulb in income of Rs. 3000/= per month. The cost of electricity should be minimized so that the poors could use it.
- The planning by the government should be done in light of the major causes identified by the people e.g. to over come unemployment, small scale factories should be established. The elected representatives must work honestly to solve the public problems.
- Proper arrangement for drinking water supply and fuel gas.
- Control on inflation; prices of daily use items tend to increase on regular basis.
- Provision of good quality education for the poor in the government schools by placing qualified teachers.
- Deployment of qualified medical staff in government hospitals and strong monitoring system to ensure regular functioning of the centres and provision of reliable and economical treatment.
- All women said that if proper planning for the abovementioned problems and needs is done consciously; poverty will certainly reduce and people will become prosperous. These include establishment of education institutions, construction of roads, provision of electricity, clean drinking water, RUC/GHU, vocational centres for skill learning, small industry, and micro-credit.

Community Assistance to Government for implementation of poverty reduction projects.

- If the credit is provided, it will be repaid on time.
- Village capital formation through savings.
- If the government can not establish BHU or Health Dispensary, at least one Doctor and LHV each should be posted. The community will provide free accommodation to the BHU/ Dispensary staff.

- The community can monitor the implementation of development projects, monitor the quality and identify mal practices and control misuse of resources, and shoulder the responsibility of operation and maintenance.
- Women assured to extend maximum cooperation and assistance within their means to the government in the implementation of poverty reduction projects and subsequent operation and maintenance of the projects.

Consolidated Findings of Dialogues on IPRSP with Men Members of the Communities in GBTI's Area of Work.

Major Causes for:

Poverty:

- Big chunk of loans to influential and rich people: The influential and rich
- people obtain big chunk of loans in the name of industry, which are not being
- utilised properly, and later on these loans get written-of. The burden of these
- loans are put on the poor people and their poverty is increased. Neither the
- industries are established nor the loans are repaid. In the documents of the
- government the loans are shown as repaid.

Unemployment:

- The employment opportunities are not available for the poors.
- Whenever a project or industry is started in their area, the local people are not
- given preference, who have given sacrifices; for example Kamra Airforce complex
- and Ghazi Barotha Hydel Project (GBHP). The land of the local people was
- acquired and the employment has been provided to outsiders. This has added to
- their poverty. The poors further trapped into the marsh of poverty. Employment opportunities are not available even for the educated persons.

Health problems:

- Due to non-availability of basic health facilities in the nearby
- area, the patients are taken far away resulting into increase in their expenses.
- Where dispensaries and hospitals are located, the Doctors and medicines are
- exorbitant and unaffordable by common / poor people. There are no facilities for
- delivery cases. The expenses on health have added to their poverty. High transportation cost adds to rural people's poverty.

Political Instability:

- Millions of rupees are spent on frequent elections resulting
- into burden on poor people further adding to their poverty.

Clean Drinking Water Supply:

- In the area of Chachh the water table is high.
- The water obtained is not hygienic and according to health standards. People suffer different types of diseases and expensive treatment results into increase in the expenses thereby adding to their poverty. Inadequate resources are allocated to education by the government. The education system is discriminatory.

Education Problems:

- Due to shortage of trained teachers in the government
- schools, the education standards have fallen down. Further to this even if the
- children of poors get first division or top the schools/colleges, they never get jobs.
- On the contrary the sons/daughters of the influential people who complete their

- education in 3rd division get the employment. Because of the job insecurity and
- expenses on education of children, the poor further trapped into the net of
- poverty.

Continued Inflation:

- It is difficult for poor people to meet the expenses of their families due to continued inflation. The poors get poorer.
- Excessive taxes on utilities and non-provision of health and education facilities.
- Sanitation problems resulting into health hazards.
- Contractor system is resulting into poor / inferior quality of work. Due to
- this system the development projects such as poor quality roads are constructed.
- After a year these get broken and their productive use is last. On the other hand
- the taxes charged from the people add to their poverty.

Land Fragmentation:

- It has resulted into non-use of improved machinery
- thereby affecting the desired produce / income from land.

Agriculture Problems:

- Non-availability of best quality agricultural inputs; high cost of seed, fertilizers; farm machinery e.g. tractor; lack of irrigation water, etc., result in low productivity adding to poverty as majority of poor people are engaged in agriculture sector. Lack of farm to market roads also contribute to poverty.

Other Problems:

- Implementation of Unproductive projects by the government: Government is spending funds on unproductive projects, such as Funeral places, Eidgah etc. whereas in place of hospital, a road is constructed.
- Lack of opportunities for skill up-gradation of women for productive use. The high cost on treatment of illness increases the volume of poverty.
- Flat rates of electricity are charged on Tubewells, whether it is used or not.
- Non-existence of industry is the main cause: When asked what type of industry can be set-up, they identified stone crush and cement factory for mountains area. Industrial estate approved in government plan since last ten years but still pending for action.
- We have plenty of forest. With the start of Atomic Energy Station by the Government, the mountain forests being a source of income, was banned and poverty increased.
- Except primary school, no middle and secondary level schools exist. The poor cannot have access to education.
- Acute shortage of irrigation water for agricultural purpose.
- Land is mostly un-leveled and proper cultivation is difficult.
- No access to government resources such as timely loans.
- Our area is dominated by big landlords. Due to improper planning, we are tied up in problems.
- Lack of transport and high fare.
- Corruption and bribery in government institutions and mistrust in public.
- Lack of justice in the state operatus system

- Inaccessibility of common man to government institutions.
- No access of poor to credit.
- Skill enhancement is not part of education system.
- The labour class have no protection and exploited by employer.
- The government acquired the land for Tarbela and GBHP Power Generation and has not provided employment and security to the poor owners.
- Unemployment in GBHP and Tarbela.
- Industries have not been established in Ghazi Industrial Estate.
- Lack of government interest in the improvement of poor communities.
- Lack of self employment schemes
- Unfavourable environment for investors.
- Increase in population
- Social evils e.g. extraordinary expenditures on different ceremonies
- Wrong government policies .e.g. expensive purchase of thermal power electricity white elephant project of Motorway and other non-productive projects.
- Lack of planning and coordination between government departments
- Lack of sense of responsibilities among government officials
- Arrests of affectees after paying land compensation of Ghazi Brotha Hydel Project
- Project royalty should be given to the affected area.

Suggested Solutions for Poverty Reduction

- Provision of micro credit to poors for small enterprises, agriculture inputs, furniture-making etc. through cooperative organizations.
- System of flat rate of electricity bills of tubewells in the villages be converted into actual consumption of electricity.
- Establishment of vocational centers and technical schools in the villages for up grading the skills of women and men. Buldozers be provided on cheap rates for land levelling to ensure adequate productivity, thereby reducing poverty.
- Preference to local people in the employment of the government projects or industries
- Arrangement for supply of certified improved agriculture inputs (seed, fertilizers, pesticides/ insecticides) at lower prices.
- Assist the farmers in installation of peter engines for irrigation purpose.
- Assist the people in goat farming, diary farming, and poultry farming
- Ensuring basic facilities in education and Health for poor people. Dispensary or BHU be established with full time doctors and trained Dais.
- Ensuring productive projects in place of unproductive ones, such as irrigation and drinking water supply schemes.
- The participation of the people be ensured in the planning, so that productive projects according to actual needs / opportunities of the area are included. For example, if there is need for irrigation water, tubewells be installed.

- The employment should be made on merit basis.
- Contractor System in implementation of projects be abolished and participation of people on partnership basis be ensured.
- We live in mountainous area. If cement or crushing factory is established, local labour would get employment as they have the skills in stones crushing.
- Nearby employment would help in minimising transport fares and saving time for other work.
- Buldozers be provided on cheap rates for land levelling to ensure adequate productivity, thereby reducing poverty.
- Pure improved agricultural inputs be provided on reasonable rates for increase in the productivity.
- Small dams be constructed for irrigation and water storage.
- Control and reporting system should be improved for proper listening of people's grievances.
- Appropriate distribution of resources with preference to small cultivators.
- If the 7-point programme of President Pervaiz Musharraf is rightly implemented, poverty can be reduced.
- In the case of big government projects such as Ghazi Brotha Hydel Power (GBHP) and Tarbela, royalty share should be given to the affected area.
- Development of industrial estate in Ghazi and making the closed/sick industries in Gadoon Amazai functional, land for industrial estate at Ghazi has already been acquired. Land affectees be given priority in employment.
- RAB and NAB cases against affectees of GBHP should be withdrawn immediately.
- Role of contractors should be replaced with participatory development methodology.
- Easy access to justice and equitable distribution of resources should be ensured.
- The above causes of poverty should be resolved in light of the perception of the local communities. The communities will assist the government in accordance to their capacity.

Community Assistance to Government in the Poverty Reduction Programme

- If the government installed Tubewells for irrigation purpose, the people will shoulder the responsibility of maintenance and operations. The community will collectively use the tubewel.
- If the government provides small loans, the community will take the responsibility of repayment.
- For the implementation of the projects, the people's committees will be constituted for identification, implementation and completion on partnership basis.
- The community will shoulder the responsibility of running the vocational center / technical schools, if the government established them in the villages.
- If the Government planned the sanitation projects in the village , the community will complete these through already constituted committees. The community will shoulder the responsibility of maintenance and cleanliness.
- If the Government arranges clean drinking water supply , the community is ready for partnership and its maintenance.
- If the government extends cooperation for establishment of crush machines, we will certainly provide good labour.
- Community will constitute school committees for managing the school affairs.

- Protection and maintenance of roads and drainage system.
- Community can provide accommodation to Doctor and Dispenser free of charges.
- Community can supervise the technical workers.
- Timely repayment of loans by community.
- The community will assist the government in implementation mechanism, operation and maintenance of village level infrastructure projects.

SGA

Chapter Ten

Perspectives from Rural Sindh

Sindh Graduates Association (SGA)

As noted above, the follow-up meeting with Sindh Graduates Association (SGA) was held on 4 December, 2002 in Karachi. SGA is a community-based development organisation comprising largely of a volunteer force that works in the areas of rural water supply and sanitation, health and education through village-based Village Development Associations. Based on the principle of the power of organisation, SGA is facilitating communities as they implement community-supported schools, innovative eye and skin disease camps, and an emergency medical centre. SGA has received project funding from various agencies such as Action Aid, Government of Pakistan, and technical support from Aga Khan University.

SGA Community Dialogues Report

Introduction:

The people are most precious resources of any country. There is little prospect for any country which allows its people to remain hungry, sick or ill educated. Sindh Graduates Association has been working since last 30 years and taking welfare measures for provision of health care, schooling, good nutrition and safe drinking water. Keeping in view the importance of poverty alleviation, one day workshop was organized on behalf of Sindh Graduates Association (SGA) on 07.01.2003. The objective of the workshop was to bring social and economic conditions of the villagers under consideration and work for development and prosperity of the rural people.

Objectives:

- To develop clarity, common and collective understanding regarding poverty alleviation and social justice.
- To focus rural people for defining poverty, underlying causes and effective solutions.
- Up-gradation of skills, know-how etc.
- Self arrangement of local affairs, settlement of disputes and petty affairs by the community members themselves.
- To encourage socio-economic development.

Methodology:

Group formation, Group Discussion, Presentations, General Discussion.

Participants:

Groups – A

1. Abd Ali Wagan
2. Riaz Hussain
3. Mohammad Punhal Sheikh
4. Abdul Khaliq Lakho
5. Mohammad Bux Bhatti
6. Ayaz Ali Lakho
7. Shoukat Ali Shah
8. Farzand Ali Sheikh
9. Barkat Ali Sheikh

Group – B

1. Nawab Ali Sheikh
2. Sikandar Ali
3. Mohammad Azam Jamarani
4. Rajib Ali Soomro
5. Asadullah Sheikh
6. Hakim Ali Shad
7. Khalid Hussain Lakho
8. Liaquat Ali Jamali
9. Singar Ali Sheikh
10. Shahid Hussain Wagan

Group – C

1. Mohammad Rafiq Brohi
2. Mansoor Ahmed
3. Ahmed Raza
4. Raheel Khan
5. Bilawal Ahmed
6. Masod Ahmed
7. Mohammad Ismail
8. Bashir Ahmed
9. Safeer Ahmed Sheikh
10. Anjum Khan Shad

Group – D

1. Zahid Hussain Wagan
2. Nadeem Ahmed
3. Abdul Khaliq
4. Abdul Wahid
5. Kalim Ullah
6. Nabi Bux
7. Qadir Bux
8. Abdul Fatah
9. Abdul Majeed

Locale:

Village and UC Rasheed Waganwas selected on the basis of its central location in tehsil Larkana.

Proceedings:

One day workshop started at 11:00 am with the recitation of Holy Quran. M. Suhail Soomro gave introduction of the facilitators of SGA namely Hamid Ali Magsi, Khalid Sulemen Kazi, Sajjad Ahmed Brohi and briefed the purpose of organizing workshop. The aim behind arranging such workshop was to know the causes and possible solutions of common villagers about poverty. After that 4 groups of the community members were formed with a team leader from each.

All the groups were provided with sheets and were engaged in group discussion for about an hour. The members of each group exchanged views to each other and reached conclusion respectively. Further the team leaders of 4 groups were invited to present the result of their discussion.

Conclusion:

The rural people in under developed countries are poor almost and caught by poverty trap which comprises on powerlessness, isolation, physical weakness and vulnerability. There is no universally accepted single definition of poverty and many in use currently.

The result of the group discussion and presentations follows as under:

Poverty:

- Landlessness
- Scarcity of resources
- Low literacy rate
- Rapid increasing population
- Unsatisfied basic needs
- Deprivation of health, education, food, clothing and shelter
- Joint nuclear family structure

Causes:

- Poor development in agriculture sector
- Shortage of factories and Industries
- A little number of employment giving institutions
- Early marriages
- Influence of an exclusive class on production
- Unaccessible loan and aid for poor people
- Cumulative problem of unemployment
- Unreasonable cost paid to the crop labour
- High prices of seed and fertilizer

Solutions:

- A availability of insecticides and pesticides at low prices
- Paying reasonable cost of agriculture products

- Easy access to education
- Provision of short term loan without interest
- Establishing BHUs for health
- Irrigation applications to the crops on appropriate timings.

The workshop activities pursues the activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect environment and undertake the community development. After presentation, open discussion was conducted with community members and those who could not take participation in presentation were encouraged to comment on the topic.

The prospects of future misery are so appalling but who to act? We the outsiders are relatively well-off, literate and mostly urban based. The puzzle is that we, the outsiders cant do more until rural people efforts for participation in eliminating that misery. The workshop concluded with the lines of Shah Abdul Latif (Sufi Saint).

[Note: Rural Sindh was also covered in NRSP dialogues]

AKRSP

Chapter Eleven

Taking the I-PRSP To The Remote Mountains

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)

The first follow-up briefing was held at the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) on 13 November, 2002.

The AKRSP was established to help improve the quality of life of the people of the Northern Areas and Chitral. Its mandate focused on economic and institutional development of local communities in collaboration with government departments, elected bodies, and national and international development agencies. AKRSP has, over the years, acted as a catalyst for integrated rural development, organising local, human, physical and financial resources in order to enable communities bring about their own development in an equitable and sustainable manner.

In its evaluation of 1989, the World Bank verified that incomes had doubled in the first ten years of the programme's operations. Another evaluation in 1996 by the World Bank observed: 'For others, AKRSP is a beacon heralding a rural development model that, when properly implemented, can be used to ameliorate rural poverty anywhere. Evidence for this is seen in the fact that the programme has been so successful in overcoming the special problems and constraints encountered in the target area. These include the isolation of villages, at the ends of long and tortuous mountain tracks often impassable for half the year; extreme poverty characterised by a paucity of all forms of capital (natural, physical, financial, human, and institutional); the multiplicity of dialects; the fraught geopolitical situation; recurring sectarian strife and destruction of property; the fragile natural resource base, with its thin soils, high erosion, and low rainfall; and the low technical standard of agriculture.

AKRSP's main donors are the European Commission, the governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Norway, Pakistan, the World Bank and the Aga Khan Foundation.

Following the IPRSP presentation, some important points emerged with reference to the pilot phase community consultations by AKRSP. These included:

- Women ought to be specially included in the consultations,
- The consultations would particularly target the poorer CO members. The teams may also talk to households where the poverty package was being implemented.
- In case one or more of the five "drivers" identified in the presentation (economic reforms, physical assets, social assets, social safety nets and governance) were not brought up for discussion by the community members themselves, then the staff should prompt that issue for discussion.

- Some of the public sector expenditures listed were actually for facilities open to anyone, not specially directed towards the poor. However, because public sector facilities are used mostly by the poor, it may be assumed that public sector facilities are specific to poverty programmes/projects,
- It was pointed out that the IPRSP document is not explicitly gender oriented and does not give gender specific data. The final PRSP ought to do so.
- It was noted that provincial governments have the discretion to change/shift amounts within authorised broad budgetary parameters, therefore, there is no assurance that federally targeted line item expenditures will remain unchanged at the provincial level and that they would be amenable to monitoring against such federal targets.

AKRSP would do 1 Village Organisation and 1 Women Village Organisation consultation in each of the 3 regions.

AKRSP Community Dialogues Report

GILGIT REGION

1. BACKGROUND

The planning commission of Pakistan, in a series of interactions with different Rural Support Programmes, asked to chip in some thought to Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper so that poverty in general is addressed in an effective manner. Towards this end, a meeting was held in Islamabad between RSPN and the AKRSP management in mid November 2002. It was decided that each region of AKRSP would go to at least one village organization and get their input towards what the government can do to reduce poverty in their area.

This paper from Gilgit region is an attempt to capture what the community at grass-root level, which bears the consequences of poverty, thinks and expects from the Government to solve the problems, faced by them with regard to poverty. For the purpose, village and women organizations from *Dadimal village of Nagar valley* have been selected to get the required information

2. INTRODUCTION

Dadimal is a remote and isolated village situated beneath gigantic mountain 'Rakaposhi', in Nagar valley of District Gilgit – at a distance of 80km from Gilgit city and 13km off Karakuram highway (KKH). A narrow and steep jeep-able road links the village with KKH. In the village, the inhabitants are clustered in a total of 110 households with a population of 1,100 approximately.

The stock of development projects in the village includes: one primary school for boys, electricity and link road (government); tap water to each and every household (UNICEF); and a link road to pastures (AKRSP). Also, with the help of a local NGO, the villagers run girls primary classes in the same school building in the evenings, which has been constructed for boys. The village is represented by AKRSP fostered village and women organizations (two each) having a cumulative savings of over 0.1million.

This paper necessarily focuses on the process followed to collect the required information and the outcome of discussions held with the community members. One part of this paper has intentionally been included to highlight AKRSP's approach towards poverty reduction in the area.

3. The Process/Methodology

Some of the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools were mainly used to collect the required information. Thus, the process of collecting required data was completed in two steps. Firstly, to get an insight into issues related to poverty at village level and to gauge possible measures the government

could take to address those issue, two separate group discussions were held with male and female members of the village community. The participants included office bearers of the two VOs and that of WOs, village notables and other community members. The group members were asked to define poverty. Moreover, each group was also asked to do wealth ranking of the village households to identify those households that the community members perceive as poor.

In the second step, the households, which were identified as 'poor' in the group discussions, were individually interviewed to find out about what government can do to bring them out of vicious cycle of poverty. However, it is to be noted here that only few poor households could be interviewed due to time constraint.

Separate checklists, which were prepared prior to the field visits, guided the group discussions as well as individual interviews with the poor households, and helped in completing the data collection process in timely and efficient manner.

Even doing with all this, poverty is such an issue, which has got many dynamics and faces, and just one or two discussions can not necessarily pinpoint the root cause or solution of poverty. Therefore, this paper gives one dimension of the situation – what community said in those discussions has been incorporated in the paper and there are chances that certain aspects have been missed out.

4. FINDINGS

Broadly speaking, the discussions with community members and individual poor households can be summed up in five categories. These are;

- What is poverty?
- Who are the poor?
- Village level issues
- Problems/issues specifically related to poor households, and
- Role of the government in addressing those issues.

4.1 What is poverty?

According to the community members "Poverty is not only lack of income to meet the basic needs" but also illiteracy, unhygienic condition, poor health and people without shelter.

4.2 Poor in the village

While the community members were of the opinion that there is not even a single household, who can be termed, as 'rich' as there is hard to find out a household who can meet beyond the basic needs. However, in the given situation and related to general village conditions, the criteria of a household being poor as described by the male and female groups is given in the following table

Poor in the village

Male group (VO members)	Female group (WO members)
➢ Those households who find it hard to meet the expenses of daily food requirements and who do not have any idea where to get food for next meal. ➢ Households having less than 3 kanals of cultivated land ➢ The head of household is abnormal and as got more than 5 kids ➢ Those who get 'Zakat' from other people.	➢ Female-headed and as well as those households which are headed by handicapped persons. ➢ Those who cannot even take their wives to nearby hospital in delivery cases. ➢ Those who cannot send their children to schools ➢ Households having less than 2 kanals of land ➢ More dependents (especially children and senior citizens)

On given criteria, the male group identified a total of 8 poor households where as female group identified 10 household as poor. Amongst the households identified as poor by both the groups, four were the same households.

4.3 Village-level Issues

A number of issues have been highlighted by the community members, which they think are causes and/or contribute to poverty in the village. The issues explained by both V/WO members are presented hereunder;

- *Lack of Education*: There is only one primary school for boys in the village in which girls get primary education in the evening classes. The villagers think that education is the only way to get rid of poverty as it promotes building the capacities of people. However, currently more than 50% of boys and 80% of girls can not attain middle level education as their parents can not afford to send them to near by villages. The village does not have even a matric pass girl therefore they had to hire the services of a lady teacher from a nearby village.
- *Lack of Skilled People*: Most of the villagers (both men and women) are currently associated with agriculture related activities where as land is continuously fragmenting due to sharp increase in the population over the years. In the absence of skilled people, the villagers find it difficult to diversify their income portfolio.
- *Non-availability of Health Facility*: The village does not have access to any form of health facility, a dispensary or hospital, with in the village. Even in recent years, there have been many cases of death in delivery cases amongst females.
- *Delays in payment of compensations from government*: This unique issue was highlighted by the male members. The villagers have not been compensated for the land forgone for the link road constructed through the village almost six years ago by the local government. As the villagers are not able to use the land for agriculture purpose and have to go to government offices regularly which has increased their expenses. Moreover, the villagers also increased their household expenses in anticipation of land compensation. All this has resulted in increasing the poverty – as the villagers think.

- *Remote Location of the village:* Since the village falls in single cropping zone and located at a very high altitude, the villagers find it difficult to commute between the village and other locations. Thus, they think that location of the village has also left villagers behind compared to neighboring communities. Understandably, there is little which can be done to change the location of the village.
- *Lot of time consumed in agricultural activities:* The village being of sloppy nature, most of the villagers cannot use tractors to plough their fields. Also, the source of channel is located in another village, which has the legal right over water source, therefore, Dadimal village is facing shortage of water. These factors result in a lot of time consumed in agricultural activities such as watering and plowing.

4.3 Poor-household related Issues

The main issues related to poor households, as stated by them are; small landholdings, female head of household, jobless household head, huge family, no fee for children etc. Obviously, these issues can be true for any poor household.

4.5 Role of Government in addressing the issues

Although the community members were cynical during the course of initial discussion and, they were complaining about existing government departments and services. When they were clearly told that the government value their input then they were of the opinion that each and every thing on earth should be done by the government. However, each group was asked to priorities three important issues, which can be addressed by the government to tackle the issue of poverty at village level. Each group then identified following areas of interventions for government;

Male group (VO members)	*Female group (WO members)*
Middle School Building As has been mentioned earlier that education is perceived as foremost important thing that can alleviate poverty in the village. **Hospital** Since the villagers have to travel distances to access even basic health facility which consumes lot of resources and time, the villagers believe that it will help not only saving resources but also human capital which is the important ingredient towards poverty reduction **Water reservoir** Currently, the villagers consume lot of time watering the agriculture fields due to limited	**Female teacher** Currently, the villagers themselves manage to pay the salary of female teacher out of their meager resources. With the teacher being government paid, they can transfer those resources to other household requirements. **Hospital** Since the female folk of the village have experienced lot of difficulty in accessing health facility, they think that it is the most important issue, which needs immediate attention from government as a number of women have died in delivery cases. **Vocational Center**

availability of irrigation water as the source lies in another village and the villagers can use only 1/3 of water available at source. With the construction of water tank, the villagers believe that productivity of cultivated land can enhance. Also the time saved can be utilized for other productive activities.	This will enable women of the village to contribute in productive activities and will promote and contribute to cash security of the households.

As far as poor households are concerned, they identified the following areas where government can play a pivotal role to address their issues and bring them out of poverty. These areas are;

- Creating employment opportunities to the poor on priority basis: Most of the poor households are being fed by only one member of the household either by doing seasonal labouring (incase of male-headed household) or working on the agriculture land of other community members (in case of female-headed households). With the absence of a permanent source of income, the poor households are quite vulnerable to market forces. For example, Mrs. Khadija Begum (a widow) heads a household, which comprises of 6 children (2 girls, 4 sons). She has got 2 kanals of agricultural land, which gives an annual income of Rs.2, 000/- with the sale of potato produce. This amount is so little that basic food requirement of the household can not be met. Therefore, she works on agricultural land of other community members to meet the basic needs of the household. What she demands from the government is either a permanent employment or a regular assistance from government in the form of 'zakat' or any other form.
- *Streamlining existing social safety nets and creating new ones:* The poor households complained about the zakat system and with the belief that it does not reach down to the poor people. Even if it does, the amount is so small that it can not help them meeting their needs. It was suggested that loopholes in the existing systems should be eradicated and new means should be established with maximum participation of local community members.
- *Providing free education to their children:* As all the poor households in the village can not afford to send their children to school specially after primary classes, the poor households were of the opinion that government should ensure free education at least up to high secondary level. The problems faced by the poor households can well be gauged from the following case study;

A case of vulnerable household – needs immediate attention

Mr. Malik Ashdar, a seasonal unskilled labourer, is the sole bread-winner of 8 children and two abnormal sisters. After the demise of his wife, he has to look after the family affairs including arranging food, clothes and fee for school going children.

The agriculture income is very little as he has got only 0.5 kanals of land and is solely dependent on whatever the opportunities he gets to work in non-farm sector.

Although he is currently sending two of his sons to the primary school, he finds it very difficult to meet their requirements and thinking about withdrawing his kids from school.

He wishes government to arrange some assistance in terms of monetary form to meet daily consumption requirements and if possible a lower-level permanent job for him in public sector so that his children attain education at least to matriculation level. Otherwise he foresees the future of his sibling to be the same as he is going through.

In the given situation, how difficult is it for him to manage household food and clothing requirement, school fees, and care to the abnormal sisters, these are the questions which needs immediate attention –but the question is who is going to take the responsibility?

4. Poverty Reduction – An overview of AKRSP Approach

Poverty alleviation, one of the three main objectives around which AKRSP has been working for almost two decades, has remained the nucleus of most of the development interventions that has been undertaken with a focus on equitable distribution of the accruing benefits. AKRSP-supported interventions, over the years, have had a direct and substantial impact on improving the livelihoods of the people of Northern Areas and Chitral (NAC). AKRSP's role essentially has been that of a catalyst for rural development supporting the development of village level institutional structures, which provide a forum for local communities to organize and initiate activities for their social and economic development. AKRSP's approach towards development has been based on three basic principles;

- Organization and cooperative management,
- Capital generation through regular savings, and
- Skill development at the village level.

Gilgit Region, since AKRSP initiated its participatory development approach in 1982, has witnessed a significant decline in the incidence of poverty. According to the Farm Household Income and Expenditure Survey (FHIES) conducted in 1997, in Gilgit, the incidence of poverty had gone down to 23% from 42% in year 1991. The 'very poor' constituted just about 4% of the total population compared to 12% in year 1991. However, during the same period, income inequality between the poor and rich remained modest as the Gini-coefficient decreased just by 0.01 (from 0.37 to 0.36).

In 1998, Gilgit Region of AKRSP started addressing the issue of poverty at household level by establishing *Poverty Pilot Projects* in few villages. During the process, extensive socio-economic analyses of the villages were carried out to find out the poorest households. The underlying purpose of these projects is to help develop a sustainable institutional mechanism to address the issue of poverty at grass root level. Through these projects, a number of tailor-made development activities have been initiated to address the issues of poor households and bring them out of poverty trap.

CHITRAL REGION

Background

The Government of Pakistan has developed an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) which aims at forging broad based alliances with civil society and the private sector in the quest to eliminate poverty and accelerating growth. The participation of the target population is critical in the formulation of the poverty reduction strategy and the government has initiated a comprehensive process of consultations at the district, provincial and national levels. It has requested AKRSP to undertake a preliminary survey in its region of operation to identify and prioritise development projects with special reference to the very poor, the destitute and the disadvantaged.

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme has been working in the Northern Areas and Chitral district of NWFP since 1982/83 to improve the quality of life of the local inhabitants. Since its inception there has been a significant boost in terms of economic development, but eliminating poverty still remains a challenge for development practitioners.

The overall goal of AKRSP during the next phase is to contribute in poverty reduction through sustainable improvement in the livelihood of the people in the programme area.
Consequently, in Chitral region, the process culminated in identification of resource poor areas, poor house holds and their household profiles. These will be used to design and implement new poverty programs that will target specific strata of poor and disadvantaged. For this purpose, pilot poverty sites have been chosen in all the four Field Management Units and programs implemented.

Methodology

A Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) exercise was initiated in the village of Khatinj that asked the local community to identify and prioritise poverty projects that will be initiated by the GOP with special reference to the very poor and the destitute households. . The village of Khatinj was selected because it has physical, demographic and other characteristics that make it resource poor, isolated and faced with harsh living conditions during the winter seasons. The PPA will comprise group discussions, focus group discussions and individual interviews with the heads of the very poor and/or destitute households in addition to the results obtained from a Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) exercise undertaken by AKRSP to classify poverty within the village. It will ask the villagers to identify projects that will help reduce poverty and prioritise these projects according to need. It was not possible to hold group or focus group discussions with the females in the village and was thus subsequently restricted to an interview with the destitute classified household that is female headed.

Area Profile:

The village of Khatinj is situated at a distance of 10 km towards the north east of Garum Chashnma. It is under the administrative set up of FMU Garum Chashma and supports a population of 178 souls, 73 men and 105 women, living in 25 households. Situated at an altitude of 8,000 feet, village Khatinj falls in

the single cropping zone. Agricultural activity and Shu making plays a major role in the in the economy of the area.

A majority of the population belongs to the Ismaili faith of Islam but there are four Sunni households as well. There are a number of tribes within the village which include: Safarey, Raizey,Anjassay and the Sherey. The villagers do not have access to educational facilities and only recently an informal maktab school was set up in the Jamat Khana. They do have access to electricity via a Micro hydel that is shared with the other villages.

The village is connected to Garum Chashma via a jeepable track, which is closed, from January to April because of heavy snowfall. The area is extremely cold for 6 months and is prone to rockslides in winter.

The area has been classified as resource poor by the AKRSP according to a survey initiated by the MIES section in May of 2001. A Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) exercise was conducted by AKRSP during which the locals categorized the households of the village into four classes[3]:

Ranking	No. of Households
Relatively well-to-do	5
Poor	7
Very Poor	12
Destitute	1

Poverty Indicators for Khatinj

A PRA exercise was conducted in the village of Khatinj. The objective of this exercise was to develop poverty indicators for the area with the participation of the villagers. The villagers thus defined the poverty in khatinj into 3 categories; the criterions are discussed as under:

	Categories		
Type of Wealth	**Well-to-do**	**Poor**	**Very Poor/Destitute**
Social	Extensive links	Few Social links	No social links
Human	Comparatively more educated Primary pass, few higher secondary and above. At least 2 earning members.	Illiterate No earning members.	Illiterate No earning members.
Material	• Land 5-12 Chaks. • Livestock 15-20 Animals.	• Land 3-5 Chaks • Livestock 5-12 Animals.	• Land < 3 Chaks. • Livestock 2-5 animals. • Katcha[2] house

[3] This is however a relative comparison made by the villagers themselves. The very poor and destitute rankings are very similar except for one exception. One of the destitute households is female headed and has no male member of earning age.

	• Cemented house with guestroom.	• Partially cemented house with no guestroom.	

The above mentioned table shows that the villagers place great emphasis on social and material wealth. Social wealth has been defined as the linkages and connections that the individual has made which can be used in the future. The rich have extensive social links while the have comparatively fewer and the poor have none at all. For material wealth, the difference between the middle and the poor class is comparatively less as regarding land holding and but more prominent when comparing living quarters and livestock holding. Another important indicator of wealth is the number of household members that are involved in off farm activities. These criterions can be further verified from the comparison of the household profiles given in the Annexure.

Findings

The findings of the survey have been split into four strata: the well-to-do, the poor, the very poor and the destitute. Experience suggests that there is very little difference between the very poor and destitute households in this case. The main contrast is the non availability of a male earning member in the classified destitute household and this may change in the near future when the male children grow into manhood. The relative prioritization ranking is 4=very high importance 3=high importance, 2=medium importance, 1=low importance

Table 1: Project identification and prioritization of well-to-do households

Type of project	Category	Prioritisation
Construction of all weather road	Infrastructure	4
Job opportunity	Employment generation	2
Trainings and business	Skill development and enterprise	3
Agri & livestock training and inputs	NRM development	1

Table 2: Project identification and prioritization of poor households

Type of project	Category	Prioritisation
Construction of all weather road	Infrastructure	3
Job opportunity	Employment generation	4
Trainings and business	Skill development and enterprise	1
Agri & livestock training and inputs	NRM development	2

[2] katcha is defined as a small house that is made of mud and clay consisting of a single living room..

Table 3: Project identification and prioritization of very poor households

Type of project	Category	Prioritisation
Construction of all weather road	Infrastructure	1
Job opportunity	Employment generation	3
Trainings and business	Skill development and enterprise	2
Agri & livestock training and inputs	NRM development	4

Table 4: Project identification and prioritization of destitute households (Female Headed)

Type of project	Category	Prioritization
Construction of basic health facility	Social sector services	3
Provision for potable water	Social sector services	4
Job opportunity	Employment generation	3
Trainings in improved patti manufacturing techniques.	Local skill development and enterprise	4
Agri & livestock training and inputs	NRM development	2

As expected different strata have different priorities but all the male respondents from the different strata have classified, in essence, the same category of projects. However, the female headed household classified as destitute has identified a slightly different set of projects with their respective priorities

Annexures

Table 1: List of household according to livelihood classes

Ranking[4]	Classes and name of household head		
	Well-to-do	**Poor**	**VeryPoor & Destitute**
Highest 1	Mir Bulla Khan	Rehmat-ud-din	Shakirullah
2	Gul Murad	Sher Akbar	Gulab (Droshp)
3	Mir Samad	Safed Khan	Amir Ahmed
4	Gul Azeem	Mir Gulab (Khatinj)	Hazar Shah
5	Jan Alam	Adina Khan	Rehmat Wali
6		Gul Nawaz	Murad
7		Rehmat Wali	Mir Hayat Shah
8			Maqsood Baig
9			Alam Rasul
10			Jawan Shah
11			Qurban Shah
12			Nadir Pehlwan (**Destitute**)
Lowest 13			Syed Hakeem Shah

[4] The rankings are in a descending order. These indicate the status of the individual as the number 1 denotes the highest and number 14 the lowest status.

Annex: Household profiles

Name of Household head _Mir Samad Khan

VO _Khatinj__
FMU _Garum Chashma_____
Livelihood Dynamics Category: Well-to-do

Material	Lives in a house with 4 rooms, I veranda, I store room, I guest room and I bathroom. Also have 2 stables 2 Phestis[5] and a room for poultry. Owns 3.5 Chaks of land and produces 4 bags wheat and 2 bags maize. Have 3 cows, 1 calf, 1 donkey, 8 sheep, 6 goats and 5 poultry. Produces 18 yards of shu Earns Rs. 1,500 fixed income and Rs. 4,000 every 2 years from the sale of livestock
Human	He has 11 family members, 4 male and 11 female. Children include 2 boys and 4 girls. ! FSc pass (male), 2 university students (male), 2 primary (females). 2 household members trained as micro hydel operators.
Social	Both parent members of V/WO. Both are also religious notables (mukkhi and mukkhiani) .A son iis the manager of the WO and secretary of the Al-chaman youth welfare society. The father is a member of the conflict resolution committee.
Cultural	They have tremendous social and religious influence being the religious notables.
Common Property	Has access to CPR Also benefits from all projects within the village.

Name of house hold head_____JAN ALAM_____
VO KHATINJ
FMU GARAM CHASHMA

Livelihood Dynamics Category Well-to-do

MATERIAL	Lives in small house with 1 room and 1 guest room. Has a cattle shed and a store for hay. Total agriculture land is 4 kanals. Has 2 apple and 3 apricot trees and 100 poplars. In livestock have 2 cow and one bull. No regular income but owes Rs 10000 to a shopkeeper.
HUMAN	Aleem is 50 and uneducated. His wife is also uneducated and is 40. Sons 5 25 years uneducated 20 years uneducated and married 18 years educated upto matric 14 years educated upto middle 12 years in class 6 Daughters 3, all are uneducated. Elder daughter is married. The other two are 18 and 5 years.
SOCIAL	N/A
CULTURAL	N/A
COMMON PROPERTY	N/A

[5] Phestis is a room in which straw is stored.

Name of Household head _Mir Gulab Khan_____

VO _Khatinj__
FMU _Garum Chashma_____
Livelihood Dynamics Category: Poor

Material	Lives in a traditional house with I living room and I guest room. Also has 3 stables for animals. Has 1.5 kanal of land Has 10-15 Apple trees, 20 Apricot trees and 2 Walnut trees Has the following livestock: I Cow, I Bull, 7-8 Sheep, 2-3 Hens, 4-5 Goats
Human	Mir Gulab Khan is 40 years old, wife is uneducated, has 6 children 4 sons and 2 daughters (I daughter married) 2 sons illiterate, one son in class 9th (19 years old), One son in class 4th (12 years old), one daughter illiterate (8 years old), one daughter in K.G (7 years old) One daughter-in-law living with them, illiterate (19 years old)
Social	Has relations in Karim abad,
Cultural	participates actively in different functions
Common Property	Has access to CPR Also benefits from all projects within the village.

Name of Household head: Syed Hakim

VO _Khatinj__
FMU _Garum Chashma_____
Livelihood Dynamics Category: Very Poor

Material	Lives in a traditional house with 2 rooms. Has no stable for animals. Has 1 kanal of land Has no plants Has the following livestock: 2 Cows, I Hen. Owns 1 Radio. Wife produces 10-12 yards of shu annually. The respondent owns daily wages of Rs.60/day.
Human	Syed Hakim is intermediate pass. Wife is middle pass. They have 2 sons (4 and 6 years old) Illiterate. They cannot afford to pay the school fee.
Social	He has relatives in Susoon. Both are members of V/WO. He has savings of Rs. 3,600 in VO and wife has saving of Rs. 700 in WO.Has access to all the facilities and pays Rs. 30/month/bulb as electricity tariff.
Cultural	Participates actively in different functions and festivals, does not have a say in meetings. Wife is relatively educated but not allowed a position in WO. Cultural restrictions apply.
Common Property	Has access to CPR but does not utilize them. The neighbors and relatives provide fodder for the animals. .

Name of Household head: Dina (Widow of Pehlwan Shah)
VO _Khatinj__
FMU _Garum Chashma_____

Livelihood Dynamics Category: Destitute

Material	Lives in a traditional house with I living room. Also have 3 stables for animals. Has 2 kanal of land Has 4 fruit plants and 9 forest plants Has the following livestock: I Cow, I Bull, 4 Sheep,
Human	Dina is 60 years old, Husband is Deceased, has 5 children 2 sons and 3 daughters (I daughter married), one son in Primary , One son in 1st class h ,two daughters illiterate One Father-in-law living with them, illiterate
Social	Member of WO. Provided financial and material support by neighbors and relatives. Paid Rs. 1,000 under the Maal-e-waaj-e-baat. Also benefits from all projects within the village
Cultural	Participates actively in different functions and festivals, does not have a say in meetings.
Common Property	Has access to CPR .

BALTISTAN REGION

Introduction

Poverty has been defined differently in different periods and has been categorised into absolute poverty and relative poverty. During 1970s poverty was defined as lack of income. At that time, need for education, health facilities and other essential services like clean drinking water were also recognised. It was argued that these facilities prevent people from fall into poverty. During 1990's, emphasize was given on human development which stresses on the freedom from poverty to that extend where people are able to live long and a healthy life with dignity, self-respect and respect to others. In 2001, a changed definition of poverty was presented. This concept identifies four dimensions of poverty: income-poverty, health and education, vulnerability and voicelessness.

Pakistan is one of the poorest countries of the developing world. Poverty occurrence has remained high in Pakistan and gradually increasing in the last few years. At present Pakistan is facing the challenges of revival of economic growth and is trying to develop effective strategies to address the issue of poverty. The government has realised that poverty cannot be eradicated only by increasing the income levels. The need to analyse causes of poverty and to eliminate them with the consultation of the concerned communities, especially with the poor people is being stressed. This approach emphasises the need of enhanced economic growth and addressing basic needs, such as primary education, health and population welfare. Improvement in service delivery mechanisms are also considered important that contributes to the overall betterment of the socio-economic system of a country.

Economic growth in Pakistan has been on the decline for the last twenty years. Major impact of economic decline has been on the level of poverty, which gradually increased. Pakistan's Interim Poverty Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) that has been written by Planning Commission of Pakistan is the result of the government's realisation that poverty issue needs to be addressed on priority basis. I-PRSP concludes that poverty reduction efforts require a holistic approach that should target all the elements, which result disparity among the people.

Participation of the target population is critical in formulating a poverty reduction strategy therefore government has initiated a comprehensive process of consultation at the district, provincial and national level

To initiate the consultation process with the community at village level by insuring their participation, the Planning Commission of Pakistan has requested the Rural Support Programmes in the country to conduct pilot studies. Conducting a study on poverty reduction through community participation will maximize the advantage of sharing information, and will help developing a realistic strategy for poverty alleviation at grassroots level.

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is working in the Northern Areas (NAs) for the last 20 year to supplement the government's efforts made for the development of the area. Poverty alleviation has been an important component of AKRSP's programme since its inception. AKRSP has planned to put more efforts for poverty alleviation in the future. This paper is a part of AKRSP's efforts to understand causes of poverty and, ways and means to deal with this issue in the area.

To contribute developing a poverty reduction strategy by the government, AKRSP Baltistan has conducted a case study in village Rzasna of District Skardu Baltistan to collect local empirical data for further analysis.

The realisation of the involvement of the local communities for poverty eradication and improvement in service delivery systems has resulted in emergence and appreciation of rural support programmes (AKRSP, PRSP, NRSP etc) by the government in the country. Presently the government and Rural Support Programmes are collaborating to address the poverty issue in the country.

The main objectives of rural support programmes are:

- To identify key actions for poverty reduction that include policy changes, institutional reforms, programs and projects for the medium and long term development that are sustainable, robust and effective.

- Empower individuals/communities to participate fully in poverty reduction activities by strengthening partnership with national and sub-national institutions

Although significant improvement in the economic and social lives of the people of Northern Area and Chitral has been reported, more than a third of total population still live below poverty line. Almost ten percent of the population can be classified as very poor and destitute. Therefore, the government and the NGOs face the major development challenge of eliminating poverty from the area.

Contextual Background

Baltistan consists of Roundo, Shigar, Kharmang, Khaplu, Gultari and Skardu valleys. The area is divided into two districts namely Skardu and Ghancha. Baltistan is the land of towering mountains; deep gorges, crashing waterfalls and beautiful lakes. The area is extremely dry and classified as dry mountainous desert. The winters are extremely cold while the summers are pleasant.

The fast growing population of Baltistan is around 350000. The 1998 census report shows that the annual population growth rate of Baltistan region during the period 1982-1998 was 2.24 percent. If the population increases at the same rate, it would be double in the next 31 years. In 1998 the average household size in the region was 7.8 persons. Out of the total population, 88% live in rural areas while only 12% live in urban areas. A large portion of the population is also economically inactive due to age factor. Of the total population, 46.44 percent fall under 15 years of age, who do not contribute to economic development. In addition, due to religious and cultural constraints, women in Baltistan do not have the opportunity to participate in off farm activities. The economically active population in the region is only about 19.10 percent with 94.3% male and only 5.7% female. More than 11% of the housing units in the region are single room houses while 63.96% housing units consists of 2- 3 rooms.

Economically, the area is developing but with very slow pace due to inherited constraints of isolation, poor communication and limited resource base. The population mainly depends on subsistence agriculture and livestock farming for their livelihoods.* Per capita land holding is too small to be economically sufficient. The average land holding is 0.212 acres compared to national average of 11.5 acres.

The area and climate is suitable for fruit production. Apple, apricot, almond, peach, cherry, pear, grapes and walnut are grown very well here. Wheat, barley is widely grown in Baltistan. The short summer season however, restricts production of second crop. Therefore only one crop is grown per year except in some areas where maize is grown as second crop after barley. Due to single crop production, poor soils and resulting low yields, food produced locally is hardly sufficient to meet the local requirements. Therefore the government supplies 5400 metric tons of wheat every year on subsidised rates.

In Baltistan private sector is poorly developed and there are no industries. In the absence of private sector people depend on government departments for off farm employment. The main government departments providing employment are Northern Light Infantry (NLI), Northern Areas Education Department, Northern Police, Northern Areas Health department, and Revenue Department. In the urban areas few people are employed with trading, hotel business and tourism.

Social sector facilities are also very poor in Baltistan. Efforts to provide medical facilities are restricted due to shortage of funds, doctors, and trained paramedical staff. In most of the villages basic health facilities are not available. Education facilities especially for girls are also very poor. Most of the villages

even do not have schools for primary education. Literacy rate is therefore very low. However, the government is currently making increased efforts to improve social sector facilities including primary education and basic health care. For this purpose a new project namely the Northern Health and Education Project has been initiated to augment services provided by the existing northern health and education departments.

Methodology

The objective was to initiate a process of consultation with the communities of the area for Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper that Government intends to finalise during the year 2003. Though the information collected from village Rzasna for this study cannot be used to generalise the issues of poverty in the region, these information could contribute towards the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper when combined with information colleted from other villages of the region.

Local data was collected from Rzasna village situated 10 km west of Skardu town. Rzasna was selected because it has both VO and WO forums. Secondly Rzasna has a mixed population of few well off, poor, very poor, and destitute households, therefore it is a model village I the context of Baltistan.

A questionnaire was designed after a detailed study of different documents written so for on poverty alleviation. Important documents referred for this study were "*Poverty Bridging the Gap published by Department for International Development" " Sustainability and AKRSP Plans for Future" " Visualizing the Future Needs Analysis of Poverty Survey" and "Research Methods by the Overseas Development Group".* A separate check list was prepared for women to analyse their specific needs. The main questionnaire consisted of two parts, a village profile and household profile. To analyse causes of poverty at village level, the Village Resource Profile facilitates collection of village level information of available resources and provides collective thoughts of the people on the issue. To understand poverty issues at household level, Household Resource Profile was used to understand strengths and causes of poverty. Household Resource Profile also provides information on how the people and the government could collaborate for poverty alleviation. Such an analysis provides information on opportunities available at the household level and how the government can help the household to harness these opportunities.

For data collection, meetings were organised with groups and individuals in the village. For this purpose three days were spent in the village interviewing the respondents. During the first day, village profile was completed in a VO meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to identify the village level problems, needs, causes of poverty, and possible solution reducing poverty at village level. The respondents have identified the poor and poorest household of the village. On the second day, using information collected on the first day, eight households, four from each category were selected randomly for further interviewing and collection of data for household profile. During these meetings information on available human capital, sources of income, skills and expenditures at household level were collected. On the

third day, focus group discussions were held with women of the village to assess the women specific issues contributing towards poverty.

FINDINGS

Natural Resources

The area is dependent on natural resources including land, forest, water, and livestock etc. According to the respondents, the people of Rzasna were living a better life some 15 years ago. With the deterioration of natural resources, the people moved gradually towards miserable living conditions. If the depletion of the natural resources continues in the future, the living condition could become more severe and people will be forced to migrate out of the village in search of a better life.

The information provided by the villagers revealed that per household land holding in Rzasna is 27.7 kanals, which seems better when compared to the average land holding for Baltistan. Another 2000 kanals land is available for cultivation in the village. But due to unavailability of irrigation water this land cannot be cultivated. Agriculture production is badly effected due to shortage of irrigation water. The annual rainfall has been very low for the last many years and Katpana Lake, which is the source of irrigation water is getting dried. The irrigation channel which runs form Katpana Lake to Rzasna is 5 km long. During the agriculture season the people have to continually monitor the water flow in the channel. The channel is broken in many places and leakage could damage crops and land of other village on the way. Since the channel is very long and fragile, water leaks from many places giving rise to conflicts each year especially with the people of Ranga.

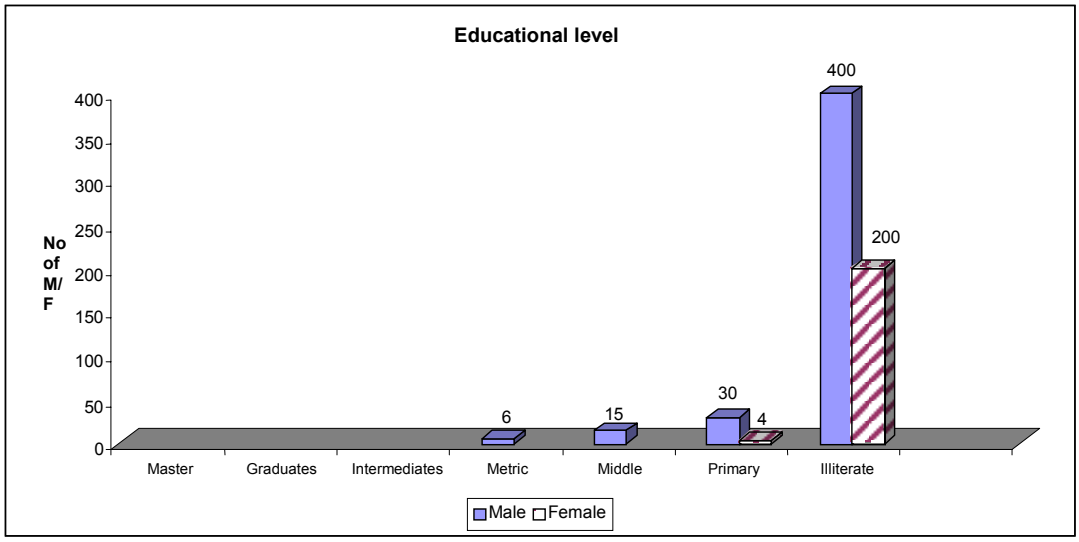
The existing land is also decreasing due to erosion. The Indus River at its west bank situates Rzasna. The agriculture and pastureland by the river is continuously eroded for the last 15 years. In the past Rzasna was famous for livestock farming. Livestock farming is mainly dependent on fodder harvests from the pasture and forestland situated by Indus. Due to erosion, the pasture and forestland has been decreased resulting in less production of fodder for livestock. This has greatly affected the socio-economic conditions of the village. For example, per household livestock numbers has drastically decreased during the last 15 years. In the past, fodder production was abundant, therefore rights to grazing and cutting of grasses from the pasture and forestland was not clearly defined. As the people faced shortage of fodder, conflicts about rights of grazing and grass harvesting surfaced. Also, the animals left for free grazing in the pastureland visit the agriculture fields in search of fodder, as the remaining pastureland cannot support the existing livestock numbers. These animals damage the agricultural crops giving rise to conflicts among the villagers.

Livestock losses due to non-existence of bridges on the streams have also been reported during summer and autumn season when the livestock are herded to and from the pasture. For example, there

was no bridge on the Hargesa Nullah in the past. While crossing Hargesa Nullah few animals were lost each year especially during the summer season. Such losses add to the existing poor economy of the village and the household losing the animals.

Educational Level

Education rate in Rzasna is very low. Among a population of 800 people only 6 males are matriculates, 15 have passed middle, and 34 including 4 females are educated to primary level while the remaining population is illiterate. The main reason for low literacy is unavailability of educational facilities in the village especially for girls. For boys there is one primary school established with the financial assistance of the MARAFE foundation. After completion of the school building with the assistance of MARAFE foundation, the government provided a teacher. Other educational facilities in the schools are very poor. The people reported that the government takes no responsibility for provision of furniture and other necessities needed by the school.

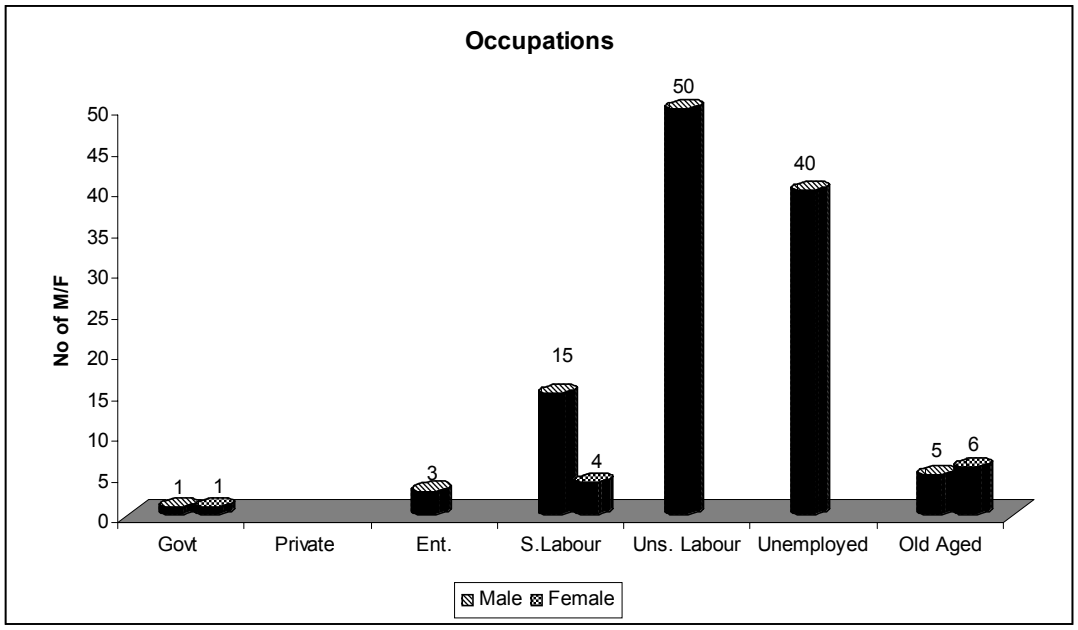


Sources of Livelihood

The entire population of Rzasna is involved in agriculture whether on small or large scale. Agriculture activities are carried out only during the summer months because the area is single cropped. For the rest of the year, majority of the people have no productive activity. Only two people are employed with the government. Nineteen people are skilled labour so they earn more compared to the others. Fifty people are unskilled labour and go to Skardu town for daily labour. Availability of daily labour is also uncertain in Skardu because there are no industries and private sector business is also negligible.

The overall impression of Rzasna is that whenever any one needs unskilled labour in Skardu town they search them in Zesyna because people in Rzasna are very poor and work for nominal rates. Because of

lack of education, degraded natural resources and unavailability of off form income, majority of the people in Rzasna live under poverty line.



Available Facilities

Very limited facilities are available in village Rzasna. These include a link road constructed with the financial assistance of AKRSP, a hand pump, a boy's primary school, and an irrigation channel constructed by the community. The government has not contributed much for the development of Rzasna and its population. Rzasna has also a dispensary established by the community. Because of lack of medicines and trained staff this dispensary is not much helpful in providing basic health facilities to the local population. Therefore they have to travel to the hospital situated in Skardu town or at Gamba. There is no transport facility available; therefore people suffer a lot especially women at times of emergency. Rzasna is among those villages in Baltistan that have no electricity. The village is not too far from Skardu town but still the village has not been provided electricity.

Poverty

According to criteria set by the govt of Rs 673.54 per capita per month, 60 HHs that makes about 67% population are living under poverty line. The people in Rzasna consider those households poorest where the household heads died and the widows were looking after and feeding their children.

According to definition set by the community, the households were distributed into four categories, Well-off, better off, poor and poorest.

Poverty Ranking

Categories	HHs (M)	HHs (F)	Criterion
Well off	3		More than 100 kanals land, 500-1000 trees, employed, 50-100 livestock, 2-3 lakh bank account, surplus food items
Better off	10		30-50 kanals cultivable land, 50-60 trees, skilled labour, livestock 20-50, 50,000 bank balance, 12 months food security,
Poor	60	4	2-5 kanals land, 6-8 months food security, take loan at time of trouble, shortage of firewood in winter, less number of fruit and forests trees, unemployed.
Poorest	7	6	Food insecurity throughout the year, lack of human capital, mostly widows, no earning hand, depend on charity and zakat less land, unemployed.

Indicators can be classified as:

- Land
- Livestock holding
- Forest and fruit trees
- Bank balance,
- Food security
- Employment
- Human capital
- Linkages with safety nets etc.

Some families having enough resources were also identified as poor. It is because although such families have property (land and livestock) at present but their children are very young to take benefit of the property before the parents grow very old. In the long run such families could move towards poverty. Since there is no school in the village and the parents can't afford to send their children to other school situated far from the village. Therefore when such uneducated children grow young they will have nothing to make a good living except barren land left by the parents.

During focus group discussion, women suggested that if they could acquire some skills, it would enable them to increase their income. The Poor female household heads said that they feel shy to demand money from the villagers for fulfilling their needs. So they want to do something by themselves so that they can feed their children properly. They are even ready to do some job within the village because women's mobility in Baltistan is restricted due to religious and cultural reasons.

According to the data collected, almost all the families face some problem. Even the well-off families face food shortage for some period of the year. Two families have lost most of their natural resources due to erosion. These families also have many children and it is very difficult for them to feed their children.

Although most of the people of the village are poor but only 6 households are linked with safety net institutions. People said that the procedures of these institutions are very lengthy, time consuming and complicated. Secondly the funds are allocated to influential rather to deserving people. They do not trust on these institutions. Also the amount given to the poor is very nominal, which is insufficient to meet the requirements of wheat only. They said we received only Rs 1000 for six months and given the high inflation rates no one can fulfil their monthly food requirements with this amount.

The community representatives said that they try their best to support the vulnerable people by providing wood, wheat, fruits, and vegetables each year. They are also supported for marriages and deaths ceremonies by providing animals and other necessities. They also provide them labour support for sowing and harvesting the crops. But they cannot provide them full support, as they themselves are poor. They hope that the government would initiate some productive programmes that would provide income-generating opportunities for the poor.

Existing Problems

The VO members identified and prioritised the following problems that according to them are gradually pushing people towards poverty.

- Land erosion
- Shortage of irrigation water
- Lack of education facilities especially for girls

- Unavailability of health facilities for women and children
- Lack of electricity
- High rate of animal mortality
- Less employment opportunities
- Lack of skills
- Shortage of human capital

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on above discussion and by summarizing the household/village resource profiles, three major sectors can be defined for improvement:

- **Natural Resources**
- **Social Sector Services**
- **Human capacity**

The major problem in Rzasna is land erosion and shortage of irrigation water. It was argued by the respondents that if the damaged natural resources are rehabilitated and if further deterioration of the resources is prevented, Rzasna could again move towards prosperity. Shortage of irrigation water is another important factor contributing towards poverty. Shortage of irrigation water for the last many years has greatly reduced crop and vegetable yields.

Low literacy rate in Rzasna indicates that educational facilities are not available in the village. Low rates of literacy and lake of skills contributed towards poverty because the people cannot get off farm income and employment.

Most of the people are unemployed or unskilled labour. This means that they earn meagre amounts of money that is hardly enough to meet the needs of the average household.

High population growth is another important factor contributing towards poverty. The household profile shows that the average household consists of 7.7 members. Most of the household members are under 18 years of age. Each household has on an average one earning member and 6.7 members to eat. There is an emergency need to initiate family planning and awareness programmes on population growth.

The community is willing to contribute for their own development. When asked about the solution of the problems, they replied that they could provide what so ever they afford. For example, free labour for

initiation of infrastructure projects, free of cost land for construction of irrigation channels, and other projects. They also offered their full cooperation to the government for initiation of social sector projects especially for health and education. As the people from Rzasna put it “We want to change our miserable conditions with the help of government”.

As has been mentioned above that majority of the people do not contribute to any productive activity during autumn and winter. Initiation of vocational programmes during this period could contribute a lot to enhance household cash income.

Government’s Possible Role

The government can solve many of the problems mentioned by the community.
Because when we talk about poverty, we talk about the resource poor villages as well. Rzasna is also included among resource poor villages. Such villages can realize their problems and can identify solutions but cannot contribute much for solution due to unavailability of resources. That is the reason they seek for the government’s assistance for solving their problems. According to the people the government can contribute towards poverty eradication at village level by taking the following initiatives.

- Halting land erosion by constructing protective works. Land is the most valuable asset of the village. In the reclaimed land, afforestation and fodder production will increase livestock and livestock production. Construction of irrigation channel is also one of the major projects identified by both men and women. Women said that vegetable yields decrease drastically due to shortage of irrigation water.

Some community members said that they don’t have resources for buying agriculture inputs. Provision of funds for purchase of agriculture inputs can result in increased agriculture yields.

- Those who have little land to cultivate are interested in off-farm income generating activities. They asked for government’s assistance for skill development in addition to provision of soft loans so that they could start small-scale business. The community suggested vocational and basket weaving training for women, tailoring, masons, and wood carving trainings for men. They also suggested trainings programmes on NRM marketing so that they could sell their agricultural products like vegetables.

- The people realise importance of education and health. But they prioritise them at fourth level. This shows the severity of food shortage problems that people in Rzasna face due to land erosion. Acquisition of food is the immediate problem. However they realise the long-term benefits of health and education. The government mainly provides health and educational

facilities in Baltistan as else where in Pakistan. But the government has so far neglected Rzasna. They seek government's help to strengthen the existing education facilities provided by MARAFE foundation.

- After land, livestock is the second valuable asset of the people in Rzasna . Annual animal losses are high due to many reasons. Important among them is diseases. The people demanded Animal Husbandry Doctor in the village so that livestock mortality rates could be reduced.

Although most of the people are poor with limited resources but they contribute to the most needy. This is an important topic that could be studied in detail. Such safety nets are important and could be included in poverty eradication projects. These funds and contributions could be pooled and could be used for income generating activities by the community members.

In conclusion, Rzasna used to be a wealthy village. It transformed from wealthy to poor mainly because of deterioration of natural resources especially loss of land. The need to arrest further erosion and reclamation of eroded land is the main issue that every one talks about in Rzasna.

Village Profile

Name: _____

District: _____

Region: _____

No of Households: _____

No of female HHs headed: _____

Population: _____

Education

	Male	**Female**
Master		
Graduates		
Intermediates		
Metric		
Middle		
Primary		
Illiterate		

Occupations

	Male	**Female**
Agriculture		
Govt Employee		
Private Employment		
Enterprise		
Skilled Labour		
Unskilled Labour		
Unemployed		
Old Aged people		

Productive Resources

General terrain: _____

Cropping Zone: _____

Cultivated Land: ____ kanals Cultivable land: _____kanals

Is there land shortage? (Describe)

_____

_____

_____

Availability of Irrigation water

		Enough	Not Enough
Lake	Y/N		
River	Y/N		
Spring	Y/N		
Glacier	Y/N		
Rain	Y/N		

What are the forest resources?

_____

Forest trees: _____ Wild Life: _____

Livestock: _____ Fruit plants: _____

Access to village

		Distance from market
By Jeep	Y/N	
By foot	Y/N	
By truck	Y/N	
By Pony Track	Y/N	
By paved road	Y/N	

Available Facilities

	Provided by	Distance	Access (HHs)
Electricity			
Road			

Drinking water scheme
Irrigation water scheme
Dispensary/hospital/BHU
PCO/PO/Telephone
Primary school girls
Primary school boys
Middle school for girls
Middle school for boys
Secondary school (G/B)
College (G/B)
Market for goods

Major conflicts arise among the people?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Existing Problems

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

10) _____

How can you solve your problems?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What Government can contribute towards solving the above mentioned problems?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

Poverty Ranking

Categories	HHs (M)	HHs (F)	Criterion
Well off			
Better off			
Poor			
Poorest			

Destitute			

How many HHs in the village are living under poverty line? **(**According to criteria set by the govt of Rs 673.54 per capita/ month)

Describe their features?

How many HHs in the village live under poverty line for some period of the year? Why?

Did the number of poor people in the village increase during last ten years?
If yes then? How? Explain the main reasons of their poverty? If no then explain their causes of their poverty reduction?

How many HHs have access to safety nets:

What is community contribution?

How Govt can reduce poverty at village level?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

Village Profile

Name: Zesyna

District: Skardu

Region: Baltistan

No of Households: 90

No of female HHs headed: 10

Population: 800

Education

	Male	**Female**
Master		
Graduates		
Intermediates		
Metric	**6**	
Middle	**15**	
Primary	**30**	**4**
Illiterate	**400**	**200**

Occupations

	Male	**Female**
Agriculture	*	*
Govt Employee	**1**	**1**
Private Employment		
Enterprise	**3**	
Skilled Labour	**15**	**4**
Unskilled Labour	**50**	
Unemployed	**40**	
Old Aged people	**5**	**6**

Productive Resources

General terrain: Plains

Cropping Zone: Single

Cultivated Land: 500 kanals Cultivable land: 2000 kanals

Is there land shortage? (Describe)

Enough land but because of water shortage people can't cultivate the land and less production is reported. Even from their land they can't fulfil their personal consumption.

Availability of Irrigation water

Enough Not Enough

Lake	Y/N	*
River	Y/N	
Spring	Y/N	
Glacier	Y/N	
Rain	Y/N	*

What are the forest resources?

Private property

Forest trees:	5000	Wild Life:	Fox, wolf,
Livestock:	3000	Fruit plants:	2000

Access to village

		Distance from market
By Jeep	Y/N	10 km to Gamba and 16 km to skardu
By foot	Y/N	yes
By truck	Y/N	No
By Pony Track	Y/N	No
By paved road	Y/N	No

Available Facilities

	Provided by	Distance		Access (HHs)
Electricity	No			
Road	AKRSP	1 km	Yes	
Drinking water scheme	AKRSP/TVO		Yes	
Irrigation water scheme	community itself	yes		
Dispensary/hospital/BHU	Dispensary			Yes
PCO/PO/Telephone	No			
Primary school girls	No			
Primary school boys	Yes (MARFIE Foundation)			
Middle school for girls	No			
Middle school for boys	Yes	5 km	Yes	
Secondary school (G/B)	No			
College (G/B)	No			
Market for goods	No			

Major conflicts arise among the people?

Water Distribution

Land Disputes

Livestock Grazing

Grass cutting

Existing Problems

1. Land erosion because of Indus river
2. Shortage of water for irrigating the land
3. Lack of girls education
4. Lack of health facilities for women and men
5. No Electricity
6. No Animal Husbandry facility
7. Less income resources
8. Unemployment
9. Lack of skills
10. Human capital

How can you solve your problems?

The community can contribute in form of labour, they can't contribute capital. For all these projects people will contribute land and ensure that they will create no dispute regarding implementation of the projects.

What Government can contribute towards solving the above-mentioned problems?

1. Project of protective works, which can reduce the losses of land erosion.
2. Provision of funds for agriculture inputs
3. Trainings in different capacities like vocational training for women, basket weaving training, tailoring, Agriculture, Masons, wood carving etc.
4. Construction of Irrigation channel
5. Girls primary and middle school
6. Boys middle and secondary schools
7. Animal husbandry doctor in the area

Poverty Ranking

Categories	HHs (M)	HHs (F)	Criterion
Well off	3		More than 100 kanals land, 500-1000 plants, employed, 50-100 livestock, 2-3 lakh bank account, surplus food items
Better off	10		30-50 kanals cultivable land, 50-60 plants, skilled labour, livestock 20-50, 50,000 bank balance, 12 months food security,
Poor	60	4	2-5 kanals land, 6-8 months food security, take loan at time of trouble, shortage of firewood in winter, less number of fruit and forests plants, unemployed.
Poorest	7	6	Food insecurity throughout the year, lack of human capital, mostly widows, no earning hand, depend on charity and zakat less land, unemployed.
Destitute			

How many HHs in the village are living under poverty line? (According to criteria set by the govt of Rs 673.54 per capita/ month)

According to criteria set by the govt about 60 HHs in the village are living under poverty line.

Describe their features?

Mostly poorest HHs is those who have female head because of her husband death she owns the property and look after her children. Land of erosion because of river increasing poverty in the village as people are losing their productive land are forced to be involved in daily wages which in uncertain in the case of Baltistan especially in winter season when life almost stopped in the area. Young children is another factor of poverty

How many HHs in the village live under poverty line for some period of the year? Why?

No Hhs is reported in the village that live under poverty line for some period of time but because of deterioration of natural resources people are gradually moving towards poverty. According to villagers if these problems remained for another decade, soon the whole village will be declared poorest.

Did the number of poor people in the village increase during last ten years?

If yes then? How? Explain the main reasons of their poverty? If no then explain their causes of their poverty reduction?

Yes this number is increased average 2 every year, one because of degradation natural resources which is the assets of the area and secondly death rate of male in the village. Deforestation and shortage of irrigation water.

How many HHs have access to safety nets:

Although most of HHs are poor what only 6 HHs are getting benefits from safety nets institutions. The reasons are complication in the process a d hold of influential people.

What is community contribution?

As community is not rich so according to them they have contributed in form of goods like fire wood, at time of poor families marriages some livestock or at the time of sowing and harvesting provide human labour.

How Govt can reduce poverty at village level?

1. Conservation of natural resources including land, forest and water
2. Educational facilities both for male and female
3. Creation of employment opportunities
4. Small grants for skilled people so they start their small enterprises
5. Skill enhancement through capacity building programme
6. Improving the functions of safety nets institutions
7. Provision of health facilities
8. Development of market for local products
9. Availability of basic facilities including sanitation, electricity, road and sources of energy

PART 3

Part 3

Suggestions for the Government's PRSP Document

a) *for the Chapter on NGOs and Civil Society*

The largest network of rural development organizations in Pakistan is that of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). Historically known for their work with poor, rural communities, the RSPs have pioneered a highly successful approach to participatory rural development which has been widely acknowledged internationally and by the Pakistan government. There are currently nine RSPs in Pakistan which are members of a Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN). The RSPs have fostered the largest network of grassroots, civil society organisations in Pakistan through their social mobilisation efforts. The RSPs have organised 39,000 Community Organisations (COs) of women and men, till December 2002. The RSPs conducted consultations with some of these communities for input into the PRSP.

The objective of the RSPs is to create a country-wide network of COs that can undertake certain development activities themselves. This network of COs also serves as grassroots partners to government and other agencies, for development work. The RSPs actively forge linkages between the government and these COs. The RSPs have been working closely with the government at all levels, but particularly with the newly set up District Governments under Pakistan's devolution plan.

Consultations with COs on the PRSP has reaffirmed government's commitment in the RSPs as being credible facilitators between people and government. The work of the RSPs over the past two decades and the results of consultations with COs on the PRSP have shown that social mobilization and the work of the RSPs provides some simple but critical answers to issues of services delivery and governance raised by communities. The strengthening of the government-RSP partnership in future can thus potentially lead to effective, grassroots solutions to many of the problems that people have raised. This partnership needs to be strengthened through greater resource

allocation to RSP-types initiatives in order to strengthen the hand of civil society and its work with the Government.

b) Monitoring of the government's PRSP

1. The issues of 'pro-poor' expenditures need to be looked into at greater depth.

It appears from the tracking matrix provided at the end of the I-PRSP that the government is in favour of reporting expenditures and basing the matrix on aggregates, which is understandable given the enormity of the task and the scope of the reporting. However, a few points may be raised regarding this approach which in our view leave something to be desired as far as expenditures being 'pro-poor' are concerned. These are:

a) the scope of expenditures in a particular sector does not reflect the sub-sector expenditures which makes the tracking matrix too over-arching and simplistic.
b) By not dividing expenditure into sub sectors it is assumed that all of that expenditure is targeted towards the poor.
c) Regional diversities and lags have to be given due weightage, it is encouraging to see that the provinces expenditures have been given in Annex V of the I-PRSP. Perhaps it would be another step in the right direction to add columns for NAs and AJK.

The underlying assumption here is that different sub sectors in any sector have differing 'propensities' to address the needs of the poorer or the poorest in the country. This may be elucidated through the following example:

Since the government reports expenditures under the head of Education as 'pro-poor', and it has also been established from the RSP dialogues that education ranks high with the poor, it would appear that any increase under this head would automatically be reported as a positive under the current reporting arrangement. However, for example, if this increase is due to an increase in the

higher end of the educational structure it would not be as 'poor-friendly' as an equivalent increase in the lower end of education, like primary schooling. This suggest that:

I. Further disaggregate the heads of accounts of the expenditure tracking matrix, so that it gives a handle on the exact sectors which are receiving increased funding, if tracking or the PRSP has to have any meaning this would require reallocations towards 'poor-friendly' sectors or sub sectors.
II. Increase the 'efficiency for the poor' of per rupee spent by the public sector by reallocation not only between different sectors but also *within* sectors.

Another example of the same kind could be in the health sector where 'higher end' expenditures like the ones in the state-of-art cardiac centres and the 'lower end' like the primary health centres would need to be unbundled to really see if progressively health expenditures become more or less pro-poor. A look at the notes to Annex V would clarify the concerns of not 'unbundling' expenditures which are being shown in the I-PRSP as part of poverty alleviation.

The above may be looked at from the view of the Tracking matrix given in the Annex 1 of the I-PRSP. There appears to be a general 'disconnect' between the expenditures (which are aggregate), the 'intermediate indicators/ outputs' and the 'outcomes'. The inputs (expenditures) need to be disaggregated into the ones that directly affect the outputs or outcomes, only then would there be a linkage and potential correlation which will be educative to look and to compare over the years. Taking the example of education or health in Annex 1, this comes out quite clearly. There are expenditures which do not have any output or outcomes and there are outputs and outcomes which do not have 'unbundled' inputs. This would create a tracking problem once the PRSP is implemented. The Annex is not exactly in the spirit of a log-frame which it appears to emulate.

Point of service delivery

This point has been raised in the I-PRSP, but needs to be reiterated here, that most pro-poor expenditures in the current 'devolved' District Government set up is taking place at the District level. The financial arrangements and powers at that level allow the districts to re-appropriate and reallocate moneys through sectors. Thus it becomes

imperative that accounting procedures be streamlined so that country-wide aggregates are made available conveniently and in reasonable time, not only to track but also for course correction if PRSP targets are to be achieved.

Monitoring of outputs and outcomes

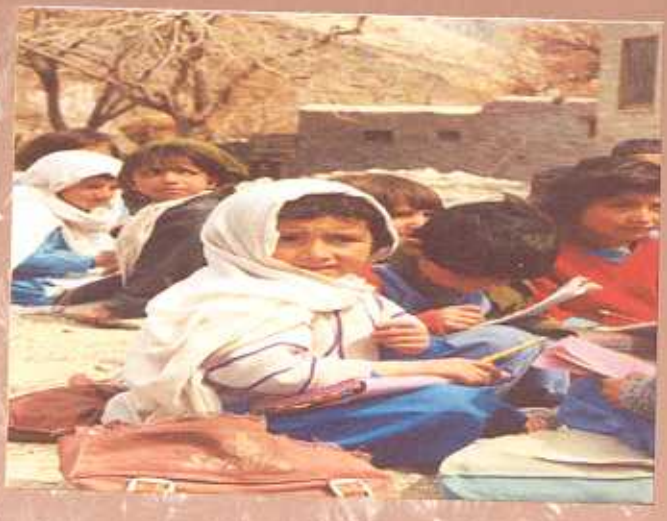
The matrix does not mention any qualitative means of verification in the document. The quality of public services and general perceptions are essential to take on board if a responsive and informative monitoring system is to be devised. Participatory and rapid appraisals need to be used to triangulate periodic government statistical surveys if outputs and outcomes are to be lent credibility.

There is often a tendency to monitor performance by following financial expenditures and looking at program Inputs, ie, what activities were sponsored towards gaining certain objectives. But this does not account for inefficiency, ineffectiveness and misplaced priorities. It does not look at whether the desired outcome was achieved. Therefore, the PRSP monitoring and evaluation ought to stress Outcomes and the eventual Impact, of all key aspects, including community participation in planning and implementation, whether the social safety net is reaching the deserving, standard of education and skills training, merit based public sector hiring, whether agricultural extension is reaching the small farmers and the quality of Inputs generally available to them, whether and how much are governance aspects improving – the key to successful implementation – etc.

Social Security Net

This should be seen not as 'poverty alleviating' expenditures but as social security nets for the socially and the economically excluded groups who need support. It would be interesting to merely divide the total number of, for example zakat, by the number of beneficiaries and then compare the support provided by the state in relation to its own poverty line. However, this is one expenditure which can be looked at from the point of view of expenditure itself.

As highlighted in the RSP dialogues, the communities can and should be involved in monitoring local level projects. Whether it is in the social sectors, or infrastructure projects, or O&M, or the administration of social security programs, the communities can perform a vital role in monitoring them.



PART 4

Part 4 Annexes

Annex 1

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Board of Directors of the RSPN, 24 September, 2002

The meeting started at 1500 hours. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan chaired the meeting. Following were present in the meeting:-

1. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan
2. Mr. Farooq Haroon
3. Dr. Suleman Sheikh
4. Dr. Shahida Jaffery
5. Mr. Muhammad Zafarullah Khan
6. Mr. Stephen Rasmussen
7. Mr. Feroz Shah
8. Mr. Masood ul Mulk
9. Ms. Shandana Khan

DFID Mission:

1. Mr. Steve Jones
2. Mr. Stephen Young
3. Ms. Maliha Hussain
4. Mr. Asghar Ali
5. Mr. Zulifqar Ahmed

By invitation:

1. Mrs. Munawar Humayun Khan
2. Dr. Pervez Tahir
3. Mr. Zafar U. Ahmed
4. Agha Zafar Ali, Company secretary

Agenda Item # 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Board of Directors held on 26 October 2001

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Agenda Item # 2: Approval of budget for the period April 2002-March 2003 and April 2003-March 2004.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Agenda Item # 3: Any other matter with the permission of the chair

3.1 RSPs and the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (Pakistan)

The Board discussed the RSPs' role and possible contribution to the consultation process that is required for the IPRSP to be finalized by the elected government. Dr Pervez Tahir commented that the RSPs could have a substantial contribution to this process due to their vast network for communities and that he would be happy to assist the RSPN in this process of consultations. The Board determined that whereas the IPRSP covered many important aspects of poverty reduction, it did not propose any implementation and support mechanism to implement the poverty reduction strategies. The discussions further revealed that before RSPS could start playing a major role in influencing the IPRSP or PRSP, there was a need for fully understanding the IPRSP. The Board decided that:

a) CEO RSPN with the assistance of Dr Tahir will prepare a summary of the IPRSP showing areas where RSPs could intervene and play an effective role;
b) An action plan in consultation with Dr Pervez Tahir and other directors will be drawn up for consultations at the district level.

3.2 RSPN and Strategic Planning of RSPs. The CEOs/RSPN asked the Board members for feedback on the role of RSPN in the strategic planning of the RSPs. She said that visioning exercise that was carried out at the RSPN was very useful and informative. There was a need to determine whether RSPN had a role in doing a similar exercise for each RSP separately. The RSP representatives welcomed the idea of having a strategic planning/visioning exercise for the RSPs collectively. The Board also determined the need for a biannual planning/visioning meeting for the RSPs as a whole. For this purpose, the CEO requested Mr. Steve Jones to facilitate such an event. The next visioning exercise would be held on 16-17 December 2002.

Having no other business, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annex - II

Minutes of the RSPN meeting on I-PRSP, 9 November 2002

A meeting was held at the RSPN on November 9, 2002 in which senior Planning Commission/GoP staff were specially invited to give a briefing on the IPRSP. Issues related to role of RSPs in the IPRSP were also discussed. List of participants is attached.

1. Opening discussion

The CEO, RSPN, Ms Shandana Khan, welcomed all the guests to this important briefing on the IPRSP. The CEO, RSPN, introduced two guests, Dr. Pervez Tahir and Dr Aslam Khan, of the Planning Commission, to the other participants. She further said that the guests would present the IPRSP to the RSPs followed by discussion as to how RSPs can be engaged in the IPRSP. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman, BoD, RSPN, stated that it was important that the role of the RSPs in the light of national level developments should be clearly understood. He pointed out that due to the large scale of the RSPs presence in the country these are better placed to present views of the civil society to the government. In this regard he stressed that the RSPs are really in a strong position to persuade the GoP in framing policies for the poor. Keeping this position in mind, he advised that the RSPs should actively be pursuing this line of action. He further advised that the RSPs should take advantage of the devolution plan and build appropriate partnerships between them and the district governments. He expressed his gratitude to the Planning Commission staff for having taken the time to brief the RSPs on this important exercise of the IPRSP.

PT giving background to the IPRSP, said that donors had asked developing countries including Pakistan to prepare, in consultation with the stakeholders, national level poverty reduction strategy paper. He referred to the earlier meeting held on September 24, 2002, of BoD of the RSPN, in which the later had highlighted many gaps in the IPRSP. The donors, he further said are advising to widen the consultation process by involving more of the civil society and the people, especially the poor. The RSPs, he said, had a wide coverage of people at the grassroots level, especially the poor, and therefore, provide a strong base for broadening the consultation process. In this scenario the present briefing, he said, is meant to apprise the RSPs of the process of the preparation and the main features of the document. Outlining the need of such a document, he explained that despite best efforts poverty in the world is on the increase and Pakistan is no exception. He said that the international financial institutions have recognised that poverty in the developing countries is an issue that needs to be addressed in a comprehensive framework. For this, he said, 64 developing countries are preparing the document. He, however, said that the IFIs are still holding onto the concept of the market determining macroeconomic fundamentals. They feel, that the market be allowed to function by empowering the poor to participate, this is the appropriate and efficient way to development.

2. Brief features of the presentation

The presentation was made by Dr. Aslam Khan, Chief, Poverty Alleviation Section, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan. The PRSP provides a holistic framework for poverty reduction within which all stakeholders will act through a participatory process. The IPRSP is the basis on which all future donor assistance would be provided to the country including debt relief and concessional assistance. The main objective of IPRSP is to identify key actions for poverty reduction that include policy changes, institutional reforms, programmes and projects for the medium and long-term development that are sustainable, robust and effective. It also envisages empowering individuals and communities to participate fully in poverty reduction activities by strengthening partnerships with national and sub-national institutions.

A consultation process that was undertaken by the Government revealed that people desire social empowerment and decentralisation. The people also feel that they should identify programmes/ projects on need basis. The major development thrust indicated by them covers agriculture and development, developing water resources for irrigation and consumption purposes, providing price support system, farm to market roads, support centres for small scale industries, micro-finance, efficient delivery of public services, preventive health services, vocational training, a uniform education system, staff for schools and hospitals, capacity building, simplifying rules and procedures, reforming judicial system etc. It was further explained that minimum participation of NGOs has taken place in the formulation of the IPRSP.

There are six main guiding principles of the IPRSP. These include country ownership of the IPRSP, transparency of service delivery, broad-based inclusion of the poor, heavy reliance on the participatory process, mainstreaming and institutionalisation and outcome-oriented consultations. It looks at creating opportunities that would help in reducing barriers to accessing resources by the people. It will also help in unleashing capabilities in order to ensure that basic services may be effectively delivered. Similarly, it will lead to empowerment of the people and thus to sustained practices of good governance. Lastly, these conditions would help in providing better security so that vulnerabilities can be reduced.

Before understanding IPRSP, the concept of poverty needs to be understood. Many researches have been carried out in the country covering quantitative analysis. Qualitative assessment of poverty did not receive much attention in the past. Recently, participatory poverty assessment (PPA), has been conducted by the Planning Commission with supported from the UK-DFID. The PPA was conducted on the basis of indicators falling under natural assets, drought, gender dimension of poverty, lack of political power and institutions. The results are still being processed. A study by SPDC indicates that the causes of poverty are different in the urban and rural centres of Pakistan. The rural analysis indicates that 55 percent of the range of causes is due to lack of assets, 18 percent due to employment, 15 percent to transfers, 8 percent due to education and 1 percent due to lack of family support. In the urban areas, on the other hand, 45 percent of poverty is due to employment factors, 12 percent due to education, 11 percent due to transfers, and 9 percent each due to lack of family support and lack of assets.

The Planning Commission indicates that poverty should be considered as a poverty band rather than a line. Above this band, there are people who are in the vulnerable zone. People falling in this zone are vulnerable to external shocks and may fall into poverty. Below the poverty band, the people are in the transient zone, which means that they are more likely to move out of poverty. Below the transient zone are those people who are in absolute poverty. Different policies are needed for different zones. But there is a need for special projects and programmes to protect the absolute poor.

The quantitative analysis of poverty is based on the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES). According to the HIES, poverty based on the Head-Count Ratio (HCR) has increased from 24.9 percent in 1992-93 to 30.6 percent in 1998-99. Based on the caloric intake of 2,350 per adult equivalent per day, poverty line is estimated at Rs 673.54 per capita per month in 1989-90. This implies that a family of 6 and with an income of Rs 4,041 are living below the poverty line. The data set also indicates that rural poverty has remained higher than urban poverty.

The analysis of poverty has also identified three key areas of concern which if improved could help in improving the poverty situation in the country. These include three type of gaps viz financial, social and managerial. Public expenditure is suffering from weak prioritisation, inadequate project screening and weak monitoring and supervision. Increased public expenditure has not been observed to make an impact on improving human development indicators and poverty reduction. The major examples are that of the Prime Minister's Five Point Programme, various MNA/MPA programmes and the Social Action Programme. Despite significant growth in the budget in the social sector including heath and education, per capita expenditure in these sectors is low compared to most of the developing countries. Evaluation of various targeted programmes shows that more than $2/5^{th}$ of the budget is not reaching the target population. Around 80 percent of the total budget is current expenditure, while only 20 percent is available for development.

The IPRSP is the first step in the direction of preparing a comprehensive national anti-poverty strategy. It encompasses the economic structure, and social initiatives and has the proposed drivers for poverty reduction. It identifies poverty reduction indicators and monitoring mechanisms. It also outlines a participatory process for preparing the full PRSP. The IPRSP has five important drivers - economic reforms, creating physical assets specially for the poor, creating social assets, providing social safety nets and ensuring good governance. Economic reforms include stabilisation efforts that would comprise tax reforms for greater revenue generation, expenditure management, debt management etc. These reforms would also require providing enabling environment for greater investment opportunities. It will also encompass infrastructure development and carrying privatisation forward.

The physical asset creation for the poor includes provision of land, housing and access to credit. The social asset creation includes education, health, nutrition, population programmes, water supply and sanitation. Provision of social safety nets includes programmers such as Khushal Pakistan Programme,

Zakat, Food Support Programme, Social Protection Programme and indigenous philanthropy. Governance issues would be resolved through devolution of power, civil services reforms, access to justice and police reforms.

The IPRSP envisaged a public sector development expenditure of Rs 130.4 billion during 2000-01, and rising to Rs 224.7 billion in 2003-04. The sectors would also receive higher allocations during subsequent years. The total private sector expenditure would rise from a figure of Rs 139 billion in 2000-01 to Rs 174 billion in 2003-04. The total public and private sector expenditure would rise from Rs 269 billion during 2000-01 to Rs 399 billion during 2003-04. The total expenditure as percent of GDP would rise from 3.7 percent during 2000-01 to 8 percent during 2003-04.

The road to full PRSP presented, indicated that it should be fully participatory in which broader consultation on antipoverty strategy would have to take place. Similarly, the approach must allow bottom-up planning and the communities must express their views on the strategies and programmes. In this process the input of the local population in PRSP preparation will be critical in building up of the ownership of the PRSP. The process will help to divert national resources to projects and programmes originating from the local communities in a cost-effective manner. The briefing concluded that there is a need to develop a dialogue on PRSP at the grassroots level. For this purpose countrywide coverage has to be achieved on 108 districts.

3. Major issues discussed

Inclusion of social mobilization for poverty reduction in the PRSP

The discussion was facilitated and steered by PT. SSK pointed out that unless people are mobilised poverty cannot be reduced. RSPs have a targeted programme and are able to address the needs of the poor. The government, he said, has to recognise the importance of targeting poverty. It has to, he further said, take the lead role and the NGOs alone cannot perform this task by themselves. Citing an example of Khushal Pakistan, he noted that it has helped in implementing 5,000 projects giving employment to 0.5 million people. On the contrary, the Community Physical Infrastructure Initiative Project (CII) implemented by SRSP showed, he said, that if similar targeted approach was followed by the government, it could have implemented 50,000 projects within the same resources and extended employment to the greater number of 5 million people. PT responded by agreeing with the assessment that people need to be involved in planning and implementing of projects and programmes. He said that this was the major reason this briefing has been organised for the RSPs and their support is required to incorporate social mobilization as a driver of poverty reduction in the PRSP.

Wider consultation required for full PRSP

It was recognised that wider consultation is required if the road to full PRSP is to be effectively realized. For this SSK suggested that the RSPs can offer the districts in which they are present and the government representatives can hold their dialogues directly with the people. He however cautioned, that the government should not approach the people with pre-conceived packages and listen first to their

needs and opportunities. He advised the RSPs that while facilitating the consultation exercise between the people and the government, it should be borne in mind that the support required by the people would not necessarily be that which is currently being provided by them. He said that the canvas of support would be much larger as it involves the government. In this regard, he further advised that the consultation between the government and the people should include larger forums representing the district. PT pointed out the time scale for completing the consultation process and said that it should be completed by early next year so that by March/April the full PRSP is documented. On a query, PT explained that government ownership also meant that the national assembly has to debate the document before the donors will consider it seriously. Out of the 64 developing countries involved in the PRSP process, two countries viz Tanzania and Uganda have already passed their PRSP's at their respective assemblies. He said that the final PRSP has to be passed by the newly elected assembly of Pakistan.

The next steps

PT suggested that it was important for the management of each RSP to first understand and absorb the analysis presented in the IRSP. Therefore, the next step in the direction of full PRSP is that the management of each of the RSPs should be briefed in the same way as presently being done at the RSPN level, with the briefing done by the RSP representatives attending the present meeting. SK and PT should act as facilitators. SSK suggested that RSPN should coordinate dates of such briefings and these should be held by end December. He further advised that pilot consultations by the government and the people should be facilitated in one district falling in the purview of each of the RSPs. This would help, he said, in developing understanding within the government of the targeted approach to development and then further discussions based on these pilot discussions can take place in the rest of the districts of Pakistan.

4. Decisions

1. Social mobilisation should be recognized by the government as the central theme in any poverty reduction programmes and should be part of the full PRSP
2. A briefing should be held by the management of each of the RSPs and this process should be completed by end December.
3. The pilot consultation with the people should be done at one district in each of the programme districts of the RSPs. The people should not be approached by the government representatives with preconceived notions and should listen to their needs and opportunities
4. The pilot consultation process should be completed by January next year. The rest of the districts of Pakistan based on the experience of the pilot consultation can be completed by March and PRSP input may be finalized by April.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S.No.	Name	Designation
1	Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan (SSK)	Chairman, BoD, RSPN
2	Ms Shandana Khan	CEO, RSPN
3	Mr Masood ul Mulk	CEO, SRSP
4	Dr Shahida Jaffary	CEO, BRSP
5	Mr Zafarullah Khan	CEO, GBTI
6	Mr Agha Javad	General Manager, NRSP
7	Dr Amjad Saqib	Regional General Manager, PRSP
8	Mr Feroz Shah	Specialist, Social Mobilisation, RSPN
9	Mr Zafar U. Ahmed	Specialist, MER, RSPN
10	Mr Ghias Mohammad Khan	Regional Coordinator SASMON
11	Mr Mujtaba Paracha	Programme Economist, AKRSP, Islamabad
12	Mr Sarmad Khan	PM, PMER, SRSP
13	Mr. Muhammad Maqsood	Acting Program Manager, LPRP
14	Dr. Pervez Tahir (PT)	Chief Economist, Planning Commission, GoP
15	Dr. M. Aslam Khan	Chief Poverty Alleviation Section, Planning Commission, GoP

Annex – III

List Of Districts Where I-PRSP Dialogues Were Conducted By RSPs

RSP	DISTRICTS
SRSP	Abbottabad Mansehra Haripur Kohat Nowshera Peshawar
LPRP	Lachi
TRDP	Tharparkar
NRSP	Thatta Badin Rahim Yar Khan Bahawalpur Lodhran Khushab ICT Attock D G Khan Malakand Turbat Gowadar Bagh Rawalakot Kotli
BRSP	Mastung
PRSP	Faisalabad T.T Singh Gujranwala Hafizabad M. Bahauddin Lahore Kasur Sheikhupura Multan Khanewal Muzaffargarh Layyah Sahiwal Pakpattan Okara Sargodah Jhang Sialkot Narowal Gujrat

AKRSP	Skardu Chitral Gilgit
GBTI	Attock Swabi Haripur
SGA	Larkana
TOTAL	**49**

Annex - IV

Workshop Report on I-PRSP

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Pervez Tahir, Chief Economist, Planning
Mushtaq A. Khan, Director, CRPRID

Zafar Iqbal, Senior Economist, IMF
Zulfiqar Ahmed, Program Officer, DFID
Nighat-un-Nisa, Program Officer, DFID
Saadia Refagat, Economist, IMF
Ameena Khan, Project Officer, ILO

Rashid Bajwa, CEO, NRSP
Masoodul Mulk, CEO, SRSP
Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, CEO, GBTI
Shandana Khan, CEO, RSPN
Agha Ali Javed, GM, NRSP
Feroz Shah, SSM, RSPN
Faisal Awan, Specialist SS, RSPN
Zafar U. Ahmed, Specialist MER, RSPN
Feryal Gauhar, Director, Cinemaya
Sarmad Khan, PM-PMER, SRSP
Mujtaba Piracha, Program Economist, AKRSP
Muhammad Maqsood, APM, LPRP
Muhammad Akbar, BRSP
Virginia Appell, MER, NRSP
Anwar-ul-Haq, PO-MER, NRSP
Zeenat Khalid, PO-PMER, PRSP
Ali Akbar Qureshi, RSPN
Hamid Ashraf, SASMON
Zahid Abid, Intern, RSPN

Summary of Proceedings

The seminar began with a brief introduction from the RSPN CEO, Ms. Shandana Khan, on the I-PRSP dialogues conducted by the RSPs across the country. Approximately 121 dialogues were conducted including close to 4,500 people and one-third women's participation. The dialogues were conducted on the issue of poverty, the main factors behind it, and the government resources that can be utilized to address the problem effectively. The seminar was also to bring to light things that the RSPs could do to assist the government in better service delivery.

Dr. Pervaiz Tahir chaired the seminar and provided an initial input. He presented a background on the I-PRSP initiative of the government, and the RSPs' involvement in the processing and development of the full PRSP. He pointed out that political involvement in the matter was not there yet as the new government's installation was still to be completed (senate to be elected). Once that is in place, a parliamentary forum should be formed to address the poverty issue. He was thankful to all RSPs for starting the related consultation dialogues on their own.

The introduction was followed by presentations prepared by some RSPs on the dialogues conducted in their areas. Mr. Agha Ali Jawad presented for NRSP, Mr. Sarmad Khan for SRSP, Mr. Zafarullah Khan for GBTI, and Mr. Mohammed Akbar for BRSP. After the conclusion of the presentations, the floor was opened to all participants for their input/comments on the conducted dialogues, issues to be addressed, and methodologies to be improved on.

Starting the discussion was Nighat –un – Nisa from DFID, who pointed out the challenge of utilizing/inducting the information from the dialogues into the full PRSP at the national and provincial level. She inquired on how the RSPs were making linkages with the PPA on the poverty issue.

Mr. Zafar Iqbal, IMF, encouraged the work of the stakeholders (i.e. community organizations, NGOs, and donors) in helping the government with the PRSP process. He identified the role of IMF in the process, which was mainly to monitor I-PRSP activities and other governance issues. Ms. Faryal Gauhar pointed out that the presentations and the dialogue videos viewed so far did not mention the ownership of the means of production/land in the PRSP. She asked whether the RSPs had employed a specific methodology when carrying out the consultation dialogues, and whether the poor were detailed on the intentions/specifics of the PRSP. Mr. Javad here clarified that the details of the I-PRSP were deliberately not made known to the addressed people, as the RSPs wanted to get a pure/unbiased feedback on the poverty reduction plan from them. He further asserted that in most of the dialogues, the issue of land holding/reform/feudalism did not arise. The people were more interested in properly utilizing the land they already owned.

Dr. Mushtaq Khan said that the RSPs have to be very quick in relaying the information from the consultations to the national and provincial governments, as the final PRSP would be coming out in March. He further raised three points in conjunction with the I-PRSP dialogues. Firstly, he asked about the methodology used to conduct the dialogues. Secondly, he suggested that the final PRSP should include a provision whereby the poor would be provided something like land and security to fish them out of the poverty net. Third, he advised more focus be given to gender empowerment in the final PRSP.

Mr. Masood-ul-Mulk commented that the time-frame of the dialogues was very short, and it would need to be extended if all issues relating to power and equality were to be fully explored. The methodology could never be expressed in the given short span of the dialogues. Mr. Jawad here affirmed that the women in the dialogues did in fact indirectly touch upon the gender issues in their discussions on education and population.

Providing his insight on the dialogues, Dr. Bajwa expressed positively that the people were still not hopeless about the government and were now demanding 'service delivery' from it. Moreover, emphasis was given on injustice as being the major factor behind poverty. With the country being cash-starved, he inquired as to how the PRSP was going to facilitate the people's demand for the access to financial resources. He suggested that rather at looking at a project with fiscal numbers/indicators, it was better if we looked at its effectiveness, or in other words, the number of people being served. Finally, he said that it was important to present the information from the consultations in a form that could be easily digested by the government.

Mr. Mujtaba Piracha noted that the poverty issues coming up in the northern region were different than those in the other areas – inequality and land distribution were not the main issues here. He suggested blending in the PPAF's work with the RSPs', as it provided good regional output, and sorting out the information to include in the final PRSP.

Ms. Khan provided a clarification of the I-PRSP dialogue methodology. Given the input coming from the different participants, she was of the view that maybe there was a need to do more focused dialogues.

Dr. Tahir, providing his final analysis, focused on the gaps that had been pointed out in the discussion. He mentioned that the PPAF had chalked out a methodology before conducting their poverty related dialogues, and had trained their people in the same. However, the PPAF had started before the government's IPRSP process had even begun, and therefore the subject matter is not identical. He concluded that the majority of the dialogues were good, and expected them to be included in some form in the full PRSP, but also stressed on the importance of establishing linkages with the provinces in the process. Commenting on the I-PRSP, he said that the document needed a lot of work on issues pertaining to gender, environment, employment, and the macroeconomic framework as a whole.

Ms. Khan concluded the discussion by stating the need for better implementation mechanisms to strengthen the consultation/PRSP process. She also noted that the gender issues had to be addressed and more women organizations were to be consulted in the future. She thanked the participants for their input and suggestions, and invited them again for consultations before sending the final RSP submissions for the full PRSP.

Consultation meeting of Rural Support Programmes' Dialogues with Community Organizations on the Pakistan I-PRSP

7TH February, 2003

Programme:

Welcome and Introduction by Shandana Khan, CEO RSPN	3:00 – 3:10
Opening Remarks	3:10 – 3:15
Video Film on Community Dialogue	3:15 – 3:25
Briefings on Community Dialogues:	
Agha Javad, GM NRSP	3:25 – 3:40
Sarmad Khan, Programme Manager MER, SRSP	3:40 – 3:55
Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, CEO GBTI	3:55 – 4:00
Mohammed Akbar, BRSP	4:00 – 4:05
Open Discussion	4:05 – 5:00
Note of Thanks	

Presentation on I-PRSP