



## Rural Communities in the Fight Against COVID-19

**[May 12, 2020, ICT]:** Under the government's community mobilisation strategy in the battle against COVID-19 in rural Pakistan, the NCOC and federal Ministry of Health are collaborating with the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and its member RSPs. In rural ICT, the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) organised a second training of rural, community activists and NRSP staff in collaboration with the ICT administration. The session took place today in ICT's rural union council, Kirpa.

NRSP operates in five rural union councils of ICT, having built a strong network of community-based organisations at three tiers ie neighbourhood level Community Organisations (COs), village level Village Organisations (VOs) and union council level Local Support Organisations (LSOs). LSOs exist in all five rural UCs of ICT. NRSP's outreach touches 30,000 people in these Union Councils. There are a total of 59 Village Organisations (VOs) in these 5 LSOs, with a base membership of 4,112 women and 596 men.

In today's training, 20 community activists were trained in awareness on COVID-19, the identification and contact tracing of suspected cases and method of referral of these cases to Basic Health Units. A major focus was on awareness to combat COVID-19, Trace, Test and quarantine (TTQ) and similar SOPs to control dengue fever. The sessions were delivered by Ms. Balqees Alam and Ms. Riffat Wahab from District Health Department Islamabad. Mr. Umer Randhawa, Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG), visited the training centre and distributed certificates to participants. Mr. Randhawa visited a mosque and observed the process of chlorine spray and display of posters with messages regarding COVID-10. Mr. Malik Fateh Khan, Regional General Manager NRSP, and Mr. Ch. Muhammad Tariq Nazir who manages the ICT programme at NRSP also participated.



**NRSP**

National Rural Support Programme



Figure 1 Mr Randhawa, Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) ICT, distributing certificates to trained community activists of NRSP in Kirpa Union Council.



Figure 2 Second training session on COVID-19 being held in rural ICT



**NRSP**

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*Figure 3 Second training session being held in UC Kirpa*