



Rural Communities in the Fight Against **COVID-19**

Strengthening the Citizen-State Relationship

**Update on RSP Collaboration with 66 District Administrations
(1500 Union Councils) (Community Mobilisation for TTQ)**

30 June 2020

Scope of NCOC collaboration with RSPs



Pakistan's first, organised community-led response in rural areas to the COVID-19 emergency



This unique public-private partnership between **the GOP and community Local Support Organisations (LSOs)** created by RSPs, is strengthening citizen-state links. LSOs are union council-level community institutions



In **1500** union councils of 66 districts seven RSPs are entering into agreements with district administrations as a public service, linking LSOs to government to battle COVID-19;



1,500 LSOs in 66 districts in all provinces, AJK, GB and NMDs will work with government through trained community activists (women and men) to create awareness about COVID-19, preventive measures, assist in contact tracing and reporting of suspicious cases (TTQ), after being trained by district authorities;



About **20 million** people will benefit from this collaboration.

Geographic outreach of RSP-NCOC collaboration

| Ref. | Province/ Region | No. of Districts | No. of LSOs / Rural UCs | Name of RSP |
|------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A | Azad Jammu & Kashmir | 8 | 127 | NRSP |
| B | Balochistan | 11 | 223 | NRSP, BRSP |
| C | Gilgit-Baltistan | 9 | 58 | AKRSP |
| D | Islamabad Capital Territory | 1 | 5 | NRSP |
| E | Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa | 7 | 141 | SRSP, NRSP, GBTI, AKRSP |
| F | Punjab | 14 | 406 | NRSP |
| G | Sindh | 16 | 540 | SRSO, NRSP, TRDP |
| | Total | 66 | 1,500 | 7 RSPs |

Signing of MOUs between Provincial/District Authorities & RSPs

| S. No | Province | Total No of Districts for NCOC Collaboration | No of Districts and No of MOUs Signed with RSP | No of District Level Coordination Meetings Held |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) | 8 | 8 (AJK level MOU covering all 8 districts) | 8 |
| 2 | Balochistan | 11 | 9 MOUs for 8 Districts * | 33 |
| 3 | Gilgit Baltistan (GB) | 9 | 7 | 33 |
| 4 | Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) | 7 | 8 for 6 Districts ** | 22 |
| 6 | Punjab | 14 | 14 *** | 42 |
| 7 | Sindh | 16 | 17 MOUs for 15 Districts **** | 73 |
| Total | | 66 | 64 MOUs for 59 Districts | 214 |

* Duki is a recently created district from Loralai, therefore a separate MOU signed with Duki's administration to work with LSOs was included in Loralai district

** SRSP and NRSP have signed an MOU with DC of Mardan, similarly SRSP and GBTI have signed an MOU with DC of Haripur (KP)

*** For Muzaffargarh, a tehsil-level MOU is signed with Assistant Commissioner - Jatoi

**** SRSO and NRSP have signed an MOU each with DCs of Badin and Thatta (Sindh)

Activities conducted by trained LSO leaders and Community Resource Persons (CRPs)

| Serial No | Province | Activities Done | No of LSOs involved. UC Level | No of Revenue Villages Covered | Total Beneficiary Population | | | Total No. of Community Activists Involved in Activities | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|-------|---|-----|-------|
| | | | | | Women | Men | Total | Women | Men | Total |
| 1 | ICT (NRSP) | 1) Community awareness raising 2) Mosque announcements, 3) IEC material distribution, 4) Distribution of face-masks 5) Distribution of soaps, 6) Implementation of TTQ strategy, 7) Social protection. | 5 | 50 | 54,067 Women, 88,214 Men, <u>142,281 Total</u> | 306 Women, 180 Men, <u>486 Total</u> | | | | |
| 2 | Punjab (NRSP)* | 1) Community awareness raising, 2) Mosque announcements, 3) IEC material distribution, 4) Distribution of face-masks 5) Distribution of soaps, 6) Chlorine spraying, 7) Social protection. | 190 | 2,200 | 138,861 Women, 133,416 Men, <u>272,277 Total</u> | 1,810 Women, 1,883 Men, <u>3,693 Total</u> | | | | |
| 3 | KP (NRSP) | Awareness Raising | 14 | 93 | <u>1,747 Women, 0 Men, 1,747 Total</u> | <u>30 Women, 0 Men, 30 Total</u> | | | | |
| | Balochistan (BRSP) | 1) Community awareness sessions, 2) IEC material distribution, 3) Mosque/mobile announcements, 4) Social protection, 5) Implementation of TTQ strategy | 27 | 48 | <u>3,822 Women, 9,394 Men, 13,216 Total</u> | <u>59 Women, 175 Men, 234 Total</u> | | | | |
| 3 | Sindh (SRSO)** | 1) Community awareness raising, 2) awareness announcements in public spaces, 3) IEC material distribution | 198 | 291 | 10,233 Women, 589 Men, <u>10,822 Total</u> | 228 Women, 46 Men, <u>274 Total</u> | | | | |
| 4 | Sindh (TRDP)*** | 1) Distribution of soaps, 2) Gloves and 3) Face-marks | 2 | 4 | <u>5,336 Women, 0 Men, 5,336 Total</u> | <u>4 Women, 0 Men, 4 Total</u> | | | | |
| Total | | | 436 | 2,686 | <u>214,066 Women, 231,61 Men, 445,679 Total</u> | <u>2,437 Women, 2,284 Men, 4,721 Total</u> | | | | |

* NRSP reported community-level activities in 13 districts of Punjab ie Attock, Chakwal, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Jhelum, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rawalpindi, Bhakkar, Khushab, Mianwali, Sargodha

** SRSO reported community-level activities in 10 districts of Sindh ie Badin, Jacobabad, Kambar-Shahdadkot, Kashmore, Khairpur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Shikarpur & Thatta

*** TRDP reported community-level activities in 2 districts of Sindh ie Dadu and Jamshoro

**** BRSP reported community-level activities in 6 districts of Balochistan ie Pishin, Zhob, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Duki and Khuzdar

RSP staff & community activists oriented/trained by district authorities

| Serial No | Province | Number and Type of Training Organised by District Authorities | No of RSP Staff Trained | | | No of Community Activists Trained (ie LSO Leaders and Community Resource Persons (CRPs)) | | | No of UCs |
|--------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------|------------|------------------|--|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| | | | Women | Men | Total | Women | Men | Total | |
| 1 | ICT (NRSP) | 5 Events of Training on combating COVID-19 (Awareness Raising & TTQ) | 2 | 5 | 7 | 102 | 15 | 117 | 5 |
| 2 | Punjab (NRSP) | 125 Events of Training on combating COVID-19 (Awareness Raising & TTQ) | 48 | 152 | 200 | 1,264 | 1,203 | 2,467 | 124 |
| 3 | KP (NRSP) | 3 Events of Training on combating COVID-19 (Awareness Raising & TTQ) | 20 | 6 | 26 | 2 | 18 | 20 | 2 |
| 4 | Sindh (SRSO) | 7 Events on COVID-19 Precautionary Measures, Awareness | 6 | 14 | 20 | 77 | 9 | 86 | 38 |
| 5 | Balochistan (BRSP) | 2 Event on Community Awareness and TTQ | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 32 | 32 | 21 |
| Total | | 142 events organised. Content includes public awareness and TTQ. | 76 | 187 | 263 Total | 1,445 | 1,277 | 2,722 Total | 190 |

List of activities conducted by community activists



272

suspected cases identifies and referred to ICT health department



39

(41% women) contacts traced on request of ICT health department



84,196

(74% women) benefitted from community awareness raising sessions



161,471

(60% women) provided IEC materials (pamphlets, brochures, leaflets)



3,006

(42% women) individuals benefitted from chlorine spraying in rural areas



32,091

poorest families supported to access public social protection initiatives



38,698

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



20,639

(70% women) face-masks distributed



427

(30% women) provided hygiene-kits



8,577

individuals **(49% women)** benefitted form COVID-19 awareness SMS sent;



95,824

(47% women) individuals reached via mosque announcements and mobile announcements for enhancing community awareness on COVID-19 and preventive measures

Case studies on community leaders' work

Case 1:

Ms Abida, Treasurer LSO Roshan Deeo, District Kamber Shahdadkot, Sindh

Training:

Ms Abida received the training on community mobilisation component of TTQ from SRSO.

Activities:

- Conducts awareness sessions on COVID-19 at community and household level;
- Distributed 50 face-masks in two villages;
- Supported 150 needy households with food rations;
- Assisted 291 poor households to register with Ehsaas programme;

Community response:

Awareness levels on COVID-19 and preventive measures in communities is now enhanced. Communities are now practicing all the critical precautionary measures in their daily life.

Challenges:

Demand for face-masks & soaps has now increased and some mechanism needs to be established to make these available for poor and poorest households.



Case 2:

Ms Pathani, LSO Shah Latif, UC Balouchabad, District Mirpurkhas, Sindh

Training:

Ms Pathani received training on Combating COVID-19 on 19th June organised by SRSO and district health department.

Activities:

Delivered awareness sessions to 152 women of 9 villages, on health/ hygiene and COVID-19 preventive measures, and also distributed IEC material and soaps.

Community response:

Communities are appreciating the support of district health dept., and following SOPs.

Challenges:

Travel in public transport is risky as well as expensive, people are becoming less careful about preventive measures after lifting lockdown by the government.



Lessons, Challenges & Recommendations

- There is a **general lack of awareness about COVID-19** and preventive measures in rural areas – unlike the common perception that everyone is aware. Awareness sessions by community activists are helping and must continue on a large scale;
- **People's response is overall positive.** Communities are eager to get information on disease and gain knowledge about preventive measures;
- **Easing of lockdown** by government makes it more difficult for activists to convince people to observe preventive measures;
- **Provincial & district authorities have started realising the importance of social capital ie community institutions** fostered by RSPs, to put out awareness messages. They have shown interest to work through community institutions to deliver other, essential services eg EPI, polio campaigns, family planning, etc.;
- Initial results from the collaboration are more positive where the **provincial governments** are strongly leading the initiative;
- RSPs are **supporting NCOC collaboration through other, funded programmes.** Scale-up, if required, can only be done through providing RSPs with resources;
- There is increased pressure on **rural women** due to unemployment of men due to lockdown. Domestic violence against women and children has increased;
- Protection of community activists and RSP staff is extremely important ie **PPEs**. NCOC is requested to facilitate this. RSPN is collecting PPE demand from RSPs.
- SOPs on home quarantine and self isolation need greater attention at this stage
- Many district administrations have no training material or training expertise. RSPs doing this at their own cost in most districts;
- Health Department needs to provide clear guidelines to communities and ensure cooperation in contact tracing and reporting of suspicious cases. This requires testing and follow up. Testing facilities non existent in rural areas. Testing facility in Balochistan only in Quetta.

Next Steps

- 7 district MOUs remain to be signed (3 Balochistan, 2 GB, 1 KP, 1 Sindh)
- RSPs are increasingly coordinating activities funded by donors and others in these UCs for greater impact
- Communication strategy submitted by RSPN to NCOC needs feedback
- Current 1500 UCs in 66 districts are being done at RSP cost. RSPN has developed a costed proposal for scale-up in 4,717 UCs of 111 rural districts (61 additional plus 50 from Phase-I collaboration with UCs were not covered earlier). RSPN will submit the said scale-up proposal during the first week of July 2020.



BRSP organised a one-day training in **Duki district Balochistan** on TTQ for community activists of 7 union councils. The main training sessions were delivered by DHO Dr. Haleem Nasar and Dr. Johar.



Commissioner **Mirpur, AJK** with NRSP Managers preparing for field visit to oversee the work of NRSP's fostered communities public awareness campaigns about COVID-19 and implementation of TTQ strategy.



A meeting was convened with DC Haripur (KP) after the signing of MoU regarding the implementation of TTQ under the NCOC collaboration. Officials from GBTI, SRSP, health department and concerned Assistant Commissioners participated in the meeting.



Training on TTQ Implementation held in LSO Khandar Welfare & Development Organization office, **district Mardan KP** on 27th June 2020. Dr. Muslim Khan and Dr. Zawar Hussain from DHO Office Mardan delivered the sessions on TTQ and awareness on COVID-19.



NRSP **Chakwal, Punjab** team involving children and mothers in awareness on COVID-19 pandemic.

Website: www.rspn.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RSPNPakistan>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/RSPN_PK
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