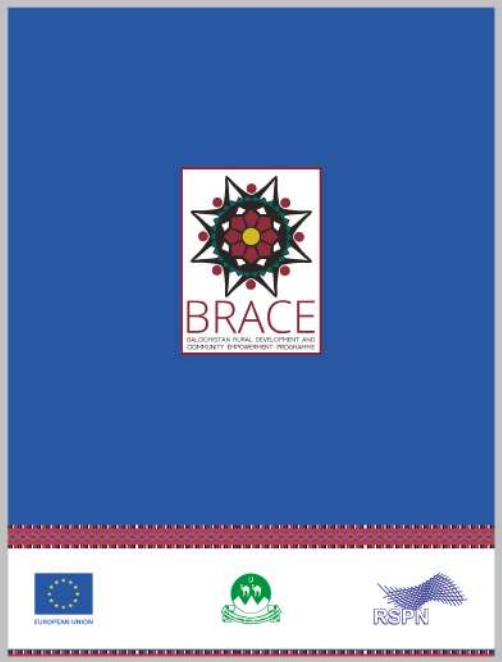
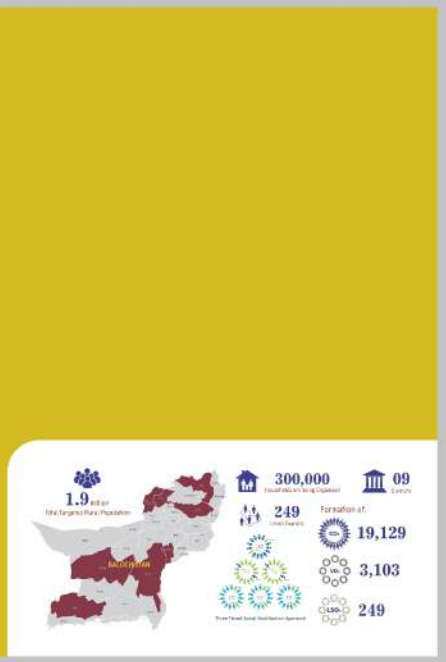
FILE COVER DESIGN





Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme is supported by the European Union (EU) and implemented in close collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Department of the Government of Balochistan (GoB). The Grant component of this five year (2017-2022) Programme is implemented by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in nine districts of Balochistan, namely Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Pishin, Duki, Washuk and Zhob. The Programme is technically supported by Human Dynamics (HD), an Austrian company that will support GoB in fostering an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local authorities to manage and involve communities in the executory local public sector planning, financing and implementation processes.

The overall objective of BRACE Programme is to support the Government of Balochistan in reducing the negative impact of economic deprivation, poverty and social inequality, environmental degradation and climate change, and to turn this into opportunities to build and empower resilient communities participating actively in identifying and implementing socio-economic development activities on a sustainable basis in partnership with local authorities. Under the BRACE Programme, 1.9 million Pakistani citizens of 300,000 poor rural households in 249 union councils (UCs) will be mobilised and organised into a network of peoples own institutions i.e. 19,129 Community Organisations, 3,103 Village Organisations, 249 Local Support Organisations (LSOs) and 31 LSO Networks at tehsil level and nine LSO Networks at district level. Once organised, the communities will have greater access to local authorities and line departments as a collective unit, giving them a stronger voice, to have their demands heard. The Community Institutions will then prepare their own development plans in consultation with local authorities and these communities will be made financially viable through provision of community investment fund to 23,330 poor households to start/boost up their businesses for income generation. Approximately 14,000 community members, especially women, will be provided technical and vocational education training and literacy and numeracy skills to increase economic opportunities and employability. The communities will be facilitated to build and manage 363 common by level physical infrastructure schemes and more than 10,000 poorest member households will be provided with income generating grants and micro health insurance to safeguard them against health and economic shocks.

By the end of the Programme, it is expected that at least 25% of the poor household will see an improvement in their incomes; at least 40% of the households will graduate from the lowest to upper poverty score card band levels; at least 50% of the households of the targeted areas will report improved access to basic social services and at least 30% of members of community institutions and beneficiaries of socio-economic interventions are women. Moreover, by 2018 a policy framework for community-led development will be developed and adopted by GoB and public finance management reform process will be initiated in the province.

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EUROPEAN UNION

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Rural Support Programme Network
RNZ Complex, 3rd Floor, Plot# 7, Sunrise Avenue
Off Park Road, Near COMSATS University,
Islamabad, Pakistan
Phone: +92-51-8491278-98, Fax +92-51-8355751
www.rspn.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BRACE Programme