



FIELD VISIT REPORT: COMING TOGETHER WITH THOSE FURTHEST BEHIND TO BUILD INCLUSIVE AND DEVELOPED COMMUNITIES



BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (BRACE) PROGRAMME

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BALOCHISTAN

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR THE BRACE's GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



AKNOWLEDGMENT

I am very thankful to BRSP district Kech BRACE Programme team for their selfless and untiring support for ensuring my field visits to observe BRACE Programme interventions and activities in the field for transforming poor people lives. Big thank to Mr. Ghulam Rasool Baloch, Programme Manager, and Mr. Saeed Ahmad, Senior MER Officer for their support and work in district Kech.

www.rspn.org

<https://www.facebook.com/BRACE Programme/>

www.BRACE Programme.org.pk

AUTHOR:

ASMAT KAKAR

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER
BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMME, RSPN**

First version developed in 2018.

© 2018 Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN). All Rights Reserved.



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

More information about European Union is available on:

Web: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/>

Twitter: @EUPakistan

Facebook: [European-Union-in-Pakistan/26974504320745](https://www.facebook.com/European-Union-in-Pakistan/26974504320745)

1. PURPOSE OF FIELD VISIT:

The purpose of my field visit to district Kech was to support the implementing partner National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) for the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment BRACE Programme in operationalisation of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Quality Assurance and Control Plan (QACP) Checklists, Mainstreaming of gender with reference to gender sensitivity guidelines in the Programme interventions, and provision of support regarding review of interim report and ROM mission prospective visit, and to participate in the Joint District Development Committee's meeting and provide technical support regarding creation of robust linkages among Community Institutions and Local authorities including administrative departments. Moreover, assess progress of Programme's interventions with reference to revised plan.

2. KEY FINDINGS:

Overall, the Programme activities have been performed according to the standardised and uniformed approach in BRACE Programme PIM, M&E Framework, and QACP Checklists developed by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) with consultation of National Support Programme Network (NRSP), Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) Government of Balochistan (GoB) and Human Dynamics (HD), however due to unavailability of internet, there has been issues in showing the actual progress made on the Programme activities in the field.

1. With reference to follow up Mr. Khurram Shahzad, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at RSPN's previous visit, there has been a very positive progress against the given social mobilisation targets in the revised social mobilisation strategy developed by NRSP with support of RSPN.
2. Strong citizens and state relationship, civic engagement and oversight are the key factors in improving governance, services delivery, and achieving inclusive development. District Kech Joint District Development Committee meeting was held under Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme in which all activities under BRACE Programme were brought under discussion for establishing sustainable and

robust cooperation and linkages among government departments and community institutions for better services delivery. NRSP presented a list of CPIs mentioned by community institutions in their respective Village Development Plans (VDP) which were then tallied with government PSDP to avoid duplication and seek government support for initiating development and services delivery programmes for communities which cannot be covered under limited resources of BRACE Programme. Meeting was attended by representatives from local authorities including Additional Deputy Commissioner, Education Department, Social Welfare Department, Local Government, Public Health Engineering Department, RSPN and Community Institutions.

3. Follow up on previous monitoring action points shared by Mr. Khurram Shahzad, M&E Specialist RSPN with reference to lack of operationalisation of M&E Framework and application of QACP Checklists by field teams was taken. According to my visit, I observed that BRACE Programme activities were monitored, and their quality was guaranteed through the use and application of processes and checklists given in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and Quality Assurance and Control Plan of the BRACE Programme
4. IT and internet issues remained unresolved which is affecting showing of Programme progress on MIS. Due to unavailability/slow speed of internet, there has been issues in showing the actual progress made on the Programme activities in the field.
5. Gender sensitivity of the Programme has been ensured through disaggregated activities for men and women members of the community organisations
6. For social mobilisation more than 70 % Female Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have been hired to ensure gender balance and inclusiveness in the Programme implementation
7. For the first time a differently able CRP has been hired for implementing Programme activities in his respective community. This shows good for ensuring inclusiveness and sensitization towards differently able persons in the district. Moreover, a differently able Master Trainer has been hired to train more than 400 women on Technical Vocational and Educational Trainings (TVET) in the district under BRACE Programme

3. KEY PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTATION REVIEWED

During my field visit, I observed the implementation of following BRACE Programme activities in district Kech by NRSP BRACE Programme staff.

3.1 JOINT DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Under the BRDCE programme, Joint District Development Committees (JDDC) for both local authorities and community institutions representatives have been established and institutionalized at District level and regularly convened, in order to serve as a forum to plan, implement and monitor the local development plans. District Kech JDDC was notified by the Secretary Local Government & Rural Development Department of Government of Balochistan on 2nd October 2018.

On 22nd February District Kech Joint District Development Committee meeting was held under Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme in which all activities under BRACE Programme were discussed for establishing sustainable and robust cooperation and linkages among government departments and community institutions for better services delivery at grassroots level. NRSP presented a list of CPIs proposed by community institutions in their respective Village Development Plans (VDP) which were then tallied with government PSDP to avoid duplication and seek government support for including community needs into PSDP. Meeting was attended by representatives from local authorities including Additional Deputy Commissioner, Education Department, Social Welfare Department, Local Government, Public Health Engineering Department, RSPN and Community Institutions. While participating in the JDDC meeting discussion, I highlighted the importance of JDDC for coming together with those furthest behind to build inclusive and developed communities particularly in rural areas. Moreover, strong citizens and state relationship such as in the form of community institutions and local authorities, and civic engagement and oversight is very necessary for ensuring inclusive development in rural areas of Balochistan.

Through JDDC, the Department of Social Welfare, Literacy & Special Education have notified and shared the list of Resource Persons for conducting Technical, Vocational and Educational Trainings (TVET) for the community members identified through households Micro Investment Plans (MIPs) under BRACE Programme.



JDDC Meeting in NRSP Regional Office at District Keoh

Moreover, through JDDC, Deputy Commissioner district Keoh had asked NRSP to support district administration in distribution of ration both food and non-food items among drought affected households in the district. NRSP first shared the list of BRACE Programme Poverty Score Card (PSC) of all households falling in PSC band (0-11) from all the Union Councils. Then facilitated them through respective community institutions for timely and fair distribution of ration. More than 2500 poorest households benefited from this relief. This shows how community institutions are playing a vital role in developing linkages with local authorities for effective services delivery, and working as the most responsive and reliable platform in terms of providing relief in natural disasters.

During the JDDC meeting NRSP BRACE Programme staff presented twenty-five Community Physical Infrastructures (CPIs) proposed by community institutions in their respective Village Development Plans (VDPs).

In JDDC meeting it was decided that some CPIs will be revised such as education department also has allocated funds for renovation of schools proposed by CIs in their respective VDPs. Moreover, Public Health Engineering department will provide pipes for provision of water supply from the main water tank.

District Administration has assured full cooperation for the implementation of BRACE Programme activities in district Kech so that the benefits of this Programme reach every household. Based on the same model create robust synergies at Tehsil and Union Council level so that the process become more inclusive and participatory.



Beneficiary Household Members of NRSP, District Administration & CIs Collaboration

3.2 BRACE PROGRAMME DISTRICT KECH KPIs PROGRESS

NRSP with support of RSPN has developed a revised social mobilisation strategy in December 2018 to speed up work on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in district Kech. As a result, NRSP BRACE Programme team have successfully implemented the revised targets and the progress on KPIs is well on track now after hiring and deployment of CRPs in communities. Below

given shows NRSP BRACE Programme progress till January 31, 2019. According to NRSP BRACE team that it is expected that there will be more progress KPIs targets in the upcoming months and they will achieve all targets well before the 30th June 2019 deadline.

Progress on KPIs as of January 31,2019						
KPIs	Unit	Total Targets	Target for Year-1&2 (30 June 2017-30 June 2019)	Total Achievements as of Jan 31, 2019	%age	
		(30th June-2017 to June-2022)			% Achievements [as of Jan 31, 2019]	% Achievements (Overall)
		NRSP	NRSP	NRSP	NRSP	NRSP
Social Mobilisation	HHs	46757	25914	12,702	49%	27%
	COs	2598	1440	860	60%	33%
	VOs	418	266	94	35%	22%
	LSOs	38	25	11	44%	29%
Local Development Plans	MIP	46757	21595	6,484	30%	14%
	VDP	418	260	35	13%	8%
Capacity Building Trainings & Awareness Sessions	CMST	5196	2880	939	33%	18%
	CAT	18	18	18	100%	100%

3.3 VISIT TO UNION COUNCIL SAMI

Union Council Sami one of the poorest areas of district Kech. Mostly inhabitants of its are living in extreme poverty. They don't have access to services. Their lives become miserable when it rains because they live in mud and jhuggi houses which are prone to floods, and they cut off from the rest of the district particularly Turbat town. Last week the region has received its first rain after eight years. Undoubtedly, it has brought smiles on the face of thousand drought affected households in district Kech.

“This rain will bring us prosperity to our household because I am linked with agriculture and I will re-cultivate my land after eight years. I have proposed connecting my land with the Karez in my

household Micro Investment Plan (MIP) formed under BRACE Programme” said Muhammad Aslam resident of Singabad at UC Sami and member of CO Singabad.

“This rain will revive our centuries old Karezes which have almost become dead because of long-lasting drought in the region. We have already proposed cleaning of our Karezes in our Village Development Plan formed under BRACE Programme. So it is going to be big relief for us” said Abdul Majid Baloch member of CO Singabad.



Rain after eight years in UC Sami have brought life to Abdul Majid's agricultural land

Besides blessings of rain for thousands of households in the district, it has brought miseries to many households who were living in mud and Jhuggi type households. Strong winds and rain have uprooted their households and they had no place to live.

“I am poor man and my house was destroyed during last week rainfall. I was hopeless and knew no way for getting shelter for my family because everyone is poor in this village and all live in Jhuggi type households. In such difficult times, Local Support Organisation (LSO) Sami approached us first and gave us temporary shelter and food in the nearby school” said Obaidullah member of CO Kirki at UC Sami



Uprooted and destroyed households due to rain in village Kirki

It is really encouraging that LSO Sami supported its poor and rain affected households in Kirki village. During my interaction with LSO members, they told me that they are soon starting fundraising, and proposing rehabilitation of these households in the upcoming JDDC meeting so that they get relief. Moreover, through their savings they have provided ration to these houses.



Destroyed household in Kirki village due to rain

3.4 VISIT TO BRACE PROGRAMME COMMUNITY PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT KUNCHITI

Kunchiti revenue village at Tehsil Dasht, district Kech consists of two large settlements of approximately total 362 households and 2172 population. Both settlements (Mashriqi and Maghribi) had no access to water due to which women of the two villages had to travel more than 10 kilometers to fetch water for households' use. That was a very painful journey on daily basis for the women. In 2018, under BRACE Programme these 362 households organised into their own led community organisations. Women members of the Village Organisation (VO) passed a unanimous resolution for including water supply scheme in their respective Village Development Plan (VDP). Accepting their demand, LSO Dasht approved a solarized water supply scheme for these two settlements. CPI was completed with total cost of 1,595,000 PKR including 1,563,000 BRACE Programme contribution, and 32,000 VO contribution. It was inaugurated by DC district Kech in January 2019. This water supply is providing water to two villages and 362 households are benefiting from it.



“Throughout my life, I have travelled for hours for fetching water for my household. That was very painful particularly during pregnancy and illness because it was our daily chore, and we had to do it. This water supply has provided us water to each and every household in the village which is not less than a life time relief for us” said Majan Baloch President of female VO Kunchiti.



Water Supply constructed under BRACE Programme in Kunchiti village

This water supply is not only providing water to households in these two villages but also providing water to poor households who have land but cannot afford to get tube wells for cultivating their lands.

“First we discussed this matter of providing water to these lands owned by poor households in the village provided that they share some cost of maintenance from agricultural production. Then we brought it into notice of our LSO Dasht which approved it. Now these nearby households started cultivating their lands. Hopefully they will get their first production of grain in May. This will not

change their lives but also of all the village because agriculture brings prosperity” said Muhammad Younus, President VO Kunchiti.



Cultivated land through BRACE Programme built solarized water supply.

3.5 VISIT TO SANGAI LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION

Populations of Sangai village are living in extreme poverty and they don't have access to basic facilities of life. Their village is one of the worst drought affected villages in the district. Women fetch water on daily basis from faraway places. Mostly people are illiterate and live on daily wage labour work. Last year their households were organised into community organisation to harness their potential and give them the platform for improving their lives by creating linkages with local authorities and civic engagement and oversight over their resources. For the first time they received relief from district administration in the form of ration both food and non-food items just because of their community institutions which provided them the link and patronage for getting access services and relief.

This year with support of community institutions in district Kech, district administration distributed ration amongst more than 2500 poorest households falling in PSC band (0-11) identified through BRACE Programme PSC census held in 2017-2018.

This is a good notion and benefit of social mobilization approach when strong synergies are created for improving the lives of poor people.

“Such kind of support have given us the hope and confidence that through our community organisation we can get more services from the government” said Umaira Baloch president of female CO at Sangai village.



Meeting with beneficiary' households' members at Sangai village

3.6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, Programme activities have been implemented according to the given processes in the PIM, M&E Framework and QACP Checklists for ensuring standardisation, uniformity and quality. However, there are some areas where implementing partner NRSP needs some robust measures for improvements. These are:

1. Though it is very good that NRSP BRACE Programme have speed up work on achieving Programme social mobilisation targets in district Kech but it is strongly recommended that more work is needed to start work on other components of the Programme imperative for achieving overall results of the Programme
2. Measures should be taken for fixing IT and MIS related issues so that actual progress of the Programme KPIs is shown on the MIS.
3. Documentation and communication particularly on social media needs improvement. Documentation of success stories should be encouraged so that to get an assessment of benefits of the Programme interventions.
4. Programme activities quality should be regularly monitored and regulated keeping in view the guidelines given in the BRACE Programme PIM, M&E Framework, and QACP Checklists.

