



EUROPEAN UNION



Meeting Minutes
RSPN Board's BRACE Oversight Committee

22nd March, 2018
Islamabad



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS FOR BRDCEP GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



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1. Background and introduction

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRACE)- a five year programme- is supported by the European Union and being implemented in close collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Department, Government of Balochistan (GoB). It is being implemented by the Rural Support Programs Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Program Network (NRSP) and Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) in eight districts of Balochistan, namely Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob. The programme is being technically supported by Human Dynamics and Oxford Policy Management through a service contract with European Union.

On November 16, 2017, the RSPN-Board's BRACE Oversight Committee has been notified for guidance and strategic directions to the implementation of the overall Programme. It will also review the progress of its implementation on regular basis.

First meeting of the RSPN Board's BRACE Oversight Committee held on 22nd March, 2018 at the RSPN Office, IRM complex, Islamabad.

The agenda of the meeting was:

- To share BRACE's progress update and plans for the upcoming quarter;
- To discuss Programme challenges and way forward;
- To discuss any other relevant matter

The meeting participants were as follows:

1. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN (Chair)
2. Ms. Shandana Humayun Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) RSPN (Member)
3. Mr. Rashid Bajwa, CEO NRSP (Member)
4. Mr. Fazalullah Qureshi (Member)
5. Mr. Khaleel Ahmed Tetaly, Chief Operating Officer (COO) RSPN
6. Mr. Shahnawaz Khan, Senior Programme Manager and Team Lead, BRACE NRSP
7. Mr. Ahmed Ullah, Programme Manager-BRACE RSPN (Member & Secretary)
8. Ms. Mawish Iqbal, Documentation and Reporting Officer, BRACE RSPN
9. Mr. Assad Abbas, Communication Officer, BRACE RSPN

2. Main Discussion Points

The key discussion points from the meeting were as follows:

Mr. Ahmed Ullah gave a detailed presentation on the current status of BRACE followed by plans for the next quarter, challenges and the way forward to address these challenges. The presentation included progress against plans of all implementing partners i.e. RSPN, BRSP and NRSP. Highlights of the presentation are as follows;

- RSPN, BRSP and NRSP have establishment their offices and almost all the Programme staff has been recruited
- Programme Orientation /Inception Planning completed
- Launching ceremonies at provincial and district levels held
- Regarding Poverty Scorecard (PSC) survey, over 306,540 households have been surveyed against the estimated number of 421,018 which makes 73% of the households.
- Real time PSC data is available and being regularly updated on the joint and integrated MIS <http://mis.rspn.org:8085/BRACE>
- Orientation training has been organised by RSPN for key staff of BRSP, NRSP and relevant government staff on Program Implementation Manual (PIM)
- Training of trainers for key BRSP, NRSP and relevant government staff has been organised by RSPN on cross-cutting critical issues (CAT)
- Training of trainers for key BRSP, NRSP and relevant government staff has been organised by RSPN on M&E framework and socioeconomic baseline approaches
- BRSP, NRSP and relevant government staff has been oriented on RSPs Gender/HR policies and anti-sexual harassment in Pakistan

Key BRACE activities for upcoming four month include:

RSPN:

- Assist implementing partners in;
 - Carrying out the baseline surveys
 - Operationalization of the M&E framework
 - Developing a joint & integrated MIS
 - Roll out of trainings (PIM, CAT and M&E framework)
 - Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
- Production of BRACE's introductory documentary
- Publishing of BRACE Newsletter
- Assist Human Dynamics (TA) in preparation of exit strategy and partners in implementation of the strategy
- Training of partners' staff on gender mainstreaming and sensitisation actions in communities
- Formulate Research Advisory Committee and conduct first study of Participatory Action Research
- Assist the implementing partners in mainstreaming cross-cutting themes

BRSP and NRSP:

- Roll out trainings (PIM, M&E framework, CAT, HR/Gender policies and anti-sexual harassment laws)
- Undertake Socioeconomic Baseline Survey
- Formation/reactivation of COs, VOs and LSOs
- Capacity Building of CIs Managers
- Formation of LSO networks at Tehsil and District levels
- Process the formation of JDDC
- Hire services of a technical institution for TVET
- Hire services of an insurance company for micro health insurance for ultra-poor

Challenges and Way Forward

- Due to delayed onboard of, Human Dynamics, the Programme TA, some of activities to be undertaken by RSPN got delayed. These activities include;
 - Gender mainstreaming strategy
 - C&V plan for NRSP, BRSP and NRSP components
 - Research component of the programme
- Role ambiguity between RSPN and Human Dynamics hampered couple of RSPN's activities
 - Website development
 - Undertaking of Participatory Action Research studies
- Development of joint and integrated MIS for BRACE
- 6 out of 38 UCs are currently inaccessible due to security reasons
- One of the programme outcome is "50% of members of CIs and beneficiaries of socioeconomic intervention are women" needs special focus and effective strategy right from the start of the programme

At the end of the presentation, question and answer session held. In response to a question by committee, Mr. Shahnawaz Khan said that they have faced no major challenge in conducting Poverty Scorecard in the field thus far. He also said that as social mobilisation under BRACE is about to start and most of the Programme staff are quite busy in this process; frequent field visits by RSPN at this stage may affect their field activities. He said that such visits slow down the process as teams get engaged in planning and execution of field visits. He suggested that in order to ensure smooth flow of social mobilisation process and related activities, field visits from RSPN should be minimized. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, suggested that field visits from RSPN at this stage are very helpful and BRSP should facilitate these visits.

In response to one of the Programme challenges shared by Mr. Ahmed Ullah for district Kech, Mr. Rashid Bajwa said that NRSP will start PSC survey in the remaining six UCs as soon as the situation gets a bit better.

Mr. Khaleel Ahmed Tetlay said that under BRACE, lesson learning visit and workshop have been planned for the current quarter and asked Chairman RSPN if he could share his schedule so that planning is done accordingly. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan shared that he would be in Balochistan between 14 to 18 April, 2018 and could participate if the visit and workshop are planned during these dates. Mr. Ahmed Ullah said that number of other events have been planned during these days; including EU delegation visit to Balochistan, Balochistan Synergies workshop and visit of CEO BRSP to Tajikistan for meeting. He said that lesson learning visit and workshop will be planned in consultation with BRSP and NRSP after that.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks from and to the Chair.