




Newsletter

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BRACE

BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Funded by the European Union

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER FOR THE BRACE GRANT COMPONENT

PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER





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The Three smiling boys clad in traditional dresses are friends and children of the BRACE beneficiaries from District Zhob.

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IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR THE BRACE'S GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



Message from the

Secretary Local Government and Rural Department, Government of Balochistan

Dear Readers,

The BRACE Programme is one of the most important programmes for Balochistan and is based on the decades old nationwide experience of community-led development. The Programme supports the expansion of community-led development through a strategic and sustainable policy-based perspective that fosters effective partnerships between communities, local governments and authorities. The team works to create an enabling environment through strategic policy formulation, public finance management processes and capacity-building interventions for inclusive socio-economic development. The Programme aims to set conditions for a sector-wide approach towards community-led development and thus shall provide a platform to the Government of Balochistan and its development partners for evolving a collaborative and policy driven approach to community-led development contributing to improved governance overall.



BRACE intervenes both on the 'demand' and 'supply' sides of the service delivery equation. On the demand side, the action combines a mix of transactional and transformational social mobilisation, capacity building, mechanisms for accountability and civic oversight, creating agency and voice for the people, particularly women to become part of the development process, economic empowerment, participative bottom-up development planning, and collective action for addressing critical community productive physical infrastructure constraints, to realize welfare and governance outcomes. On the supply side, the action fosters local governance mechanisms enabling citizens' participation in their development and governance processes through establishing a policy framework and its institutional arrangement, capacity-building of local authorities, and public finance management reform for improved and participative local governance for socio-economic development.

Under the leadership of Local Government and Rural Development Department, Government of Balochistan, the Rural Support Programmes (RSPN, BRSP and NRSP) are implementing the European Union funded BRACE Programme in nine districts. The Programme is technically assisted by Human Dynamics and Oxford Policy Management.

The Programme will bring about changes to socio-economic conditions starting from the grassroots level. It will benefit approximately 300,000 households (estimated population of 1.9 million citizens) directly in 249 Union Councils of nine selected districts i.e. Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Duki, Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob. Our intent is that by the end of the programme at least 25% of the poor households see an improvement in their incomes; at least 40% of the households graduate from the lowest to upper poverty score card band levels and at least 50% of the households of the targeted areas report improved access to basic social services.

Kambar Dashti

Cover Story

Plantation Drive under BRACE in District Kech, Balochistan



September 16, 2018: One of the distinct features of the BRACE Programme is to raise awareness among communities on different themes including Environmental Protection. In this regard, NRSP, with the help BRACE's Community Organisations, launched a plantation drive in different Union Councils of district Kech. It was targeted in particular at youth and young children who were made aware of the importance to adopt environment friendly measures such as lower pollution, water conservation and tree plantation.

Case Study

BRACE Communities Start Reaping Benefits

KECH district is one among the BRACE districts, where NRSP is implementing Programme activities. With the support from European Union in Pakistan, BRACE partners are empowering communities by not only fostering community institutions, but improving people's access to the basic life services. Access to drinking water is one of those grave challenges that majority of the rural communities have been struggling in Balochistan. The people of village Kunchitit of Tehsil Dasht in district Kech have also been facing this problem of water scarcity in their area. The village is based on 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 kilometres 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.

Field Visits:

RSPN Team Visits Khuzdar, Jhal Magsi, Pishin, Washuk Zhob and Kech

July – November, 2018: The BRACE-RSPN team conducted multiple individual and combined field visits of the BRACE districts during the reporting period. The team visited 8 BRACE districts including Jhal Magsi, Kech, Killah Abdullah, Khuzdar, Loralai, Pishin, Washuk and Zhob. The aim was to monitor ongoing programme activities, provide comprehensive feedback, and support field teams, addressing questions about issues such how to provide quality assurance of programme implementation; operationalise the monitoring and evaluation framework; use the control plan checklists; ensure gender mainstreaming; and harmonise communication and visibility of the BRACE Programme. The RSPN team also organised meetings with



community members and the representatives of those COs, VO's and LSOs that have been formed by BRSP and NRSP under the BRACE Programme.

BRACE Inspires Communities in Killa Abdullah

Killah Abdullah, September 28, 2019: The BRACE team led by its programme manager Mr. Ahmed Ullah conducted meetings with members of the newly formed Village Organisations (VO) in district Killa Abdullah. During the discussions, the members of both Village Organisations said that "today after formation of village organisations, we stand together and firm to raise our voice for eliminating socio-economic deprivation by

creating better opportunities in our society." They also said that the Women Community Organisations had been working with the women in the community to promote access to education, engage them in decision making processes, provide health care facilities, and enable them to earn a dignified living through domestic jobs such as embroidery, sewing and other work.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

JULY - DECEMBER 2018



322,530

Households Covered by Poverty ScoreCard Census



48,630

Households Organised



1,545

Members trained in Orientation training workshops



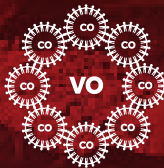
136

Members trained on CAT



3,880

COs formed



863

VOs formed



1,606

VOs formed

BRSP Team Meets BRACE Communities and Government Officials in Khuzdar



Khuzdar, December 11-13, 2018: The BRSP head office team visited district Khuzdar to conduct meetings with the district administration, representatives of community institutions (Men & Women) and field staff of the BRACE Programme. The team also called on the Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar, Major (R) Ilyas Kibzai to apprise him of BRACE activities. The Deputy Commissioner applauded the work being carried out and assured his full support to the BRACE district team for smooth implementation of field activities in Khuzdar.

Commemorating Anti-Corruption Day 2018



Washuk, December 09, 2018: Everywhere in the world, corruption adversely affects social and economic development, such as health, education, justice and other aspects of human development. According to UN reports, "every year \$1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated \$2.6 trillion are stolen annually through corruption – a sum equivalent to more than 5 per cent of the global GDP." To counter this, BRSP organised different events around the "International Anti-Corruption Day" in

several BRACE districts. Observed under the theme of "Say No to Corruption", the events were attended by a large number of participants, including key government officials comprising of Deputy Commissioners, representatives of health and education departments, members of civil society organisations, community elders, youth, women, and local media personnel. In their speeches, the speakers vowed to play their role against corruption at personal, professional and collective levels.

Programme Planning, Coordination, Experience Sharing and Review Meeting



Kech, September 04, 2018: NRSP arranged a "Programme Planning, Coordination, Experience Sharing and Programme Review Meeting" of BRACE to review progress and identify the challenges and issues pertaining to implementation of field activities. This included a presentation on achievements versus targets and planning for year-two of the Programme. The participants also learned how to fill different in documents including MIP and VDP formats.

NRSP Organised Community Management Skills Training for Women

KECH, 25-27 June, 2018: Trainings on Community Management Skills are an integral part of the BRACE Programme. These trainings help provide community representatives with the necessary operational and managerial skills to run a community organisation (COs, VO, LSOs). In District Kech 19 COs presidents and managers participated in a three day "Community Management Skills Training (CMST)" The main objective of the training was to sensitise the CO leaders on the dynamics and effects of social exclusion, the importance of inclusiveness, and to inspire them to take steps to promote peace, compassion and justice within their communities. The participants were also familiarised with their role and purpose as CO leaders. The methodology of the training included interactive sessions, brainstorming,



videos, plenary discussion, group work, presentation, games, pictures, drawing, stories, discussion, exercises, pair work, individual exercises, demonstration and role plays.

Filming of the BRACE Documentary



October, 14-22, 2018: The RSPN team with the field support of BRSP, has completed the video shooting of BRACE Programme's 1ST documentary at districts Jhal Magsi, Quetta, Pishin and Zhob in October. This captures field activities conducted under BRACE such as social mobilisation, formation of community institutions, development of Village Development Plans and other programme interventions. Interview were also conducted with the EU Ambassador, Chairman of RSPN and Secretary Local Government and GoB.

Training on Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) for Field Staff



Quetta, September 04-06, 2018: BRSP organised a three-day training session on the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) for the BRACE Programme staff of Loralai, Khuzdar, Washuk, Jhal Magsi, Zhob, Killa Abdullah and Pishin districts. The main objective was to educate district & field staff in how to lead participatory discussions and group work on critical cross-cutting themes and issues. They include Nutrition, Health, Family Planning, HIV-AIDS, Gender, Human (particularly Women's) Rights, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Disaster

Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change & Environment and Natural Resource Management. The programme staff will roll out trainings for Community Resource Persons (CRPs) to further disseminate the information and messages at the community level. The training concluded with the certificates distribution ceremony attended by Deputy Director Social Welfare, who vowed his and his department's support for the implementation of BRACE Programme in targeted districts.

Formation of Village Organisations In Washuk District

Washuk, 8 July, 2018: BRSP's Social Teams under EU funded Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme have started formation of Village Organisations in district Washuk of Balochistan. These VOs will help local communities to get involved in the development of their villages and finalise their Union Council Development Plans in coordination with the local government. In RSPs approach of Social Mobilization, VO is a second tier that is purely elected institution of the people representing the respective communities of the area. The key function of this tier is to



ensure mobilisation of maximum number of unorganized households into Community Organizations (COs), their planning for resource mobilisation and implementation of other development initiatives at village level.

BRSP Organised BRACE's Programme Review and Planning Meeting



Quetta, December 16-18, 2018: BRSP organised a 3-Day quarterly planning and evaluation meeting of the BRACE Programme. The meeting was attended by BRSP's head office and field staff from Khuzdar, Jhal Magsi, Washuk, Loralai, Zhob, Killa Abdullah and Pishin. In addition to reviewing ongoing activities, the meeting was used to plan effective coordination with relevant stakeholders. Heading the meeting, Mr. Nadir Gul, CEO of BRSP emphasised the need to strengthen the work of field units to collect realistic information on

poor households. This will be used to guide capacity building, livelihood interventions, community physical infrastructure schemes, and gender sensitisation in the targeted districts. It was stressed that social mobilisation teams should concentrate on the quality aspects when preparing the Village and Union Council Development Plans to ensure they reflect real and actual needs of the community institutions. This will also be used help the government and donor agencies to allocate resources during budgeting processes.

Meeting of BRACE Programme Partners in Quetta



Quetta, August 29, 2018: The coordination meeting of BRACE Programme partners with the new head of EU's cooperation, Mr Mliko Van Gool was held in Quetta, who came to learn more about the progress of ongoing BRACE activities.

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, Pi shin, 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 statutory 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 people's 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 23,550 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 community 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 50% 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 adapted by GoB and public finance management reform process will be initiated in the province.



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