



FIELD VISIT REPORT
DISTRICT ZHOB, BALOCHISTAN
 March 16-18, 2018



BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (BRDCEP)
 IS AN EU-FUNDED PROGRAMME BEING IMPLEMENTED IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BALOCHISTAN

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS FOR BRDCEP GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER





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Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRDCEP)

BRDCEP is a five year European Union (EU) funded programme, being implemented in close collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development Department (LG&RDD) of the Government of Balochistan (GoB). The Grant component of the programme is being implemented by three partners, namely Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in eight districts of Balochistan. These include Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob. The EU has also engaged the services of Human Dynamics, an Austrian company, to support the BRDCEP and to enable the Government of Balochistan (GoB) to contribute in fostering an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local government/authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory local public sector planning, financing, and implementation processes. BRDCEP will also support GoB in Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms.

The overall objective of the programme is to support the Government of Balochistan in its efforts to reduce the negative impact of economic deprivation, poverty and social inequality, environmental degradation and climate change, and instead to develop opportunities by building and empowering resilient communities to participate actively in identifying and implementing socio-economic development activities on a sustainable basis in partnership with local authorities. The specific objectives are: 1) To empower citizens and communities and provide them with means enabling them to implement community-driven socio-economic development interventions, an increased voice and capability to influence public policy decision making through active engagement with local authorities for quality, inclusive, and equitable service delivery, and civic-oversight; 2) To foster an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory processes of the local public sector planning, financing and implementation process. Under BRDCEP, 1.9 million Pakistani citizens of 300,000 rural households (HHs) in 249 union councils (UCs) will be mobilised and organised into a network of people's own institutions: 19,129 Community Organisations (COs); 3,103 Village Organisations (VOs); 249 Local Support Organisations (LSOs) and 31 LSO Networks at tehsil level and eight at district level who will closely work with local authorities and other stakeholders for their development.



Role of RSPN in BRDCEP

The specific objective of RSPN in BRDCEP is to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of BRSP and NRSP and provide support and evidence to the programme TA in order to effectively support the GoB in its objective of improving public service delivery. To attain this objective, RSPN is responsible to provide regular support to programme implementing partners for ensuring coherence in programme approaches and uniformity in programme implementation and standardisation in monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Specifically, RSPN will assist BRSP and NRSP in operationalization of the monitoring and evaluation framework and ensure regular reporting on common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) through a joint integrated MIS/GIS system. RSPN will develop and implement a web-based real time reporting Management Information Systems (MIS) Dashboard and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to track KPIs in addition to publication of an annual common KPI report. Also, RSPN will conduct research under BRDCEP to generate evidence for policy recommendations to support the Local Development Policy Framework for Balochistan. RSPN will also develop and will support BRSP and NRSP in implementation of the communication and visibility plan.

VISIT TO DISTRICT ZHOB

Soon after conducting an exposure and lesson learnt visit with SUCCESS team in Sukkur, Larkana and Shedad Kot, BRDCEP-RSPN team covered almost a road distance of 730KM and reached in district Zhob on 16th of March for another field visit. Travelling through the bumpy and carpeted roads of Balochistan, while enjoying the scenic view all across the way, crossing the lush green fields of wheat, mountains of Bolan, flowing rivers and streams near Qilla Saifullah, orchards of almond and yards loaded with the pinkish apple flowers welcoming the visitors entering zhob district.

Members of the field visit from RSPN and BRSP

1. Mr. Ahmed Ullah, Programme Manager BRDCEP
2. Mr. Assad Abbas Malik, Communications Officer BRDCEP
3. Mr. Quttab Khan, CBO BRSP
4. Mr. Hashim Khan, District Engineer BRSP
5. Mr. Naqeeb, SSO BRSP
6. Mr. Shah Hassan, Field Engineer, BRSP
7. Mr. Ehsan Ullah, Social Organizer, PPR Project



BRIEFING MEETING WITH BRDCEP'S DISTRICT TEAM

BRDCEP RSPN team, comprising Programme Manager and Communications officer BRDCEP conducted a field visit of District Zhob from March 16 to March 17, 2018. The primary purpose of this two-day visit was to meet with members of the Community Institutions (CIs) with aim to learn from their experiences in linkages development and undertaking interventions for community development. Secondly, the visit also provided RSPN team an opportunity to meet with some of the BDCP beneficiaries under Community Physical Infrastructures and Livelihood enhancement activities. These meetings helped visiting team to not only witness the long lasting impacts of EU's supported interventions; but also witnessing efforts and role of BRSP in implementing and executing planned activities for Community Driven Development. The chance to meet the beneficiaries and communities in field was an invaluable experience, that painted a rich picture of on ground activities for poverty reduction and empowerment of rural communities in Balochistan.

Coordination Meeting with BRSP Team

RSPN team was welcomed by district team of BRSP in Zhob. Soon after reaching our destination, RSPN team held a coordination and planning meeting with BRSP team headed by District Programme Coordinator in same evening. During their brief discussion of the meeting, Mr Ahmad Ullah, Programme Manager BRDEP-RSPN briefly shared with BRSP team about the purpose and objectives of field visit. Teams of both BRSP and RSPN also discussed on the planning of the field visit and activities. At this occasion, BRSP team also updated RSPN team regarding ongoing BRDCEP activities, plans for upcoming quarter, challenges and way forward to address those challenges.

Few major accomplishments by district team under BRDCEP are:


1. Completion of Poverty Score Card Census
2. Adaptation of CIs and completion of 14 CIs in various UCs

VISITING CPI SCHEMES

Flood Protection Wall, Savior of Livelihood

Early in the morning of March 17, 2018, RSPN team was ready to leave with BRSP team for the fields visit of BRDCEP and BDCP areas. Loaded on two vehicles, RSPN and BRSP teams left for Union Council Nawa Killi of UC Badenzai, where they were going to visit a flood protection wall constructed by BRSP under EU funded Balochistan Community Development Programme (BCDP), earlier in 2016. Since, district Zhob falls in monsoon region and due to heavy rains in summers, flooding occurs in different parts of the district, disrupting agriculture and lives of local communities. Therefore, some of the communities' prioritize construction of a flood protection wall in their development plans under BCDP. Complying with devised plan, a flood protection wall was constructed with the support and cooperation of European Union in Pakistan in Nawan Kali.





Describing positive impacts of the CPI initiative, locals of the area shared that the initiative taken under BCDP has contributed in not only saving them from floods but helped them save their livelihood by growing fields and orchards. Targeted communities organized under three-tiered social mobilization approach to Community Driven Development, have also shared cost close to a quadrant of the total construction cost of flood wall. This valuable contribution has created a sense of great ownership among communities as they are taking a good care and maintenance of flood protection wall and benefiting for livelihood support. Beneficiaries of the flood protection wall were thankful to BRSP and EU for building this flood protection wall. They praised the sincere efforts of BRSP and its team, sharing that the protection wall has protected a large area of their agriculture land saving them livelihood, income and providing a measure of disaster risk reduction. Talking about the development plans, VO member shared that they keep working on development plan on regular basis. They also flagged the need of a water supply scheme which had also been made part of the development plan and wished to have it constructed with the cooperation of BRSP under BRDCEP.

VISITING VO NAWA KILLI OF UNION COUNCIL BADENZI

Since its formation in July 2014, VO Nawan Killi is based on two COs, due to isolated and sparse population in the area; Nawa Killi-1 and Nawa Killi- 2 of Union Council Badenzi. It's being headed by a president named Mohammad Azeem, and a manager named Abdul Khaliq. The total organized household under this VO are 30 making a population of 231 individuals. The VO has constructed a CPI with the support of BRSP under BCDP.

VISITED AGRICULTURE CHANNEL IN KILLI JANABAD OF UC BADENZAI

After visiting the flood protection wall, RSPN team accompanying BRSP representatives then visited Killi Janabad in UC Badenzai where an agriculture channel has been constructed in collaboration with the EU under BCDP. When RSPN team reached at the field site, a group of farmers was busy in irrigating their fields and vegetables. Team had an interaction with Mr. Faizullah, one of the beneficiary and the representative of the farmers in the village there. We were pleased to be informed by him that the construction of agriculture channel helped local farmers save their time, money and most importantly water for irrigating their crops and orchards. Faizullah shared that before having constructed this water supply channel, they used to irrigate through channels at land surface which use to waste a considerable amount of water. He also highlighted the need for a protection wall on the other side of their fields as due to rain water coming from nearest mountains during monsoon season causes damages to their standing and ready to harvest fields, usually. BRDCEP team visited the location and monitored the situation.



MEETING WITH LSO ITIFAQ AT UC BADENZAI

The BRDCEP-RSPN team along with the BRSP representatives joined communities in a monthly meeting conducted by LSO Itifaq at UC Badenzai. Itifaq is a male only LSO established under BDCP in May 2015. It has 54 General Body members and 10 Executive Body members. It is constituted on 25 VOs. Reaching upon the venue surrounded by rugged mountains, RSPN team received a warm welcome by LSO representatives at their office. The meeting was initiated with the recitation from Holy Quran by one of the LSO members following a round of introduction by all the participants.

Proceeding ahead with introduction, Mr. Adam Khan, president of the LSO illustrated work of LSO by giving a detailed presentation on the membership details, areas under LSO, linkages with governmental and non-governmental organizations, initiatives taken under self-help approach and other activities led by LSO for Community Driven Development in their area.

After his presentation, Mr. Ahmad Ullah, Programme Manager BRDCEP-RSPN formally thanked LSO's president and community members for sparing them to arrange this meeting. He briefly oriented the participants on role of RSPN under BRDCEP, elaborating the purpose and objectives of this visit. He inquired communities about their general issues and challenges they wanted to see addressed under BRDCEP.



Highlights of LSO's Work:

- ❖ Polio Vaccination
- ❖ Schools Enrolment Campaign
- ❖ WASH in School
- ❖ Provision of Furniture to 4 Schools
- ❖ Acquired Solar System from Local Politician for 50 Households
- ❖ Community Awareness Sessions
- ❖ Free Medical Camps for Livestock and Fodder provision
- ❖ Helped 1,200 people in getting NIC card through NADRA Van and voter registration
- ❖ Rehabilitation of BHU Badenzai and provision of Solar and refrigerating system



WATER SUPPLY SCHEME DETAILS

After attending LSO meeting, team went out to see the water supply scheme constructed by BRSP under BCDP. The water supply scheme has been constructed with the support from European Union in collaboration with BRSP and the Village Organization Shinkai Ghundi-2 under BCDP. It is currently serving water needs of 250 individuals in the area. The communities have also shared one third of the total cost spent on this scheme.



How they were collecting drinking water before the scheme

There was a dire need of clean drinking water for the village as communities were lacking it since long. To get address this need, the inhabitants of the villages, comprising VO members and community elders flagged their issue on different platform at local level. They approached the local law makers and political representatives of their area including Mr Jamal Shah Kakar, who was the then Speaker of Balochistan Provincial Assembly in 2001. They requested him to play political representatives of their constituency in solving the issue of water provision for their families. However, nothing came out positive out of all their sincere and committed efforts.

The things changed for good to the communities, when BRSP initiated interventions of BCDP in this area. It made it possible for the communities to have constructed a water supply scheme for their domestic needs. Community members were very thankful and pleased in securing this help from EU with the support of BRSP. The water supply scheme constructed under BCDP is fulfilling the water needs of local household thus solving the grave issue of water provision for communities, ultimately reducing the work burden of local women and children who are commonly involved in the job of water collection for domestic and personal needs.

MEETING WITH LIVELIHOOD BENEFICIARY

The next destination of visiting team was home of a livelihood beneficiary, who had been benefitted under livestock support in UC Badenzai. Mr. Qasim Shinkai who is one of the livelihood enhancement beneficiary, father of 6 growing children. He lives in village Shinkai Barath of UC Badenzai. Supported by BRSP under livestock support, he was happy to share with us the story of livestock support that helped him improve his livelihood.

“I used to earn bread and butter for my family through labour work in fields. However, being a peasant, I was not able to fulfill the domestic needs of my big family through the meager earnings coming from the agriculture work. However, after being approached by BRSP under BCDP, my hardships were counted as I received 5 sheep. It has been a great assets support to build on for a better future of my children and family. I am rearing these sheep with an aim to increase their number. I am thankful to BRSP and the donor, for providing me this life-changing support and hope for a brighter future.



MEETING WITH VILLAGE ORGANIZATION NEW ABADI WALMAI

The team also visited another Village Organization named New Abadi Walmai, located at a distance of 18 KM from BRSP's district office in Zhob. Headed by its president, this VO was formed in March 2014. It has a body of 15 members, having representation of young, poor, physically challenged and prosperous members from localities. RSPN team was warmly welcomed by VO members in Walmai village. The president of VO shared achievements of VO in his village through a detailed verbal presentation about the VO, its membership, areas under VO's, linkages with governmental and non-governmental organizations self-help activities and other activities undertaken by LSO in the area. RSPN team was happy to learn about the achievements of VO as organized communities.



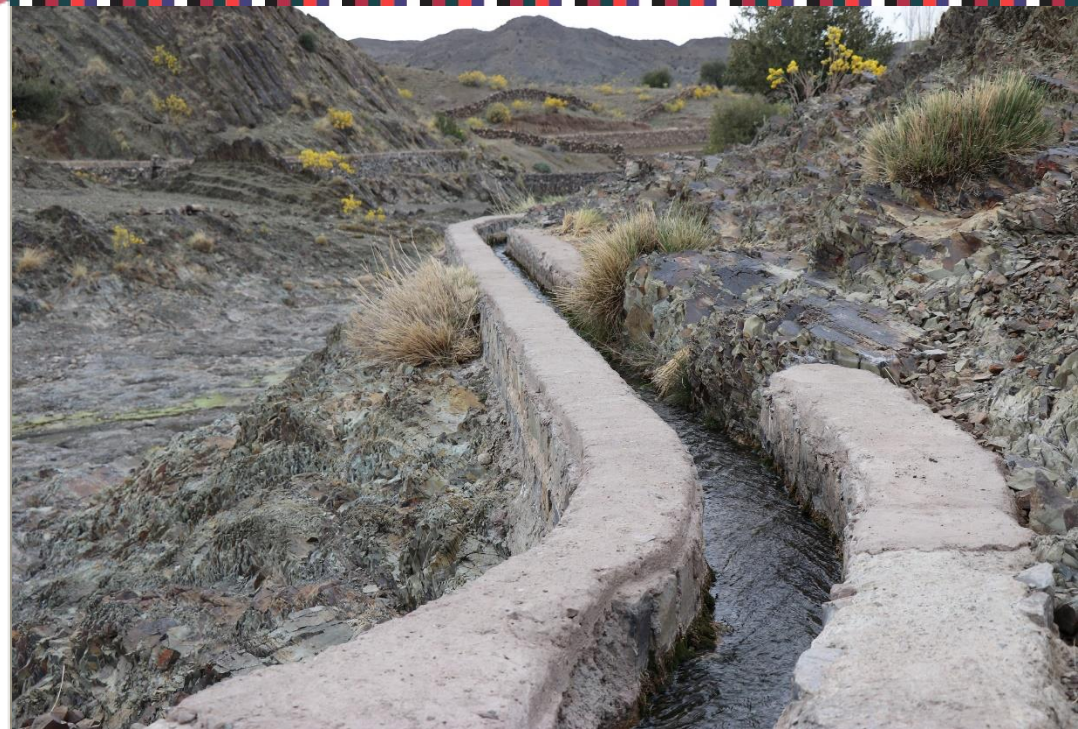
VISIT TO CPI IN NEW ABADI WALMAI

After having meeting with LSO members, RSPN team visited a Community Physical Infrastructure scheme (CPI) in premises of New Abadi Walmai. This CPI scheme is based on 3 different interventions: a Headwall/Cut-off Wall, Irrigation Channel and a Flood Protection Wall. All these three interventions clubbed in this CPI scheme are constructed in cooperation and support with EU, PPAF and Community Organization.

RSPN team was extremely impressed to witness such a wonderful impact of the remarkable *initiative taken by communities under Community Driven Development* in support and cooperation with the donors to solve their issue of water for cultivation needs of 28 farmers. Moreover, it also helped them to construct an irrigation *channel and a flood protection wall*, benefitting them in terms of water saving and disaster risk reduction. All these efforts made under RSPs approach of Social Mobilization towards Community Driven Development have resulted into a greener present leading to a brighter and prosperous future of local communities. Communities, once deprived of water for their domestic and livelihood needs are now having it for all of their daily life matters. This CPI scheme in New Abad Walmai is a great example of well-planned, synergistic and coordinated efforts planned and executed for uplifting life status of rural communities in Balochistan.



The main objectives of the Community Infrastructure scheme were to secure the already cultivated land of 7.5 acres, to make ready 1.5 acres of barren land for crops cultivation and to harmonize and unionized community members for resolution of their needs in the future through active participation. For the implementation of the scheme, three committees, namely Project, Audit and Maintenance committees were formed for accomplishing the scheme work. Project committee was trained to monitor the design, drawings and specifications after initiation of the scheme. Their work also included the provision of labor and material at site, to record the details of materials provided for the scheme in a stock register and to verify its quality. The responsibilities of the Maintenance or O&M committee were to devise and introduce long term sustainable operation and maintenance mechanism, to get all the members agreed with this mechanism and to get the said mechanism followed by the members and to collect the funds to be utilized for proper operation and maintenance of the scheme.



Technically, BRSP engineers assisted the VO members and conducted regular follow up visits till the completion of the Headwall. Construction work has been accomplished in an efficient and effective manner. As a result, the poor farmers of the community are now benefiting from the scheme as there is plenty of water available for the cultivation of their land. The number of beneficiaries is the total population of the village as the scheme is communal and for the betterment of the whole village population.

Now, the community members are cultivating all seasonal crops and earns handsome amount from it. During our visit, VO members were interviewed about BRSP CPI and Social mobilization. They all were happy and satisfied. They admired the interventions and told that BRSP has transformed our lives through their social mobilization and community physical infrastructure.

DEBRIEFING MEETING WITH BRDCEP DISTRICT STAFF

After visiting the CPI interventions and meeting with communities, RSPN team reached back at district office of BRSP in the evening. There they had a debriefing session with the district staff in presence of District Programme Coordinator. Moreover, a detail session was held on the intervention logic of BRDCEP and role of grant and service contract partners in attaining BRDCEP's goals.



CONCLUSION, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

First of all, RSPN's team is really thankful to BRSP Head Office staff and district staff for facilitating this visit, especially Dr. Shahnwaz Khan, Team Leader BRDCEP BRSP and Mr. Sher Hassan, District Programme Coordinator Zhob for the support and facilitation they provided during the visit.

Based on our meetings with communities and observation in field, RSPN team would like to give following recommendations to further strengthen efforts under BRDCEP:

1. Child Education

In most of the communities, out of school children can be found. Though BRSP has been creating awareness regarding children education in communities through various means, however, Community Awareness Toolkit for mainstreaming cross cutting, including children, would be a great opportunity for communities to create awareness and generate demands regarding child education. Therefore, special focus should be given regarding child education sessions in communities.

2. Women inclusion:

Gender disparity is prevalent in district Zhob. Women mobility is extremely restricted due to gender norms which make it challenging for women to avail services and participate in community development practices. Since one of the programme target is, "at least 50% of members of CIs and beneficiaries of socio-economic interventions are women" district team need to special focus on and develop culturally appropriate approaches for women inclusion in the programme.

3. Slack season:

District team develop and regularly update their social mobilization plan. However, Since Agriculture and livestock are the main sources of livelihood in the district and people are mostly busy during growing and harvesting seasons, maximum efforts should be put for social mobilization during slack seasons.