



Field Visit Report
District Loralai, Balochistan



European Union funded Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR THE BRACE'S GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



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Knowing BRACE Programme

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 Department of the Government of Balochistan (GoB). The Grant component of this five year (2017-2022) Programme is implemented by Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) in nine districts of Balochistan, namely Jhal Magsi, Kech, Loralai, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Pishin, Duki, Washuk and Zhob. The Programme is technically supported by Human Dynamics (HD), Oxford Policy Management 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 centre-piece of the BRACE Programme is the RSP approach to Community Driven Development (CDD) and its unique social mobilisation strategy which aims to build people's institutions, for an interface with government. This strategy is based on the strong belief and experience of the RSPs that without involving communities in their own development, poverty cannot be reduced. Hence, to involve the community, the Social Pillar (institutions of the people) needs to be first created. This Social Pillar will work in conjunction with the Administrative and Political Pillars of the state to promote real, demand-driven local development. The core function of the RSPs is to foster this Social Pillar in a way that these institutions of the people are financially viable and the rural poor are able to organise and harness their potentials in a sustainable manner, which works toward achieving the specific objectives of the Programme. Once organised, the communities have greater access to local authorities and line departments as a collective unit, giving them a stronger voice, to have their demands heard. Communities are mobilised into three tier organisations i.e. Community Organisations (COs) at neighbourhood level, federated into Village Organisations (VOs) at the village level, which are then federated at the Union Council, into Local Support Organisations (LSO). Whereas COs concentrate their work on the individual household and 'collective' activities that benefit a group of 15-20 households, LSOs are able to work at a higher level, to link up with local authorities and undertake larger initiatives, due to their large membership based and economies of scale. Planning thus takes place at various levels i.e. at the village level (VOs), through Village Development Plans (VDPs) and at the Union Council level, through Union Council Development Plans (UCDPs). Government officials and elected representatives are invited to participate in the development of these plans, and the RSPs also compile and share plans with local governments, for incorporation into district and provincial level plans. The agglomeration of these plans informs the design and plan of provincial ADPs and the PFM, bridging the gap between the demand and supply side of public service delivery in the province of Balochistan. 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. 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.

Role of RSPN in BRACE Programme

Given the multi-faceted nature of the programme with a multitude of stakeholders and implementing partners, the need to create a standardised, uniform approach for programme implementation is vital; particularly to support and enable the government to scale up the programme moving forward. There is a need to provide technical support to the implementing RSPs and TA for institutionalising Programme approaches, monitoring & evaluation systems and build capacities, while ensuring quality implementation of the Programme activities. This role is being played by the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), which serves as the strategic network of the RSPs and has experience of harmonising strategy and implementation approaches across the RSPs. RSPN will provide support to the RSPs, to build their technical and institutional capacities and provide necessary support to the TA component in developing the gender mainstreaming and in its support to the government of Balochistan in Local Development Policy Framework.

RSPN Expected Results under BRACE Programme

1. The quality and effectiveness of programme implementation by BRSP & NRSP is improved through ensuring uniform programme implementation approaches and harmonised monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms developed for BRSP and NRSP;
2. Gender inequalities reduced through ensuring implementation of the recommendations from the gender mainstreaming strategy to be developed by the Programme TA with support from RSPN;
3. Evidence based policy recommendations generated and disseminated to support the Local Development Policy Framework for Balochistan;
4. Technical and institutional capacity of BRSP & NRSP enhanced in mainstreaming, addressing and reporting on cross-cutting themes envisaged in the BRACE Programme and 5) Achievements, lessons and successful development approaches drawn from the BRACE widely disseminated through developing and implementing harmonised Communication and Visibility Plans.
5. Achievements, lessons and successful development approaches drawn from the BRDCEP widely disseminated through developing and implementing harmonised Communication and Visibility Plans.

Purpose of the visit

The purpose of the visit was to meet with BRSP District team and members of the Community Institutions (CIs) and to support them in standardisation and uniformity of the Programme implementation, especially support to the gender aspects of interventions.

Moreover, the visit also provided an opportunity to learn from BRSP district staff and CIs about the processes they have adopted and linkages they have developed and interventions they have undertaken for development of their communities.

Activities undertaken during the visit

On December 06, 2018, after covering a distance of approximately 290 Kilometer from Quetta, I reached district Headquarter Loralai in the afternoon. Soon after arrival at BRSP district office Loralai,

participated in closing ceremony of Community Management Skills Training (CMST) for CO office bearers. Since,

a new CMST module was developed by RSPN to departure from the earlier lecture-based CMST and uses the principles of adult-learning to engage with community women and men, it was important to seek participants' feedback on the new module. Participants of the training and the trainer from BRSP were of the opinion that the training contents and methods are relevant, interesting and easy to follow compared to the old CMST

module. The level of learning of knowledge and skills by the participants was satisfactory. They remember the key points and messages conveyed through the training.

| Indicator Descriptions | Year 2 Targets | Achievements 15 Jun'18 to 5 Dec'19 |
|---|----------------|------------------------------------|
| No. of COs formed | 975 | 586 |
| No. of VOs formed | 146 | 178 |
| No. of LSOs formed | 18 | 6 |
| CMST to community institutions leaders | 1824 | 160 |
| MALS training | 32 | 0 |
| Training on CAT & CIF for CRP's | 108 | 17 |
| Coordination, Experience Sharing, and Programme Review Meetings with CRPs | 27 | 3 |
| Orientation and establishment of JDDCs | 1 | 1 |
| MIPs Developed | 14,589 | 8619 |
| VDPs Developed | 162 | 30 |
| UCDPs Developed | 18 | 0 |

Table 1: Key Performance indicators of the Programme (District Loralai)



Participants of CMST giving feedback on the training content at the end of the training.

Mr. Shams Hamzazai, District Chairman Loralai was the chief guest of the event who appreciated CDD approaches of the RSPs and said that he was part of this process before he was elected as District Chairman. He also assured full support of the district local government to BRACE programme.

After the closing ceremony, a briefing meeting was held with BRSP district team. The meeting started with the introduction of the participants followed by discussion on the purpose of the visit. A detailed presentation was given by Mr. Allahdad Nasir, the district Programme Manager BRSP. The presentation covered comprehensive information about the district; including information about the socioeconomic indicator of the district, including indicators about health, education, income sources of the inhabitants. The presentation also covered details about the various completed and ongoing projects being implemented by BRSP in the district. The members of the meeting were informed that the district team has close coordination with the Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD) at district level. Despite challenges and delays in first year of the Programme, BRACE activities geared up in first half of the second year in district Loralai. Achievements against targets of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for year two of Programme for district Loralai are shown in table 1. At the end of the presentation question and answer session was held. Later, a detailed presentation was given by Programme Manager BRACE RSPN component on the Programme overall objective and specific objectives, role of BRACE partners, intervention logic of the Programme and how the district level activities contribute to attaining the specific objectives of the Programme. At end of the presentation, a detailed plan for the field visit was developed with the district team.

Field visit to communities

On December 07, along with members of the BRACE team Loralai; including District Programme Manager, M&E Officer and social mobilisers, visited BRACE Communities, and participated in Community Institution meetings.

These meetings included meetings with LSO Mushterka, CO Dastaan and VO Humwatan. Team members reached LSO Mustherka Office, UC Ponga. The chairman and other members of the LSO warmly welcomed the visiting team. After a round of introduction, the chairman of the LSO gave a detailed presentation about the composition, profile and activities of the LSO. According to the presentation, the LSO was established on 30th November 2015, and was adopted by BRACE



Map of Union Council Ponga

Programme in 2018. Total households in the UC are 836 and 67% (564) of the households in UC have been organised. The LSO represents 22 Village Organisation (11 Men's VOs, 11 Mix VOs) and 45 COs (24 Men's COs, 21 Women's COs) and is represented by 22 General Body members and 11 Executive Body members. The Union Council (UC) poonga is located between the mountains, where basic facilities are missing. This UC was effected

by the drought. It was said that BRSP is the only organisation working in Union Council Ponga. Pashto is the main language spoken in the UC. Agriculture is the primary source of income for the majority of the HHs followed by livestock. However, these two sectors have been badly affected by drought. Some of the people of the UCs work in coal and chromite mines and mostly not available for meetings of the Community Institutions. Some heads of the households in the UC are businessmen and it is very difficult for them to give regular time to CIs meetings; however, they contribute financially in CIs. Community and tribal conflicts badly affect Social Mobilisation activities in the district. To avoid community conflict, the



Programme Manager BRACE, RSPN attending the LSO Mushtarika's Meeting

community activities and CIs office bearers avoid interfering in those social issues that creates conflict. LSO regularly save and some of the savings have been utilised for opening a shop for disables. Current balance of saving is 47,000 PKR. Saving record and utilisation were documented. Poverty status of UC Ponga one is shown in below table;

| Indicator | Population | | | HH is PSC Categories | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|--------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | 0-11 | 12-18 | 19-23 | 24-34 | 35-50 | 51-100 |
| Total numbers in UC | 2,314 | 2,032 | 4,346 | 65 | 129 | 74 | 222 | 236 | 101 |
| Total % in UC | 53 | 47 | 100 | 8 | 16 | 9 | 27 | 28 | 12 |

The chairman informed that they have undertaken several self-help initiatives at the platform of LSO; a few of which are as follow:

- Supported BRSP in undertaking Poverty Score Card census of in the UC;
- Supported community members in attaining their National Identity Cards, voter list registration, local certificates and birth certificates for their children;
- Enrolment of two poorest of the poor women in Benazir Income Support Programme;
- Supported health department in polio campaigns;
- Supported community in school enrolment, tree plantation and vaccination against polio;
- Resolution of conflicts between tribes and households by peace committee of the LSO;
- The LSO has developed strong linkages with local authorities, government departments and other key stakeholders including Member National Assembly (MNA) and Members Provincial Assembly (MPAs) which resulted in electrification of one village in the UC, provision of solar plates for isolated houses, construction of two check dams, construction of labor room in basic health unit and upgradation of a

middle school to high school. They have also developed linkages with private entities and organisations in the UC.

After the presentation, a question answer session was held, LSO record was checked to see if process and documentation are done in standardised manner. The record shows proper and standardised documentation of LSO profile, executive and general body lists of members, resolution of the LSO, Bylaws VO resolutions, membership record, record and utilisation of saving, record of LSO registration with Social Welfare Department, members' fee record.

Visit to Hum Watan Village Organisation

The team then visited Killi (village) Haji Abdul Rasheed, Union Council Nasirabad-II where the members of the visiting team participated in meeting of the VO Hum Watan. The team was warmly welcomed by the members of the VO on the arrival. After a round of introduction, a detailed presentation was exhibited by the chairman of the VO to showcase the VO profile and achievements. The VO is man-only VO and has been established in October 2018. The VO is a federation four COs. Majority of the villagers are labors and some of villagers are seasonal migrants, they move to Punjab in winters. There is a dearth of public services in the village; the village



Programme Manager BRACE, RSPN, photographed while checking VO Hum Watan's record

does not have any girl's school. Though health facility is available near village but health facility staff are normally absent. The presentation did not contain information about socioeconomic status of the village. The VO self-help activities included, supporting health department efforts in polio vaccination, installation of transformer

for the village, supported community members in attaining their National Identity Cards, voter list registration and health and hygiene campaign in the village.

VDP is not yet developed as 15 to 20 households migrated to Punjab in the winters. It will be developed in April once return to village. The future plans of VO include organisation of the remaining unorganised households in the villages, ensuring 100% enrollment of the children in school, ensuring that 100% of the village children are vaccinated against polio.

The VO has maintained record, including register, resolution, village profile, membership list, meeting record. However, the record needs improvements, especially the socioeconomic status of the village and proper documentation of the meeting to highlight what were discussed and what decision were made during the meeting.

Meeting with CO Dostain

The team then moved to Killi Zangikhail, Union Council Nasirabad-I and participated in a monthly meeting of CO Dostain. After a round of introduction, a presentation on flip chart was exhibited by the manager of the CO to showcase the CO profile and achievements. It was shared that the CO was established 2014 and adapted under BRACE Programme in 2018. Total households in the hamlet are 22; out of which 15 HHs are organised. Majority of the people are associated with daily wages work and some of the households are seasonal migrants. Main objective of the CO is to address their issues through self-help and with the support from governmental and non-governmental organisations through developing effective and efficient linkages with them. Record of the CO was available, including list of members, CO resolution, CO formation documents, Terms of Partnership (TOP) between RSP and CO, attendance and saving record, member's saving passbook, proceeding records (Karwai), members Micro Investment Plans, CO resolution for joining a VO, Social Mobilisation Plan and Programme Introduction. One member did CMST; president of the CO and has good understanding of the CMST. The record needs improvement, details of issues were discussed in Karwai register. BRSP Social Mobiliser was guided in this regard. Major women related issues in the hamlet are; a) almost all of the women in the hamlet do only home work as they do not have technical skills to help them earn, b) there is no girls school near by the hamlet, c) no Community Midwife, Lady Health Visitor is there near the village. Only Basic Health Unit (BHU) is there but no lady doctor or LHV available in the BHU.

Debriefing meeting with BRACE district team Loralai

At the end of the field visit, a debriefing meeting was held with BRACE team district Loralai, in which observations and key finding of the visit were shared. During the meeting, a number of clarifications about BRACE Programme and suggestions for improvement were shared with the team.

Key finding of the visit

- During year one of the Programme, the preparatory and general activities took more than expected time, hence, district level targets set for the year one have not been achieved. It has been observed that Programme activities in district Loralai geared up in first half of year two. From July 15, 2018 to December 15, 2018 (the first half of the year two), the achievements against targets were approximately 45%. If the implementation continues with same face, it is expected that the remaining targets of year two will be achieved in upcoming six months.

- Overall, the BRACE Programme interventions in the district, observed/monitored during the visit, are being implemented in accordance with guideline given in BRACE “Programme Implementation Manual” (PIM). The beneficiaries of the Programme were appreciative of the Programme and were thankful to BRSP and BRACE district team. However, following recommendation should be considered by the district team for further improvement in the implementation of the Programme;
 - District team should ensure that all LSO have printed registers for maintaining their record; printed register was not available with LSO Mushterka.
 - Record keeping by the Community Institutions needs further improvement, especially, documentation of socioeconomic status of the village, proper documentation of the meeting minutes, decisions and follow ups.
 - District team should regularly update the progress against key performance indicators and make decisions accordingly. This will help them achieve the targets effectively and efficiently.
 - Though the district M&E Officer was very competent in undertaking M&E related tasks and maintained M&E related record properly, he should also be trained on BRACE M&E framework which is envisaged in the Programme.
 - M&E Officer being a male, due to contextual social norms, cannot monitor women activities in the district. Quality assurance checklist for women CMSTs have not been administered as female M&E staff is not available at the district. Women related activities are monitored through Programme female staff. There should be a mechanism that women related activities are monitored through a female M&E Officer.
 - Though available, there is need for further improvement in documentation and presentation of PSC data of the village by COs and VOs.
 - Some of the banners show BRDCEP instead of BRACE. The district team said that the banners for activities were printed before the abbreviation of the Programme was changed to BRACE. If Budget allows, BRSP should reprint the banners.
 - The achievement against target of CRPs selection was very low. Only 27 CRPs were selected against the target of 108 which need to be expedited. This was mainly because of a) non-availability of criteria based CRPs in some areas, especially women CRPs, 2) scattered population and long distances 3) permission is not given by family members to the females to become CRPs. The district team has planned to involve school teacher and staff from health department to address this issue.
 - There are some issues in the results of PSC targeting e.g. there is a widow who do not have any children and also do not have any bread earner, but according to the PSC result she is non-poor. Similarly, there is a household in the district with three children having thalassaemia and are extremely poor but according to the score, the household falls in the category of non-poor as it has his own house. These issue will be discussed with relevant people in RSPN and BRSP and a way out to address this issue will be identified.

.....End.....