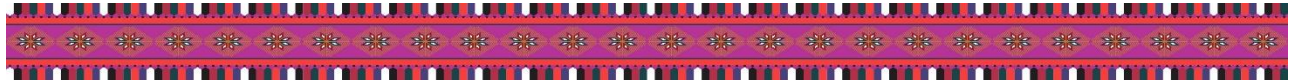




Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme



Meeting Minutes RSPN Board's BRACE Oversight Committee

28th May, 2019
Islamabad



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR THE BRACE's GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



Meeting Minutes
Fourth meeting of the RSPN Board’s BRACE Oversight Committee

The Fourth meeting of the RSPN Board’s BRACE Oversight Committee held on May 28, 2019 at the RSPN Office, IRM Complex, Islamabad to discuss the following agenda points;

1. Updates on the decisions of the Oversight Committee last meeting
2. Progress Update of BRACE Programme, including financial updates
3. Issues, challenges and way forward
4. Any other Matter.

Following were the participants of the meeting

1. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN (Chair)
2. Shandana Khan, CEO RSPN
3. Mr. Nadir Gul Barech CEO BRSP (Member)
4. Mr. Ahmed Ullah, Programme Manager-BRACE RSPN Component (Member)
5. Mr. Fazalullah Qureshi (Member)
6. Mr. Khaleel Ahmed Tetlay, Chief Operating Officer (COO) RSPN
7. Dr. Shah Nawaz, Team Leader -BRACE BRSP Component
8. Ghulam Rasool, Programme Manager –BRACE NRSP Component
9. Agha Ali Javad, General Manager NRSP
10. Khurram Shahzad, Specialist M&E, RSPN
11. Bashir Anjum, Manager Special Projects, RSPN
12. BRACE Programme RSPN component team members

Proceedings:

Agenda Item 1: Update on the decisions of last meeting

Mr. Ahmed Ullah, Programme Manager BRACE RSPN component, updated the members of the committee on the decisions made in third Oversight Committee meeting held on March 15, 2019; followed by overall progress of the BRACE Programme against the targets. The overall progress shows that RSPN, BRSP and NRSP have made some progress since the last meeting for Social Mobilisation, Capacity Building Activities and Local Development Plans. However, to attain the targets for year two, BRSP and BRSP need further expedite efforts.

Summary of the decisions made in previous meeting and updates are given below in the table below:

#	Decisions taken on March 15, 2019	Update as of May 22, 2019
1	Chairman of the Committee emphasised that the process of CI registration should be expedited so that field activities are not affected.	CEO BRSP met with the Minister Social Welfare Department, Government of Balochistan and the Team Leader BRACE held several meetings with the Secretary and Director General Social Welfare Department to expedite the process for

2	Mr. Nadir Gul Barech will meet with the Secretary Social Welfare Department to address the CI registration issue.	<p>CI registration. However, the progress is still very slow for the CI registration. Following bullet points show the progress since 15th March, 2019;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For CI registration, 65 cases (39 VOs and 26 LSOs) have been submitted; 10 LSOs have been Registered • Total CIs (VOs & LSOs) formed: 1917; Total CIs registered: 431 (371 VOs, 60 LSOs) 22%
3	Process for financial expenditure and sub-granting should be expedited. Sub-granting of distribution of CIF in 65 UCs, where accounts are open, will be completed by the end of June, 2019.	<p>The progress for financial expenditure against year two budget is low and needs to be expedited. Following is the status of CIF sub-grants by BRSP and NRSP;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 CIF sub-grants given to LSOs; 6 by NRSP and 11 by BRSP; 103 loans have been disbursed to poor women. • 48 (4 by NRSP and 42 by BRSP) sub grants of 976 IGGs given to LSOs/VOs
4	Gender Sensitisation and Mainstreaming training for master trainers of BRSP and NRSP should be undertaken as per plan and follow-up support should be provided to RSPs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Sensitisation and Mainstreaming training held in April. 35 (15 Women and 20 Men) master trainers from BRSP, NRSP and GoB trained • Follow up plans for rollout training developed
5	Recommendations from BRACE gender analysis report and review of the policies need to be incorporated in RSPs HR and Gender policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRSP BoD has approved recommendations and incorporated in HR policy • RSPN will present recommendations in BoD meeting to be held on May 28, 2019, while NRSP will present in upcoming BoD meeting
6	Progress needs to be expedited for some of the targets, i.e. VDP development, CMST, CAT, and LMST.	<p>Progress since 15th March there has been good progress, shown below, for VDP development, CMST, CAT, and LMST.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDP development increased from 20% to 35% • CMST 31% to 57% • CAT 24% to 30% • LMST 121% against the target of year 1&2

Agenda Item 2: Progress Update of BRACE Programme, Including Financial Update

Expected Result wise progress against the targets of year one and two was shared with the members of the committee. Following are the key progress updates of BRACE Programme against the targets for year one and two:

Expected Result 1: Establishment and empowerment of a three-tiered participative system of federated Community Organisations (COs) at community, village and UC levels capable of development needs identification & prioritisation, development planning, resource mobilisation, and execution, and operation & maintenance of community infrastructures.

- 66% of target household are organised. 89% of the targets for CO, 110% of the targets for VO, and 54% of the targets for LSO formation achieved. It was discussed that as households are scattered and the distance between COs is large; therefore, it becomes difficult to cluster more number of COs per VO. Federating the few number of neighboring COs in every districts has resulted in increased number of VOs.

Expected Result 2: Increased capacity of citizens, communities, and marginalised groups, particularly women, to assert their rights and hold local authorities accountable by engaging them in joint participatory development planning and execution for a more relevant and efficient public service delivery

- 55% of CO members have development their MIPs;
- 37% of the VOs has development their VDPs in coordination with LAs and elected council members;
- 48% of the LSOs has consolidated their Union Councils Development Plans (UCDPs).

Expected Result 3: Improved accesses of communities, particularly women and marginalised groups to quality public services and benefit from climate-resilient community infrastructures and productive assets planned implemented and maintained jointly with local authorities.

- 496 CPIs (65 by BRSP & 431 by NRSP) identified through village development process
- Social and technical feasibility of 44% CPIs (40% BRSP & 47% NRSP) completed
- 27 CPIs have been approved by JDDC in Kech. 17 TOPs have been signed with LSOs for sub-granting
- 01 CPI is complete in Kech and is functional;

Expected Result 4: Increased number of poor community members, particularly women and marginalised such as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), minorities, and socially excluded groups are engaged in income generating activities.

- BRSP has established 55 Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills Centers against target of 27. 1,340 women have been enrolled in these centers against the target of 550. Establishment of 18 centers by NRSP is planned in June.
- 2,360 (100%) beneficiaries have been identified for IGGs, 50 sub-grants signed for 992 (50%) beneficiaries.

- 653 (BRSP 450 and NRSP 203) beneficiaries identified, against the target of 7,900, for TVET; validation process is completed; potential TVET Institutes identified; NRSP has planned TVET activities from June;
- 61 Community Bookkeepers (BRSP 46 & NRSP 15) identified for training on financial management. NRSP has trained all 15 identified CBK on Financial management.
- 17 (NRSP 6, BRSP 11) CIF sub-grants given to LSOs; 103 loans have been disbursed to poor women.
- Enterprise Development and Marketing training carried out for 405 against the target of 1600 by BRSP.

Expected Result 5: Experiences on the ground are assessed and disseminated in order to inspire the design of the building blocks of a Local Development Policy framework.

- BRSP and NRSP supported RSPN in the finalization of BRACE Research Framework, TORs for first Participatory Action Research
- Programme Managers of BRSP, NRSP, HD and representative from GoB are members of BRACE Research Advisory Committee
- BRSP and NRSP Supported RSPN in conducting Lesson Learning Visit and Workshop; led by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan and the experience sharing visit of the key stakeholders to community institutions in Tajikistan fostered by the Aga Khan Foundation
- Other activities under this expected result is planned for subsequent years

Expected Result 6: Gender inequalities reduced through ensuring implementation of the recommendations from the gender mainstreaming strategy to be developed by the EU TA with support from the RSPs.

- BRSP and NRSP assisted RSPN in developing manual for gender sensitisation and mainstreaming
- Master trainers from BRSP and NRSP participated in gender sensitisation and mainstreaming TOT
- BRSP BOD has approved recommendations on the basis of gender analysis for improvement in HR Policy, while NRSP and RSPN has plan to get recommendations approved in next BoD meetings
- Rolled out trainings on Gender Sensitisation and Mainstreaming are in progress

Expected Result 7: Cross-cutting themes envisaged in the Balochistan Rural Development & Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme mainstreamed, addressed, and effectively reported.

- 43% of the CRPs hired, while 31% of the hired CRPs have been trained on CAT and CIF.
- The trained CRPs are imparting CAT sessions to CIs in their monthly meetings

Expected Result 8: Improved capacity of elected members, local government authorities' staff, and officials of the line departments to involve communities in planning, co-resourcing and managing local development activities.

- 13, against the target of 28, Stakeholder meetings convened to inform and update about VDPs and UCDPs
- All the other activities under this result are planned for the subsequent years

The Chairman of the committee members inquired about the reasons for low progress against the target of households to be organised. He advised the team that targets of household organised should be focused. The committee was informed that social mobilisation targets will be achieved.

Due to shortage of time and another meeting in queue, further discussions regarding progress on finance and Programme components could not be proceeded. However, the detailed presentation on Programme progress was printed and handed over to the committee members.

Agenda Item 3: Issues, challenges and way forward

1. Law and order situation in some UCs of BRACE Programme districts hampered the Programme activities throughout the implementation period. To address this, RSPs maintain close liaison with district authorities to assess the law and order situation in the Programme districts.
2. BRACE Programme is facing delays in registering CIs with Social Welfare Department and bank accounts' opening that has resulted in slowing down sub-granting of IGGs, CIF and CPIs. A number of meetings were held with Secretary Social Welfare Department to address the CI registration issue. Bank account opening has been taken up with multiple banks. There is some good progress to address this issue.
3. In district Kech, more than 50% population from Rural seven UCs migrated to urban areas. Moreover, NRSP has also requested for the replacement of MHI component disability component. Secretary Local Government and Rural Development Department recommended and NRSP has written a formal letter to EU to include the urban areas in the Programme where migrated population settled.
4. All Banks in three Tehsils of Kech have been closed. Banks are only available in district Headquarter. Kech LSOs face issues in opening bank accounts close to their areas. CIs have planned to open bank account in banks situated at district headquarter.
5. Due to internet connectivity issue in most of the target districts, the real time data cannot be updated. The field units visit district offices to upload data on weekly basis.

Key decisions

- 1) Regarding CIs bank account opening, the Chairman of the Committee asked General Manager NRSP to discuss with NRSP bank if the bank can open a branch in Turbat. This will help in expediting account opening process for CIs in district Kech.
- 2) NRSP bank has planned to open a branch in district Killa Abdullah. The chair of the committee emphasised that the process for branch opening in Killa Abdullah should be expedited. CEO BRSP will talk to concerned person in the bank in this regard.
- 3) Issues related to processing sub-grants should be expedited. Sub-grants should be released to LSOs having accounts in Bank.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the chair of the meeting.