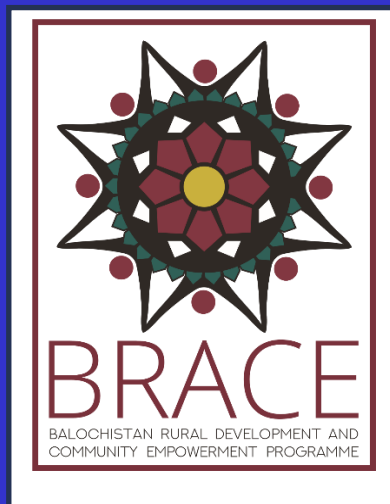


Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme



First- Interim Narrative Report
Rural Support Programmes Network -Component
June 30, 2017- June 29, 2018



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BRACE	Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme
BRSP	Balochistan Rural Support Programme
CAT	Community Awareness Toolkit
CDD	Community Driven Development
CIs	Community Institutions
C&V	Communication and Visibility
CO	Community Organisation
DRM	Detailed Results Matrix
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU	European Union
FACE	Forum for Advancement of Communication Expertise
GoB	Government of Balochistan
HD	Human Dynamics
IP	Implementing Partner
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LG&RDD	Local Government and Rural Development Department
LSO	Local Support Organisation
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NRSP	National Rural Support Programme
OPM	Oxford Policy Management
P&D	Planning and Development
PIM	Programme Implementation Manual

PMM	Project Monitoring Matrix
PSC	Poverty Scorecard
PVMSC	Participatory Video & Most Significant Change
QACP	Quality Assurance and Control Plan
RAC	Research Advisory Committee
RSPN	Rural Support Programmes Network
RSP	Rural Support Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SES	Socioeconomic Survey
SPDC	Strategy and Policy Dialogue Committee
SUCCESS	Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
VO	Village Organisation

1. DESCRIPTION

This interim report outlines the progress made by RSPN for year one (June 30, 2017 to June 29, 2018) in the implementation of the EU funded “Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme – RSPN Component”.

1.1 Name of Coordinator of Grant Contract	Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)
1.2 Name and title of the contact person	Shandana Khan, Chief Executive Officer
1.3 Name of beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the action	Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)
1.4 Title of the action	Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRACE) Programme – RSPN Component
1.5 Contract Number	ACA/2015/369-759
1.6 Start date and end date of the reporting period	June 30, 2017 to June 29,2018
1.7 Target <i>Country(ies) or region(s)</i>	Pakistan, in nine districts of Balochistan, namely: Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Duki ¹ , Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob.
1.8 Final beneficiaries and/or target groups (if different) (including number of women and men)	<p>People and people’s organisations benefiting from the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme: 300,000 rural households, and the community institutions (LSOs, VOs and COs) in programme target districts.</p> <p>Target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Support Programmes: Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP). • Community Institutions: Community Organisations (COs), Village Organisations (VOs) and Local Support Organisations (LSOs). • Government of Balochistan: Provincial Policy Makers, Local Governments and District Government Authorities.
1.9 Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7)	Same as 1.7

¹ District Loralai, one of the Programme’s target districts, has been divided into two district; district Duki and district Loralai and was notified by Government of Balochistan during first year of the Programme implementation. Now, the total number of BRACE Programme districts are nine.

2 ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES

2.1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme, a five-year European Union (EU) funded rural development Programme, is being implemented in collaboration with Local Government and Rural Development Department (LG&RDD), Government of Balochistan (GoB). The overall objective of the 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.

This Programme has been designed to support mobilising and capacitating local communities for reinforced resilience, improved access to basic services, improved livelihoods, economic growth, and to capacitate local authorities/governments to partner with communities for effective and efficient service delivery, and to assist the development of a strategic Policy Framework for institutionalisation of such approaches ultimately through a Sector-wide Approach the evolution of which will also be supported under this action. The Programme is also envisaged to provide a platform to GoB and its development partners for evolving a contextualised and harmonised approach to community-led development.

The intervention logic of BRACE is about changes to socio-economic conditions at the grassroots level: improvement in health and life expectancy, nutrition, education, literacy (to develop skills in support of economic growth), population size and structure, gender and social relations. It intervenes both on the "demand" and "supply" sides of the service delivery equation. On demand side, the action combines social mobilisation, capacity building, foster mechanisms for accountability and civic oversight, creating agency and voice for poor people to become part of the development process, economic empowerment, participative bottom-up areas-based development planning, and collective action for addressing critical community physical infrastructure constraints, to realize welfare and governance outcomes. On supply side, the action supports creating an enabling policy environment for community-led development through establishment of a policy framework and improvement of Public Finance Management System, and empowerment of local authorities for engagement with citizens' institutions, in combination with capacity building for effective public administration, to scale up basic social services delivery and foster mechanisms for social-accountability and through ultimately adopting a Sector-wide Approach to community-led development.

The BRACE Programme is being implemented through three RSPs namely: Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and the Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN). Implementation of the "demand" side interventions has been entrusted to the Rural Support Programmes including BRSP, NRSP and RSPN, while the EU has contracted two technical assistance teams namely Human Dynamics (HD) and Oxford Policy Management (OPM) to assist the GoB for implementation of the "supply" side interventions.

The specific objectives of the Programme 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 and 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.

BRSP and NRSP are implementing Programme activities that contribute in attaining specific objective one given in the Action Document of the Programme and are responsible for implementation of the social mobilisation component in 09 districts of Balochistan. The centre-piece of the RSP approach to Community Driven Development (CDD) is its unique social mobilisation strategy which aims to build people's institutions, for an interface with government. This is an intensive, integrated and tested approach, since 1982. 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 objective one 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 will be invited to participate in the development of these plans, and the RSPs will also compile and share plans with local governments, for incorporation into district and provincial level plans. The agglomeration of these plans will inform 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. The organised communities will be made financially viable, through providing the Community Investment Fund (CIF), capacity building support and linkages with local governments. Community members, especially women, will be provided technical and vocational training and literacy and numeracy skills to increase economic opportunities and employability. The communities will be facilitated to build and manage community level physical infrastructure schemes and the poorest member households will be provided with Income Generating Grants (IGG) and micro health insurance to safeguard them against health shocks. Along with forming community institutions, the RSPs will also train and build the capacity of CO members to equip them to effectively manage their own organisations and to engage with local

government and public institutions in order to ensure wider participation of all stakeholders in the development process. This will be done to create awareness and to equip the communities with information on how to tackle social development issues, extensive sessions on cross-cutting social issues (nutrition, health and hygiene, family planning, HIV-AIDS, gender, human (particularly women) rights, WASH, DRR, climate change & environment, and natural resource management etc.) will also be delivered to the organised communities by the RSPs.

The BRACE Programme-RSPN component is a €2 million grant and will contribute to both of the specific objectives of the Programme by contributing in attaining expected results; ER 0 (Preparation Phase), ER 1.5 and ER 2.5. The corresponding, specific objective of the RSPN component 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 Government of Balochistan in its objective of improving public service delivery.

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 will play this role by attaining the five expected results; 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.

During the reporting period, the key Programme activities and interventions have been effectively implemented to contribute in attaining the Programme outcomes. In coordination with Programme partners i.e., BRSP, NRSP and the TA, Programme key stakeholders, particularly, that of the state institutions were engaged at provincial and district levels to have a supportive implementation environment and stakeholders' forums (Strategy and Policy Dialogue Committee-SPDC and Research Advisory Committee) were formed. To ensure standardisation in Programme implementation, the RSPN core and BRACE team developed, in consultation with relevant government departments; i.e., Local Government and Rural Development

Department (LGRDD), Planning and Development Department (P&D), Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Women Development Department (WDD) and implementing RSPs (BRSP and NRSP), common implementation strategies, the training guidelines, particularly the significant BRACE Programme documents (manuals, guidelines, toolkits and plans) on uniform programme implementation approaches and harmonised monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Poverty Scorecard (PSC) census, Socioeconomic surveys and Community Awareness Toolkit on awareness raising on crosscutting issues themes. To capacitate field teams in rolling out the trainings, the staff of implementing RSPs and government departments (LGRDD, P&D, SWD and WDD) were trained on Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), M&E Framework, baseline survey approached and methodologies, gender policies, anti-sexual harassment laws in Pakistan and quality assurance and control plan and tools during the first year of the Programme. During the reporting period, PSC census was completed and socioeconomic baseline survey is in progress. BRACE Programme MIS of BRSP and NRSP have been developed with assistance from RSPN and real time KPIs reports are produced through a central dashboard developed by RSPN.

RSPN has assisted the Programme TA in undertaking a comprehensive gender analysis, and in preparatory activities for developing Gender Mainstreaming (GMS) strategy, research studies and global Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy. Gender and HR policies of RSPN, BRSP and NRSP were reviewed by Gender Focal person and recommendations for improvements formulated. RSPN has developed conceptual research framework for the research component of the Programme and started procurement of services for first research study. In addition, RSPN has developed a draft communication and visibility plan for RSPN, BRSP and NRSP's components and will be submitted to EU for approval. On the basis of draft C&V strategy and guidance from EU communication consultant, Programme's communication and visibility activities, set forth in Programme plan for year one, were undertaken. These activities include, annual LSO convention, regional cooperation exposure visit, formal and informal meetings with policy makers and GoB officials, and production of visibility items. The coordinated approach adopted by the BRACE Programme and active engagement of the stakeholders at every level made all the Programme stakeholders, especially the GoB extremely supportive right from the onset of the Programme as evident by their active participation of high level officials (e.g. participation of Syed Liaqat Agha, MPA and Member of Parliamentary Committee P&D and Mr. Asfandyar Kakar, Secretary P&D GoB in the closing ceremony of M&E training workshop) in Programme events, trainings and workshops and their assurance of support. RSPN BRACE staff conducted field visits to Programme district and their assessments show that the Implementing Partners BRSP and NRSP are ensuring and following uniform, but contextualised, implementation strategies and monitoring system for the various components of the Programme; RSPN has developed a common results framework in agreement with GoB and in consultation with implementing RSPs. In addition, BRSP and NRSP are ensuring standardised common Communication & Visibility of the BRACE Programme, following the "Communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions Manual" and Draft C&V strategy. During the first year of the Programme; the RSPN team also undertook field visits to the five Programme Districts (Loralai, Pishin, Zhob, Kech and Killa Abdullah) in order to observe the progress of BRACE Programme activities; ensure standardisation, quality assurance and simultaneously learn from EU funded Balochistan Community Development Programme (BCDP) implementation and results. These visits helped Programme staff review BRACE Progress at field level, assess the quality of Programme implementation, observe if standardised approaches are being applied and provide support to field teams for corrective measures.

The intervention logic of the BRACE Programme is still relevant and does not require any changes. Impact and outcome level assumptions of the Programme hold true so far as no major security issue has arisen due to law and order situation, no natural calamities occurred, implementing RSPs and programme TA cooperated with each other and GoB continued supporting the programme.

2.2. RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

A. RESULTS

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: *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 Government of Balochistan in its objective of improving public service delivery.*

OUTCOME:

In order to contribute in strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of BRSP and NRSP and provide support and evidence to the Programme TA, RSPN in consultation with Programme partners developed uniform implementation strategies and guidelines; including Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), common gender sensitive M&E framework and reporting mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Poverty Scorecard (PSC) survey Manual, socio-economic baseline and end line survey approach and methodology, Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT), Communication and Visibility Strategy for the BRACE Programme during year one of the Programme. Given the multifaceted nature of the programme with a multitude of stakeholders and implementing partners, the need to create a standardised, uniform approach for Programme's implementation is vital. Capacity building of implementing partners (BRSP, NRSP) and relevant departments of the GoB, including from Local Government & Rural Development Department, Planning and Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Women Development Department is a prerequisite in ensuring that uniform strategies and plans are implemented effectively in the pursuit of attaining the specific objective of the Programme. Hence, development of the uniform implementation strategies was followed by training of implementing RSPs and staff from the above mentioned GoB departments and follow up support in implementation of the strategies. This role of RSPN resulted in adoption of the uniform strategies and guidelines by RSPs in first year of the Programme. Implementing RSPs utilised the uniform approaches in activities planned for year one of the Programme. These included; Social Mobilisation activities, Poverty Scorecard census, Socioeconomic baseline approaches and M&E framework. To ensure that the Programme implementation results are monitored, measured and reported according to the Programme strategies, RSPs adopted the M&E framework and quality assurance and control mechanism to collect, analyse and report data on common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as per the guidelines given in the framework. The KPIs feed into joint and integrated web-based MIS developed under the BRACE Programme. The centralised dashboard, developed by RSPN consolidates data from both the implementing partners. Programme overall, district-wise, tehsil and UC wise progress can be tracked in real time through this the MIS system. Programme monitoring plan, detailed result matrix, and project monitoring matrix support and guide the overall monitoring system of the

Programme. Moreover, to ensure a well-coordinated and uniform communication and visibility (C&V) of the Programme, RSPN, in consultation with BRSP and NRSP, and inputs from the TA and EU, drafted Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy for the grant component of BRACE Programme. The strategy will be submitted to EU for approval in second quarter of year two. On the basis of draft C&V strategies, and with guidance from “Communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions Manual” implementing partners ensured standardised communication and visibility of the Programme during first year of the Programme. Observations from frequent follow up field visits to communities by Programme and M&E teams of RSPN, BRSP and NRSP confirm that field teams follow standardised implementation and harmonised M&E approaches. However, given the first year and nature of the Programme with multitude of interventions, follow-up support is required to field staff to further develop their capacity in mainstreaming of standardised approached, hence, the support to field staff has been incorporated in BRSP, NRSP and RSPN plans for upcoming years. Progress mentioned and the subsequent results during first year contributed in attaining the specific objective of the Programme. Progress against the outcome indicators for attaining the specific objective is given below. Given the progress, the outcome level indicators are on track and no changes have been made at outcome level indicators and corresponding assumptions mentioned in the RSPN logframe.

- i. Implementing Partners follow uniform, but contextualised, implementation strategies for the various components of the Programme;

RSPN has developed uniform, but contextualised implementation strategies and related guidelines; including Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), common gender sensitive M&E framework and reporting mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Poverty Scorecard (PSC) survey Manual, socio-economic baseline and end line survey approach and methodology, Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT), Communication and Visibility Strategy for the BRACE Programme during year one. Staff from BRSP, NRSP and relevant departments of the GoB, including from Local Government & Rural Development Department, Planning and Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Women Development Department were trained to effectively implement these strategies. The manuals and guidelines were prepared in the context of Balochistan and aligned with Programme Objectives. CAT manual includes graphics for greater understanding by the community members. Similarly, Community Management Skills Trainings (CMSTs) CMST manual was prepared and uses the principles of adult-learning to engage with community women and men. Now, the CMST training is appropriate both for non-literate and literate community leaders, as the training uses interactive approaches and invites participants to reflect and analyse their current situation and develop a vision for the future. Implementing partners and GoB staff were trained on the above mentioned implementation strategies and follow up support was provided during year one of the Programme. RSPs have started adoption of the strategies and guidelines during the course of implementation of the Programme. During year one of the Programme, Social Mobilisation activities, Poverty Scorecard census, Socioeconomic baseline approaches, and M&E framework facilitated BRSP and NRSP in undertaking their Programme activities. Given the first year and large Programme with multitude of interventions, follow-up support is required to field level staff. Follow up support to field staff has already been incorporated in BRSP, NRSP and RSPN plans for upcoming years. Keeping in view the progress against this, it can be deduced that the indicator is on track and will be attained in subsequent years of the Programme.

- ii. IPs develop a common results framework agreed with GoB;

RSPN in consultation with implementing RSPs' (BRSP and NRSP) M&E and Programme staff developed a common and a "uniform M&E framework" and "quality assurance and control mechanism" on common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the BRACE Programme in the inception phase to ensure that the Programme results are monitored, measured, reported according to the guidelines and processes given in the PIM. The M&E framework spells out the key functions of monitoring and evaluation, and determines roles and responsibilities for the RSPN and RSPs M&E teams in implementing programme functions. The framework provides detailed matrices, including the Detailed Results Matrix (DRM) and Project Monitoring Matrix (PMM) that build on the overall BRACE Programme logframe and being used for elaborating what to monitor, and how to track programme implementation progress. The M&E framework was reviewed with RSPs and Government representative from Planning and Development Department in five-day M&E training workshop held in November 2017 and their feedback has been incorporated. The GOB accepted the M&E framework in the training workshop in which GoB officials, including Mr. Agha Syed Liaqat Ali, MPA and Member of Parliamentary Committee Planning and Development Department, GoB and Mr. Asfandyar Kakar, Secretary Planning and Development Department were the among the guests during closing ceremony. They appreciated the development of M&E framework for the Programme and assured every possible support during implementation of the framework. RSPN, BRSP and NRSP have started adapting the framework and collecting, analysing and reporting data, as per the guidelines given in the framework and produced KPIs reports. The KPIs feed into a Joint and integrated MIS. BRACE Programme's first annual KPIs report has been produced and published, drawing on the integrated MIS after the end of first year of the programme and is in the Dissemination Process.

On the basis of frequent follow up field visits to BRSP and NRSP BRACE Programme districts, RSPN team has observed that both implementing RSPs are following the uniform monitoring and quality assurance and control mechanism for ensuring robust and uniform implementation of Programme activities starting with Poverty Scorecard Census, implementing RSPs and RSPN M&E teams have monitored PSC Census in the programme districts on regular basis for course correction during the process. Regarding socioeconomic baseline survey, implementing RSPs have sought RSPN support after identification of missing households selected households for the socioeconomic baseline. Moreover, they have also identified issues related to discrepancies in household's income and expenditures and the issue was solved by identifying technical faults in the survey by RSPN. Moreover, implementing RSPs BRSP and NRSP programme staff use quality assurance checklists in their activities to ensure that the activity is performed according the given guidelines and processes given in the BRACE Programme PIM. However, given the first year and large Programme with multitude of interventions, follow-up support is required to field level staff to further develop their capacity in utilisation of the framework. Follow up support to field staff has already been incorporated in BRSP, NRSP and RSPN plans for upcoming years. Keeping in view the progress against this, it can be deduced that the indicator is on track and will be attained in subsequent years of the Programme.

iii. IPs follow a uniform monitoring system;

As stated above, the M&E framework developed by RSPN provides a uniform monitoring system to Programme implementing partners with the following processes. In order to report on Programme performance, a set of common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been

developed. BRSP and NRSP collect data on the KPIs on standardised formats and feed into a web-based MIS, developed by RSPs with assistance from RSPN. The central dashboard, developed by RSPN consolidates data from both the implementing partners and produce KPIs reports. Overall Programme wise, district-wise, tehsil and UC wise progress can be tracked in real time through this system. Programme monitoring plan, detailed result matrix, project monitoring matrix support and guide the overall monitoring system of the Programme. Embedded in the monitoring system, the quality control and assurance tools and checklists developed by RSPN support RSPs in ensuring the quality of the Programme interventions. After training of implementing partners (BRSP and NRSP) Programme and M&E staff by RSPN, implementation of the monitoring system has been started. Follow up visits by RSPN and RSPs Programme and M&E team regularly monitor to check if the monitoring system is being implemented as per the guideline given in the M&E framework and provide backstopping support to implementation teams. Though implementing partners starting following the uniform monitoring system, given the first year of the Programme, there is need for regular follow-up visits by both implementing partners and RSPN monitoring staff backstopping support to implementation teams in the field. RSPN has planned to hold a meeting of the RSPs Programme and M&E teams to review the follow up visit plans and provide inputs for further strengthening backstopping support. Keeping in view the progress made against this indicator, it can be inferred that the indicator is on track.

iv. IPs develop and follow a common Communication & Visibility Strategy;

To ensure a well-coordinated and uniform communication and visibility (C&V) of the Programme, RSPN, in consultation with BRSP and NRSP, and inputs from the TA and EU, developed a draft Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy for the grant component of BRACE Programme. The strategy will be submitted to EU for approval in second quarter of year two. On the basis of draft C&V strategies, and with guidance from “Communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions Manual” implementing partners ensured standardised communication and visibility of the Programme. Prior to finalisation visibility items EU’s communication consultant’s approval is ensured. During year one of the Programme, communication related activities include; National LSO convention, BRACE launching ceremony and regional cooperation exposure visit to the Republic Tajikistan, BRACE Programme annual newsletter and informal meetings with policy makers and GoB officials. Details of these activities are in respective sections of the report. Moreover, the BRACE Programme page on Facebook and webpage on RSPN’s website also contributed in communication of the Programme. Development of Programme’s video documentary on the BRACE interventions is final stages and will be available by the end of second quarter of year two. During the reporting period, acknowledgement of the European Union support in all internal and external Programme-related communication and documentation and EU and Programme visibility in all Programme related materials and activities were ensured. Communication and visibility items developed during year one of the Programme clearing mention EU, GoB, Programme and partners’ logos. Visibility items produced during reporting period include banners, standees, backdrops, file folders, mugs, wall clocks and bags. Though not as yet approved by the EU, the implementing partners follow a common C&V strategy.

OUTPUTS:

In order to attain the specific objective, RSPN has been working on the following five Expected Results (ER) (also expected results in the LFA) with corresponding indicators, and corresponding activities. Elaboration of the activities implemented are as follows;

ER-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.

ER-2: Gender inequalities reduced through ensuring implementation of the recommendations from the gender mainstreaming strategy to be developed by the EU TA with support from RSPN.

ER-3: Evidence based policy recommendations generated and disseminated to support the Local Development Policy Framework for Balochistan.

ER-4: Technical and institutional capacity of BRSP & NRSP enhanced in mainstreaming, addressing and reporting on cross-cutting themes envisaged in the Balochistan Rural Development & Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme

ER-5: Achievements, lessons and successful development approaches drawn from the BRACE Programme widely disseminated through developing and implementing harmonised Communication and Visibility Plans

ER-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.

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. To contribute towards creating a uniform Programme implementation approach and harmonised monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms, RSPN supported Implementing Partners (BRSP and NRSP) in developing their respective proposals, produced a Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), drafted manual & guidelines for poverty mapping through the poverty scorecard, developed a common socio-economic baseline & end line survey approach and methodology, an M&E framework and reporting mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), a Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT), a quality assurance and control plan and related tools, and assisted BRSP and NRSP in developing a Joint and Integrated MIS System during the first year of the Programme. RSPN contributed to building the technical and institutional capacities by training master trainers from BRSP and NRSP on PIM, M&E framework, quality control plans & checklists, and socio-economic baselines survey approaches & methodologies. Moreover, RSPN assisted the implementing partners in training rollout at field level. All of the activities, planned for the year one, under this results, have been completed by RSPN, except the preparation of an exit strategy for BRSP and NRSP. RSPN has undertaken initial consultations with TA and

implementing RSPs to solicit ideas for the development of the strategy. These discussions were around the importance, objectives, and format of the strategy. It was decided that the proper process for the development of the exit strategy will be started from second quarter of year two. The delay occurred due to pre-occupation of the Programme team in other activities, late start of the TA component due to visa issues and constant changes in TA staff. Delay mitigation strategy for the development of exit strategy include; initial meeting with TA to follow up on the previous discussion, finalization of the exit strategy objectives in consultation with TA, BRSP and NRSP, initial draft development and sharing with TA and EU for feedback and finalisation of the strategy on the basis of the feedback. All activities in the mitigation strategy will be completed by end of the second quarter of year two.

Though the ER 1 will be achieved over the course of Programme implementation, during year one RSPN inputs contributed to building coherence in the Programme approach and a uniformity in Programme implementation. BRSP and NRSP started adopting the PIM in the field by using standardised processes and formats for capacity building of their staff in social mobilisation activities. To ensure conformance to processes outlined in the PIM, implementing partners have started the adaptation of quality assurance and control plans, including for the PSC, training and social mobilisation activities. Using the PSC manual and guidelines, RSPs started the PSC survey. Development of the common M&E framework, with gender sensitive indicators and training of the M&E staff on the M&E framework contributed in collection, analysis and reporting of Programme data and production of KPIs report on the Programme performance. Using the socio-economic baselines survey approaches & methodologies, developed by RSPN with assistance from University of Mannheim Germany, BRSP and NRSP have initiated the survey in Programme districts. Though a formal evaluation has not been undertaken, based on the common and standardised approaches observed and reported by BRSP and NRSP in their capacity building, social mobilisation activities, PSC census, socioeconomic surveys and other Programme activities, it can be deduced that the result is on track and support and follow up visits by RSPN in following years will contribute in attaining ER 1. During year one of the Programme issues (also highlighted in corresponding activities section of the report in detail) include a) delays by BRSP and NRSP in completing socioeconomic baseline survey on time, which will now be completed by end of November 2018 as per their delay mitigation strategy b) discrepancies in collected data against target of the household in PSC census, i.e. data of 315,769 households collected against total targeted 421,019 households due to 1) in district Kech, out of total 41 UCs, 03 UCs were not selected for implementation of BRACE programme as a similar project by a civil society organisation is already underway there and would be duplication of effort 2) 05 UCs were identified as conflicted UCs and were not included in the PSC; and some of the households migrated due to drought and conflicts in district Kech, 3) PSC survey could not be initiated, in two districts Pishin and Killa Abdullah, on stipulated time due to enumerators dropout right from the outset that has affected the overall progress. The remaining census will be completed during the process of social mobilisation and capacity building interventions as it is expected that some of the migrated households will return to their areas. Moreover, NRSP is devising ways and have requested to EU for the replacement of 5 conflict stricken UCs. d) The development of Exit Strategy by RSPN was delayed to the second quarter of year two due reasons; including late one board of the TA and RSPN pre-occupation

in Programme other activities. To address this delay, the Exit Strategy mitigation plan has been developed and implementation started.

1.1 Programme Implementation Manual (PIM)/guidelines developed by RSPN and adopted by partner RSPs:

For the BRACE Programme, RSPN core and BRACE Programme Management Unit (PMU) teams took the lead in development of the PIM in consultation with BRSP and NRSP Programme and M&E teams. At the start of the inception phase, a planning workshop was organised that was attended by RSPN, BRSP and NRSP team members, in which process and methodology for PIM development were discussed and agreed upon. After the PIM has been drafted by RSPN, it was shared with the RSPs' Social Mobilisation and Gender Resource Groups and their inputs and feedback were incorporated in the draft. The draft of the PIM was reviewed and finalised in a three-day review workshop held at BRSP Office Quetta, in which along with representatives from Local Government and Rural Development Department and Planning & Development Department GoB participated along with RSPs Programme, Social Mobilisation and M&E staff. The English version of the PIM has been translated into Urdu language to ensure better understanding of the field staff on PIM and its implementation at the field level as RSPs staff at field level are more easy with Urdu. The PIM includes implementation approaches, and processes for; a) Social Mobilisation and institutional Development, formation and development of COs/VOs/LSOs and linking it with Community Investment Fund (CIF) and Income Generating Grants (IGGs); b) Micro Health Insurance (MHI), c) Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI); d) Technical, Vocational And Livestock Trainings; e) engagement with local authorities at Tehsil and District level to advocate for access to essential public services and for planning, implementation and monitoring of local development plans; and f) methodology and process for mainstreaming cross-cutting themes. PIM is a living document and will be updated annually if the need arises and based on the learnings from the field. The IPs have started adoption of the PIM for the BRACE Programme. After the development of PIM, Master Trainers from RSPs have been trained on PIM, and they have begun the rollout of the training in the field. Thus far, it has helped the RSPs to have a coordinated and unvarying implementation of the social mobilisation and related components at field level across the BRACE Programme RSPs and Programme districts. Since RSPs have started social mobilisation activities, hiring and training of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in the year one, the staff training on PIM helps to conduct Programme activities using uniform approaches in the field evident by field visit reports by RSPN. However, RSPN will further support RSPs to support the field staff during follow-up visits to districts.

1.2 Quality Assurance and Control (QAC) Plan Developed by RSPN Adopted by RSPs

RSPN has developed the quality assurance and control plan and tools to be implemented by BRSP and NRSP. Quality assurance and control plan identify the standards for the programme implementation and deliverables. The purpose of the Quality Assurance and Control Plan (QACP) is not only to ensure that programme activities are completed, but done so in a timely and efficient manner. Quality implies setting acceptable benchmarks for completion of programme activities and deliverables, ensuring that there has been conformance to processes outlined in the Programme Implementation Manual (PIM) in implementing and carrying them out

at field level. The plan and tools are used by the implementing RSPs BRSP and NRSP field staff and RSPN staff during programme implementation and quality control spot check visits.

RSPs started adaptation of the quality assurance and control plan and tools for CO formation, Micro Investment Plans (MIP) development, VO formation and capacity building activities. RSPN BRACE team have conducted follow up visit to the field to check if the processes given in the PIM are followed. Field reports indicate that implementing RSPs (NRSP and BRSP) follow processes, in most of the cases, given in the PIM for implementation of programme activities. However, the reports indicate that there is further need for the capacity building of field staff so that they are able to effectively use the checklists for ensuring quality of the activities. Field reports also indicate that RSPs have not started most of the Programme activities and lag behind the targets of those activities they have started in the year one. Based on the finding of field reports and on the basis of feedback on the interim reports, RSPN has planned meetings with BRSP and NRSP to devise ways for ensuring the capacity building of field staff in administration of quality assurance and control checklists, reporting and analysis of the findings and taking corrective measures for improvements. *Quality Assurance and Control Plan and Tools are attached is MOV-10.*

1.3 Number of BRACE Programme RSPs staff trained on Programme Implementation Manual (PIM)/guidelines and quality control plan and tools

RSPN has carried out the orientation training for BRACE Programme RSPs master trainers and government officials from Local Government & Rural Development Department, Planning and Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Women Development Department on PIM/guidelines as well as quality control and quality assurance plan and tools. Against the target of 30, RSPN trained 42 (9 females and 33 males) master trainers from BRACE Programme RSPs and staff from above mentioned government departments on PIM and the guidelines. RSPN has also trained 30 (2 females and 28 males) staff from BRACE Programme RSPs and GoB officials on quality control and quality assurance plan and tools as per the target. Participants of the training from RSPs staff included; Senior Program Officers, District Programme Officers, Capacity Building Officers, Coordinators (Gender, Livelihood, CPIs and HID) while participants from government included Assistant Chief (Foreign Aid), Research Officer and Instructors (BRDA/LGRDD), Field Officer Social Welfare Department, Assistant Director Women Development Department. Complete list of participants is included in the PIM training report attached as MoV-7. This orientation training has contributed in increased knowledge evident by training assessment results explained in activity A-1.12 in activities section of the report. This orientation produced Master Trainers from RSPs and GoB departments who are involved in the rollout of the training of PIM in field. Follow up visit by RSPN Programme staff for support and supervision by RSPs staff will further help increase capacity of field staff in implementation PIM in the field. It has been observed that target for rollout of the PIM training has not been achieved by RSPs during the year one. A revised plan has been developed for the achievement of the target in the second year of the Programme. *PIM is attached as MoV-2.*

1.4. A common approach for undertaking baselines incorporating gender sensitive indicators for implementing RSPs by end of the first six months

To achieve this, in the preparatory phase, RSPN developed the Socio-Economic Baseline Approach and Methodology manual that clearly sets out the description, methodology and other details regarding socioeconomic survey. This has been developed, with technical support from University of Mannheim, Germany and in consultation with implementing RSPs. Thus, RSPN has developed a common methodology, indicators, data collection tools and guidelines for analysis and reporting to ensure the standardisation across two RSPs' Programme districts. BRSP staff, NRSP staff and GoB officials were also capacitated on the socio-economic baseline approaches and methodologies in Quetta. This document is helping in conducting an efficient baseline survey that is currently underway. BRSP has initiated socioeconomic baseline and will be completed in second quarter of year-2 while NRSP will complete it by December 2018. Main reason for the delay in baseline survey was that hiring of the firms by BRSP and NRSP for undertaking the survey took more than expected time. Moreover, sparsely stretched and inaccessible geographic locations, extreme weather and security situation also contributed in the delay of this activity. The Programme LFA will be revised once complete result of the survey is available by end of December 2018.

1.5. A common M&E framework incorporating gender sensitive indicators for the Programme developed by end of the first six months

RSPN in consultation with BRSP and NRSP M&E and Programme staff developed a common M&E framework and reporting mechanism on common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the BRACE Programme in the inception phase to ensure that the Programme results are measured, reported and utilised in a timely manner.

The M&E framework spells out the key functions of monitoring and evaluation, and determines roles and responsibilities for the RSPN and RSPs M&E teams in implementing Programme functions. The focus of this M&E framework is on monitoring processes and progress for day to day monitoring of the Programme interventions (e.g. mobilisation and sensitisation of community members, formation and maturity level of community institutions (COs/VOs/LSOs) – through an Institutional Maturity Index tool, citizens' perception of their involvement in local governance process and its linkages with local government institutions, saving and use of savings, self-help initiatives, reporting on indicators of cross cutting themes, use of Community Investment Fund, Income Generating Grants, Technical and Vocational Skills Trainings, Micro Health Insurance, Community Infrastructure, projects implementation process and quality, process and progress on mainstreaming gender strategy recommendations, by RSPN and RSPs monitoring staff. It also includes functions for validation of progress, risk mitigation, scope management, project course correction, quality assurance, timelines and improvement in the Programme.

The framework provides detailed matrices, including the Detailed Results Matrix (DRM) and Project Monitoring Matrix (PMM) that build on the overall BRACE Programme logframe and being used for elaborating what to monitor, and how to track Programme implementation progress. The M&E framework also provides a detailed description of the scope of the evaluation functions, as well as a detailed section on risk management and mitigation in order to comprehensively cover all aspects related to the M&E function of the BRACE Programme.

Certain quality assurance and quality control mechanisms and checklists along-with detailed work instructions are also included in this document. BRACE Programme's M&E component also aims to mainstream gender in the development of M&E Framework and to offer concepts for improving the M&E of outcomes, impacts and reporting related to gender mainstreaming with specific focus on the women participation and empowerment. The M&E framework is facilitating the Programme RSPs and RSPN to think through programmatic strategies, objectives and planned activities. Furthermore, it has clearly defined relationships between the Programme inputs, processes, outputs, and outcomes and thereby supporting the sound implementation of the M&E plan and result matrix.

Gender has been incorporated as a cross-cutting theme throughout the M&E framework and provide guidelines and formats for collection, analysis and reporting of disaggregated data of beneficiaries on the basis of gender (inclusive of transgender), age, income group and disability, etc. essential to better serve girls, women, boys and men. Gender sensitization and the significance of working with girls, women, boys and men for attaining the development have been mainstreamed in all training sessions and M&E related activities. *M&E framework is attached MoV-5.*

The M&E framework has been reviewed with RSPs and Government representative from Planning and Development Department in five-day M&E training workshop held in November 2017 and their feedback has been incorporated. Mr. Agha Syed Liaqat Ali, MPA and Member of Parliamentary Committee Planning and Development Department, GoB and Mr. Asfandyar Kakar, Secretary Planning and Development Department from GoB were the among the guests during closing ceremony of the training who appreciated the development of M&E framework for the Programme and assured support every possible support during implementation of the framework. RSPN, BRSP and RSPN has started adaptation of the framework and collect, analyse and report data as per the guidelines given in the framework on the basis of that produce KPIs reports is produced for dissemination with stakeholders. The KPIs feed into integrated MIS developed under the BRACE Programme. The first KPI reports in finalised, printed and in the dissemination phase.

1.6. Number of implementing RSPs staff training on M&E framework

Against the target of 15, RSPN has trained 19 implementing RSPs and GoB staff from Planning and Development Department on M&E framework. Thus, it has added to the capacity building of RSPs and GoB staff in tracking Programme's results and recommending corrective measures throughout the implementation. *Training report is attached as MoV-8.*

1.7. Annual Key Performance Indicators (disaggregated by gender) report published by RSPN on behalf of BRACE Programme RSPs

An annual Key Performance Indicators (KPI) report has been prepared and published and is in dissemination process. This report serves as a public document to underlining the target and achievements of KPI in addition to sharing of key case studies/stories and lessons from the Programme implementation during the year one. The lessons learnt are reflected upon by RSPN, BRSP and NRSP and then translated into planning and implementation of activities and

interventions of the next year. Link for KPI report: <http://www.rspn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/KPI%20Indicators.pdf>

1.8. Exit strategy developed by RSPN with assistance of TA and adopted by the RSPs through sustainable development linkages with GoB

RSPN has started consultation with TA, Government of Balochistan and RSPs for the development of an Exit Strategy. The purpose of the exit strategy is to plan for sustainability from the onset of the Programme. The development of the exit strategy was planned to be developed on year one of the Programme. The delay occurred due to pre-occupation of the Programme team in other activities, a late start of the TA component due to visa issues and constant changes in TA team members. The strategy is now planned to be developed in the second quarter of year two, for which initial discussion and necessary preparations have already been undertaken. These discussions were around the importance, objectives, and format of the strategy. It was decided that the proper process for the development of the exit strategy will be started from second quarter of year two.

Based on RSPN and RSP experience and the critical link between RSP programmes on the ground and the policy level, key elements of this strategy on behalf of the RSPs will be to create effective links between local government and service delivery departments and community institutions. There is valuable learning from the EU funded SUCCESS programme in Sindh province, where community and government mechanisms have been formed already at various levels of local government, for joint planning and improved delivery of services. At the end of the project and to sustain RSP support to communities for linkages with government, capacity building of new community leaders and community institutions and monitoring of the CIF, RSPs are strategising to put in place a minimal RSP 'unit' at an appropriate level. A list of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 1 are presented in following table 1.

Table 1: List of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 1

Activities	Indicative Outputs
A. Support in ensuring uniformity in programme design	
A 1.1. Technical assistance to BRSP & NRSP in programme planning and designing through the development of harmonised proposals	1. RSPs proposals that reflect coherence and harmonisation of approach, activities and budget timely submitted and approved 2. A common Programme Implementation Manual is available and are being used by RSPs 3. A Manual for Poverty Scorecard Survey is available and has facilitated the survey implementation teams
A 1.2. Develop gender sensitive standardised Programme Implementation Manual (PIM)	
A 1.3. Develop manual for Poverty Scorecard (PSC) survey to be implemented by BRSP and NRSP	
B. Support in ensuring standardisation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	
A 1.4. Develop socio-economic baseline and end line survey approach and methodology to measure and report on results, outcomes and impact indicators of the BRACE Programme logframe	4. Socio-economic baseline and end line survey approach and methodology to measure and report on results, outcomes and impact indicators of the BRACE Programme logframe and ToRs are for Socio-
A 1.5 Assist BRSP & NRSP in carrying out the baseline and end lines surveys	

Activities	Indicative Outputs
A 1.6. Develop a common gender sensitive M&E framework and reporting mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the BRACE Programme	<p>economic baseline available for implementation of the baseline survey</p> <p>5. Monitoring and Evaluation and KPI Reporting Framework developed and is available</p> <p>6. Annual KPI Reports produced</p> <p>7. Web based MIS-Dashboard with reporting on KPIs (social mobilisation component) is available and is being used by Programme teams</p>
A 1.7 Assist BRSP & NRSP in operationalisation of the M&E framework and ensure regular reporting on common KPIs	
A 1.8 Produce an Annual KPI report on the BRACE Programme	
A 1.9 Assist BRSP & NRSP in developing a joint and integrated MIS/GIS system	
A 1.10 Develop and implement a web-based real time reporting MIS-Dashboard and GIS mapping to track KPIs	
C. Capacity building to ensure quality control in programme implementation	
A 1.11. Develop gender sensitive staff training guidelines/modules;	<p>8. Quality Assurance and Control Plan (QACP) and checklist developed, available and are being used by BRSP and NRSP</p>
A 1.12. Orientation training of BRSP & NRSP and GoB key programme staff on PIM;	
A 1.13. Assist BRSP & NRSP in rollout of the PIM trainings to all relevant staff members;	<p>9. 30 number, against the target 30, of staff of RSPs and government officials trained on QACP checklists</p>
A.1.14. Training of key staff of BRSP & NRSP on the Socio-economic baselines, end line survey approaches and methodologies;	<p>10. Staff training guidelines/modules are developed and being used in field</p>
A.1.15. Training of key M&E staff of BRSP & NRSP on M&E framework and KPI reporting tools;	<p>11. 42 number, against the target of 30, of RSPs staff and government officials trained on PIM</p>
A.1.16. Training of key implementation and M&E staff of BRSP and NRSP, and government officials on quality control plans and checklists;	<p>12. 19 number, against the target of 15, RSPs staff and govt. officials trained on M&E framework and KPI Reporting Tools</p>
A 1.17. Develop quality assurance and control plan and tools;	<p>13. 19 number, against the target of 15, RSPs staff and govt. officials trained on approaches and methodologies for socio-economic baseline surveys</p>
A 1.18. Assist BRSP & NRSP in implementation of the quality control and assurance plan with follow up visits throughout the programme;	
D. Exit Strategy	
A 1.19. Prepare exit strategy for BRSP & NRSP component with assistance of the TA;	<p>14. Preparation of the Exit Strategy and commencement of implementation Plan planned to be developed in 2nd quarter of the year 2</p>
A 1.20 Assist BRSP & NRSP in implementation of the exit strategy developed by the EU TA's support;	

ER-2: Gender inequalities reduced through ensuring implementation of the recommendations from the gender mainstreaming strategy to be developed by the EU TA with support from RSPN.

A number of activities have been undertaken by RSPN in pursuit of attaining the expected result two. These include assistance to the TA in conducting the comprehensive gender analysis, support to the TA in the development of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (GMS) for the Programme, a review of RSPs' human resource and gender policies and provision of recommendations for the improvement of these policies, mainstreaming of gender in M&E framework as a cross-cutting theme and in guidelines (e.g. collection, analysis and reporting of sex and age disaggregated data of beneficiaries; essential to better serve girls, women, boys and men) and in reporting mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), development of a gender sensitive Programme Implementation Manual (PIM); mainstreaming of gender sensitization a in all training sessions and M&E related activities, training of Master Trainers from BRSP, NRSP and government officials from the department of Women Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Local Government and Rural Development Department on the HR/gender polices and anti-sexual harassment laws in Pakistan and follow-up field visit by to assist implementing partners in implementation of the Programme activities in the field. Details of these activities are given in the activity section of the report. All these efforts by RSPN are meant to ensure that the Programme contributes towards the inclusion of women and the reduction of gender inequalities. These inputs by RSPN have contributed towards a comprehensive gender analysis by the TA, capacity building of RSPs and GoB staff in implementing the Programme activities through gender sensitive approaches, monitoring and reporting of gender sensitive KPIs and improvement in RSPs policies by incorporating gender aspects.

Despite some delays in developing Gender Mainstreaming Strategies (GMS) and subsequent training and implementation of the GMS in the field, the indicators of the expected result are still on track and will be attained in subsequent years of the Programme. The development of the GMS, which was planned in year one but delayed due to delays with the TA coming on board. Moreover, finalisation of the gender analysis ToRs and preparation of the gender analysis report took more than expected time. GSM development is now planned for year two of the Programme. In order to mitigate delays related GSM development and subsequent training and implementation, RSPN has been contributing to the development of GMS by setting up a Gender Group, led by Shandana Khan, CEO RSPN, with membership from RSPs Gender Resource Group. So far, the Gender Group has contributed in drafting and finalisation of the GMS TORs, providing the TA with CVs to facilitate the selection of consultants and being part of an initial discussion with consultants and the TA, for the development of GSM. The GRG group will support the ToT for BRSP and NRSP and key Programme staff and Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

2.1. Assisted technical assistance services in undertaking a comprehensive gender analysis and a gender mainstreaming strategies for the Programme produced

RSPN has assisted Human Dynamics (HD) in undertaking the comprehensive gender analysis. Report of the gender analysis was presented and reviewed by Gender Resource and M&E Groups'. The report was also reviewed by RSPN M&E Department and BRACE team. Collective feedback on the draft report was shared with the TA. Key feedback from RSPN on the report is mentioned below;

- The report has formulated valuable recommendations and RSPs are determined to mainstream these recommendations in the Programme. However, it would be really helpful if these recommendations are backed by comprehensive and context based Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.
- The report shows that the only logframe reviewed (as well as other programme's documents) during the analysis process is that of BRSP's component of the Programme. Since, the Programme is being implemented by three RSPs, supported by two technical assistants, it would have been great if the logframes of all implementing RSPs were reviewed to make the analysis more inclusive.
- Some of the recommendations and the indicators added to the logframe may not be mainstreamed/achieved by the allocated resources for the Programme. Mainstreaming these recommendations and attaining the additional targets would require additional resources and expertise. This needs to be consider before finalizing the report.
- There are some critical statements in the report without mentioning any references. These may be questioned by the stakeholders in Balochistan. It would be great if we give references for these statements.
- It would have been really helpful if TA convene BRACE partner meeting for reviewing and finalizing logframes in the light of recommendations from gender analysis report.
- There are some recommendations (e.g. provision of separate public transport for women) that Programme may not be able attain

Based on the findings of gender analysis, the TA is in the process of identifying a consultant to develop Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (GMS) for the Programme. RSPN is working in close coordination with the TA for developing the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and supporting it in the identification of qualified consultants for this work. The development of GMS was planned during year one of the Programme but is delayed due to the TA team not being able to identify suitable consultants. The GMS is now planned to be developed on the basis of the Gender Analysis by the end of the third quarter of year two. RSPN has supported the TA by sharing cases and lessons learnt from the field. RSPN has also been contributing to the development of GMS by setting up a Gender Group, led by Shandana Khan, CEO RSPN, with membership from RSPs Gender Resource Group. So far, the Gender Group has contributed in drafting and finalisation of the GMS TORs, providing the TA with CVs to facilitate the selection of consultants and being part of an initial discussion with consultants and the TA, for this work.

2.2. Outcomes/recommendations from the exercise with the implementation strategies to address gender inequalities aligned

BRACE Programme implementation strategies will be reviewed in the light of outcomes/recommendation once the gender mainstreaming strategy is developed under the TA component. However, RSPN reviewed its own and the human resource and gender policies of the RSPs and put forwarded recommendations for improvement of their policies. RSP Human Resource Departments are in the process of incorporating the recommendations in policies that come under the jurisdiction of HR department. Approval of the Board of Directors will be sought once the GMS is developed and policies are reviewed on the basis of recommendations from GMS. Main recommendations from gender analysis of the BRACE Programme regarding gender mainstreaming at community level include;

- All training for strengthening capacities for local government authorities and community development organisations must ensure that separate toilets and rest areas, separate public transport for women are provided and that timetables should meet women's needs and be child-friendly.
- The restitution of the Musalihat e Anjuman (dispute resolution councils) is being considered by the GoB and this is an opportunity to ensure that women's voices are clearly and strongly represented in these bodies and the proceedings are monitored.
- The design of all programmes should be preceded by a district profile which assesses the potential for women's economic activities based on crops, availability of resources and access to markets. A survey of women's work (their responsibilities and how they use their time), decision-making, and development across the districts, especially of agricultural and livestock-related work, can serve as a valuable baseline for all future programming.
- The establishment of women's weekly/monthly markets their products in districts should be planned with the involvement of women in communities. Transportation needs must be accounted in the design of all projects.
- Tailor-made training for women on savings, financial planning and budgeting should be built in to any entrepreneurial scheme.

During the reporting period, RSPN discussed the recommendations from the gender analysis with the TA, the RSPs and at the Programme Operational Steering Committee. It was decided that applicable recommendations will be mainstreamed in BRACE once the GMS is developed which will help devise ways to mainstream them.

2.3. Gender-sensitive result indicators for monitoring and periodic progress reporting developed

The M&E component of BRACE has mainstreamed gender in its M&E Framework, as a cross-cutting theme. There are guidelines and formats for the collection, analysis and reporting of gender disaggregation data (inclusive of transgender). Gender sensitisation and the significance of working with girls, women, boys and men have been mainstreamed in all training sessions and M&E related activities. The M&E framework also includes a Detailed Result Matrix and a Project Monitoring Matrix with gender sensitive result indicators for monitoring and periodic

progress reporting. RSPN has noted through its field visits to the RSPs that RSP staff is sensitised about the importance of gender issues. However, given the social, cultural and political environment of Balochistan, reducing gender inequalities is indeed a challenging process and requires sustained efforts.

2.4 Sustainable reduction in gender inequalities in targeted areas resulted from the implementation of gender-sensitive interventions

RSPN has undertaken various activities in pursuit of attaining this result. These include assistance to TA in undertaking a comprehensive gender analysis; support and inputs in the development of GMS ; review of the RSPs (NRSP, BRSP and NRSP) human resource and gender policies and putting forward recommendations for the necessary improvement in the policies; training of Master Trainers from BRSP, NRSP and government officials from the department of Women Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Local Government and Rural Development Department on the HR/gender polices and anti-sexual harassment laws in Pakistan and follow-up field visits by RSPN to assist BRSP and NRSP in implementation of the Programme activities in the field. Details of these activities are given in the respective activity section of the report. These inputs by RSPN have contributed in comprehensive gender analysis by the TA, capacity building of RSPs staff in implementing the Programme activities through gender sensitive approaches, inputs and recommendations for improvement of HR and Gender policies of RSPs by incorporating gender aspects. Findings from field visits reports indicate that further follow-up support to staff in the field will be helpful to ensure the required capacity of the RSPs staff in implementation of gender sensitive approaches. This will help ensure that Programme contribute in reduction of gender inequalities. RSPN has revised its follow-up field visit plan and increased the number of follow up visits.

The development of GMS, which was planned in year one but delayed due to reasons given in indicator 2.1, is now planned for year two. RSPN will train master trainers from RSPs in the third quarter of year two, once the GMS is finalised. RSP master trainer will then rollout the training in their respective districts to train their staff.

Keeping in view the importance of gender mainstreaming in rural and community-led development programmes, BRACE M&E Framework has been designed with specific focus on gender mainstreaming and development. This M&E component under the BRACE Programme aims to report gender concerns in designing and improving the M&E of outcomes and impacts related to gender mainstreaming. Furthermore, activities, with specific focus on women empowerment, undertaken to contribute in reduction of gender inequalities along the Programme implementation include; the development of a gender sensitive standardised Programme Implementation Manual (PIM); development of a common gender sensitive M&E framework and reporting mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and development of a gender sensitive staff training guidelines/modules. Above mentioned progress indicates that the indicator is track despite of delays in developing GMS.

A list of the activities and associated outputs for Expected Result 2 are presented in table 2:

Table 2: List of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 2

Activities	Indicative Outputs
A-2.1. Assist the EU TA in undertaking a comprehensive gender analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme TA has been assisted in undertaking Gender Analysis; TA is in process of hiring consultant for developing Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (GMS) with assistance from RSPN. The GMS is planned to be developed in fourth quarter of year 2. 2. Organisational HR/Gender policies of RSPN, BRSP and NRSP have been reviewed and recommendations put forwarded. The policies will be revised once recommendations from gender mainstreaming strategy available 3. PIM has been revised in the context of Programme 4. Gender sensitive Training Modules are developed and available 5. 25 IPs staff and government officials, against the target of 20, trained on as Gender ToTs (Policy and Law) 6. Note for Records of follow up visits developed and available
A-2.2. Review of RSPN, BRSP and NRSP organisational HR/Gender policies	
A-2.3. Gender ToT organisational HR/Gender policies and anti-sexual harassment laws	
A-2.4. Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy	
A-2.5. Gender ToT for BRSP & NRSP key Programme staff on gender mainstreaming and sensitisation actions in communities	
A-2.6. Follow up visits	

ER-3: Evidence based policy recommendations generated and disseminated to support the Local Development Policy Framework (LDPF) for Balochistan

In order to contribute in expected result three, RSPN has drafted a research framework in consultation with the implementing RSPs, Local Government and Rural Development Department and the TA team. This will be finalised by the end of the second quarter of year two, with feedback from the EU. The research framework serves as a guiding document and calendar of research activities over the Programme life and describes in detail the logic and rationale of the research activities to be conducted. A Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has been formulated with membership from LG&RRD GoB, RSPs, RSPN, the TA and Assistant Professor from Department of Anthropology Quaid-I-Azam University Islamabad. RAC will serve as guiding and advisory committee for the research component of the BRACE Programme throughout the Programme implementation period. The ToRs for undertaking first study on “Dynamics of poverty and inclusive development in Balochistan with a focus on women’s empowerment” have been finalised in consultation with key stakeholders. The request for proposal (RFP) has been published in local newspapers for the procurement of services to undertake the first study on “poverty dynamics in Balochistan and the dynamics of inclusive

development, with focus on gender issues and women's empowerment" The study is planned to start by end of the second quarter of year two. During the reporting, two advocacy events have been undertaken. These include an LSO convention at the national level and the BRACE Programme launch in Balochistan. The LSO convention was attended by Members of the National Assembly, the EU Ambassador to Pakistan, high level government officials, representatives from donor organisations, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, development practitioners, RSPs and community activists. Community activists and LSO members shared success stories, lessons learned and challenges faced by communities in bringing about positive changes in socioeconomic status at grassroots through community led local development. The LSO convention helps in facilitating a dialogue among different stakeholders including policy makers, donors, programme practitioners and researchers working on CDD programmes in Pakistan; identify successful approaches and challenges faced to mainstream and scale up CDD; increase the visibility of the EU's support to RSPs' work on CDD and exchange lessons/knowledge with a broader group of stakeholders. Similarly, the BRACE Programme launch in Quetta by Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD), Government of Balochistan, in collaboration with BRSP, NRSP and RSPN launched helped in mustering support and ownership and buy-in by key stakeholders in and outside the province, and to ensure that all stakeholders involved in the action are clear on their roles and responsibilities specially the EU, RSPs, RSPN, GoB, and other development stakeholders. The EU Ambassador to Pakistan, Provincial Ministers, Senators, Members of Provincial Assembly, Government officials, civil society representatives, RSP leaders and staff, community representatives and media representatives attended the launching ceremony. The regional cooperation activity, undertaken with the Aga Khan Foundation's Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (AKF/MSDSP), in the republic of Tajikistan with the purpose to expose key stakeholder from Balochistan to the community driven development approach. The visit helped to reinforce the belief that the CDD approaches bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status of the rural poor. Above mentioned activities and TA inputs in the Programme have set ground for attaining of the expected result. As a result, GoB is supportive of the BRACE Programme and has notified LG&RDD as focal Department for the Programme and has allocated office premises for the TA in the Civil Secretariat just opposite to the Secretary LG&RDD office. The Programme has the buy in of the government and is closely working with Programme partners on various policy level interventions.

Pace of the activities in this result remained a bit slow as the finalisation of research TORs and framework took more than expected time; RSPN Research Coordinator left the Programme and hiring of new Coordinator took time. The research component, especially thematic studies, is dependent upon the field implementation and interventions. RSPN has developed a revised plan to address the delays in some of the activities under this result.

3.1. One participatory action research on household poverty dynamics completed by end of the Programme

In the first year of the BRACE Programme, RSPN has developed the Terms of Reference for the first study, i.e. 'Dynamics of poverty and inclusive development in Balochistan with focus on women's empowerment' and shared with EU and all the partners for their feedback. The TORs have been revised on the basis of feedback from RSPs and the EU and shared with the TA and

Government GoB. After incorporating feedback from the GoB and the TA, the ToRs have been finalised and advertised for the procurement of services for undertaking the study. The study is planned to start by end second quarter of year two and will continue till end of the second quarter of year five. This activity is behind schedule by almost a quarter as the finalisation of the ToRs took more than expected time given multitude of stakeholders involved in the finalisation process, the nature and importance of the longitudinal study. During the design phase of the Programme two separate studies; 1) poverty dynamics in Balochistan and, (2) the dynamics of inclusive development, with focus on gender issues and women's empowerment, were envisaged. However, during the review of the study TORs, the key stakeholders, especially EU suggested to club these two studies into a single longitudinal study stretched over the Programme life as these studies complement and supplement each other. The outcome of this research will inform not only the development of community led development policy framework for Balochistan but will also about inform the design of appropriate poverty reduction interventions for Balochistan.

3.2 Three thematic/ sectoral studies and one synthesis report completed by end of the programme

As per the Programme design, thematic and thematic/sectoral studies planned to start from by the end of first quarter of the second year of the Programme when Programme interventions e.g. Community Investment Fund (CIF), Income Generating Grants (IGGs), Micro Health Insurance (MHI), community savings and internal lending, sustainability and continuity of Community Physical Infrastructure and Technical and Vocational Skills training starts in the field. During first year of the Programme, initial consultative meetings were held with the TA and RSPN Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) department to develop plans and discuss topics for under taking these studies, and with RSPs to know about the degree of interventions in the field. Given the field implementation by partner RSPs, the implementation of these studies rescheduled to undertaken by the end of third quarter of year two. Since one study per year, starting from year two, is planned as per Programme design, the target for this indicator is on track.

3.3. Number of advocacy/public policy events undertaken

During year one of the Programme implementation, two advocacy events have been undertaken against the target of one. These include LSO convention at national level and the BRACE Programme launching at Provincial level. Held on September 15, 2017, the LSO convention was attended by members' parliamentarians, EU Ambassador to Pakistan, high level government officials, representatives from donor organisations, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, development practitioners, RSPs and community activities. Community activists and LSO members shared success stories, lessons learned and challenges faced by communities in bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status at grassroots through community led local development. The LSO convention helped in facilitating a dialogue among different stakeholders including policy makers, donors, programme practitioners and researchers working on CDD programmes in Pakistan; identify successful approaches and challenges faced to mainstream and scale up CDD; increase the visibility of EU's support to RSPs' work on CDD and exchange lessons/knowledge with a broader group of stakeholders.

Similarly, Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD), Government of Balochistan, in collaboration with BRSP, NRSP and RSPN launched the BRACE Programme on November 10, 2017 in Quetta the provincial capital of Balochistan to muster support and ownership and buy-in by key stakeholders in and outside the province, and to ensure that all stakeholders involved in the action are clear on their roles and responsibilities specially the EU, RSPs, RSPN, GoB, and other development stakeholders. It was critical to take key stakeholders of the rural development on board from the onset of the Programme. Over two hundred and fifty participants, including Federal and Provincial Ministers, Senators, Members of National and Provincial Assemblies, EU Ambassador to Pakistan, and his staff from the EU Delegation, senior level representatives of the provincial government departments, academia, UN agencies, civil society representatives, community members and media attended the launch. The event was given wide coverage by print and electronic media. The launching ceremony of the BRACE Programme was covered by over 14 newspapers. The workshop served the purpose of informing stakeholders about the key interventions of the BRACE Programme and to mobilise their support for future collaboration. GoB is supportive of the BRACE Programme and has notified LG&RDD as focal Department for the Programme and has allocated office premises for the TA in the Civil Secretariat just opposite to the Secretary LG&RDD office. The Programme has the buy in of the government and is closely working with Programme partners on various policy level interventions. *Reports of the BRACE Launching ceremony and LSO Convention and are attached as MoV-18 and MoV-20 respectively.*

3.4. Number of regional cooperation activities undertaken in collaboration with RSPN Core and SUCCESS programmes with organisations working in the regional countries

One regional cooperation activity, against the target of year one, was undertaken in collaboration with RSPN Core and SUCCESS programmes with the Aga Khan Foundation's Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (AKF/MSDSP) in the republic of Tajikistan. The members of the delegation included strategic stakeholders of the BRACE Programme, e.g. Minister for Planning and Development GOB, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development GoB, ex-Chief Minister and Member of Provincial Assembly, Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Secretary Finance, Secretary, Local Government and Rural Development Department GoB and RSP senior management. The purpose of the visit was to expose the delegation to the community driven development approach of AKF/MSDSP. During the field visits and in meeting with local authorities, the delegation learned about the structure of community institutions (Village Organisations –VOs and Common Interest Groups – CIGs) fostered by AKF/MSDSP, and how these CIs support improvements in lives and livelihoods of their communities by fostering linkages with local authorities, AKF/MSDSP, other civil society organisations, private sector and through self-help activities. At Dushanbe, meetings were held with the European Union Delegation, AKF Tajikistan and Pakistan Embassy. Outcome of the field visits and meetings was reinforcement for the support of the delegation members to the CDD approach adopted by the BRACE Programme. Delegation members particularly appreciated the close and regular interaction between the CIs and local authorities. The Minister for Local Government and Rural Development said at the conclusion of the visit: "We have local bodies and social welfare offices in Balochistan but they cannot reach every household. Citizens should engage with them through their own organisations". The learning by key stakeholders

from Balochistan during the visit helped to reinforce the belief that the CCD approaches bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status of the rural poor and that this can only become sustainable with support of government with appropriate local development policy framework. *Report of the Regional Cooperation visit is attached as MoV-17.*

3.5. Annual convention of the LSOs and RSPs Strategic Retreat events held in collaboration with IPs, RSPN's core and EU SUCCESS programmes

In the year one of BRACE Programme, the annual National LSO convention was held in Islamabad. This year's convention theme was "Achieving SDGs by Empowering Communities". The achievements of community institutions were shared with the policy makers, donor agencies, government representatives, international and national NGOs, media, and LSO representatives from all the provinces and regions of the country. The notable participation included Mr. Sartaj Aziz (Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Pakistan), Marvi Memon (Member of National Assembly- MNA and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme-BISP), His Excellency, Mr. Jean-François Cautain (Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan), Paul Dudley Martin (Senior Adviser on SDGs to UN Resident Coordinator) and Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan (Chairman RSPN). The national convention of LSOs is a platform where representatives from these organisations from across Pakistan, representatives of donor organisations, government officials, diplomats and development practitioners gather for sharing their experience, mutual learning and showcasing development initiatives taken by organised communities. Community activists and LSO members shared success stories, lessons learned and challenges faced by communities in bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status at grassroots through community led local development. As an important advocacy event, the LSO convention helps in facilitating a dialogue among different stakeholders including policy makers, donors, programme practitioners and researchers working on CDD programmes in Pakistan; identify successful approaches and challenges faced to mainstream and scale up CDD; increase the visibility of the EU's support to RSPs' work on CDD and exchange lessons/knowledge with a broader group of stakeholders. *Report of the LSO Convention is attached as MoV-20.*

3.6. Assisted the EU TA in undertaking research on: (1) understanding the provincial PFM, (2) local development planning processes, and (3) the contribution of the Action towards achieving the SDGs

The TA has conducted gender analysis, which was assisted by RSPN and has been providing support in the development GMS strategy as mentioned in activity A-2.1. RSP and the TA have jointly review the BRACE Research Framework and incorporated research activities to be undertaken by the TA, these include a study on Political Economy of Balochistan and the impact it will have on Programme implementation. This study will also help identify the nature of Programme interventions possible within such a political economy context.

TAs research related activities are planned to be initiated from second quarter of year two

A list of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 3 are presented in table3.

Table 3: List of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 3.

Activities	Indicative Outputs
A-3.1: Participatory Action Research (PAR)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least three Participatory Action Research (PAR) reports informing Local Development Policy of Balochistan. <i>The first two PAR studies are planned to be started in third quarter of year 2. Since, these are longitudinal studies, the reports will be available in fifth year.</i> 2. At least three thematic sectoral studies/assessment completed. <i>First thematic study is planned to be undertaken in year 2, second study will be completed in year 3, while third study will be undertaken in year 4.</i> 3. 12 research/policy briefs are <i>planned to be developed from year two onward.</i> 4. At least three research paper published and presented at international and national conferences (<i>Planned from year 3 on ward</i>) 5. 300 participants participated in regional and local experience sharing and learning visits and workshops (<i>Planned for year two</i>) 6. 5 advocacy/policy debates organised (<i>Planned from year two.</i>) 7. 5 Balochistan LSO conventions organised and participation in National LSO conventions annually. <i>One LSO convention held in year one, Balochistan LSO convention is planned from year two onward.</i>
A-3.2 Thematic Sectoral Studies/Assessment	
A-3.3. Assistance to the EU TA in undertaking research	
A-3.4 Formation and meetings of Research Advisory Committee (RAC)	
A-3.5. Publication and dissemination of research reports, papers and policy briefs	
A-3.6. Dissemination of research findings in national and international conferences/workshops:	
A-3.7. Annual BRACE lesson learning visits and workshops:	
A-3.8. Advocacy workshops/public policy debates with government:	
A-3.9. Balochistan LSO conventions	
A-3.10. Regional experience sharing and learning visits:	
A-3.11. Young Development Professionals (Research Interns)	

ER-4: Technical and institutional capacity of BRSP & NRSP enhanced in mainstreaming, addressing and reporting on cross-cutting themes envisaged in the BRACE Programme

The target set for the first year of the BRACE Programme for this result was to develop the Community Awareness toolkit (CAT), operational guidelines and quality control for the BRACE Programme and the BRSP and NRSP have adopted these; staff trained on CAT and checklists developed and shared with implementing RSPs. During year one of the Programme, RSPN succeeded in developing CAT for the BRACE Programme in consultation with BRSP and NRSP. This toolkit assimilates the significant elementary information on nurturing the community members' awareness on essential cross cutting themes of the Programme that include nutrition, health and hygiene, family planning, HIV-AIDS, gender, human (particularly women's) rights, disaster risk reduction, climate change & environment, and natural resource management.

RSPN trained master trainers from partner RSPs and GoB (from Nutrition Cell, Women and Development Department, Balochistan Rural Development Academy, Social Welfare Department GoB) trained on CAT and operational guidelines. The training improved the technical knowledge of the participants about how to conduct and deliver the CAT sessions in community meetings, training skills and process to conduct further training of Social Mobilisers, evident by the training evaluation results. These master trainers will further train the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in communities, who will deliver CAT sessions to the organised communities and their leaders. The augmented awareness of the communities through CAT session will enable communities to incorporate the mentioned crosscutting issues in their development plans, i.e. Village Development Plans (VDPs) and Union Council Development Plans (UCDPs).

4.1. Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) and operational guidelines developed by RSPN and adopted by partner RSPs

RSPN developed a gender sensitive and all-inclusive CAT for the BRACE Programme in consultation with BRSP and NRSP. This toolkit assimilates the significant elementary information on nurturing the community members' awareness on essential cross cutting themes of the Programme that include nutrition, health and hygiene, family planning, HIV-AIDS, gender, human (particularly women's) rights, disaster risk reduction, climate change & environment, and natural resource management. The CAT has been contextualised for Balochistan. Partner RSPs and GoB staff (from Nutrition Cell, Women and Development Department, Balochistan Rural Development Academy, Social Welfare Department, GoB) have been trained on the CAT and operational guidelines. Details of the training and subsequent activities are given in indicator 4.2 and following indicators. The primary purpose of CAT is to raise awareness of the communities on crosscutting themes and SDGs. The community members, once their awareness is augmented, will include cross cutting themes and relevant SDGs target in their development plans. Detailed of the subsequent activities to the CAT module development is given in the given in following indicators. *CAT Manual is attached as MoV- 16.*

4.2. Number of BRACE Programme RSPs staff trained on Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) and operational guidelines

Overall, 28 master trainers (11 females and 17 males) from partner RSPs and GoB (Nutrition Cell, Women and Development Department, Balochistan Rural Development Academy, Social Welfare Department GoB) trained on Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) and operational guidelines against the target of 25. The training improved the technical knowledge of the participants about how to conduct and deliver the CAT sessions in community meetings, training skills and process to conduct further training of Social Mobilisers, evident by the training evaluation results. These master trainers will further train the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in communities, who will deliver CAT sessions to the organised communities and their leaders. RSPN Social Sector and Programme team is assisting the RSPs in developing training roll-out to the social mobilisers and CRPs. Quality assurance tools developed by RSPN will be used to assess the performance of the Master Trainers, training of Social Mobilisers and Training of CRPs. Sessions by CRPs on CAT will raise awareness of the communities on crosscutting themes and SDGs indicators and will help them include indicators related to crosscutting themes in their development plans. So far, NRSP provided training to 24 BRACE Social Organisers and

Capacity Building Officers on CAT in order to orient CRPs who will later conduct these sessions with the CO members in the subsequent years of the programme, while BRSP has developed the rollout plan for CAT training and will implement in year two of the Programme for which the preparatory work such as developing training module has been developed and required stationary has been procured to undertake the activities at field level. *ToT report on CAT is attached as MoV- 17.*

4.3. Quality assurance and control plan and checklists on tracking activities on critical cross cutting themes developed by RSPN adopted by RSPs

This activity has been completed and thus ensures standardised tracking of activities on critical cross cutting themes which will be an added value for the overall Programme. RSPN held a two days training on 11th -12th April, 2018 at Quetta for the key implementation and Monitoring & Evaluation staff of BRSP and NRSP as well as GoB relevant staff from Nutrition Cell, Women and Development Department, Balochistan Rural Development Academy, Social Welfare Department GoB on quality assurance and control plan and tools. The purpose of the training was to orient the BRSP and NRSP District Managers and Monitoring & Evaluation Officers, Heads of Monitoring & Evaluation Sections of BRSP and NRSP along with the Government officials from the Local Government and Rural Development Department, Planning and Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Women Development Department on the Quality Assurance and Control Plan developed under BRACE Programme. The training helped the participants in ensuring that BRACE Programme activities envisaged in Programme documents are completed in a timely and efficient manner and in accordance with the standards that were set forth right from the Programme inception. These guidelines, tools and techniques will be practiced in parallel with the interventions rollout in effective and efficient manner throughout the Programme implementation period. The indicators in case of QAC plans and tools have been developed based on the processes outlined for activities described in different modules of PIM. The responsibility for quality management processes is collective, and extents from the planners of the Programme to the implementers. Quality assurance and control plan and checklists are attached as MoV-10.

4.4. IPs Capacitated in mainstreaming cross cutting themes in to PFM formulation process through integrating VDPs, UCDPs and district development plans with the provincial ADPs

As mentioned above, master trainers from implementing RSPs have been trained on cross cutting themes and operational guidelines, who will roll out these trainings at district level and the district teams will, in turn, train CRPs in communities. Sessions by CRPs on CAT will raise awareness of the communities on crosscutting themes and SDGs indicators in communities. This process will enable communities in incorporating cross cutting themes in the Village Development Plans (VDPs) and Union Council Development Plans (UCDPs). During the reporting period, BRSP and NRSP has developed no VDP and UCDP due to delay in PSC and Social Mobilisation process. To address these delays, the strategy to accelerate progress has been narrated by RSPs.

A list of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 4 are presented in the following table:

Table 4: List of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 4.

Activities	Indicative Outputs
A-4.1. Develop Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT)	1. Community Awareness Toolkit on cross-cutting themes developed; ToT held 2. Quality Control checklist and SDG reporting framework developed 3. 28, against the target of 25, RSPs staff and government officials GoB trained as master trainers on CAT & operational guidelines;
A-4.2. Develop quality control checklists and reporting on key SDG indicators	
A-4.3 Training of RSPs key staff as Master Trainers on use of CAT	
A-4.4. Regular technical support to BRSP and NRSP to roll out the CAT training programme	
A-4.5. Assist implementing partners in mainstreaming other cross-cutting themes	

ER-5: Achievements, lessons and successful development approaches drawn from the BRACE Programme widely disseminated through developing and implementing harmonised Communication and Visibility Strategy and Plans

RSPN in consultation with BRSP and NRSP drafted the Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy and plan for the grant component of the Programme in year one to ensure a well-coordinated and uniform communication and visibility (C&V) of the Programme. The draft C&V strategy was revised on the basis of feedback from the TA and the EU communication consultant and will be submitted for approval to EU in second quarter of year two. On the basis of draft C&V strategy and with guidance from “Communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions Manual” implementing partners (RSPN, BRSP and NRSP) ensured standardised communication and visibility of the Programme during year one. National LSO convention and the BRACE Programme launching ceremony and formal and informal meetings with policy makers and GoB officials during reporting period helped RSPN disseminate the importance of successful approaches drawn from community driven development for uplifting the socioeconomic status of rural poor. Moreover, a dedicated page for BRACE Programme on RSPN website, Facebook page of BRACE Programme, BRACE Programme brochure and infographics also contributed in communicating the Programme approaches to wide range of stakeholders. Development and dissemination of BRACE Programme newsletters, production of Programme’s introductory video documentary and its interventions, to be finalised in beginning of second year will further contribute in attaining of the expected result five. During the reporting period, acknowledgement of the European Union support in all internal and external Programme-related communication and documentation and EU visibility in all Programme related materials and activities were ensured.

Though in the process finalisation, three of the deliverable that were planned to be delivered during year one under this result are delayed. These include, a) approval of the C&V strategy for grant component of the Programme as given the multitude of stakeholders and collection of data from stakeholder and feedback took more than expected time; b) development of the

BRACE video documentary as finalisation of the script and procurement process for hiring consulting firm caused delay of this activity; c) printing and dissemination of BRACE newsletter as feedback from RSPs, designing and printing took more than expected time. The newsletter has been finalised, printed and disseminated in first quarter of year two, while BRACE video documentary will be produced in second quarter of year two. C&V strategy for grant component of the Programme finalised on the basis of feedback from TA and EU and will be submitted to EU for approval in second quarter of year two. Media visits to Programme site are on track as these visit have been planned in second quarter of year two. Necessary preparations for these visits have been completed.

5.1. Overall Programme communication and visibility strategy of grants components developed by RSPN and implemented

To ensure a well-coordinated and uniform communication and visibility (C&V) of the Programme, RSPN, in consultation with BRSP and NRSP, developed a draft Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy (including plan) for the grant component of BRACE Programme. The draft C&V strategy was shared with the TA for review and feedback. The strategy was revised on the basis of feedback from the TA and the draft strategy was shared with the EU consultant (Sylvia Beamish) and Programme Advisor for feedback in December 2017. The main feedback from EU on the C&V strategy was to incorporate stakeholders' analysis. In response to the feedback, RSPN with the assistance of the TA conducted stakeholders' analysis exercise in which Focal Person for the BRACE Programme from Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD) GoB, the TA Communication Specialist and Programme Manager from BRSP, NRSP and RSPN participated. The results of the stakeholders' analysis are incorporated in the strategy. The second feedback was to collect and incorporate general feedback about what people know/think about the BCDP/BRACE projects as follows and a semi-structure questionnaire was shared with RSPN. In order to collect the general information, RSPN with assistance of TA, conducted a workshop in BRSP office Quetta in which District Programme Coordinators from the BRACE Programme districts participated and shared the general responses on the prescribed questionnaire. Responses of the GOB officials including three Provincial Secretaries, (Local Government and Rural Development Department, Social Welfare Department, and Women Development and Department), DG Local Government Board and focal person LGRDD for the BRACE Programme were also collected and compiled. After incorporating the general feedback, the revised draft is ready for review and approval from EU.

On the basis of draft C&V strategy and with guidance from "Communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions Manual" all implementing partners ensured standardised communication and visibility of the Programme. Communication part of the C&V strategy mainly focus on how the Programme will highlight and disseminate achievements and key lessons to policy makers, donors, other development stakeholders, nationally and internationally, to promote scale-up and replication of successful development approaches. Activities contributed in the Communication part of the strategy include; national LSO convention, BRACE Programme launching ceremony and regional cooperation, exposure visit to the Republic of Tajikistan and formal and informal meetings with policy makers and GoB officials. Details of these activities are in respective sections of the report. Moreover, development of Programme's video documentaries on the BRACE Programme and its interventions, development and

dissemination of bi-annual BRACE Programme newsletters, media campaigns, development and maintenance of BRACE website and organising programme dissemination workshop production of Programme's introductory video documentaries on the BRACE Programme and its interventions is in progress and will be finalised by the end of second quarter of year two. As per Programme plans and targets, only one BRACE Programme newsletters will be produced in year one. The newsletter has been finalised and in and sent for printing. Development of BRACE Programme website was reflected both in RSPN and Programme TA component. In a meeting with the secretary LG&RDD held on March 19, 2018 and in implementing partners workshop, held on January 15, 2018, it was decided that there should be one website for BRACE Programme, to be developed by Programme TA and be hosted by LG&RDD with ownership of all the BRACE Programme implementers (RSPN, BRSP, NRSP and the programme TA). However, RSPN has a dedicated page for BRACE Programme on its website. It is containing all the important information about BRACE Programme in different sections as image/video gallery, publications, districts profiles, research articles, field visits and media visits. Visibility part of the plan include activities which ensure the acknowledgement of the European Union support in all internal and external Programme-related communication and documentation and EU visibility in all Programme related materials and activities. Visibility related activities by RSPN during year one of the Programme, which was developed with consultation with EU consultant and are approval from the EU. These include:

- BRACE Facebook page development with right to all partners to post on. Since January 2018, a total of 82 BRACE post (64 by RSPN and 18 by RSPs) have been posted on Facebook while EU have been tagged in 65 posts; 18 of the posts have been published by EU Facebook page.
- Development and printing and dissemination of BRACE Programme Brochure
- Development visibility material including; standees, back drops, file folders, mugs, wall clocks and bags

Moreover, all internal and external Programme-related communication and documentation e.g. brochures, publications, training material, presentations, reports, letters, attendance sheets, minutes of the meetings, advertisement etc. display the EU logo. Similarly, the publications including, manuals and reports contains the EU disclaimer also mentions the financial support of European Union for the BRACE Programme. In all the posts of BRACE Programme Facebook page, hashtag of #EUinPakistan is used.

5.2. Capacities of IPs enhanced in communication skills through bi-annual training sessions and meeting workshops of RSPN's Communication Resource Group i.e. Forum for Advancement of Communication Expertise (FACE)

In the year one of the BRACE Programme, two trainings of FACE were held. In total six Programme staff members participated in these trainings. These trainings helped the Communications and Reporting and Documentation Officers to further improve their learning and skills with respect to the rules of storytelling in the digital age; writing & photography for social media; human interest stories; hands-on training on taking photos through on-the-field exercises and Participatory Video & Most Significant Change (PVMSC); a form of monitoring & evaluation which employs participatory video as a documenting tool that communities learn to apply themselves. The will enhance capacity of the Communications and Reporting and

Documentation Officers in ensuring communication and visibility of the Programme as well as in disseminating achievements, lessons and successful development approaches drawn from the BRACE Programme

A list of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 5 are presented in the following table;

Table 5: List of the activities and status of associated outputs for Expected Result 5.

Activities	Indicative Outputs
A-5.1. Assist EU TA to develop a global Communication and Visibility Plan for BRACE	1. Draft Communication and visibility Strategy for the RSPN, BRSP and NRSP components developed, will be shared with EU for approval in second quarter of year two
A-5.2. Develop a Communication and Visibility Plan for RSPN, BRSP and NRSP Programme Component	2. BRACE launching ceremony health; <i>over 250, against the target of 100 participated in launching workshop</i>
A-5.3: BRACE launching workshop	3. Visibility items printed and distributed; <i>Printed items for year one in the programme include BRACE brochures; other visibility items which are in final stages include caps, pens, walk clocks, mugs and will be distributed in year two.</i>
A-5.4. Printing of visibility items	
A-5.5. Develop video documentaries	
A-5.6. Bi-Annual BRACE programme newsletters	
A-5.7. Media Visits	
A-5.8. BRACE website	4. 9 bi-annual newsletters published and disseminated. <i>For year one of the Programme, one newsletter was planned which has been drafted in the process of printing</i>
A-5.9. Capacity building of Communication Officers	5. Number of articles/news items published in reputed newspaper. <i>6 articles on BRACE related interventions and published in Express Tribune and LSE South Asia Centre. Similarly, the coverage of BRACE Launching ceremony was covered in 14 Urdu and English newspapers, whereas; the news coverage of CAT training was covered by 3 TV channels and 10 national and local newspapers.</i>
A-5.10. Final dissemination workshop	
	6. Updated dedicated Programme website; <i>A dedicated page for BRACE Programme on RSPN website; containing BRACE Programme communication and visibility material, including reports, image/video, publications, districts profiles, field visits and media visits.</i>
	7. 100 participated in Final dissemination workshop; <i>Planned for year five of the Programme</i>

B. Activities

Start-up Activities

The induction of BRACE Programme and monitoring team at RSPN started soon after signing of the grant agreement and completed as per plan in the preparatory phase. In total, seven team members have been inducted for this Programme, including the Programme Manager, Finance Manager, Research Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, MIS Officer, Communications Officer and Documentation and Reporting Officer. The newly hired staff members on BRACE Programme was oriented on RSPN policies, BRACE Action Document and procedures and EU regulations in a day long workshop on held at RSPN office, Islamabad on 21st September, 2017. The lessons learned from ongoing EU funded project SUCCESS were shared and discussed so that these learnings incorporated in the Programme. This workshop made the newly hired staff aware of the strategic importance of the Programme and its intervention logic, objectives, and activities. Importantly, it aided the team to understand not only RSPN policies but particularly acquainted them with EU Grant agreement terms and conditions pertinent for BRACE Programme. The lessons put from SUCCESS Programme were not only shared and reflected upon but also applied in the year one of BRACE Programme activities. For example, some new sections have been added in CAT toolkit such as Hepatitis; etc. *The Staff Orientation Workshop report is attached as MoV-1*. Moreover, RSPN has also completed the procurement of budgeted equipment, office supplies, and necessary furniture and fixture.

Summary of Progress against inception phase plan

Inception phase of the Programme, especially RSPN component, was envisaged to be significant for the overall Programme to create a common understating and ownership among the implementing partners about the programme concept, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting for the smooth launching of the Programme. After recruitment and orientation of the staff, RSPN in consultation with BRSP, NRSP and Programme TA developed a consolidated work plan, that aligned activities of all partners, for the inception phase of the Programme. The Programme was formally launched at Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, which was well attended by the wide range of stakeholders, at provincial and district levels. Participants included Federal and Provincial Ministers, Senators, Members of Provincial Assembly, Secretaries, officials from relevant government departments, representatives from donors, civil society organisations, academia and media. In order to support and build institutional capacities of partner RSPs, ensure standardised Programme implementation approaches and harmonised monitoring and reporting mechanism of the Programme, RSPN has developed guidelines, training modules and quality assurance plans and tools. These include,

- Programme Implementation Manual (PIM),
- Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT),
- Poverty Scorecard (PSC) manual,
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework and baseline socioeconomic survey (SES) approach and methodologies.

To develop the capacity of BRSP and NRSP implementation teams on the common Programme design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and quality control plans and checklist, relevant staff of BRSP, NRSP and government departments (P&D, LGRDD, SWD and WDD) have been trained on M&E Framework and baseline SES approach and methodologies. To track Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the programme, RSPN has developed basic structure of a web-based Management Information System (MIS)-Dashboard and supported partner RSPs in developing their MISs. The training of trainers (ToT) on RSPs Human Resource (HR) and gender policies and “anti-sexual harassment laws in Pakistan” has also been successfully delivered to the relevant staff of implementing RSPs and government officials. During the inception phase, a research framework elaborating the research agenda, methods, tools has been drafted which will be finalised with TA team, EU, implementing RSPs. Once the research framework is developed in the subsequent months and years the research framework will be implemented.

An important aspect of the inception phase has been the active involvement of the provincial and district government representatives in all the events, training and visits pertaining to the BRACE Programme. Other planned activities that completed during inception phase included; formation of research advisory committee, conduction of national LSO convention, regional experience sharing visit to Tajikistan and development of a visibility and communication plan for RSPN, BRSP and NRSP’s components.

During the inception phase of the programme BRACE-RSPN staff also conducted three field visits to Loralai and Turbat districts to share leanings, meet with communities and support implementing RSPs in undertaking poverty scorecard survey. Below table shows achievements against targets and outputs;

Activity/outputs	Targets	Achievements	Remarks/reasons and mitigation strategy adopted for delayed activities
Hiring of BRACE programme staff (RSPN)	7	Completed	Completed on time
Programme orientation workshop for newly hired staff	1	Completed	Completed on time
Develop standardised PIM	1	Completed	Completed on time
Develop manual for Poverty Scorecard (PSC) survey	1	Completed	Completed on time
Develop baseline survey approached & methodologies	1	Completed	Completed on time
Develop a common M&E framework	1	Completed	Completed on time
Assist RSPs in developing a joint & integrated MIS/GIS	1	It is an ongoing activity. Support to RSPs have been provided in developing the basis of the MIS	
Develop and implement a web-based MIS-Dashboard	1	It is an ongoing activity. MIS-dashboard developed and is online.	
Develop staff training guidelines for RSPs	1	Completed	Completed on time

Orientation training of RSPs and GoB on PIM	1	PIM developed	Training planned for January 2018, all preparatory arrangements completed
Training of RSPs on the Socio-economic baselines	1	Completed	Completed on time
Training of RSP M&E staff on M&E framework	1	Completed	Completed on time
Develop quality assurance and control plan and tools	1	Completed	Completed on time
Assist the Programme TA in undertaking gender analysis	1	Assistance provided. It is an ongoing activity till the finalization of GMS	
Review of RSPN/RSP organisational HR/Gender policies	1	Completed	Recommendations given for improvement in the policies
Gender ToT on HR/Gender policies & harassment laws	1	Completed	Completed on time
Develop Action Research conceptual framework	1	Completed	Completed on time
Formation of Research Advisory Committee (RAC)	1	Completed	Completed on time
Annual BRACE lesson learning visits and workshops	1	Planned for December 2018	This activity has been postponed till year two in mutual consensus with partners for the reasons that this activity will be more productive once programme TA is fully on-board and most of the activities of BRACE Programme start in the field
National LSO convention	1	National LSO convention held	Completed on time
Regional experience sharing visit (Tajikistan)	1	Completed	Completed on time
Develop Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT)	1	Completed	Completed on time
Develop quality control checklists	1	drafted	Will be completed by end of January 2018
Training of RSPs staff as Master Trainers on use of CAT	1	CAT developed	Training on CAT is planned for February 2018. all preparatory arrangements completed
Assist programme TA to develop a global Communication Plan	1	RSPN has drafted C&V plan	TA will be assisted to develop a global Communication Plan as per TA work plan

Develop a C&V Strategy for RSPN/BRSP/NRSP Components	1	Drafted	Will be finalised on the basis of feedback from TA and EU
BRACE launching workshop	1	BRACE launching held	Completed on time
Printing of visibility items	1	Required visibility items developed	Take away gifts, showing programme visibility will be developed in second half of the year
Develop video documentaries (introductory doc)	1	In process	This activity got delay as finalization of documentary script more than expected time
Develop BRACE website	1	In process	BRACE website will be developed by the TA as decided in meeting with Secretary LGRDD and BRACE OSC meeting

Activities progress with respect to the Expected Results

ER-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.

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. To contribute towards creating a uniform Programme implementation approach and harmonised monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms, RSPN supported Implementing Partners (BRSP and NRSP) in developing their respective proposals, produced a Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), drafted manual & guidelines for poverty mapping through the poverty scorecard, developed a common socio-economic baseline and end line survey approach and methodology, an M&E framework and reporting mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), a Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT), a quality assurance and control plan and related tools, and assisted BRSP and NRSP in developing an Integrated MIS System during the first year of the Programme. RSPN contributed to building the technical and institutional capacities by training master trainers from BRSP and NRSP on PIM, M&E framework, quality control plans & checklists, and socio-economic baselines survey approaches & methodologies. Moreover, RSPN assisted the implementing partners in training rollout at field level. All of the activities, planned for the year one, under this results, have been completed by RSPN, except the preparation of an exit strategy for BRSP and

NRSP. RSPN has undertaken initial consultations with TA and implementing RSPs to solicit ideas for the development of the strategy. These discussions were around the importance, objectives, and format of the strategy. It was decided that the proper process for the development of the exit strategy will be started from second quarter of year two. The delay occurred due to pre-occupation of the Programme team in other activities, late start of the TA component due to visa issues and constant changes in TA staff. Delay mitigation strategy for the development of exit strategy include; initial meeting with TA to follow up on the previous discussion, finalization of the exit strategy objectives in consultation with TA, BRSP and NRSP, initial draft development and sharing with TA and EU for feedback and finalisation of the strategy on the basis of the feedback. All activities in the mitigation strategy will be completed by end of the second quarter of year two.

Though the ER 1 will be achieved over the course of Programme implementation, during year one RSPN inputs contributed to building coherence in the Programme approach and a uniformity in Programme implementation. BRSP and NRSP started adopting the PIM in the field by using standardised processes and formats for capacity building of their staff in social mobilisation activities. To ensure conformance to processes outlined in the PIM, implementing partners have started the adaptation of quality assurance and control plans, including for the PSC, training and social mobilisation activities. Using the PSC manual and guidelines, RSPs started the PSC survey. Development of the common M&E framework, with gender sensitive indicators and training of the M&E staff on the M&E framework contributed in collection, analysis and reporting of Programme data and production of KPIs report on the Programme performance. Using the socio-economic baselines survey approaches & methodologies, developed by RSPN with assistance from University of Mannheim Germany, BRSP and NRSP have initiated the survey in Programme districts. Though a formal evaluation has not been undertaken, based on the common and standardised approaches observed and reported by BRSP and NRSP in their capacity building, social mobilisation activities, PSC census, socioeconomic surveys and other Programme activities, it can be deduced that the result is on track and support and follow up visits by RSPN in following years will contribute in attaining ER 1. As far as issue in BRSP and NRSP components as concerned, the issues, also highlighted in corresponding activities) include a) delays by BRSP and NRSP in completing socioeconomic baseline survey on time, which will not be completed by end of November 2018 as per their delay mitigation strategy, b) Discrepancies in collected data against target of household in PSC census, i.e. data of 315,769 households collected against total targeted 421,019 households due to 1) in district Kech, out of total 41 UCs, 03 UCs were not selected for implementation of the BRACE programme as a similar project by a civil society organisation is already underway there and would be duplication of effort, 2) 05 UCs were identified as conflicted UCs and were not included in the PSC; and some of the households migrated due to drought and conflicts in district Kech, 3) PSC survey could not be initiated, in two districts Pishin and Killa Abdullah, on stipulated time due to enumerators dropout right from the outset that has affected the overall progress. The remaining census will be completed during the process of social mobilisation and capacity building interventions as it is expected that some of the migrated households will return to their areas. Moreover, NRSP is devising ways and have requested to EU for the replacement of 5 conflict stricken UCs. To address this, BRSP has in PSC, a strategy has been devised to cover the

remaining households during the validation process as an integral part of social mobilisation. For RSPN delays in development of the Exit Strategy mitigation plan has been developed and implementation started. The progress against planned activities of the Expected Result 1 is as follows;

A. Support to the IPs in Ensuring Uniformity in Programme Design

A-1.1. Technical Assistance to BRSP& NRSP in Programme Planning and Designing

The RSPN core team and sector specialists supported BRSP and NRSP in planning and designing of the BRACE Programme activities through the development of harmonised proposals. This was carried out with a series of consultative meetings with BRSP and NRSP and other key stakeholders, including community representatives, GoB officials of LG&RDD, Planning and Development Department and Women Development Department. Among others, training for the local elected representative on Balochistan Local Governance Act was incorporated in the Programme design on the requested GoB officials. This activity enabled synchronized activities, agreed final results/results and log frames at the RSPs and GoB levels. This assistance to helped RSPs interventions uniformly aligned of to the Programme results and objectives to a large extent and the design of the Programme developed in a way that synchronise RSPs activities and complement each other efforts. Moreover, RSPN will through its regular support will ensure that Programme activities are aligned to the Programme result during the field implementation of the Programme through regular review meetings and field visits. The activity was completed on time as per plan.

A-1.2. Develop a Standardised Gender Sensitive Programme Implementation Manual (PIM)

One of the central roles of RSPN under the BRACE Programme is to ensure standardisation. In order to achieve this, a gender sensitive operational Programme Implementation Manual (PIM) was developed after comprehensive deliberations with Social activities to the development is PIM is narrated in activity number 1.12.

A-1.3. Development of Manual for Poverty Score Card (PSC) Survey to be Implemented by BRSP and NRSP

To assess the existing poverty status at the household level, the RSPs undertook a carpet PSC census in all targeted UCs of Programme districts. RSPN developed a common PSC Manual to be implemented by BRSP and NRSP so that a standard approach is adopted while undertaking the PSC census. *The Poverty Scorecard Manual is attached as MoV-3*. This manual guided the BRACE Programme field teams of BRSP and NRSP in executing the PSC census in a consistent and effective manner. Applying it, PSC census has been completed in the Programme Districts². Overall, PSC data for 313,447, against the target of 421,019, households have been collected in the BRACE Programme Districts. Achievement against the target is low because; a) in district Kech, out of total 41 UCs, 03 UCs were not selected for implementation of BRACE programme as a similar project by a civil society organisation is already underway there and would be duplication of effort b) 05 UCs were identified as conflicted UCs and were not included in the

² Due to law and order situation in some pockets in Kech and Washuk, PSC Survey has not been conducted. The Programme team is working on alternative strategies for the administration of PSC in these areas.

PSC; and some of the households migrated due to drought and conflicts in district Kech, d) PSC survey could not be initiated, in two districts Pishin and Killa Abdullah, on stipulated time due to enumerators dropout right from the outset that has affected the overall progress. The remaining households will be covered during the process of social mobilisation and capacity building interventions as it is expected that some of the migrated households will return to their areas. Moreover, NRSP is devising ways and have requested to EU for the replacement of 5 conflict stricken UCs. PSC analysis shows that 57% of the households in the target districts are poor (0-23). Band-wise poverty status in the target districts are as follows; 17.3% of the households lies in the poverty band of 0 to 11 (ultra-poor); 22.4% in 12-18 (vulnerable poor); 17.3% in 19-23 (transitory poor); 27.6% in 24-34 (transitory vulnerable); 12.6% in 35-50 while 2.8% lies in the category of 51-100 (transitory non-poor). Detailed findings of the PSC are available on the BRACE integrated dashboard <http://mis.rspn.org:8085/brace>

B- Support in ensuring standardisation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

A-1.4. Development of Socio-Economic Baseline and Endline Approach and Methodology to measure and report on results, outcome and results indicators of the BRACE logframe

To understand the socioeconomic status and have baseline indicators for the BRACE Programme districts and in order to assess the Programme outcomes and impact on the households in the approaching years, the socioeconomic surveys are planned at baseline and at the endline. For this reason, RSPN developed the Socio-Economic Baseline Approach and Methodology document that clearly sets out the description, methodology and other details regarding socioeconomic survey. This has been developed in discussions carried out with the relevant stakeholders, particularly University of Mannheim. *The Socio-Economic Baseline Approach and Methodology manual is attached as MoV-4*. The baseline, end-line Socio-Economic Surveys (SES) are part of the overall accountability and learning purpose of the M&E component of the BRACE Programme.

This document will support an effective implementation of SES surveys. Its results will be fed into the revised/updated log frame in Year two of the Programme as baseline values for various defined activities and indicators. Updates on the baseline survey is given in activity A-1.5.

A-1.5 Assist BRSP & NRSP in carrying out the Baseline and End line Surveys

RSPN has been providing regular backstopping to BRSP and NRSP in carrying out the baseline surveys since the start of this activity. RSPN also provided technical input for the development of the android applications for conducting this survey.

In the year one, based on the survey designed by RSPN and the University of Mannheim, through joint procurement process by BRSP and NRSP, the baseline socioeconomic survey was scheduled to be completed during the first year. Through competitive bidding process Foresight consulting by NRSP and BTK Associates by BRSP respectively has been hired to carry out the baseline survey. BRSP and NRSP have initiated socioeconomic baseline and will be completed in second quarter of year-2 while NRSP will complete it by December 2018. Main reason for the delay in baseline survey was that hiring of the firms for undertaking the survey took more than expected time. Moreover, sparsely stretched and inaccessible geographic

locations, extreme weather and security situation also contributed in the delay of this activity. The Programme LFA will be revised once complete result of the survey is available by end of December 2018. Though, baseline survey is significantly delayed by BRSP and NRSP, the data collection in the sampled Union Councils (UCs) has been completed before start of the interventions in these UCs. This will not affect the baseline values of the indicators.

A-1.6. Develop a Common Gender Sensitive M&E Framework and Report Mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the BRACE Programme

A common Gender Sensitive M&E Framework and Report Mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the BRACE Programme has been developed with the key objective of systematically generating, capturing and distributing knowledge through building up a unified monitoring and evaluation framework. RSPN and RSPs are employing the M&E framework in order to monitor progress, identify implementation issues and to ensure that M&E findings are utilised during programme implementation and beyond for informed decisions through the mechanism given in the M&E framework. Improvements may be proposed by any member of RSPN's BRACE Programme staff and implementing partner RSPs BRSP and NRSP staff through their Manager M&E preferably in writing to the Specialist M&E at RSPN. Before finalisation of the Framework, it has been reviewed by the existing all RSP Monitoring and Evaluation Resource Group (MERG) and members' feedback incorporated. MERG comprises of the head of M&E section of each RSP and led by M&E Specialist of RSPN. One of the main purposes of MERG is to promote standardisation of M&E approaches and practices among the RSPs. The M&E Framework will also help the Programme TA who will assist GoB in the development and implementation of a comprehensive and interconnected provincial and district level M&E framework for strategic decision-making and assessment of the impact pertaining to the community led development policy framework, designing periodic evaluation mechanisms with agreed indicators for relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, outcomes and impact, sustainability, quality and frequency of reporting and lessons learned, and build capacities for internal reporting and public accountability at provincial and local levels. *Programme Common Gender Sensitive M&E Framework and Report Mechanism is attached as MoV-5.*

Gender has been incorporated as a cross-cutting theme throughout the M&E framework and provide guidelines and formats for collection, analysis and reporting of disaggregation data of beneficiaries on the basis of gender (inclusive of transgender), age, income group and disability, etc. essential to better serve girls, women, boys and men. Gender sensitization and the significance of working with girls, women, boys and men for attaining the development have been mainstreamed in all training sessions and M&E related activities. RSPN, BRSP and RSPN has started adaptation of the framework and collect, analyse and report data as per the guidelines given in the framework on the basis of that produce KPIs reports is produced for dissemination with stakeholders. The KPIs feed into integrated MIS developed under BRACE Programme. BRACE annual KPIs reports, developed through the process mentioned above, has been printed and is in dissemination process.

A-1.7 Assist BRSP & NRSP in Operationalisation of the M&E framework and Ensure Regular Reporting on Common KPIs

This is an ongoing activity. RSPN is providing regular technical backstopping to BRSP & NRSP in operationalisation of the M&E framework and ensure regular reporting on common KPIs. This assistance is being provided through regular correspondence via telephone, emails and field visits. For instance, Specialist M&E – RSPN and M&E Officer BRACE Programme-RSPN visited Quetta. They participated in the two training events on poverty scorecard survey in BRACE Programme targeted districts and also provided the technical assistance to BRSP on strategies regarding PSC survey rollout, followed-up on initial information gathering for developing the baseline approaches and methodologies along-with identifying areas for improvements and provided feedback to the BRSP BRACE Programme management. In this training at Quetta, technical assistance was provided to BRSP's training resource persons by leading sessions related to clarifying and understanding on standard definition of household, indicators on housing characteristics, education and literacy, and ownership of assets. Thus, the ongoing assistance has resulted in validation of progress, risk mitigation, scope management, project course correction, quality assurance, timeliness and better coordination.

In order to report on uniform and standardised programme implementation performance by BRSP and NRSP, a set of common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been developed in consultation with the implementing RSPs and are part of the M&E framework. The focus is on progress indicators that are common to of the both the implementing partner RSPs. These KPIs provide a picture of the progress of the BRSP and NRSP component on standardised format. Based on this, implementing RSPs have developed MIS for their respective programme components. Subsequently, RSPN have developed an online web based MIS-Dashboard and GIS Mapping to track and report on consolidated KPIs of the Programme. This helps to highlight and track progress on the KPIs. The KPIs can mapped by different geographic layers to show the overall and district, tehsil or UC specific performance of the overall programme or any specific interventions. Data about common KPIs is fed in to MIS Dashboard on daily basis and currently Poverty Scorecard Census, Social Mobilization are reported on the dashboard. As the programmes moves ahead and programme activities are undertaken in the field by the implementing RSPs, their progress will be shown on the dashboard. In case of issues regarding KPIs, RSPN's technical support is sought by the implementing RSPs for course correction. The MIS system help to day-to-day programme management and course correction and contributes to accelerating the work. e.g. during PSC census, the data collection by enumerators was monitored in real time on daily basis and corrective measure for low performing districts or any enumerator were taken in timely manner.

A-1.8 Produce an Annual KPI report on the BRACE Programme

BRACE Programme KPI report is due after the reporting period (July/August 2018) as per Programme work plan. The report has been drafted and is currently in the designing process. The KPI report helps in assessing and reporting the performance against the set indicators and targets; and help in strategizing better for coming years. This report also includes documented stories, and lessons learnt from field and the Programme implementation. Based on the common

KPIs agreed with RSPs and EU; RSPN has documented and published its first annual KPI report. The Programme team will analyse them in order to identify what actions are successful and what actions need to be corrected. Also, it helps in indicating the pace of work and contributes to accelerating the work. The report also serves as a communication tool and highlight the achievements, lessons and successful development approaches drawn from the BRACE Programme. Dissemination of the report will contribute in influencing the policy maker for institutionalisation and scale up community driven development approaches to bring about changes to socio-economic conditions at the grassroots level. BRACE Annual KPI report can be accessed at <http://www.rspn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/KPI%20Indicators.pdf>

A-1.9. Assist BRSP and NRSP in Developing a Joint and Integrated MIS/GIS System and follow-up support

During the year one of the BRACE Programme, RSPN has been facilitating BRSP and NRSP in developing the common and integrated MIS/GIS system. This will be a continuous process and different modules of the MIS will be developed as the programme implementation progresses. RSPN has also developed a common template for RSPs for data sharing in order to ensure standardisation. MIS modules will consist of the Poverty Scorecard (PSC), three-tiered social mobilisation, Community Investment Fund (CIF), Income Generating Grants (IGGs), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Micro Health Insurance (MHI), Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) and Institutional Maturity Index (IMI) indicators.

The poverty scorecard information will be linked with all other modules of the integrated MIS/GIS, so that the implementing partners and GoB are able to track information about coverage, inclusion, and targeting of poor households for the implementation of gender sensitive socio-economic interventions at the ground level. Additionally, this will also allow us to monitor how many households there are in each poverty band that are participating in multiple interventions. This will allow for the evaluation of the overall progress over the time and geographical spread. The MIS feeds into a web-based real time reporting MIS-Dashboard to track KPIs. Currently Poverty Scorecard Census, Social Mobilisation are reported on the dashboard. As the Programme moves ahead and programme activities are undertaken in the field by the implementing RSPs, their progress will be shown on the dashboard. So, in this way the MIS system helps in to day-to-day Programme management and course correction and contributes to accelerating the work.

A-1.10. Develop and Implement a Web-Based Real Time Reporting MIS-Dashboard and GIS Mapping to Track KPIs

A web-based real time reporting MIS-Dashboard to track KPIs has been developed. The dashboard is accessible to all implementing partners and key stakeholders including GoB and the EU for regular monitoring of Programme's performance and updates. Over the Programme implementation cycle, the dashboard will evolve and will serve as a joint and integrated real time Management Information System (MIS) for the Programme's partners (BRSP, NRSP, RSPN and programme TAs) to track KPIs of the BRACE. The link to the dashboard is as follows: <http://mis.rspn.org:8085/BRACE>

C- Capacity Building to ensure Quality Control in Programme Implementation

A-1.11. Develop Gender Sensitive Staff Training Guidelines/Module

RSPN has developed the gender sensitive staff training guidelines and modules for BRACE Programme partner RSPs. These include gender sensitive guidelines for the BRACE Programme implementation manual, community awareness tool kit, community management skills training, monitoring and evaluation and poverty scorecard.

The standard training and capacity development guidelines for the BRACE Programme were developed by understanding the Programme documents, specifically the PIM developed for the BRACE Programme by RSPN. An extensive literature review and desk study of existing training plans and manual guidelines was also undertaken to create this document. This document and associated annexes will remain a living document and open to change/improvement on the basis of learnings from field. *Gender Sensitive Staff Training Guidelines/Module is attached as MoV-6.*

Field observations indicate that staff are sensitised about the importance of gender aspect for the overall socioeconomic development, especially in the context of Balochistan that will help in gender sensitive implementation of the Programme in field. However, given the social, cultural and political environment of Balochistan, reducing sustained gender inequalities is challenging process and requires sustained approaches. The GMS strategy will help in mainstreaming of gender in the context of Balochistan that will ultimately contribute in reduced gender in equalities which is one of the Programme's expected results.

A-1.12. Orientation Training of BRSP, NRSP and GoB Key Staff on PIM

RSPN conducted a five-day orientation training for the staff of the BRSP, NRSP and GoB from Local Government & Rural Development Department, Planning and Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Women Development Department on PIM, to make them fully understand the processes and on the required tools related to social mobilisation and other activities under BRACE Programme. The GoB official included Assistant Directors and Field Officers that would help them understand BRACE CDD approaches for incorporating the Local Development Policy Framework to be developed by TA for GoB. Against the target of 30, 42 (9 females and 33 males) master trainers from BRACE Programme RSPs and staff from relevant government departments have been trained on PIM and the guidelines. Responses were gathered from training participants of the BRSP, NRSP and key GoB staff (35 in total), where the average responses ranged between a score of 3.27-4.56 (on a scale of 1 to 5; 1 lowest, 5 highest), showing that the response was mainly positive. The participants were asked whether they would like to participate in future trainings, almost everyone provided a positive response; except four out of 36 participants. The participants said that after this orientation training on PIM it will be more easy to understand PIM and implement the activities under BRACE Programme. *The Orientation Training Report of BRSP, NRSP and GoB Key Staff on PIM is attached as MoV-7.*

After this training, the NRSP and BRSP have rolled out the social mobilisation under BRACE Programme. In year one of the Programme, 16,391 households have been organised in community institutions. The progress by RSPs on social mobilisation component of the Programme is very low due to delays in PSC census, finding literate CRPs and limited mobility of women CRPs. However, RSPs will accelerate their performance in the subsequent years of

the Programme and will not impact the global work plan, the backlog will be achieved in the subsequent years. The strategy to recoup delays includes, increased number of CRPs from target communities, and more efficient technical backstopping from head office.

The guidelines of BRACE PIM also helped the implementing RSPs develop and printing registers / record keeping material for CO / VO / LSO including CPI registers and other formats / files thus ensuring uniformity.

A-1.13. Assist BRSP & NRSP in Rollout of the PIM Trainings to all Relevant Staff Members

This is also an ongoing activity. RSPN's Social Mobilisation Specialist and other relevant core and BRACE Programme members of RSPN are providing continual technical backstopping as and when needed. For example, RSPN's Social Mobilisation Specialist travelled to District Kech and supported Master Trainers from NRSP in the rollout PIM training in Turbat. He participated in the training, monitored the training to see if the training is provided according to Quality Assurance Guidelines developed by RSPN. Assessment results show that Master Trainers from NRSP followed the Training Guidelines and Quality Assurance Guidelines during rollout, except some minor issues in *Training Session Plans*. The Master Trainers were guided on remedial actions through practically developing session plans for upcoming training. Similarly, BRSP has also been assisted in rollout of PIM in districts as well as at Head Office level.

A-1.14. Training of Key Staff of BRSP, NRSP on Socioeconomic Baseline and Endline Approaches and Methodologies and A-1.15. Training of Key M&E Staff of BRSP & NRSP on M&E framework and KPI Reporting Tools

RSPN conducted a five days training on "Monitoring & Evaluation Framework and Socioeconomic Approaches and Methodologies" solely for the BRACE Programme. Led by Specialist M&E RSPN, the training was held from November 27, 2017 to December 1, 2017 at Quetta. The overall objective of the training was to orient BRSP and NRSP monitoring officers and other staff from RSPs and GoB Officials from Planning and Development Department on BRACE Programme M&E framework and socio-economic baseline survey approaches and methodologies. The training on M&E Framework and Socioeconomic Baseline and Endline Approaches and Methodologies were led by RSPN' M&E Specialist and support was provided by RSPN' Social Mobilisation Specialist. The training also provided an opportunity to jointly review the M&E framework draft with government officials from P&D Department and incorporate their feedback. The feedback from mentioned GoB Officials was incorporated in the M&E framework. Participatory and interactive approaches were adopted throughout the training including open experience sharing; question and answer; summary and feedback coupled with power point presentations. Responses were gathered from all training participants of the BRSP and NRSP staff (16 in total), where the average responses ranged between a score of 3.63-4.88 (on a scale of 1 to 5; 1 lowest, 5 highest), showing that the response was largely positive. Feedback regarding the training from the participants pinpointed that the training was very effective and informative. Participants reported the training helped in understanding the M&E Framework, mechanism, strategies of EU, and also guidelines provided by EU for monitoring the Programme activities. About 45 percent of the participants indicated that they could implement the modules independently; while a collective 36 percent of the training participants indicated that they either understand the concepts imparted in the training or could implement the modules with some assistance. No single participant indicated that s/he was confused about

any concept or module. *Training report on “Monitoring & Evaluation Framework and Socio-economic Approaches and Methodologies” is attached as MoV- 8.* Thus as a result of this training, standardised monitoring and reporting tools and approaches are being employed under the BRACE Programme. This training has also contributed in the capacity of GoB Officials who will then support in the development and implementation (with the assistance of the Programme TA) of a comprehensive and interconnected provincial and district level M&E framework for strategic decision-making and assessment of the impact pertaining to the community led development policy framework, designing periodic evaluation mechanisms with agreed indicators for relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, outcomes and impact, sustainability, quality and frequency of reporting and lessons learned, and build capacities for internal reporting and public accountability at provincial and local levels.

A-1.16. Training of Key Implementation and M&E Staff of BRSP, NRSP and Government Officials on Quality Control Plans and Checklists

To ensure quality of the Programme interventions, RSPN has developed a quality assurance and control plan (QACP) and relevant tools to be applied by BRSP and NRSP. Keeping this in view, a two-day training was organised by RSPN on quality assurance and control plans and tools from 11th -12th April, 2018 at Quetta for key implementation and Monitoring & Evaluation staff of BRSP, NRSP and the TA as well as for GoB staff from Local Government and Rural Development Department and Social Welfare Department. The training participants lauded that they have learnt more about the significance of quality assurance and quality control. The comprehensive checklists developed for each activity/intervention will help in ensuring quality at each step/process of activity/intervention being implemented, monitored and evaluated. Responses were gathered from training participants of the BRSP, NRSP and key GoB staff (30 in total), where the average responses ranged between a score of 3.29-4.76 (on a scale of 1 to 5; 1 lowest, 5 highest), showing that the response was quite positive. The participants said that the training was quite informative. They have learnt more about the significance of quality assurance and quality control. The comprehensive checklists developed for each activity/intervention will help in ensuring quality at each step/process of activity/intervention being implemented, monitored and evaluated expressed a few participants.

Report of Training of Key Implementation and M&E Staff of BRSP, NRSP and Government Officials on Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plans and Tools is attached as MoV-9.

The QAC plan and tools are being used by the implementing RSPs staff and RSPN staff during BRACE implementation and quality control spot check visits.

A-1.17. Develop Quality Assurance and Control Plan and Tools

The quality assurance and control plan (QACP) has been developed and shared with implementing RSPs. As part of the QACP, the tools include:

(a) Quality Control Indicator Matrix:

This matrix contains a breakup of key quality assurance and control indicators, derived from the PIM, that guided the development of the checklists and formats.

(b) Checklists:

Based on the Quality Control Indicator Matrix and PIM, checklists are developed that can be used in Programme implementation by the staff that is responsible for a particular task ranging

from the RSP heads to the SMTs/SOs and leaders of the Community Institutions where applicable.

(c) Spot-Check Field Visits:

Field visits will be conducted by BRSP, NRSP and RSPN teams to assess whether a certain level of quality is being maintained in the field for implementation of various programme activities. The checklists will be used for this purpose, and/or a Note for Record (NFR) will be circulated to all relevant BRACE Programme staff for promoting quality improvements.

(d) Capacity Building of Staff and Community Institutions:

Capacity building of staff and community institutions is an integral part of ensuring quality and for continues improvement in the BRACE Programme.

Quality Assurance and Control Plan and Tools is attached as MoV-10.

A-1.18. Assist BRSP & NRSP in Implementation of the Quality Control and Assurance Plan with follow up visits throughout the Programme

This is also an ongoing activity. For this, RSPN has been providing guidance and facilitation to both BRSP and NRSP relevant staff through emails, calls and field visits. The development of the common and standardised Programme implementation approaches and quality assurance and control mechanism and subsequent capacity building intervention by RSPN for BRSP and NRSP and follow up support has helped implementing RSPs conduct Programme activities in more effective manner.

D- Exit Strategy

A-1.19. Prepare exit strategy for BRSP & NRSP component and follow-up support

For the preparation of exit strategy, RSPN has undertaken initial consultations with TA and implementing RSPs to solicit ideas for the development of the strategy. These discussions were around the importance, objectives, and format of the strategy. It was decided that the proper process for the development of the exit strategy will be started from second quarter of year two. The delay occurred due to pre-occupation of the Programme team in other activities, late start of the TA component due to visa issues and constant changes in TA staff. Delay mitigation strategy for the development of exit strategy include; initial meeting with TA to follow up on the previous discussion, finalization of the exit strategy objectives in consultation with TA, BRSP and NRSP, initial draft development and sharing with TA and EU for feedback and finalisation of the strategy on the basis of the feedback. All activities in the mitigation strategy will be completed by end of the second quarter of year two.

A-1.20 Assist BRSP & NRSP in implementation of the exit strategy developed by the EU TA's support

As narrated in activity A.1.19, RSPN will assist BRSP and NRSP in implementation of the exit strategy, once the strategy is finalised.

ER-2: Gender inequalities reduced through ensuring implementation of the recommendations from the gender mainstreaming strategy to be developed by the EU TA with support from RSPN.

A number of activities have been undertaken by RSPN in pursuit of attaining the expected result two. These include assistance to the TA in conducting the comprehensive gender analysis, support to the TA in the development of TORs for the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (GMS) for the Programme, a review of RSPs' human resource and gender policies and provision of recommendations for the improvement of these policies, mainstreaming of gender in M&E framework as a cross-cutting theme and in guidelines (e.g. collection, analysis and reporting of sex and age disaggregated data of beneficiaries; essential to better serve girls, women, boys and men) and in reporting mechanism on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), development of a gender sensitive Programme Implementation Manual (PIM); mainstreaming of gender sensitization in all training sessions and M&E related activities, training of Master Trainers from BRSP, NRSP and government officials from the department of Women Development Department, Social Welfare Department and Local Government and Rural Development Department on the HR/gender policies and anti-sexual harassment laws in Pakistan and follow-up field visit to assist implementing partners in implementation of the Programme activities in the field. Details of these activities are given in the activity section of the report. All these efforts by RSPN are meant to ensure that the Programme contributes towards the inclusion of women and the reduction of gender inequalities. These inputs by RSPN have contributed towards a comprehensive gender analysis by the TA, capacity building of RSPs and GoB staff in implementing the Programme activities through gender sensitive approaches, monitoring and reporting of gender sensitive KPIs and improvement in RSPs policies by incorporating gender aspects.

Despite some delays in developing Gender Mainstreaming Strategies (GMS) and subsequent training and implementation of the GMS in the field, the indicators of the expected result are still on track and will be attained in subsequent years of the Programme. The development of the GMS, which was planned in year one but delayed due to delays with the TA coming on board. Moreover, finalisation of the gender analysis TORs and preparation of the gender analysis report took more than expected time. GSM development is now planned for year two of the Programme. In order to mitigate delays related GSM development and subsequent training and implementation, RSPN has been contributing to the development of GMS by setting up a Gender Group, led by Shandana Khan, CEO RSPN, with membership from RSPs Gender Resource Group. So far, the Gender Group has contributed in drafting and finalisation of the GMS TORs, providing the TA with CVs to facilitate the selection of consultants and being part of an initial discussion with consultants and the TA, for the development of GSM. The GRG group will support the ToT for BRSP and NRSP and key Programme staff and Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

A-2.1. Assist the EU TA in Undertaking a Comprehensive Gender Analysis

RSPN assisted Programme TA in undertaking a comprehensive gender analysis by sharing of knowledge, expertise and evidence gathered from extensive experience of RSPN's work on gender issues with RSPs, Community Institutions (CIs) and rural communities across the country. The gender analysis report (draft) has been reviewed by RSPN core team, BRACE Programme staff and RSPs Gender and M&E Resource Groups; the feedback has been shared with the Programme TA in a one to one meeting as well as in writing. The feedback will help to make the report more inclusive and will ultimately lead to the formulation of a comprehensive

Gender Mainstreaming Strategy particularly for BRACE Programme and implementing/partner RSPs.

Gender analysis undertaken by the TA consultant provides some suggestions for mainstreaming gender at community level, which will contribute in RSPN effort to support its Programmes through gender sensitive approaches. For example, in response to a suggestions of Gender Mainstreaming Analysis for mainstreaming gender at community level, RSPN revised its Community Management Skills Trainings (CMSTs) manual on principles of adult-learning which now appropriate both for non-literate and literate community leaders, as the training uses interactive approaches and invites participants to reflect and analyse their current situation and develop a vision for the future. RSPN also discussed the recommendations from gender analysis and mainstreaming of the recommendations with the TA and in gender resource group, and with RSPs, including discussion during Programme Operational Steering Committee meeting. During these discussions, it was decided that these recommendations will be mainstreamed in BRACE Programme once the GMS is developed which will help devise ways for the mainstreaming.

A-2.2. Review of RSPN, BRSP and NRSP Organizational HR/Gender Policies

RSPN Programme Officer Gender and Development, in consultation with RSPs gender focal persons reviewed human resource and gender policies of RSPN, BRSP and NRSP and put forward recommendations for the necessary improvement in the policies. Recommendations on gender and HR policies cover gender aspects including, among others, recruitment, capacity building, resource allocation, knowledge generation and communications, Grievance and adoption on anti-sexual harassment policy, maternity and paternity leave, discrimination, and equal opportunity for employment. RSPs Human Resource departments are in the process of incorporating the recommendations in the policies and will be finalised the by end of second quarter of year two after approval from RSPs Boards. These policies will be reviewed again in the light of recommendations from Gender mainstreaming strategy. These recommendations, along with recommendations from gender mainstreaming strategy will be presented to the RSPs/RSPN Boards for approval and incorporation in RSPN and RSPs policies. Though, Necessary inputs from gender mainstreaming report develop by TA consultant will also be incorporated in these policies, e.g. ensuring of gender focal points in districts, however, since the GMS strategy is planned to be developed in third quarter of year two, RSPN will undergo a comprehensive exercise for incorporating GSM recommendation in the mentioned policies.

A-2.3. Gender ToT on Organisational HR/Gender Policies and Anti-Sexual Harassment Laws

RSPN organised a four-day Gender Training of Trainers (ToT) for BRSP, NRSP and government officials on the HR/gender polices and anti-sexual harassment laws in Pakistan. The training was held from 11th to 14th December 2017. The primary aim of the training was to train the master trainers from BRSP, NRSP and relevant government departments on RSPs HR and gender policies and anti-sexual harassment law in Pakistan title “The protection of women against harassment at workplace Act 2010”.

The overall objective of the training was to train gender focal persons, from relevant districts and head office BRACE Programme staff of BRSP and NRSP and relevant GoB staff from Social Welfare Department, Women Development Department and Local Government and Rural

Development Department who will further roll-out the training to all other Programme implementation staff, community institutions and Local Support Organisations' executive body members. The following were the specific objectives of the training:

- Conceptual clarity of gender and gender related issues;
- Clear understanding of sexual harassment;
- Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010; and
- Building competence on conducting inquiries of sexual harassment cases.

All the participants were of the view that the training programme fully covered the genuine issues such as gender issues, issue of sexual harassment, clarifying the myths and realities, comprehensive procedures given in the law for effective implementation and handling the cases of sexual harassment, which usually occur without any evidence and witness. It has raised their awareness level and enhanced their knowledge on the training subject. *Report of the ToT on RSPs HR and Gender Policies and Anti-Sexual Harassment Laws in Pakistan* is attached as MoV-11. This training has been helpful in understanding what harassment and sexual harassment is and how it can be dealt at workplace. These master trainers will further take sessions with the district teams and then train the LSO representatives, CRPs and local government representative in their respective target areas and regularly follow up on the implementation of the gender mainstreaming actions.

A-2.4. Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and A-2.5. Gender ToT for BRSP & NRSP key Programme staff on gender mainstreaming and sensitisation actions in communities

Key Programme staff from BRSP and NRSP will be trained and RSPN will support the implementing RSPs in the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy once the Strategy is developed by the Programme TA. In order to mitigate delays related GMS development and subsequent training and implementation, RSPN has been contributing to the development of GMS by setting up a Gender Group, led by Shandana Khan, CEO RSPN, with membership from RSPs Gender Resource Group. So far, the Gender Group has contributed in drafting and finalisation of the GMS TORs, providing the TA with CVs to facilitate the selection of consultants and being part of an initial discussion with consultants and the TA, for the development of GSM. The GRG group will support the ToT for BRSP and NRSP and key Programme staff and Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

ER-3: Evidence based policy recommendations generated and disseminated to support the Local Development Policy Framework (LDPF) for Balochistan

In order to contribute in expected result three, RSPN has drafted a research framework in consultation with the implementing RSPs, Local Government and Rural Development Department and the TA team. This will be finalised by the end of the second quarter of year two, with feedback from the EU. The research framework serves as a guiding document and calendar of research activities over the Programme life and describes in detail the logic and rationale of the research activities to be conducted. A Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has been formulated with membership from LG&RRD GoB, RSPs, RSPN, the TA and Assistant Professor from Department of Anthropology Quaid-I-Azam University. RAC will serve as guiding and

advisory committee for the research component of the BRACE Programme throughout the Programme implementation period. The ToRs for undertaking longitudinal studies on dynamics of poverty and inclusive development in Balochistan with a focus on women's empowerment, have been finalised in consultation with key stakeholders. The request for proposal (RFP) has been published in local newspapers for the procurement of services to undertake the first study on "poverty dynamics in Balochistan and the dynamics of inclusive development, with focus on gender issues and women's empowerment" The study is planned to start by end of the second quarter of year two. During the reporting, two advocacy events have been undertaken. These include an LSO convention at the national level and the BRACE Programme launch in Balochistan. The LSO convention was attended by Members of the National Assembly, the EU Ambassador to Pakistan, high level government officials, representatives from donor organisations, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, development practitioners, RSPs and community activists. Community activists and LSO members shared success stories, lessons learned and challenges faced by communities in bringing about positive changes in socioeconomic status at grassroots through community led local development. The LSO convention helps in facilitating a dialogue among different stakeholders including policy makers, donors, programme practitioners and researchers working on CDD programmes in Pakistan; identify successful approaches and challenges faced to mainstream and scale up CDD; increase the visibility of the EU's support to RSPs' work on CDD and exchange lessons/knowledge with a broader group of stakeholders. Similarly, the BRACE Programme launch in Quetta by Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD), Government of Balochistan, in collaboration with BRSP, NRSP and RSPN launched helped in mustering support and ownership and buy-in by key stakeholders in and outside the province, and to ensure that all stakeholders involved in the action are clear on their roles and responsibilities specially the EU, RSPs, RSPN, GoB, and other development stakeholders. The EU Ambassador to Pakistan, Provincial Ministers, Senators, Members of Provincial Assembly, Government officials, civil society representatives, RSP leaders and staff, community representatives and media representatives attended the launching ceremony. The regional cooperation activity, undertaken with the Aga Khan Foundation's Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (AKF/MSDSP), in the republic of Tajikistan with the purpose to expose key stakeholder from Balochistan to the community driven development approach. The visit helped to reinforce the belief that the CDD approaches bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status of the rural poor. Above mentioned activities and TA inputs in the Programme have set ground for attaining of the expected result. As a result, GoB is supportive of the BRACE Programme and has notified LG&RDD as focal Department for the Programme and has allocated office premises for the TA in the Civil Secretariat just opposite to the Secretary LG&RDD office. The Programme has the buy in of the government and is closely working with Programme partners on various policy level interventions.

Pace of the activities in this result remained a bit slow as the finalisation of research TORs and framework took more than expected time; RSPN Research Coordinator left the Programme and hiring of new Coordinator took time. The research component, especially thematic studies, is dependent upon the field implementation and interventions. RSPN has developed a revised plan to address the delays in some of the activities under this result.

A-3.0: Develop Action Research Conceptual Framework

RSPN drafted a research conceptual framework during inception phase that describes in detail the research interventions to be undertaken by RSPN and the TA under BRACE Programme. The research framework is a guiding document over the Programme life and describes the purpose, objectives, types of research activities to be undertaken, methodologies for the research studies, utilisation and dissemination of the research findings. On the basis of inputs and feedback from TA, implementing RSPs, Research Advisory Committee members, including feedback and GoB Focal Person for BRACE, the framework was finalised in year one of the Programme. However, after Based on the feed from EU, TA and RSPs will review the framework and to ensure that RSPs and the social mobilisation approach is positioned as a unique and unmatched model.

Main studies and subsequent activities that the framework describe to be implemented include; Action research (poverty dynamics in Balochistan, nexus between community-lead development and local governance and the dynamics of inclusive development, with focus on gender issues and women's empowerment), thematic and sectoral studies (e.g. women's empowerment, micro-health insurance, community investment fund/income generating grants and internal community savings and lending, community physical infrastructure, understanding and improving gender mainstreaming, technical and vocational skills training, local governance, institutional sustainability), studies on political economy, gender analysis of Balochistan. This research will be used to promote evidence-based advocacy and learning with relevant stakeholders, policy makers and donors with specific aims to inform the design of the Balochistan community-led development framework and also to provide evidence to scale-up successful CDD approaches. In coordination with the Programme TA, RSPN will work to disseminate the findings (reports, publications/briefs, exchange and presentation of experiences) at different platforms including thematic advocacy workshops, various public policy debates forums, community conventions and collaboration at conferences, focusing on cross-cutting issues to promote cross learning for different levels of stakeholders. *Draft Action Research Conceptual Framework is attached as MOV-12.*

A-3.1: Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Using the approach of action research, RSPN will undertake three research studies during the Programme life to specifically focus on understanding: (1) poverty dynamics in Balochistan, (2) the nexus between community-led development and local governance, (3) the dynamics of inclusive development, with focus on gender issues and women's empowerment. The findings of these studies will to support the formulation of Government of Balochistan's Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) policy and inform anti-poverty interventions. First study was planned to be undertaken from second half of year one and the remaining studies were planned in subsequent years. However, during the review of the study TORs, the key stakeholders, especially EU suggested to club these two studies into a single longitudinal study stretched over the Programme life as these studies complement and supplement each other.

The first study (poverty dynamics in Balochistan and the dynamics of inclusive development, with focus on gender issues and women's empowerment), a longitudinal study, is planned to start by the end of second quarter of year two and will continue till end of the second quarter of

year five. This activity is behind schedule by almost a quarter as the finalisation of the ToRs took more than expected time given the multitude reviewer of the ToRs. This delay will not considerably effect the overall output as the timeline for data collection and reporting is revised accordingly. The second study “the nexus between community-led development and local governance planned to be started by end of the second year of the Programme as per plan. The main objective of these studies is to generate evidence based research findings to be used to promote evidence-based advocacy and learning with relevant stakeholders, policy makers and donors with specific aims to inform the design of the Balochistan community-led development framework and also to provide evidence to scale-up successful CDD approaches.

These studies will also give recommendations; a) to improve implementation of BRACE Programme interventions and engagements during the Programme cycle and b) for the formulation of GoB Community Driven Development (CDD) policy framework. The ToRs for the first study are under review by GoB and the TA. The TORs were also shared with all members for Research Advisory Committee for review and feedback and their feedback is incorporated. RSPN has signed a memorandum of understanding with University of Mannheim (*attached as MoV-13*), Germany that will support and guide RSPN in undertaking the Programme research component. Main challenge that RSPN face was finalisation of the ToRs for this study as there were number of diverse stakeholder with different view. This challenge was address by series of consultative meetings with the TA and EU that ultimately helped finalise the ToRs. Second challenge that RSPN foresee is the finding of suitable consulting firm/university to undertake this study given the nature of specialised study in the context of Balochistan. This challenge was addressed by wide dissemination of the study advertisement through reputable newspaper, RSPN website and social media, and signing an MoU University of Mannheim by RSPN for supporting in research component of the Programme.

A-3.2 Thematic Sectoral Studies/Assessment

The thematic and sectoral studies/assessments are planned for year two of the Programme and will be conducted on topics such as community investment fund/income generating grants, micro health insurance, community savings and internal lending, sustainability and continuity of community physical infrastructure and technical and vocational skills training. The target is one thematic study each year. Therefore, the first study has been rescheduled to third quarter one year two. Necessary preparations for undertaking first year study started. Consultative meetings held with TA and RSPN Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) department to develop plans and discuss topics for under taking these studies, and with RSPs to know about the degree of interventions in the field. However, the final topics for this type of studies/assessment will be discussed with the TA, GoB and RSPs to priorities and select for the implementation. The approach, concept, and ToRs will be developed by RSPN for outsourcing the studies to research consultants/firms in third quarter of year two. The ToRs for studies and findings from final draft will be shared with BRSP, NRSP, GoB, Human Dynamics and Research Advisory Committee for their review and feedback to finalise the reports. The findings of these will inform the policy debate on more specific issues related to programme interventions under the BRACE Programme. Main challenge in undertaking the thematic studies is that the studies depends on above mentioned field activities which are delayed. The mitigation plans by RSP and their

implementation will increase the pace of activities and will enable RSPN to initiate first study in year two.

A-3.3. Assistance to the EU TA in undertaking Research

The TA has conducted gender analysis, which was assisted by RSPN as mentioned in activity A-2.1. RSPN will assist the TA on the research studies and research related activities to be initiated from second quarter of year two as the TA work plan that include study on Political Economy of Balochistan and the impact it will have on Programme implementation and the nature of the Programme interventions possible within such a political economy context.

A-3.4. Formation and Meetings of Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

RSPN has established a Research Advisory Committee, with aim to provide guidance and supervision to the research work being done under BRACE Programme. RAC members include Focal Persons from Government of Balochistan, the Programme TA, BRSP, NRSP and a renowned academic from the Department of Anthropology, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad. *TORs of the RAC are attached as MoV-14.* Methodology and TORs of the study has been reviewed by the members and their feedback was incorporated. RAC will also review methodology for the first study on poverty dynamics in Balochistan and the dynamics of inclusive development, with focus on gender issues and women's empowerment to be submitted by consultants/firm once it is on board in second quarter of year two.

A-3.5. Publication and Dissemination of Research Reports, Papers and Policy Briefs

Once the research work starts, based on the data gathered and analysed research report, papers and policy briefs will be produced. This will not only result in publication and dissemination of evidenced based research products but will also inform the policy debate.

A-3.6. Dissemination of Research Findings in National and International Conferences/Workshops

After the commencement of research under the BRACE Programme, research products will be produced that will be presented at National and International Conferences/Workshops. This will also inform the policy debate. The goal is to promote the Programme outcomes and results and share the impact with the development practitioners, donors, academics and policy makers.

A-3.7. Annual BRACE Lesson Learning visits and Workshops

This activity was planned to be conducted during preparatory phase of the Programme; however, it has been postponed till year two of BRACE Programme with a mutual agreement of RSPN and RSPs' that this activity will be more productive once programme TA is fully on-board and all activities of BRACE Programme start in the field. These visits and workshops will be organised with a strategic perspective linked to the objectives of the Programme.

A-3.8. Advocacy Workshops/Public Policy Debates with Government

The idea behind this activity to be undertaken in coming years is to have high level visibility with political actors at various levels in order to support an extensive distribution of results. It will also

enable sharing of lessons learned and relevant policy issues and thus will inform decision making and policy debate.

A-3.9. Conventions of the Local Support Organisations (LSOs)

On September 15, 2017, National Convention of LSOs was held in Islamabad. LSOs members from across the country presented their achievements, challenges they face and lessons they have learnt while taking self-initiatives, working with governments and other civil society organisations. the LSO convention was attended by members' parliamentarians, EU Ambassador to Pakistan, high level government officials, representatives from donor organisations, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, development practitioners, RSPs and community activities. LSOs work with public institutions at the union council level fostered by RSPs and led by local community members which form linkages with government departments and civil society organisations to undertake development initiatives well aligned with the local context.

The convention shed light on the accomplishments of LSOs in terms of their contribution in achieving the SDGs hence the presentations of the selected LSO leaders delivered, reflected their work on the inter-linked issues ranging from poverty reduction, gender equality, social integration, health, population, employment and education to human rights, the environment and sustainable development. The panellists at the convention convened to advocate ways of harnessing the growth and capacity building of the community organisations. Furthermore, they underscored the importance of generating political will to put prudent policies into action to improve sustainability and adaptive capacity to ensure poverty reduction at the household level. This forum will benefit community members, particularly women to raise their voices for their rights and influence pro-poor policies and development. It will also be recognition of their achievements. As a Programme communication and advocacy event, the LSO convention helps in facilitating a dialogue among different stakeholders including policy makers, donors, programme practitioners and researchers working on CDD programmes in Pakistan; identify successful approaches and challenges faced to mainstream and scale up CDD; increase the visibility of the EU's support to RSPs' work on CDD and exchange lessons/knowledge with a broader group of stakeholders.

A-3.10. Regional Experience Sharing and Learning Visits

Regional Experience Sharing and Learning Visits was undertaken in collaboration with RSPN Core and SUCCESS programmes with the Aga Khan Foundation's Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (AKF/MSDSP) in the republic of Tajikistan. The members of the delegation included strategic stakeholders of the BRACE Programme, e.g. Minister for Planning and Development GoB, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development GoB, ex-Chief Minister and Member of Provincial Assembly, Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Secretary Finance, Secretary, Local Government and Rural Development Department GoB and RSP senior management. The purpose of the visit was to expose the delegation to the community driven development approach of AKF/MSDSP. During the field visits and in meeting with local authorities, the delegation learned about the structure of community institutions (Village Organisations –VOs and Common Interest Groups – CIGs) fostered by AKF/MSDSP, and how these CIs support improvements in lives and livelihoods of

their communities by fostering linkages with local authorities, AKF/MSDSP, other civil society organisations, private sector and through self-help activities. At Dushanbe, meetings were held with the European Union Delegation, AKF Tajikistan and Pakistan Embassy. Outcome of the field visits and meetings was reinforcement for the support of the delegation members to the CDD approach adopted by the BRACE Programme. Delegation members particularly appreciated the close and regular interaction between the CIs and local authorities. The Minister for Local Government and Rural Development said at the conclusion of the visit: “We have local bodies and social welfare offices in Balochistan but they cannot reach every household. Citizens should engage with them through their own organisations”. The learning by key stakeholders from Balochistan during the visit helped to reinforce the belief that the CCD approaches bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status of the rural poor and that this can only become sustainable with support of government with appropriate local development policy framework. *Report on Regional Cooperation visit is attached as MOV-15*

A-3.11. Young Development Professionals (Research Interns)

As envisaged in the Programme design, Young Development Professionals (Research Interns) will be hired in third quarter of year two when first action research is initiated. Engaging the Young Development Professionals in research will bring in innovative ideas for research and will also help in capacitating the young generation.

ER-4: Technical and institutional capacity of BRSP & NRSP enhanced in mainstreaming, addressing and reporting on cross-cutting themes envisaged in the BRACE Programme

The target set for the first year of the BRACE Programme for this result was to develop the Community Awareness toolkit (CAT), operational guidelines and quality control for the BRACE Programme and the BRSP and NRSP have adopted these; staff trained on CAT and checklists developed and shared with implementing RSPs. During year one of the Programme, RSPN succeeded in developing CAT for the BRACE Programme in consultation with BRSP and NRSP. This toolkit assimilates the significant elementary information on nurturing the community members’ awareness on essential cross cutting themes of the Programme that include nutrition, health and hygiene, family planning, HIV-AIDS, gender, human (particularly women’s) rights, disaster risk reduction, climate change & environment, and natural resource management. RSPN trained master trainers from partner RSPs and GoB (from Nutrition Cell, Women and Development Department, Balochistan Rural Development Academy, Social Welfare Department GoB) trained on CAT and operational guidelines. The training improved the technical knowledge of the participants about how to conduct and deliver the CAT sessions in community meetings, training skills and process to conduct further training of Social Mobilisers, evident by the training evaluation results. These master trainers will further train the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in communities, who will deliver CAT sessions to the organised communities and their leaders. The augmented awareness of the communities through CAT session will enable communities to incorporate the mentioned crosscutting issues in their development plans, i.e. Village Development Plans (VDPs) and Union Council Development Plans (UCDPs).

A-4.1. Development of Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT)

RSPN has prepared the CAT in consultation with RSPs and relevant government departments including officials from HIV and AIDs programme, Nutrition Cell, Maternal, New-born, and Child Health programme and other relevant government departments. The toolkit integrates the basic information on raising community members' awareness on cross cutting themes of the Programme that include nutrition, health and hygiene, family planning, HIV-AIDS, gender, human (particularly women's) rights, disaster risk reduction, climate change & environment, and natural resource management. The BRACE Programme CAT has 12 sessions and in each monthly meeting of COs the CRPs will deliver one session. A guiding booklet/manual for the field staff and CRPs have been developed on how to use and deliver session on CAT. *The Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) and Manual is attached as MoV-16.* The augmented awareness of the communities through CAT session will enable communities to incorporate the mentioned crosscutting issues in the development plan. Progress on CAT by BRSP and NRSP is given in following activities.

On the demand side: Under the BRACE Programme this toolkit shall not only raise awareness about critical crosscutting issues but adds to fosters mechanisms for accountability and civic oversight, creating agency and voice for the people, particularly women and excluded, to become part of the development process, economic empowerment, to realize welfare and governance outcomes. On the Supply side; this will contribute to scale up basic social services delivery and foster mechanisms for social-accountability as CAT create awareness and generate demands among communities regarding their rights for basic services and well as about duty bearers.

A-4.2. Develop Quality Control Checklists and Reporting on Key SDG Indicators

RSPN has developed a quality assurance checklist to monitor the quality of training delivered by RSP master trainers to the Social Organisers and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and awareness sessions to be delivered by CRPs to the communities. RSPN in consultation with RSPs have developed a set of key performance indicators related to cross cutting themes of the programme (CAT sessions) that will be included as one of the core agenda of the community institutions to report on these key indicators. These key indicators are directly linked with the relevant SDGs indicators. The RSPs field teams will work with community institutions to track progress report on these indicators. During the inception phase while developing the M&E framework, mechanism and process has been defined on consolidating the data from the field to district and programme level to report on SDG indicators. In addition, other indicators related to SGDs have been included during the development of CAT, PIM and M&E framework in consultation with the implementing RSPs.

A-4.3 Training of RSPs Key Staff as Master Trainers on Use of CAT

In order to orient and train the RSPs key staff on CAT, a five days "Training of Trainers for RSPs BRACE Programme Staff and GOB staff on Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT)" was held in Quetta from 19th -23rd February, 2018. This training was facilitated by the social sector staff of the RSPs. The implementing RSPs' key staff dedicated for the BRACE Programme, including the social organisers, capacity building officers, and key staff of Programme and Monitoring and

Evaluation of the RSPs attended this training. In addition, the key government officials from provincial departments i.e. Balochistan Rural Development Academy, Women Development Department and Social Welfare Department attended the orientation training. This training focused to improve the technical knowledge of the participants about CAT sessions, training skills and process to conduct further training of Social Mobilisers to further train the CRPs, who will deliver CAT sessions to the organised communities and their leaders. Responses were sought from all training participants, including BRSP, NRSP and GoB representatives (24 in total), where the average responses ranged between a score of 3.31- 4.50 (on a scale of 1 to 5; 1 lowest, 5 highest), showing that the response was largely positive. About 47 percent of the participants indicated that they could implement the modules independently. While a collective 34 percent of the participants reported that they either understand the concepts imparted in the training or could implement the modules with some assistance. These master trainers will be supported by RSPN during roll out of the training. *The Report is attached as MoV-17.* The master trainers will roll out the training in their districts by training Social Organisers, who will then train CRPs. CRPs will deliver awareness sessions in COs meetings on monthly basis. So far, NRSP provided training to 24 BRACE Social Organisers and Capacity Building Officers on CAT in order to orient CRPs who will later conduct these sessions with the CO members in the subsequent years of the programme. BRSP has not yet initiated CAT rollout, however developed delay mitigation strategy for year two address delays in rollout in first year.

A-4.4. Regular technical support to BRSP and NRSP to roll out the CAT training programme

RSPN provided supported to NRSP in its first CAT rollout training held in Turbat from 20th to 23rd March, 2018 in developing the training agenda, training evaluation form and other assistance as needed through email and telephonic correspondence. As narrated in activity A-4.3, BRSP has not yet initiated CAT rollout, however developed delay mitigation strategy for year two address delays in rollout in first year. This is an ongoing activity and RSPN will provide support to BRSP and NRSP throughout CAT rollout.

A-4.5. Assist the Implementing Partners in Mainstreaming other Cross-Cutting Themes

Apart from support in mainstreaming cross-cutting themes given in CAT (e.g. health, nutrition, human rights, HIV-AIDs, family planning, etc.), RSPN will also continue assisting BRSP, NRSP and the TA mainstreaming other cross cutting themes relevant to policy development and implementation, including capacity building throughout the Programme. in this regard, RSPN assisted the TA undertaking gender analysis, supporting TA in developing Gender Mainstreaming Strategy as explained in activity A-2.1, assisted BRSP and NRSP in poverty targeting tools under activity A-1.3, revising Community Management Skills Trainings (CMSTs) manual using the principles of adult-learning to engage with community women and men to make it appropriate both for non-literate and literate community leaders. Moreover, in subsequent years, community members will be sensitised, trained and capacitated on important themes and Programme cross-cutting issues including, but not limited to community management, leadership, development needs assessment and prioritization, development planning and resource mobilization along with cross-cutting themes incorporated in CAT toolkit. At the end of the Programme, about 70 percent of the organised CI members shall be sensitized on CAT by CRPs with facilitation of officials from the local authorities'/line departments.

Additionally, the leaders of the CIs and CRPs will also be provided basic financial management and planning skills.

ER-5: Achievements, lessons and successful development approaches drawn from the BRACE Programme widely disseminated through developing and implementing harmonised Communication and Visibility Strategy and Plans

RSPN in consultation with BRSP and NRSP drafted the Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy and plan for the grant component of the Programme in year one to ensure a well-coordinated and uniform communication and visibility (C&V) of the Programme. The draft C&V strategy was revised on the basis of feedback from the TA and the EU communication consultant and will be submitted for approval to EU in second quarter of year two. On the basis of draft C&V strategy and with guidance from “Communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions Manual” implementing partners (RSPN, BRSP and NRSP) ensured standardised communication and visibility of the Programme during year one. National LSO convention and the BRACE Programme launching ceremony and formal and informal meetings with policy makers and GoB officials during reporting period helped RSPN disseminate the importance of successful approaches drawn from community driven development for uplifting the socioeconomic status of rural poor. Moreover, a dedicated page for BRACE Programme on RSPN website, Facebook page of BRACE Programme, BRACE Programme brochure and infographics also contributed in communicating the Programme approaches to wide range of stakeholders. Development and dissemination of BRACE Programme newsletters, production of Programme’s introductory video documentary and its interventions, to be finalised in beginning of second year will further contribute in attaining of the expected result five. During the reporting period, acknowledgement of the European Union support in all internal and external Programme-related communication and documentation and EU visibility in all Programme related materials and activities were ensured.

Though in the process finalisation, three of the deliverable that were planned to be delivered during year one under this result are delayed. These include, a) approval of the C&V strategy for grant component of the Programme as given the multitude of stakeholders and collection of data from stakeholder and feedback took more than expected time; b) development of the BRACE video documentary as finalisation of the script and procurement process for hiring consulting firm caused delay of this activity; c) printing and dissemination of BRACE newsletter as feedback from RSPs, designing and printing took more than expected time. The newsletter has been finalised, printed and disseminated in first quarter of year two, while BRACE video documentary will be produced in second quarter of year two. C&V strategy for grant component of the Programme finalised on the basis of feedback from TA and EU and will be submitted to EU for approval in second quarter of year two. Media visits to Programme site are on track as these visit have been planned in second quarter of year two. Necessary preparations for these visits have been completed.

A-5.1. Assist EU TA to Develop a Global Communication and Visibility Plan for BRACE Programme

RSPN, during the reporting assisted in the TA in developing the Global Communication and Visibility Plan for BRACE Programme. Assistance from RSPN included; a) drafting of a draft Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy (including plan) for the grant component of BRACE Programme that will feed into the Global Communication and Visibility Plan, b) conducting stakeholder analysis, with the assistance of the TA at Quetta, c) collection and analysis data about key stakeholder view about EU funded BCDP and BRACE Programme. The stakeholder analysis and their views about BCDP and BRACE Programme were incorporated by the EU C&V Consultant in the Global Communication and Visibility Plan as important sections. For the stakeholders' view the data was collected from District Programme Coordinators of BRACE Programme, BRACE Programme field staff, GOB officials including three Provincial Secretaries, (Local Government and Rural Development Department, Social Welfare Department, and Women Development and Department), DG Local Government Board and focal person LGRDD for the BRACE Programme were also collected and compiled. The analysis of this data also fed into the C&V Strategy drafted by RSPN for grant component of the Programme. Details of communication and visibility related activities under taken in year one is already explained in result indicator 5.1.

A-5.2. Development of a Communication and Visibility Plan for RSPN, BRSP and NRSP Programme Component

As explained under result indicator 5.1, RSPN, in consultation with BRSP and NRSP, developed a draft Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy (including plan) for the grant component of BRACE Programme. The strategy was revised on the basis of feedback from the TA and the draft strategy was shared with the EU C&V Consultant and Programme Advisor for feedback in December 2017. In response to feedback from EU on the C&V strategy, RSPN with the assistance of the TA conducted stakeholders' analysis using Focussed Group Discussions (FGDs) technique and incorporated the findings in the strategy. The Participants of the FGDs were Focal Person for the BRACE Programme from Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD) GoB, the TA Communication Specialist and Programme Manager and M&E staff from BRSP, NRSP and RSPN participated. Moreover, one basis of feedback from the EU, qualitative data about communities and key GOB stakeholders' perception about BCDP/BRACE Programme was to collect and incorporate in the strategy. Data for the communities' perception was collected using a semi-structure questionnaire and the respondents included BRACE Programme districts staff, three Provincial Secretaries, (Local Government and Rural Development Department, Social Welfare Department, and Women Development and Department), DG Local Government Board and Focal Person for BRACE Programme. After incorporating, stakeholder analysis and stakeholders' perspective, C&V strategy has been revised and draft be submitted to EU for approval in third quarter of year two.

On the basis of draft C&V strategy and with guidance from "Communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions Manual" all implementing partners ensured standardised communication and visibility of the Programme. Communication part of the C&V strategy mainly focus on how the Programme will highlight and disseminate achievements and key lessons to

policy makers, donors, other development stakeholders, nationally and internationally, to promote, scale-up and replication of successful development approaches. Activities contributed in the Communication part of the strategy include; national LSO convention, BRACE Programme launching ceremony and regional cooperation, exposure visit to the Republic of Tajikistan and formal and informal meetings with policy makers and GoB officials. Details of these activities are in respective sections of the report. Moreover, development of Programme's video documentaries on the BRACE Programme and its interventions, development and dissemination of bi-annual BRACE Programme newsletters, media campaigns, development and maintenance of BRACE website and organising programme dissemination workshop production of Programme's introductory video documentaries on the BRACE Programme and its interventions is in progress and will be finalised by the end of second quarter of year two. The RSPN's Programme work plan, has publication of only one BRACE newsletters for the year one and bi-annual newsletter in subsequent years. The newsletter for year the year one has been finalised in consultation with the EU C&V consultant and is the Process of printing. Development of BRACE Programme website was reflected both in RSPN and Programme TA component. In a meeting with the secretary LG&RDD held on March 19, 2018 and in implementing partners workshop, held on January 15, 2018, it was decided that there should be one website for BRACE Programme, to be developed by Programme TA and be hosted by LG&RDD with ownership of all the BRACE Programme implementers (RSPN, BRSP, NRSP and the programme TA). However, RSPN has a dedicated page for BRACE Programme on its website. It is containing all the important information about BRACE Programme in different sections as image/video gallery, publications, districts profiles, research articles, field visits and media visits. Visibility part of the plan include activities which ensure the acknowledgement of the European Union support in all internal and external Programme-related communication and documentation and EU visibility in all Programme related materials and activities. Programme Communication and visibility related activities by RSPN during year one. These include:

- a) Year one of the Programme provided great opportunities to communicate the importance of the community driven local development approaches of the Programme in bring about positive changes in socioeconomic development to its key stakeholders through organising *LSO convention at national level* and *BRACE launching at Provincial level*. These event were attended by parliamentarians, Ambassador of the EU delegation to Pakistan, high level government officials, representatives from donor organisations, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, development practitioners, RSPs and community activities. Moreover, formal and informal meeting with key stakeholders also contributed in communicating the Programme. Details of these activities are given under Ex-5 as well as in following activities.
- b) **BRACE Facebook** page development with right to all partners to post on. Since January 2018, a total of 82 BRACE post (64 by RSPN and 18 by RSPs) have been posted on Facebook while EU have been tagged in 65 posts; 18 of the posts have been published by EU Facebook page.
- c) **BRACE Programme brochure** was developed and printed. The total number of copies were 2000 which have been distributed in BRACE Programme communication and other events/activities; including BRACE Launch at Quetta, National LSO convention, RSPs annual retreat, meeting with GoB Officials, BRACE capacity building event in GoB Officials also participated. Copies of the brochure were also kept in TA Balochistan Office located in Civil Secretariat Quetta and in office of BRACE Focal Person from GOB.

- d) **European Union's and Programme visibility:** EU support is acknowledged in all communication with the stakeholders including, provincial and local government departments; UN agencies, local, national and international NGOs. All internal and external Programme-related communication and documentation e.g. brochures, publications, training material, presentations, reports, letters, attendance sheets, minutes of the meetings, advertisement etc. display the EU logo. Similarly, the publications including, manuals and reports contains the EU disclaimer also mentions the financial support of European Union for the BRACE Programme. Moreover, in almost all the posts of BRACE Programme Facebook page, hashtag of #EUinPakistan is being used.
- e) **BRACE events-media coverage:** During the reporting period RSPN engaged local media of Quetta for the coverage of two events. The launching ceremony of BRACE Programme was covered by more than 14 newspapers, whereas the CMST workshop was also covered by three TV Channels and 10 newspapers in Quetta. Moreover, a number of article have been published in Daily Express Tribune and on the Website of London School of Economics and Political Science South Asia Centre. *The links to the articles are given below;*
1. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2018/08/09/alleviating-rural-poverty-through-alternative-means-of-livelihood/>
 2. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2018/05/21/developing-the-rural-economy-in-pakistan-through-income-generating-grants/>
 3. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2018/03/02/the-grass-is-greener-when-there-is-education-an-experience-from-balochistan/>
 4. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1491908/pakistan-needs-robust-lq-system/>
 5. <https://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/65151/women-empowerment-in-rural-balochistan-applause-is-louder-and-real-when-men-and-women-clap-together-as-equals/>
 6. <https://www.facebook.com/notes/european-union-cooperation-in-pakistan/taali-dono-hathon-sai-bajti-hai-women-empowerment-in-rural-balochistan/1107355932740214/>
- f) **Webpage:** Development of BRACE Programme website was reflected both in RSPN and Programme TA component. In a meeting with the secretary LG&RDD held on March 19, 2018 and in implementing partners workshop, held on January 15, 2018, it was decided that there should be one website for BRACE Programme, to be developed by Programme TA and be hosted by LG&RDD with ownership of all the BRACE Programme implementers (RSPN, BRSP, NRSP and the programme TA). However, RSPN has a dedicated page for BRACE Programme on its website. It is containing all the important information about BRACE Programme in different sections as image/video gallery, publications, districts profiles, research articles, field visits and media visits
- g) **Videos:** RSPN has produced three short videos of the BRACE Programme during the field visits and events. The short videos are based on COs and LSOs meetings and community infrastructure schemes under Balochistan Community Development Programme. The videos were properly scripted and produced for the Programme

Communication to not highlight the BRACE interventions in field with the EU visibility. These videos were within the scope of the Programme.

- h) **Infographics:** To disseminate succinct information about BRACE Programme, RSPN developed infographics. These infographics were incorporated in different communication products, e.g. presentations, brochures, reports, website and social media. These infographics are part of the published material, approved by EU C&V consultant.
- i) **BRACE Newsletter** developed and disseminated as explained in result indicator 5.1.
- j) **Annual KPI report** developed and disseminated as explained in activity A-1.8.

Material for all C&V related activities were developed in consultation with EU C&V consultant and were approved from the consultant.

A-5.3. BRACE Programme Launching Workshop

Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD), Government of Balochistan, in collaboration with BRSP, NRSP and RSPN organised BRACE Programme launching on November 10, 2017 in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan to muster support and ownership and buy-in by key stakeholders in and outside the province, and to ensure that all stakeholders involved in the action are clear on their roles and responsibilities specially the EU, RSPs, RSPN, GoB, and other development stakeholders. Over two hundred and thirty participants, including, the EU Ambassador to Pakistan, Provincial Ministers, parliamentarians, Government officials, civil society representatives, RSP leaders and staff, community representatives and media representatives attended the launching ceremony. The launch contributed in communication of Programme purpose and in reinforcing the belief that the CDD approaches bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status of the rural poor. The Programme has the buy in of the government and is closely working with Programme partners on various policy level interventions. Details of the launching ceremony event is given under ER-3 result indicators. *Launching Ceremony Report is attached as MOV-18.*

A-5.4. Printing of Visibility Items

In the first year of BRACE Programme, RSPN has developed a number of communication and visibility items including, brochure, backdrops, standees, and certificates as per the requirement of Programme's activities. This has helped in promoting and showcasing the achievements of BRACE and the crucial role of the European Union and the partners towards CDD in Balochistan. The visibility and branding of EU, BRACE, RSPN, BRSP, NRSP and GoB were ensured in the printing materials by incorporating the logos of all partners in the designed and printed items. Moreover, RSPN has developed Programme's takeaway gifts, with EU, GoB, BRACE and partners' logos and are in the final stages of designing. Sample of visibility items have been shared with EU Communication Consultant and Development Advisor.

A-5.5. Development of Video Documentary

The script of the introductory documentary for the BRACE Programme has been developed in consultation with and after getting clearance from EU C&V Consultants. However, the video will

again be approved by the EU before finalisation. The introductory documentary intends to provide a holistic view of BRACE Programme to the target audience, in order to understand logic and objective of the Programme for Balochistan. The video will help in making the audience (from both supply and demand side) familiar with the approach, activities and expected outcome and impacts on beneficiaries and in reinforcing the belief that the CCD approaches bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status of the rural poor.

A-5.6. Bi-Annual BRACE Programme Newsletters

The draft of the annual BRACE Programme newsletter developed and will be finalised and disseminated in first quarter of year two. The Newsletter show case the activities of all BRACE partners and also reinforcing the belief that the CCD approaches bring about positive changes in socioeconomic status of the rural poor was drafted in the reporting period. Design and matter of the Newsletter were finalised after incorporating EU Communication team's feedback and inputs. The Programme's plan calls for annual newsletter for year one and thereafter bi-annual newsletters. There was a slight delay in production of the Newsletter BRACE newsletter as feedback from RSPs and TA and designing and printing took more than expected time.

A-5.7. Media Visits

Media visits is one of the activities of RSPN draft C&V Strategy and plan, to engage media at national and local level under the BRACE Programme for the visibility and communication of the Programme. Media visits as per the Programme work plan, are budgeted from year two onwards when majority of the Programme activities get kick off in field. BRACE Programme will benefit from lessons learned and methodology used by EU SUCCESS Programme for the media visits. The EU C&V Consultant will be consulted on media visit for a more structured and meaningful approach. EU C&V suggests BRACE partners to also focus on involving local media of Balochistan. In response to the suggestion, RSPN in coordination with BRSP, RSPN communication lead organised a meeting with President and members of Quetta Press Club in year, to give them a formal introduction and orientation about the BRACE Programme and to involve them for media visit for year two.

A-5.8. Develop BRACE Website, Regular Updating and Maintenance

Development of BRACE Programme website was reflected both in RSPN and Programme TA component. In a meeting with the secretary LG&RDD held on March 19, 2018 and in implementing partners workshop, held on January 15, 2018, it was decided that there should be one website for BRACE Programme, to be developed by Programme TA and be hosted by LG&RDD with ownership of all the BRACE Programme implementers (RSPN, BRSP, NRSP and the programme TA). Partners, including the LG&RDD will use this website as a common platform to communicate about their respective component. Moreover, in a meeting of the implementing partner including the TA with secretary LGR&DD held on July 16, 2018, it was proposed by the secretary that the website should be developed by the TA. However, the development of website will be done by the Programme TA and the BRACE Programme implementing partners will support Programme TA in website development by sharing material and other relevant stuff (such as photos, videos, information) for BRACE Programme website.

However, RSPN has a dedicated page for BRACE Programme on its website. It is containing all the important information about BRACE Programme in different sections as image/video gallery, publications, districts profiles, research articles, field visits and media visits.

2.3. LOGFRAME MATRIX UPDATED

If relevant, submit a revised logframe, highlighting the changes.

No changes have been made in the impact, outcome, output indicators in the Programme logframe. Updated logframe is attached with the report.

Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above € 60 000 awarded for the implementation of the action during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the award procedure followed and the name of the contractor.

N/A

2.4. PLEASE PROVIDE AN UPDATED ACTION PLAN FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Below is the updated action plan for future activities for the year two of the Programme.

Description	Year 2												Implementing body
	Months												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Major Activities- Expected Result 1													
A-1.5 Assist BRSP & NRSP in carrying out the baseline and end lines surveys													RSPN
A-1.7 Assist BRSP & NRSP in operationalisation of the M&E framework and ensure regular reporting on common KPIs													RSPN
A-1.8 Produce an Annual KPI report on the BRACE													RSPN
A-1.9 Assist BRSP & NRSP in developing a joint and integrated MIS/GIS system and follow-up support													RSPN
A-1.10 Develop and implement a web-based real time reporting MIS-Dashboard and GIS mapping to track KPIs													RSPN
A-1.18. Assist BRSP & NRSP in implementation of the quality control and assurance plan with follow up visits throughout the programme;													RSPN
1.19. Prepare exit strategy with the assistance of for BRSP & NRSP component and follow-up support													RSPN

Description	Year 2												Implementing body
	Months												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
A-1.20 Assist BRSP & NRSP in implementation of the exit strategy developed by the EU TA's support;													RSPN
Major Activities- Expected Result 2													
A-2.1. Assist the TA in gender mainstreaming strategy													RSPN
A-2.2. Review of RSPN, BRSP and NRSP organisational HR/Gender policies on the basis of gender mainstreaming strategy													RSPN
A-2.4. Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy													RSPN
A-2.5. Gender ToT for BRSP & NRSP key Programme staff on gender mainstreaming and sensitisation actions in communities													RSPN
A-2.6. Follow-up support visits													RSPN
Major Activities- Expected Result 3													
A-3.1: Participatory Action Research (PAR)													RSPN
A-3.2 Thematic Sectoral Studies/Assessment													RSPN
A-3.3. Assistance to the TA in undertaking research													RSPN
A-3.5. Publication and dissemination of research reports, papers and policy briefs													RSPN
A-3.6. Dissemination of research findings in national and international conferences/workshops:													RSPN
A-3.7. Annual BRACE lesson learning visits and workshops:													RSPN
A-3.8. Advocacy workshops/public policy debates with government:													RSPN
A-3.9. National and Provincial (Balochistan) LSO conventions													RSPN
A-3.10. Regional experience sharing and learning visits:													RSPN
Major Activities- Expected Result 4													
A-4.4. Regular technical support to BRSP and NRSP to roll out the CAT training programme													RSPN
A-4.5. Assist the implementing partners in mainstreaming other cross-cutting themes													RSPN
Major Activities- Expected Result 5													
A-5.1. Assist TA to develop a global Communication and Visibility Plan for BRACE Programme													RSPN
A-5.2. revise and finalise the Communication and Visibility Plan for													RSPN

Description	Year 2												Implementing body
	Months												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
RSPN, BRSP and NRSP Programme Component													
A-5.4. Printing of visibility items													RSPN
A-5.5. Develop video documentaries													RSPN
A-5.6. Bi-Annual BRACE newsletters													RSPN
A-5.7. Media Visits													RSPN
A-5.8. Support the TA in developing BRACE Programme website and regular updating													RSPN
A-5.9. Capacity building of Communication Officers and participation in RSP Communication Resource Group (FACE) meetings													RSPN

3. BENEFICIARIES/AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER COOPERATION

3.1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BENEFICIARIES/AFFILIATED ENTITIES OF THIS GRANT CONTRACT

The main beneficiaries of RSPN under the BRACE Programme include the two RSPs, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) and the programme TA (Human Dynamics) as well as GoB. Under this grant contract, RSPN's main role is to support beneficiaries in ensuring the standardised and uniformed implementation approaches combined with harmonised monitoring and quality reporting of the programme. RSPN's role also include providing technical support to the implementing partners in implementation and ensuring quality of the programme activities.

RSPN is providing support to the RSPs, to build their technical and institutional capacities and provide necessary support to the TA component in developing the gender mainstreaming, global communication and visibility strategy, Programme overall exit strategy, undertaking research and in its support to the GoB in developing and implementing a Community Led Local Development Policy Framework. The standardised and uniform implementation approaches developed by for the Programme and the technical support provided to the implementing RSPs and TA for institutionalising programme approaches, monitoring & evaluation systems and build capacities has been vital during first year of the Programme. The standardised and uniform implementation approaches will also contribute in the development of Local Development Policy Framework for GoB will enable the government to scale up the Programme and ultimately set ground for the Sector-Wide Approach.

RSPN is working in close coordination with BRSP and NRSP, Programme TA (Human Dynamics) as well as with GoB. The frequent mode of communication includes meetings; emails

and telephonic communication. RSPN Programme staff also conducted regular field visits to support BRSP and NRSP in field in the year one of the Programme. These visits provided a great opportunity to interact with the beneficiaries of the Programme including COs, VOs and LSOs members and their office barriers as well as local authorities in the districts

Programme RSPs:

RSPN's relationship with the other implementing RSPs (BRSP and NRSP) is characterised by open communication, understanding and commitment to the Programme and individual RSP roles and effectively working together. The RSPN has been actively facilitating the RSPs in achieving standardisation across the programme through development of PSC manual, PIM, M&E framework, SES manual, CAT and CMST along with the capacity building of the relevant Programme staff of BRACE Programme. During the implementation of the programme, RSPN's technical and Programme team is providing backstopping from time to time and also undertaking regular follow up visits to the Programme districts.

As an example the RSPN carried an M&E team visit to Loralai. The purpose of this visit was to randomly validate of poverty scorecard data, collected in selected villages of Union Council Poonga. A competency assessment was made of enumerators' who had conducted android based poverty scorecard survey and desk review of SMTs/ enumerators plans and strategies adopted for PSC. The BRACE Programme team and M&E officer also visited District Kech, Killa Abdullah, Zhob and Pishin to monitor the progress and provide support on ground. These field missions also provided RSPN Programme team lessons learned from the already implemented Programmes of these RSPs particularly BCDP. The key lessons learnt from these visits include:

- Maximum efforts should be put for social mobilisation right from the onset of the Programme.
- There is a long way to go in case of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment particularly in case of the BRACE Programme targeted districts. The community needs to be sensitized more on women agency and participation. In consequence, in future trainings a session should be conducted on awareness raising with respect to significance of women agency, voice and participation particularly with the key notables and men in the community.
- Women mobility is extremely restricted due to gender norms which make it challenging for women to avail services and participate in community development practices. There is a need to have a special focus on and develop culturally appropriate approaches for women inclusion in the Programme.
- It has been observed that women play a key role in livestock activities; for that reason, the significance of women participation in livestock industry should be recognized in government plans and policies. Access to credit should be available for rural women as this will provide them decision power in livestock management activities.

After every field visit, debriefing meetings were held with district staff and management of RSPs in which areas for improvement were shared with field teams and RSPs management.

Moreover, there have been regular coordination meetings with RSPs, HD and relevant departments of GoB for planning, common understanding and progress sharing.

Human Dynamics:

During the year one of the Programme, regular coordination with HD was ensured and RSPN supported HD in undertaking HD's activities including gender analysis, development of conceptual research framework. In the beginning of the Programme, a meeting was also held with Human Dynamics at RSPN office to discuss and the way forward regarding the overlapping roles and responsibilities of Programme TA and RSPN. This meeting helped in building better relationship and understand each other's' dynamic roles. RSPN has been sharing the pertinent documents such as PIM, Research Framework, C&V Plan, etc. for review and feedback in order to have all-inclusive and strategic documents and implementation.

RSPN also supported HD in conducting Balochistan Synergies workshop held in Quetta. This workshop was seen as a first step in improving coordination and cooperation by identifying possible synergies and lessons learnt from the completed/ongoing EU funded Programmes, and then capitalizing the synergy opportunities between those involved in rural development in Balochistan. The workshop offered the opportunity for the participating organisations to hear first-hand, and for many for the first time, about other EU initiatives in the Province. Presentations by each organisation and the opportunity for discussion allowed participants to quickly identify similarities in mandates, activities, issues and challenges.

GoB:

The BRACE Programme was initiated by EU at the request of GoB. During the reporting period, RSPN held series of meetings with GoB departments; including P&D, LGRDD and shared progress and plans of the Programme. GoB feedback and recommendations were incorporated in the Programme. The broader level feedback from government officials included involvement of Planning and Development, Social Welfare and Women Development, Livestock, Agriculture and Labour & Manpower Departments should be involved in planning and implementation, especially for the livelihood activities of the Programme. Relevant GoB officials from P&DD, LG&RDD, WDD, and SWD have actively participated in the trainings and review workshops conducted by RSPN. GoB has notified the Local Government and Rural Development Department and focal department for the BRACE Programme through a notification by Additional Chief Secretary (Development) dated 3rd November 2017. Moreover, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) notified Strategy and Dialogue Committee (SPDC) for the Programme. The BRACE Programme launch in Quetta was attended by high level government officials including Provincial Ministers, Senators, Members of Provincial Assembly, and Government officials. Minister for Planning and Development GOB, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development GoB, ex-Chief Minister and Member of Provincial Assembly, Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Secretary Finance, Secretary, Local Government and Rural Development Department GoB and RSP senior management undertook an experience sharing and learning visit to Tajikistan. On the basis of regular support from GoB, regular review meetings and feedback, participation of high level officials from Government in the Programme events, show a strong GoB buy-in and ownership of the BRACE Programme.

3.2. Relationship Between Your Organisation and State Authorities

Over the course of year one of BRACE Programme the relationship between RSPN and state authorities has further strengthened. Most importantly, the LG&RDD has been notified by GoB as the focal department for BRACE Programme and this Department has been proactively involved in the Programme activities.

The outstanding interest and presence of a large number of state authorities was impressive at the BRACE launching ceremony held on 10th November, 2017 at Quetta. Moreover, the perpetual and active role of the provincial and local government in BRACE Programme activities and trainings substantiated their commitment and ownership towards the Programme. This resulted in notification of LGRDD as focal department for BRACE Programme by Government and Notification of SPDC.

Periodically, several meetings have been held with relevant Government Departments to liaise and update on the BRACE Programme activities. For instance, on November 30, 2017, a meeting was held with Mr. Asfandyar Kakar, Provincial Secretary Planning and Development and Mr. Ali Akber Baloch, Secretary Local Government and Rural Development Department, Government of Balochistan to discuss various aspects of the BRACE Programme and improved the synergies/coordination. During the month of December 2017, Programme Manager BRACE-RSPN also conducted meetings in Quetta with key local government stakeholders; including Local Government and Rural Development Department's staff Mr. Ali Akber Baloch, the Secretary, Mr. Khadim Hussain Deputy Secretary (Administrative Officer IV), and Mr. Gul Jan Mengal, Administrative Officer and focal person for the BRACE Programme from GoB. In these meetings, various aspects pertaining to the BRACE Programme's strategic importance and implementation were discussed including improving gender sensitisation and social deprivation in the Programme districts.

A progress review meeting was held on 19th March, 2018 in the office of the Secretary Local Government & Rural Development Department (LG&RDD), GoB, to review progress of activities under the BRACE Programme. The Secretary expressed satisfaction over the progress against the targets thus far under all components of the BRACE Programme and hoped that the implementing partners will continue and further their efforts to meet the planned targets as per given timeframe. He also appreciated the coordination among key stakeholders on Programme implementation.

It has been learnt that active engagement of local authorities right from the onset of the programme not only ensures ownership by the stakeholders but also increases their support at every level. The first year of the Programme provided a great opportunity to further strengthen these relationships with Government's relevant ministries, line departments and other stakeholders by establishing stakeholders' forums, including Strategy and Policy Dialogue Committee (SPDC), and Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The SPDC and RAC offered excellent platforms to discuss policy implications, support advocacy efforts, solicit technical advice, oversee the Programme implementation, review Programme approaches and strategies, and provide overall technical guidance for the research component of the Programme.

3.3 Relationship with Other Organisations Involved in Programme Implementation:

- **Associate(s) (if any)**
N/A
- **Sub-contractor(s) (if any):**
N/A

- **Final Beneficiaries and Target groups:**

During the first year of the BRACE Programme, the RSPN Programme team carried out several visits to BRSP and NRSP offices and target communities. RSPN BRACE Programme team managed to foster and maintain sustained relationship with BRSP and NRSP, and visits to the target communities.

The lessons learn from these visits will also help in better understanding of the progress of the Programme activities and interventions. Field visits also help in raising the confidence of the communities and in particular of the people's institutions. This is crucial as the community institutions key role and participation in the Programme activities will bring in more ownership, empowerment and civic oversight. This in the long run will contribute to community empowerment; improved local governance; increase in household welfare (consumption, income, assets) and improved educational and health outcomes.

- **Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.):**

The BRACE Programme focuses on socioeconomic improvement of communities in nine districts of Balochistan and is designed on the current needs in Balochistan. RSPN has developed initial linkages with other organizations working in the areas that contribute in BRACE Programme overall objectives, they include UNDP, GIZ, FAO, WFP and SMEDA. Moreover, University of Balochistan, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and Department of Sociology, Quaid-I-Azam University for improving research activities of the BRACE Programme. Furthermore, the services of National University of Modern Languages (NUML) were procured to translate and compose the PIM in Urdu language.

Since one of the Programme's strategic activities is to mainstream cross-cutting themes in the Programme, it is critical to establish a mechanism to incorporate inputs from vertical Programmes (Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Programme, etc.) being run by GoB and Government of Pakistan and other ministries and line departments including livestock, labor and manpower department, agriculture etc. on a regular basis. During the year one, this exercise has been initiated and feedback of Balochistan Nutrition cell and HIV and AIDS Programme has been incorporated in Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT). Many Quetta-based civil society organisations attended the BRACE Programme launching ceremony, including Balochistan Education and Environment Journey (BEEJ).

3.4 LINKS AND SYNERGIES DEVELOPED WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES.

In year one, RSPN forged links between the BRACE Programme and other programmes implemented by RSPs and RSPN. These include the EU funded SUCCESS Programme in Sindh. BRACE Programme's approaches and methodologies, including PIM, M&E Framework, QACP, CAT and JDDC processes and ToRs are adopted from SUCCESS Programme after modifying them in the context of Balochistan. National LSO convention and RSPs Annual Retreat were jointly organised with the SUCCESS Programme. The team members of BRACE Programme have been participating in the workshops and ceremonies organised by the SUCCESS Programme to showcase support, learn and explore possible avenues of collaboration. This helped in joint learning, avoiding duplicated efforts and contributed in RSPs wide Programme standardisation. The Programme also benefited from EU funded Balochistan Community Development Programme (BCDP) and PEACE Programmes through incorporating lessons learnt from these programme and building on the training, awareness creation modules and training material used for these programmes.

Most importantly, the BRACE Programme staff has been participating in the various resource group meetings being held at RSPN level, which bring together many years of learning from all RSPs. The RSPN Research Coordinator presented a draft research framework, developed for the Participatory Action Research (PAR) component of the Programme, in RSPs M&E Resource Group meeting and incorporated inputs and feedback in the Framework. In the RSPN Gender Resource Group meeting, gender analysis draft report developed by the Programme TA was reviewed and got feedback of this resource group members on the report. Summary of the feedback is given under output indicator 2.1 in the result section of the report.

The Balochistan Synergies Workshop held at Quetta in April was a milestone for creating synergies among EU funded Programmes in Balochistan. The aim of the workshop was to contribute to the overall objective of supporting the Government of Balochistan in reducing poverty in Balochistan. The Workshop was designed in consultation with the EU and supported by the Technical Assistance and Rural Support Programme partners. The workshop was structured in three components and held over a period of two days. The workshop paved the way for ensuring complementarity and building synergies among EU-funded initiatives in Balochistan, and to improve alignment to the Government of Balochistan development priorities.

The following key synergies identified to be further developed were:

- Establishing a system of communication and information exchanges between Implementing Partners.
- Ensuring close working of BRACE partners with the relevant Government of Balochistan Departments.
- Examining the potential for common data platforms.
- Working closely with the SUBAI and PFM –SSP projects to secure political and budgetary support for project outcomes. E.G. The Education programme has developed an education sector plan that needs to be linked to the budget.
- The GIZ TVET programme should be embedded in the sector plan of education instead of standing alone. The UNICEF and GIZ will be coordinating more.

- The OXFAM and FNF need to interact closely with the RSPN and the PFM programmes as they have similar TOR regarding community mobilisation and district budgeting.
- BRACE Programme TA team needs to work closely with the RSPs/ Oxfam/ OPM and to ensure synergies are created in the areas of social mobilisation, communications, capacity building of the Balochistan Rural Development Academy and development of district plans.
- Ensuring transport and security for women should be budgeted in activities.

The BRACE Programme TA will now facilitate the development of an Implementing Partners Synergies Action Plan (IPSAP). This plan will provide a detailed road map and distinguishes between different types of synergies with each having its own set of measures to increase synergy in that area. This IPSAP will identify:

- Institutional synergy areas which requires streamlining of legal and regulatory frameworks.
- Organisation capacity development synergy areas, which requires (sharing) of development measures to improves, systems, organizational structures and core-processes, and operations and improved staff budgets
- Individual (leadership) development and capacity building, based on Skills, knowledge and experience enhancing (study tours) and the provision of resources and opportunities.
- A cross-cutting area where BRACE Programme TA will pursue specific synergies will be the PFM area, which requires its own specific set of measures to ensure synergy, between Development Partner and the Government, of the financial funding and PFM arrangements between the various Government levels, and between the Government and the Communities.

3.5. PREVIOUS EU GRANTS IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE SAME TARGET GROUP,

RSPN has not received any previous EU grant in view of strengthening the same target group.

4.VISIBILITY

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

Following the draft RSPN Communication and Visibility (C&V) plan developed by RSPN grant components of the BRACE Programme and EU's guidelines set forth in *communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions* • European Union's support is acknowledged in all communication with the stakeholders including, provincial and local government departments; UN agencies, local, national and international NGOs.

All internal and external Programme-related communication and documentation e.g. brochures, publications, training material, presentations, reports, letters, attendance sheets, minutes of the meetings, advertisement etc. display the EU logo. Similarly, the publications including, manuals and reports contains the EU disclaimer also mentions the financial support of European Union for the BRACE Programme. Moreover, in almost all the posts of BRACE Programme Facebook page, hashtag of #EUinPakistan is being used.

Programme communication to key stakeholders play an important role and will eventually support the Local Development Policy Framework (LDPF) for Balochistan. Year one of the Programme provided opportunities to communicate importance of the community driven local development approach being followed by the BRACE Programme. Community representatives at annual LSO convention and the BRACE Programme launching ceremony presented their own examples of how the RSP approach to CDD has contributed to improve their lives and livelihoods. These two events were also attended by Parliamentarians, EU Ambassador to Pakistan, high level government officials, representatives from donor organisations, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, development practitioners, RSPs’ management and staff and community activists. Moreover, formal and informal meeting with key stakeholders also contributed in communicating the Programme.

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