

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme

NEWSLETTER

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BRACE
BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME



EUROPEAN UNION



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR THE BRACE'S GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



Distribution of Income Generating Grants and Products Exhibition of IGG, CIF and TVET Beneficiaries in Turbat, District Kech, Balochistan

Under the BRACE Programme funded by European Union in Pakistan, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in Turbat, District Kech organised a ceremony on March 16, 2021 for the distribution of income-generating grants (IGG) and an exhibition for the products of IGG, CIF (Community Investment Fund) & TVET (Technical, Vocational and Education Training) beneficiaries for establishing links of community members to efficient markets.

The chief guest of the event was Major (R) Muhammad Ilyas Kibzai, Deputy Commissioner Kech. Deputy Commissioner Kech distributed income generating grants to 65 poorest women beneficiaries. He accompanied the women beneficiaries to the bank and witnessed the cash payment process by the bank to the beneficiaries and was very keen to inquire about their future aspirations with the fund. He also visited 15 different types of stalls in the exhibition.

Some of the businesses put up in stalls included Dates, Mazari Products, Digital Printing, Tie & Dye, Thappa, Beauty Parlour, Fashion Design, Dress Cutting etc.



Celebration of Pakistan Day Across BRACE Districts

Pakistan Resolution Day 2021 was celebrated across the BRACE districts with great national spirit and enthusiasm. BRSP district Zhob celebrated the day with the district administration, communities, and youth to commemorate the historic “Lahore Resolution” that eventually led to the creation of Pakistan.

Minister Livestock & Dairy Department Mitha Khan, DC Zhob Shahik Baloch, ADC Qasam Khan, and AD Local Govt Fazal Qadar participated in the event.

District Loralai celebrated Pakistan Day 2021 with district Administration at Girls High School Cantt. The event was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Capt (R) Fayyaz ali and Assistant commissioner Yahya Khan.



District Duki celebrated the Pakistan Resolution Day with the district administration, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Azeem Kakar, Assistant Commissioner Habib Bangulzai, AD Local Govt Wazir Khan, Director Agriculture Muheeb Khan and DSP Shingul Khan graced the event by their presence.

District Washuk celebrated Pakistan Day in high spirits with members from the district Education Department, the Civil Administration, including DC Washuk, AC Basima and members of the Pak Army, Commander 329 Brigade, Salman Qureshi, Col. Owais, and Major Mazhar.

District Pishin celebrated the day with Deputy Commissioner Qaim Lashari at DC rest house.



International Women's Day Observation in Balochistan

BRACE Programme believes that women of Balochistan deserve an equal future free of stigma, stereotypes and violence; a future that is sustainable, peaceful with equal rights and opportunities. To pave the way forward, BRACE considers women's presence and their participation at every stage where decisions are being made.

BRACE Programme implementing partners, Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 2021 in various Programme districts.

Deputy District Officer (Education), Representative from other NGOs, Members of Women Community and Village Organizations (COs, VO), and Teachers from different schools participated in the event.

BRSP female staff acknowledged the efforts and participation of Women Community Institutions in taking actively part in BRACE Programme activities.

Later on, the event ended with the distribution of appreciation shields to the participants.

The international women's day was also observed in other different districts of Balochistan such as Killa Abdullah, Pishin, and Loralai to overtly encourage and celebrate the local women's achievements.

ASP Pari Gul Tareen graced the event as Chief Guest. Women staff from BRSP distributed shields among women who contributed significantly to the development of their communities by participating in the BRACE Programme activities.



TVET Women's Festival Held in BRSP Head Office Quetta

One of the key activities under the BRACE is to provide TVET to poor community members, especially women. Purpose of TVET is to design and implement demand driven training programmes that provide open access to the labour market and enhance income generating opportunities, as regards to (self) employment. On March 22, 2021, BRSP under BRACE Programme organized a day-long festival. Dignitaries from various departments of the provincial government including politicians as



well as philanthropists, and notable civil society personalities graced the event with their presence. The women’s festival consisted of various stalls, displaying handicrafts, traditional and fusion embroidered dresses, customized leather products, mirrors, frames, jewellery made out of recycled materials, packaged dried vegetables and condiments, food stalls selling local delicacies.

Dignitaries including Balochistan Assembly MPA and Chairperson WPC, Zeenat Shahwani, Director Women Development Department, Munazzah Qayyum, Manager BISP, Women Development Department Rubina Zehri, Member National Commission on the Status of Women, Rehana Khilji, and Additional Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal, Gul Sarsanda visited and also shopped from different stalls.



Messages from dignitaries

“I am immensely pleased to attend Dukhtaran-e-Pakistan Women’s Festival today. BRSP’s livelihood interventions have once again proved to be impactful. Furthermore, I believe such events should be held frequently in Balochistan and I am happy to see women economically empowered to be breadwinners for their families and turn their lives around.”

Zeenat Shahwani (MPA Balochistan Assembly)



“BRSP has a long history of working to empower women of rural areas in Balochistan and they’ve come a long way with their far-reaching, impactful interventions. This Women’s festival is testament to the same. We must work hand in hand to advocate and provide ways for sustainable financial independence for rural women and developing further industry linkages, such that, these high-quality local products can soon enter international markets.”

Munazzah Qayyum (Director Women Development Director)



“This women’s festival organized by BRSP is a triumph for all the hard-working rural women as well as the enterprising women of Balochistan, for whom such opportunities of showcasing their matchless traditional products are few and far between. We must support BRSP in creating income-generating opportunities for rural women across Balochistan, equally and impartially.”

Rubina Zehri (Manager BISP, Women Development Director)

“Today’s event organized by BRSP and Paigham-e-Pakistan is a welcome step towards promoting local businesses. This platform has provided a unique opportunity to women artisans and we see that better business development strategies are being promoted through this event. BRSP’s technical and vocational trainings are creating meaningful impact in the lives of women and empowering them to take control of their lives through financial independence.”

Rehana Khilji (Member, National Commission on the Status of Women)



Women Economic Empowerment Festival Organised in District Khuzdar

BRACE team in district Khuzdar, in collaboration with Women Development Department organized Women Economic Empowerment Festival at Ladies Park.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Secretary Women Development Department Mr. Zafar Buledi. He visited and admired the stalls installed by the

members of women Community Institutions (CIs) formed under BRACE Programme.

The BRACE Programme supported activities aims to empower rural women economically and enabling them not only to earn an income, but to gain status and confidence.



Visit by Director Women Development Department to LSO Gawarikh

Director Women Development Department, Ms. Munazza, Assistant Director, Rubina Karim visited and met with the members of Women Local Support Organization (LSO) Gawarikh at district Khuzdar. LSO's executive members presented a detailed presentation of their activity's progress.

Ms. Munazza admired the vital role of women in the rural economy, rural employment, and improving their social and economic status by attending various training, courses imparting them under the BRACE Programme.



Inauguration of Drinking Water Supply Scheme in District Washuk

Member of Provincial Assembly Zabid Ali Reki inaugurated the newly established Drinking Water Supply Scheme (DWSS) in District Washuk. The scheme has been constructed by Balochistan Rural Support Programme under BRACE Programme at village Analo of district Washuk. It will be benefiting the 250 population of the village.



Another Drinking Water Supply Scheme was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Washuk, Shafqat Anwar Shahwani at Green Town, Basima of district Washuk.

More than 100 households will get the access to clean drinking water in this village from the scheme, said District Programme Manager Hamza Qambrani.

DC Shafqat Anwar Shahwani said that the shortage of safe drinking water is a chronic issue in the district especially in villages. He highly encouraged the initiatives undertaken by BRSP focusing on community development.



Visit of Government Officials to DWSS in District Loralai and Zhob

In Loralai District, Deputy Commissioner Loralai Capt (R) Fayyaz Ali accompanied by District Program Manager Quttub Khan visited the Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) schemes at union council Zangiwal, he appreciated BRSP in providing clean drinking water to the rural communities.

In District Zhob, Assistant Commissioner Zhob, Flight Lieutenant (R) Ahmed Haroon Khattak, along with Assistant Coordinator Human Dynamics, Samad Harifal accompanied by Engineer Hashim Mandokhel inspected and reviewed the usefulness of the Drinking Water Supply Scheme (DWSS) set up in village Khozhad, Union Council Narizai in District Zhob.

On that occasion, AC Zhob expressed his satisfaction and appreciated the BRSP's ongoing and completed interventions for the development of the rural communities.

The Water Supply scheme set up by BRSP under BRACE Programme funded by European Union will benefit more than 8 thousand households of village Khozhad.



Training of Trainers (ToT) on Community Leadership and Management Skills

The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Directorate of Human Resource Development (HRD) in collaboration with Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) organized a five days training program titled “Training of Trainers (TOTs) on Community/Leadership & Management Skills” for the 30 master trainers for the rural development of Balochistan. The program was organized at the Takatu Campus of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) Quetta, from 4th till 8th January, 2021.



The trainers were all Masters and Bachelor level students who had completed their studies from BUITMES and were now ready to join the professional world. This was a relatively new approach to capacity building of community institutions as previously, the indigenous people from same villages were utilized as trainers and though they had substantive local knowledge, this group was expected to increase the quality of training delivery. These trainers were deployed in 8 BRACE districts (majority having historic family ties in the relevant district) where they are continuously strengthening the capacities of community institutions through enhanced

delivery, training modules and refined SoPs. The trainers will further be imparting CMST, LMST for VOs/LSOs in the targeted BRACE districts. BUIITEMS arranged the online facility to BRSP for their online session with following guest speakers: Mr. Nadir Gul, Chief Executive Officer BRSP

1. Mr. Nadir Gul, Chief Executive Officer BRSP
2. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN
3. Ms. Shandana Khan, Chief Executive Officer RSPN
4. Mr. Ali Azizi, Social Mobilization expert RSPN



Training Workshop on 7 Habits of Highly Effective People for BRACE Districts

Programme Teams

BRSP had arranged 3 days training workshop for strengthening all BRACE District Programme Managers, District Programme Coordinators and Capacity Building Officers. They belonged to 21 field units of 8 BRACE targeted districts from 11th till 13th March, 2021 at Quetta Club. The training was on the title of 7 Habits of Highly Effective people for Increasing leadership skills through strengthened productivity, focus, planning, team engagement, collaboration and communication skills. BRSP field leadership optimally internalizes core skills and knowledge related to Result Based Project Cycle Management and is adequately inspired to use the same in regular programming. The training was delivered by Franklin Covey, which is a global company with its affiliate offices in Lahore and Karachi for Pakistan by the trainers Mr. Azam Jamil and Adnan Nasir.



Joint District Development Committee Meeting in District Duki and Zhob

To achieve inclusive and citizen-driven local development objectives, there is a deliberate effort under the BRACE Programme to increase the voice of the neglected groups to the ears of the local government, line departments and related entities. This is proposed to be achieved by establishing Joint District Development Committees (JDDCs). A JDDC meeting was held at Deputy Commissioner office in District Duki to create synergies between



the Community Institutions formed in the district under BRACE, local administration/departments and externally supported development investment in the programme districts. The ultimate objective of the JDDCs is to incorporate the development plans developed by the community institutions in government annual development plans and for the government line departments to channel their existing development services and supplies to the rural poor through community institutions.

Deputy Commissioner Azeem Kakar chaired the meeting. Representatives from Deputy District Education Officer, PPHI Sindh, P&D Livestock Department, TA Human Dynamics-DAI, MS Health Department, stakeholders from the line department, and LSO community representatives participated in the meeting.

Another JDDC meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Zhob Mir Shehak Baloch in which line department officers, Additional Deputy Commissioner Qasim Khan, and Assistant Commissioner Ahmed Haroon Khattak participated.

The key objective of JDDCs is to create synergies between the RSPs, Community Institutions and local administrations/ departments and externally supported development investment in the Programme districts in the planning of BRACE interventions. This participative planning approach will provide a learning platform for all actors concerned to avoid duplication of efforts and monitoring of collaborative efforts to impact development results.



CNIC Registrations in Union Council Baghbana I of District Khuzdar

Community Resource Persons (CRPs) from union council Baghbana 1 of district Khuzdar in collaboration with NARDA and Local Government registered children of different villages.

The importance and awareness session of registration was conveyed to the rural communities in Community Awareness Toolkits (CATs) training by the Community Resource Persons in the BRACE district.



Student of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills under BRACE Programme

Ms Raheela: Village Naseer Abad, Union Council Hazargangi, District Khuzdar

Ms. Raheela, resident of village Naseer Abad, Union Council Hazargangi is a beneficiary of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skill (ALNS) Training Programme in district Khuzdar. When the social mobilisation component of the BRACE Programme started at UC Hazargangi, Raheela became an active member of the Community Organisation (CO) named “Rehmat”. Soon after, the livelihood intervention started in her village where she enrolled herself in a six-month ALNS course.

“I was unable to express my feelings. There was a time when I was dishearten that I wouldn’t get a chance to get education or learn anything. But now my life has totally changed. I am able to read and write”, said Raheela.



She enthusiastically attended her classes and tried to interact with her classmates in Urdu religiously. She also practiced the day’s exercises regularly. During the first month of the course, she learned the basics of numbers, alphabets and sentence building. She is a quick learner, She quickly picked up the lessons that had been taught to her. She said that the ALNS course has helped her in many ways. When she goes out for shopping, she can read the names, prices and expiry dates of the products herself. She can also help her younger siblings in their studies. When she takes her parents to the doctor, she is now able to communicate with them more clearly about their issues. She said that she used to be a shy girl, now she has become confident and sociable. Now she communicates with the community members with more confidence.

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Content Management & Edits:

Muhammad Omer Farooq, Communications Officer BRACE

Content Support: Tahira Ali – BRSP, Zainab Kakar – BRSP, Zeeshan Chohan-NRSP

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Rural Support Programmes Network

IRM Complex, 3rd Floor. Plot# 7, Sunrise Avenue
(Off Park Road), Near COMSATS University,
Islamabad, Pakistan.

Phone: +92-51-8491270-99, Fax: +92-51-8351791

www.rspn.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BRACEProgramme

Reviewed by:

Fehmida Hassan, Programme Manager BRACE,
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