



INSIGHTS

PISHIN



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INSIGHTS

PISHIN



THE INSIGHTS FROM THE BRACE PROGRAMME

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme completes its five years in 2022. The Programme is currently in its No-Cost Extension (NCE) phase. In the inception phase, the Rural Support Programmes Network, (RSPN), the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), and the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) conducted a widespread Poverty Scorecard (PSC) census which helped with the identification of the potential beneficiaries according to their poverty status. This European Union-funded Programme is the largest community empowerment programme in Balochistan and it covers 240 rural union councils in ten districts: namely Chaman, Duki, Jhal Magsi, Kech, Killa Abdullah, Khuzdar, Loralai, Pishin, Washuq, and Zhob. This document focuses on district Pishin and presents stories and profiles from the community leaders and field teams.

The journey through these five years is documented in the form of stories from the field after multiple activities. These human-interest stories have been titled “The Insights of BRACE” which reflects the efforts taken by the community members and the implementing teams in helping each other tumbling their household-level issues and taking a step toward reducing the poverty in each district under the BRACE Programme.

RSPN's BRACE documentation team worked with the respective RSP teams to reach out to the beneficiaries and obtain a story of the transformations the BRACE Programme has facilitated. This series does not only focus on the financial empowerment of the community members but also reflects on the legal and economic empowerment in the target districts of the programme.

Preface

With its vast geography, Balochistan has abundant mineral and energy resources, untapped human potential, and offers opportunities to change the existing situation. However, Balochistan's population suffers disproportionately compared to the rest of the country. This is due to the inequitable distribution of resources, political instability, weak public policies, poor governance, displacements due to security issues, and a burdening influx of refugees.

The Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme, funded by the European Union (EU), is a strategic development initiative to alleviate rural poverty by building on community mobilisation and citizen empowerment. Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) provide social, technical, and financial assistance to improve and expand income sources for targeted community households.

In collaboration with the BRSP, the beneficiaries interviewed under the BRACE programme in district Pishin provided insight into how the idea of community-driven development is realised and how it has benefited the people in the district.

The focus of BRACE is to enable poor rural men and women to reduce poverty at the household level through social organisations. This starts at a small level, organising Community Organisations (COs) among neighbouring households, and at the larger village level bringing them together into Village Organisations (VOs) to deal with village problems. VOs eventually gained enough momentum to establish Local Support Organisations (LSOs) at the Union Council level, some of which became a member of the Joint District Development

Committee (JDDC) at the Tehsil and District levels in which there is the participation of the line departments and the district authorities which directly bring to the attention of local governments and negotiate with them. The insights of the BRACE programme bring a series of stories of the beneficiaries as well as the implementation team with a focus on the challenges they face during the execution of the BRACE Programme.

PISHIN (2017-22)



69,317

Number of Households with PSC survey completed



52,068

No. of Households Organised



8,115

No. of community members trained in CMST



2,937

Women (69%)



4,985

No. of COs formed



1,943

No. of Female COs (92%)



899

Number of Community members trained in LMST



118

Women (17%)



954

No. of VOs formed



261

No. of Female VOs (76%)



195

Number of community members trained as Community Resource Persons (CRPs)



84

Women (100%)



52

No. of LSOs formed





9,682

Number of HHs Benefiting from Completed CPIs



57,541

Individual Beneficiaries of Completed CPIs



72 million (PKR)

Total amount of sub-grants for CPI with VOs



28

Number of LSOs managing CIF



1,592

Number of HH benefiting from CIF



56 million (PKR)

Total amount of CIF with LSOs



35 million (PKR)

Total amount of CIF disbursed to poor households by VOs/LSOs (0-23)



470

Number of community members Trained in TVET



935

No. of beneficiaries received assistive devices



619

Male



316

Women

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55

District Programme Manager (DPM)



LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION ZALAND

لوکل سپورٹ آرگنائزیشن زلاند
یونین کونسل کمازئی ڈسٹرکٹ پشین

SOCIAL
MOBILISATION



دفتر مقامی معاون تنظیم یونائیٹڈ

بلوچستان رورل سیورٹھ پروگرام

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COMMUNITY ORGANISATION (CO)

**ABDUL ZAHIR KHAN
RODH MALAZAI, PISHIN**

In the scenic village of Rodh Malazai, Abdul Zahir, a 45-year-old Junior Vernacular teacher, lived a life driven by a higher purpose. Having pursued an MA in History from the University of Baluchistan, he was a man of deep faith and humility. The area was once a favoured spot for travellers until water levels declined, forcing people to seek new homes. Fortunately, past governments had constructed dams, restoring the water levels to their former glory, much to Abdul Zahir's gratitude for Allah's blessings.

For Abdul Zahir, the true essence of life is offering selfless services to others. He found joy not in the pursuit of wealth but in extending a helping hand to those in need. Alongside his teaching profession, he tirelessly set up solar panels for his community, illuminating not just their homes but also their hearts with hope.

Since 1994, Abdul Zahir had immersed himself in the social sector, striving to ensure that no one in his community was left behind. He collaborated with polio workers, persistently helped people obtain their 'b forms,' and actively contributed to the census. His commitment to uplifting the less fortunate was unwavering.

In times of crisis, Abdul Zahir's compassion knew no bounds. During a protest, he and his team not only fought for the community's rights but also provided essential food and water to stranded drivers, exemplifying the essence of humanity.

One event left an indelible mark on his heart. A young boy from a neighbouring family fell critically ill, and despite past grievances, Abdul Zahir stepped forward to help. With unwavering determination, he rallied the

community to arrange transportation to a city hospital. The boy's mother, overwhelmed with gratitude, bestowed upon him the affectionate title of "LALA," a moment of pride and inspiration for Abdul Zahir to continue his noble work.

As a member of the CO (Community Organisation), Abdul Zahir understood the importance of fulfilling responsibilities without question. While working on projects, they faced challenges, such as a lack of cooperation from villagers during the distribution of Income Generating Grants (IGGs). Despite obstacles, they persevered and delivered aid to those in need.

Zahir shared,

“Initially, we faced opposition from religious clerics who deemed their social work Haram. However, with persistence and wisdom, they convinced the elders to support their efforts, eventually gaining widespread acceptance and admiration, including from religious scholars.”

Striking a balance between work and family life was challenging, but he remained content and satisfied with his life. During floods, he and his team alerted the community and organised relief efforts with the help of local government and donors.

When BRACE stepped into their community, the impact was profound. With the support of water supply schemes, IGGs, and CIFs, Abdul Zahir's team witnessed their efforts reach even greater heights.

Abdul Zahir's journey was evidence of the power of compassion and dedication. His unwavering belief in serving others and working for the betterment of his community, despite challenges, brought about positive changes that resonated deeply with the people he touched.



VILLAGE ORGANISATION (VO)

QASIM KHAN

RODH MALAZAI, PISHIN

Qasim Khan, a 34-year-old resident of Rodh Malazai, finds himself immersed in the field of nutrition. Having completed his MA in Sociology from the University Of Baluchistan (UOB), his educational background proves valuable in his work within the social sector. Rodh Malazai, has a population of 25,000. The people here primarily engage in agriculture, livestock, and government jobs. However, the agricultural sector faced significant challenges due to a drought in the year 2000, resulting in many residents migrating to Quetta and pursuing new business ventures and education. As a result, the area has now made notable progress in terms of education.

In the realm of agriculture, Rodh Malazai is renowned for its variety of fruits, including different types of apples, as well as vegetables like tomatoes and potatoes. Being a member of the Village Organisation (VO), Qasim organises the people of his area

and assists them in growing their businesses to achieve success. He ensures active participation in meetings, organising weekly and monthly gatherings at the LSO office.

Qasim mentioned,

“*One of the challenges we face is the issue of meeting everyone's demands in the village. I and my team prioritise assisting those in need, which can sometimes lead to resistance from individuals who do not qualify for assistance. For instance, distributing IGG (Income Generating Grant) posed difficulties as there were strict criteria, such as poverty scorecards, to determine eligibility. Despite the challenges, I find satisfaction in successfully supporting deserving individuals and witnessing the positive impact of the assistance they receive.*”



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AN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Maintaining a work-life balance proves challenging for Qasim, as working in an NGO often entails receiving calls even during nighttime. However, his dedication to helping his community takes precedence over personal matters. In response to recent floods, assessments and surveys were conducted, and with the support of other organisations, they obtained seeds from the government and provided food aid. Additionally, local contractors contributed machinery to clear the roads, free of charge.

Qasim highlights the significant impact of BRACE in organising the community, creating CO (Community Organisation), VO (Village Organisation), and LSO (Local Support Organisation) structures. These initiatives fostered connections between community members and facilitated linkages with various local government departments. Qasim expresses gratitude to BRACE, RSPN, and BRSP for their support. However, he emphasises the need for an extension of the BRACE program, as there are still areas that require attention and intervention.





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**Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment
(BRACE) Programme**

Name of Scheme: Drinking Water Supply Scheme

Union Council: Tora Shah

VO: Sitara Malakzai

Village: Tora Shah

Total Cost: Rs.2,563,900

EU Share: Rs.1,990,159

Community Share: Rs.573,705

Beneficiaries: 1130

Start Date: 01/06/2022

Completion Date: 31/12/2022

This Scheme is Implemented by Village Organization with the Support of EU and BRSP



LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION (LSO)

ADAM KHAN

EXECUTIVE MEMBER LSO RODH MALAZAI

Adam Khan is a resident of the Union Council (UC) Rodh Malazai who has been working tirelessly throughout his life. He has become a beacon of light for so many in the region and especially the women in the community. His dedication and empathy towards his community earned him a position in the LSO as an executive member. He became part of the BRACE Programme under BRSP in 2018. Sharing his journey, Adam Khan detailed the ups and downs in his path and his reason to be on the frontline to help women in the area. He said,

“

I was always very active in the community. Especially solving issues for women. Women needed help because they were not allowed to go out and solve issues. This inspired me to become an advocate for women's rights.

”

His contributions as a social worker are not only limited to solving issues faced by women but also other issues that anyone might face in his community. Reflecting, Adam Khan remembers the drought of 2002 and the desperate situations of his community. He was one of the lead representatives of his community to negotiate with the organisations and government to gain their support. Many such events have shaped Mr Khan's idea of community service and the ability to look beyond oneself. Among many of his contributions, Adam Khan shared that the clearing of road blockages due to heavy snowfall in the winter of 2020 is a celebrated one, and he will wear this moment as a crown throughout his life.

Moreover, Adam Khan enthusiastically coordinated with all kinds of projects that were implemented in the area, like the

Benazir Income Support Program. He further shared his story by stressing that the area has major issues with CNIC registrations, birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage certificates. Providing the details of the scenario, Adam continues that most people are still unaware of these documents and never get them in their lifetime. People get married and have children, but they do not update their documents which later becomes a challenge in the population census. The community organisation is still working to solve this issue. He said that every week a group of people are taken to the NADRA office so that their documentation is processed. Adam Khan still accompanies them on weekly trips from Rodh Malazai to the main NADRA office in Pishin.

While discussing the change and current problems of the community, he reflected that the community's living standard got better during the BRACE Programme. Sharing the story of a fellow community member who was granted IGG, he said,

“ He bought 2 goats for 50 thousand, and the livestock has multiplied now. He has 4 of them now and he is not selling them even for 120 thousand because he gets multiple benefits from them, and surprisingly it has only been 6 months since he bought the livestock. ”

According to him, the most distinguishable change is the way people in the community/ area have integrated and are working together while keeping their differences aside. Not only this, but the formation of COs/VOs/LSOs has helped with the structural processes of the Programmes which are implemented in the area. Adam Khan is determined to work tirelessly until the issues of the community are sorted out. He also believes that the CIs in the area will continue to work even after the BRACE Programme as they continue to become mature.



مجلس اہل سنت و جماعت
مجلس اہل سنت و جماعت
مجلس اہل سنت و جماعت

50 ل ڈ فتر



4
Days
Training

Community Management Training and Community Awareness

BRACE Programme is funded by
Organized By Balochistan Rural



Handwritten notes in Urdu on a board to the left of the banner.



LEADERSHIP

BRSP
Skills
s (CAT)
on
istrict Pishin



TRAININGS

ASGHER KHAN

CO MASOOMA COMMUNITY ORGANISATION (RODH MALAZAI)

Asghar Khan is a dedicated young social activist who belongs to the Union Council (UC) Rodh Malazai of district Pishin. He has been an active member of BRSP since 2017 under the BRACE Programme. Apart from being an active member of the community, which provided him with the opportunity to become part of CMST intervention of BRACE, he also serves the Community Organisation (CO) Masooma as a General Secretary and is an executive member of the Local Support Organisation (LSO). Since the very beginning of BRACE, Asghar helped with surveys concerned with the identification of the Poverty Score Card (PSC) of the households. His social activism earned him the love and fondness of his community members and ultimately the position of General Secretary in the CO.

Sharing the story and resilience of his community, Asghar stated that his

community is on the way to becoming a resilient community in the district. He said that the CO's little steps accounted for massive change in the community. Their CO started resolving issues at their Mohalla level which included issues of CNIC registrations, admitting young children into schools, and health-related problems. As the CO grew, so did the work and its impact.

Asghar was also part of the Community Management Skills Training (CMST) where they were trained on major aspects of leadership and management skills that greatly influence human lives. He later became the trainer and continued to provide monthly awareness sessions. These sessions not only included CMST content material, but Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) content material was also discussed. He said that the impact of these sessions is practically observed in the community. The



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CO started savings which then are used for the betterment and welfare of the people, such as the construction of washrooms in the area promoting health and hygiene among the community.

Asghar says that their organisation is now mature and can handle every situation with ease. The CO is also giving out loans to people who are in dire need, such as emergency health situations. Moreover, the community organisation was able to provide a loan of 65,000 rupees to a member who did the Medical Training (MT) but was unable to set up his medical store/ pharmacy. With the provided loan he has been successful in starting his journey of providing medical assistance in the area. Likewise, another community member was lent a sum of 15,000 rupees so that he could repair his house which was hugely affected by floods recently.

Remembering the recent floods and the challenges posed by the disaster, Asghar mentioned,

“ We have successfully carried out major activities at mohalla levels. Since there are mud houses in the region, their repair was our top priority. The CO was readily available to provide aid and relief in such times. We also cleared out drainage channels so that rainwater drains through proper channels. ”

He believes that the contributions of BRACE and impact are appreciated by everyone and sees everyone around him applauding them. Asghar further mentioned that around 400-500 individuals from their community were provided with Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) and being the only bread earners of the family, they are financially supporting their families now.

He credits that TEVT has a great impact on people's financial stability and sustainability. Apart from uniting people and facilitating

community in every possible way, BRACE made it possible that the community institutes to be sustainable. Under the BRACE Programme, a total of 4,985 COs, 954 VOs and 52 LSOs are formed in district Pishin.

With determination, Asghar shared,

“ Even though the project is in its final stage, these COs/VOs/LSOs will continue their operations and keep on facilitating people. ”

Reflecting on the times before BRACE and times after, Asghar Khan proudly expressed the community's journey of change and development. He said,

“ If we compare before and after of BRACE Programme or the year 2017, we realise that our community is able to transform around 70% if not 100% ”.

He finally said,

“ Ameer to aagy hy, hum ny Gareeb ko aagy lana hy. ”



خوش آمدید

کیمپ میں آپ تمام مہمانوں کو

کا کٹر صاحب، سردار اکبر صاحب، عبدالرحمن صاحب، مولوی عبدالصیر صاحب، عمر صاحب، حاجی عبدالرحیم لالا، ملک صاحب، محمد صدیق صاحب، شرف خان صاحب، محمد الدین صاحب، ماسٹر فضل الرحمان صاحب، حاجی صاحب، پروفیسر عبدال...، کلی کنوٹی...، محمد اکرم صاحب

LSO

شہباز

COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSON (CRP)

KHADIJA VILLAGE YOUSAF SHAH, PISHIN

Khadija, a young and vibrant girl is a resident of the village Yousaf Shah in district Pishin. She was known for her boundless energy and her dedication to making a positive impact on her community. Khadija had recently completed her MA and has been working as a Community Resource Person (CRP), a role that allowed her to contribute to the development of her village.

In the beginning, when the male organisations were formed, the men of the community recognised the significance of these Community Organisations (COs). They willingly allowed their women to form and participate in these organisations, empowering them to take an active role in their community. Khadija, as a member of one of the COs, was elected as a CRP. Initially, she felt a mix of confusion and nervousness, unsure of her abilities, however, as she began delivering the

Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions and interacting with the community, her confidence grew.

Khadija's husband played a crucial role in supporting her endeavours. Whenever she needed to attend meetings or programs organised by the Baluchistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), her husband would accompany her, demonstrating his unwavering support for her aspirations.

As a CRP, Khadija's responsibilities involved conducting meetings with the COs in her village. These meetings provided a platform for the community members to discuss prevalent issues and find collective solutions. Additionally, Khadija delivered Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions on various topics such as education, health, childbirth, hygiene, tree plantation, savings, immunisation etc. The

women in the community wholeheartedly follow the practices Khadija taught them during these sessions, including the importance of savings and family planning.

The positive impact of Khadija's work was evident as the community began to prosper. Khadija expressed,

“Through the COs, women are now able to pursue small-scale businesses, opening shops in their homes or investing in livestock. The practice of savings fostered economic independence and empowerment among the community members.”

The positive change extended beyond the women in the community. Men also recognised their own potential through CAT sessions conducted by male CRPs. They now sought solutions to their problems through self-help and actively participate in decision-making processes within their families.

Apart from the CAT sessions, Khadija took it upon herself to motivate parents to prioritise their children's education. Some families had been reluctant to educate their children, but with the support of other CO members, Khadija personally visited these families and convinced them of the importance of education. She firmly believes that every child deserves access to education, and she worked tirelessly to ensure this became a reality in her community.

Grateful for the changes she witnessed, Khadija expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the BRSP for the transformative support her community received. Initially, women were confined within their homes and had little to no opportunities to participate in community matters. However, with the formation of the COs and Khadija's role as a CRP, women began to actively engage in the CAT sessions, boosting their confidence and awakening a sense of self-worth.

Reflecting on her journey, Khadija admired how education had transformed her own life. She acknowledged that without her

education, she would never have become a CRP and gained the confidence to speak in front of large audiences. Although she had initially worried about her in-laws' reaction to her continuing the CAT sessions after marriage, she found relief in their supportive behaviour, which put her mind at ease.

Today, Khadija stood proud and contented with her life. She had witnessed the tremendous positive change brought about by the COs, VOs, LSOs, and the 20,292 CAT sessions held in her community. The women and men now realised their skills and capacities, and the community thrived as a result. Khadija's dedication and the collective efforts of the community had brought about a brighter future for everyone, proving that even a young, energetic girl from a small district could make a significant difference in the lives of many.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



BRACE

BRSP

انشائیہ
Grants (IGGs)

empowerment (E) Programme

is funded by European Union



INCOME GENERATING GRANTS (IGG)

MUHAMMAD YAR TORAH SHAH, PISHIN

Muhammad Yar, a 34-year-old resident of Torah Shah, finds himself in a household of 13 individuals, including his wife, 7 girls, and 4 boys. The family's monthly expenses total around 40,000 PKR, making financial stability a constant concern. However, a turning point arrives when Muhammad Yar receives an Income Generating Grant (IGG) the previous year, granting him two goats.

With diligent care, the two goats multiply, resulting in a total of six. Recognising an opportunity, Muhammad Yar sells all the goats and invests the proceeds in purchasing a rickshaw.

He said,

“

This decision opened new means of income for me and my family. Driving the rickshaw enabled me to provide for our household's needs and gradually improved our financial situation.

”

The IGG, through the goats and subsequent rickshaw purchase, proves to be a transformative force in Muhammad Yar's life. The newfound income allows him to expand their living space by constructing additional rooms within their house. Furthermore, he utilizes his savings from the rickshaw earnings to establish a shop within their home, generating even more financial stability for his family.

Currently, Muhammad Yar earns approximately 15,000 to 18,000 PKR per month through his rickshaw venture. His wife becomes an active contributor to their household income by managing the shop while he continues driving the rickshaw. Previously, they resided in a joint family, but he received no assistance from his brothers or other family members. As a result, Muhammad Yar and his wife decide to live separately, solely responsible for their 11 children.

Expressing immense gratitude, Muhammad Yar acknowledges the life-changing impact of the BRSP/BRACE, whose support helped him break free from the clutches of poverty. He hopes that these organisations continue their incredible work, empowering individuals like himself to overcome financial hardships and build brighter futures.

Muhammad Yar's story of benefitting from IGG is just one among many. The impact of IGG has reached a wide range of individuals, totaling 11,690 beneficiaries in the district Pishin. Among these individuals, 3,966 are males and 7,724 are females. This demonstrates the inclusive nature of IGG's initiatives, ensuring that both genders have access to the benefits and opportunities it provides. By supporting many individuals, IGG is making a significant contribution to their lives and empowering them to pursue their goals and aspirations. Through its reach and impact, IGG is fostering positive change and making a difference in the lives of thousands of people.





COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (CIF)

MOHAMMAD ABBAS UNION COUNCIL TORAH SHAH

Mohammad Abbas is a resident of Killi Tora Shah. His hardened palms are proof of his life struggles, and his determination is proof of how he faced these challenges head-on. He is the father of 8 young children and is the only breadwinner of the family. He has been working as a labourer and earning daily wages throughout his life. Life is crucial if the necessities are not fulfilled and Mohd. Abbas's life had been a struggle until very recently when he got connected to the Local Support Organisation (LSO) of his village. As he came to know about the interventions of BRACE and LSO in his village, he was determined to look for an opportunity that would change the life he had been living for decades.

Upon contacting the LSO president and discussing possible venues that he might qualify for; Abbas availed the Community Investment Fund (CIF) of an amount of twenty-five thousand in February 2023. This amount which might seem like a few thousand for some became the reason for

great change for his family. Abbas did his investment to set up a home-based shop and provided ready access to clothes and cosmetics for community women. Women in the area cannot visit Pishin bazar to buy their likes and Abbas's shop helped them to shop in their vicinity. The benefit was both ways.

Abbas has so many plans and he sees his start-up flourish and aims to open another one in Pishin Bazaar. Abbas shared,

“*Since most of my customers are females and young girls, they provide suggestions for what they want in my shop. I am taking notes from everyone and want to increase the variety of clothes and cosmetics for them. I also aim to add crockery items, as I observe that people often travel to Pishin Bazar for a single item when required.*”



He aims to avail CIF again and wants to upgrade his shop so that both he and the village people can benefit further.

There was a time when Abbas earned only 500 rupees per day and had lived a life of uncertainty because no one knew if would get work for the next day or not. Today he earns 25,000 to 35,000 per month and is readily repaying his CIF loan without any delay. Not only this, but Abbas has also started saving while repaying his CIF instalments of 2000 PKR regularly. He has repaid an amount of 6000 and saves around five thousand to six thousand per month. There is a huge change in family's living standards says Abbas. Moreover, due to the limited finances, he managed to send only two of his children to school earlier but now he has enrolled 2 more to school. He is determined to enroll others once they are of school age. Abbas happily mentioned that his new house is also under construction, and he will soon have a new home for his family. No matter the adversaries and difficulties, Abbas rose to a position where he can proudly admit that his work and life has flourished in ways unknown to him earlier. This is the story of Abbas and there are 1,592 (1143 men and 449 women) other stories just like Abbas, who also availed CIF and are pictures of success and financial empowerment in Pishin.







COMMUNITY PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (CPI)

NISAR AHMED VILLAGE MALAKAN MOHALAH, PISHIN

In the scenic village of Malakan Mohala, the residents were dealing with a dire challenge of accessibility to water. For years, the villagers had suffered the hardships caused by a scarcity of clean and reliable water supply. Their reliance on a single well proved insufficient, as it often ran dry during the dry seasons, leaving them desperate for a solution.

Frustration and dissatisfaction began to grow among the residents until one day, a ray of hope emerged in the form of the BRACE Programme.

It was clear that a sustainable solution was required to ensure the villagers had access to clean water throughout the year. The Abbasin Local Support Organisation (LSO) members precisely planned and consulted with the villagers. Eventually, they unveiled their ambitious plan to construct a comprehensive water supply system. So,

recognising the plight of Malakan Mohalah, the Programme swiftly stepped in to address the village's water supply issue by providing them with the required machinery and solar panels to run the water supply system.

Nisar Ahmed, the president of the LSO had been serving his community as a social activist even before the formation of LSOs. His journey with the BRACE Programme began two years prior. Expressing his gratitude, Nisar Ahmed said,

“Thanks to the BRACE Programme for organising us. I had a dream of serving my community in an organised way, and the BRACE Programme made that dream come true through the Community, Village, and Local Support organisations.”

He further added,

“

We have formed a committee, and a notable person from our community has been identified to oversee the maintenance of the plant.

”

Previously, the community faced difficulties in accessing clean drinking water, often having to travel long distances or rely on expensive water tankers. But with the new CPI in place, the residents' lives began to improve.

Additionally, the LSO, with the support of Qatar Charity, constructed washrooms in the hospital. The installation of solar panels and oxygen machines, sponsored by IRC, further enhanced healthcare facilities. With the collaboration of the LSO, an ultrasound machine was also brought to the hospital.

Recognising the need for self-sustainability, the LSO decided to embark on kitchen gardening. Various locations are identified for these gardens, allowing the community to save money, previously spent on purchasing vegetables while also creating earning

opportunities for those responsible for their maintenance.

The UC Chairman, who also serves as the general secretary of the LSO, encouraged unity by holding meetings and planning initiatives in sync with the Union Council. The collaboration between the LSO and the Union Council ensured a harmonious and well-coordinated effort to bring positive change to the community.

With a reliable water supply now in place, the village of Malakan Mohalah, has flourished. The villagers cultivated more crops, increasing their agricultural productivity. Local businesses increased, and the children and women no longer have to spend precious time fetching water, allowing them more opportunities for education and play. The village became a shining example of how a well-executed community infrastructure scheme could profoundly impact the lives of its residents.

Nisar Ahmed mentioned that the CPI scheme by the BRACE Programme particularly benefited the women of the community. Previously, due to the lack of water access, women had to travel outside the village,

carrying laundry for multiple family members. Now, with water available in their homes, this demanding task is eliminated, providing extraordinary convenience for women.

The CPI scheme has been instrumental in improving the lives of people in various communities. A total of 204 CPI schemes were initiated in the district of Pishin and out of those, 197 have been successfully completed, bringing significant benefits to the community people.

Through these completed CPI schemes, a total of 28,767 households have received substantial improvements in their physical infrastructure. This has had a direct positive impact on the lives of 163,609 individuals within these households. Among the beneficiaries, 81,805 are male and 81,804 are female, indicating a gender-inclusive approach to the distribution of benefits.

The completion of 197 CPI schemes reflects the commitment and dedication of the implementing authorities and stakeholders involved in ensuring the successful execution of these schemes. The impact of these initiatives extends beyond the physical infrastructure improvements and directly

contributes to the social and economic development of the communities.

Finally, Nisar Ahmed extended his gratitude to the BRACE Programme team for visiting the LSO and expressed his appreciation to BRSP and the BRACE Programme for uniting the communities through the formation of Community Organisations (COs), Village Organisations (VOs), and Local Support Organisations (LSOs). He emphasised the opportunities these initiatives provided for women to work alongside the male members of the community.

TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATION TRAINING (TVET)

FARIDA UNION COUNCIL TORAH SHAH

Farida is a resident of Torah Shah and is the mother of 4 (3 sons and 1 daughter). She is one of the most diligent and cheerful people in the community of Torah Shah. Her journey with BRACE started in 2020 when she became part of the Technical, Vocational and Education Training (TVET).

As Farida shared the accounts of her struggle. She has been living in a joint family throughout her life but when the families got separated, responsibilities also increased. The only breadwinner in her family was her husband and with his meagre daily wages, which was not enough to support a family of six, the situation changed overnight. As she narrated, she mentions that they had to sell her wedding jewellery so that a stable income source is set up. Her husband used to drive a rented van from Torah Shah to Pishin bazaar. The cash from jewellery enabled Farida and her husband to buy a taxi for him so that he could start his own transport service from Torah Shah to other parts of the district. She

also dedicated her time and energy to looking for opportunities so that she could contribute to the family's income and a better life for her children.

Farida mentioned,

“ I stayed persistent to avail of any opportunity offered through the Local Support Organisation (LSO) in the community. During my search, I luckily got to know about BRACE's TVET component through LSO's president and readily decided to sign up for it. Luckily, I qualified to become part of it. ”

Among 2197 TVET-trained individuals, Farida and many others were trained in stitching and designing cultural dresses for women. Farida did not know about stitching before,



but after her training, she has become a well-known stitching expert in her village and her work is admired by people in other villages in the vicinity. Not only she has now mastered her skills but also provides initial training to those interested in the work. Her skills and work are so well-reputed that women from other villages also contact her for her services.

But the current situation worries Farida as she expressed that people are not willing to pay an amount of 1500 for a single suit. She initially charged 600-700 per suit but the country's economic situation and inflation forced her to increase charges for her services. She is very happy despite people's strictness towards charges. She says she stitches around 4 to 5 suits per month, but her workload increases during Eid and wedding season. She is eager to teach other women in the community so that they can also earn money for themselves. Her determination is proof that she wants to contribute to her community. Her dedication is seen as she teaches her sister-in-law and is welcoming other learners. Farida aims to start a training centre at her home and with her kind of strong willpower it is just a matter of time.





TRUST ACCOUNTS OF OFFICERS	
Mr. A. A. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. B. B. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. C. C. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. D. D. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. E. E. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. F. F. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. G. G. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. H. H. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. I. I. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. J. J. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. K. K. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. L. L. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. M. M. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. N. N. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. O. O. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. P. P. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. Q. Q. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. R. R. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. S. S. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. T. T. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. U. U. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. V. V. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. W. W. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. X. X. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. Y. Y. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. Z. Z. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. A. A. Khan	10,00,000
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Mr. U. U. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. V. V. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. W. W. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. X. X. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. Y. Y. Khan	10,00,000
Mr. Z. Z. Khan	10,00,000

Joint District Development Committee Meeting

LEGAL EMPOWERMENT





COMMUNITY AWARENESS TOOLKIT (CAT) SESSIONS

M. ANWAR
VILLAGE JABBAR MOHALA

Muhammad Anwar, a compassionate individual started his journey as a humble volunteer, eager to make a difference in the lives of his community people. Little did he know that his dedication and passion would lead him to become the esteemed Community Resource Person (CRP) responsible for delivering impactful Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions.

The CAT sessions covered a wide range of essential topics, but the most vital among them is Mother and Child health. He instructs the people to give proper attention and care to the expecting mothers, such as doing their proper checkups and giving them a balanced diet. He believes that by educating the community on the importance of proper checkups and a balanced diet for expectant mothers, both the mothers and their children could lead healthy lives.

Secondly, the community was taught the significance of immunisation vaccine and a major among them was the polio drops.

Similarly, recognising the need for birth spacing and balanced nutrition, the CAT include sessions on these topics. Anwar educates the community on these topics and imparted knowledge about hygiene practices and the implementation of COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) to protect their well-being during the pandemic. Understanding the importance of clean drinking water, he also teaches them the usage of homemade oral rehydration solution (ORS).

Anwar's dedication to education is unwavering. He conducts sessions highlighting the significance of education and sensitises the community to prevalent issues in schools, such as child abuse and

corporal punishment. Anwar encourages parents to actively engage with their children's education, urging them to visit schools at least once a week. Furthermore, disaster risk management, human rights, and climate change are the essential subjects covered to promote awareness and preparedness.

Anwar shared,

“
At the outset, the community members were sceptical and hesitant to embrace change. Many refused immunisation vaccine and polio drops, creating a significant challenge. However, with my commencement of CAT sessions and the efforts of the Local Support Organisation (LSO) members, we negotiated with influential community figures, and the number of refusals decreased drastically from 200 to only 18-19.
”

The impact of Anwar's efforts is noticeable. Anwar introduced the idea of savings to the community people through the CAT sessions, and because of the rising inflation

people are now convinced and compelled to save. Parents are convinced to prioritise their children's education. An impressive number of children ranging from 300-400 who work out-of-school were enrolled in schools in the years of BRACE Programme, ensuring a brighter future for them. Moreover, the BRACE Programme established Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills (ALNS) centres, enabling girls and women without prior educational opportunities to gain basic reading and writing skills. This newfound knowledge empowered them to perform simple tasks like checking medicine expiry dates.

Anwar shared a poignant incident that emphasised the transformative power of education, particularly for girls. In their community, a woman with two sons inadvertently caused them to lose their eyesight by mistakenly applying expired eye drops after they developed allergies while working in the fields. Though their eyesight could not be restored, the LSO members provided them with essential support, including Income Generating Grants (IGGs), and assistance with their children's educational expenses. This incident became a powerful testament to the significance of education and its ability to prevent tragic mishaps in the community.

He mentioned,

“

Throughout the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I remained resolute in my commitment to the community. I and my team continued delivering CAT sessions, strictly adhering to SOPs to ensure the safety of all participants. In addition, we distributed masks, sanitisers, and soaps, promoting hygiene practices within the community.

”

Anwar firmly believes that the formation of LSOs was the crowning achievement of the BRACE Programme. These organisations have played a pivotal role in driving positive change within the community, as the LSO members are working tirelessly to uplift and improve the lives of its people.

In conclusion, Anwar's journey from volunteer to CRP exemplifies the transformative power of the BRACE Programme. Through his unwavering dedication and the formation of LSOs, the community experienced remarkable changes in health, education, and resilience. Anwar's efforts and the collective contributions of the community are shining examples of what can be achieved when individuals come together for a common cause.

JOINT DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (JDDC)

JAMAL UD-DIN

VILLAGE JABBAR MOHALA, LSO ZAMINDAR MULKIYAR

Jamal Ud Din is a respected member of the community, serving as the Chairman of the Union Council (UC) and the Paish-e-Imam in the Judicial complex. Jamal Ud Din has dedicated his life to serving his community and ensuring their well-being.

With a double MA in Islamiyat from a prestigious Madrassah, Jamal is well-versed in religious teachings and principles. He believes in the importance of education and wanted to instil these values in his own family. He is married and has seven children, all of whom attend the local madrassa.

Living in a joint family, Jamal's responsibilities extend beyond his immediate household. He is also the general secretary (GS) of the Local Support Organisation (LSO) Zamindar Mulkiyar a position that led him to become a member of the Joint District Development Committee (JDDC). Over time, Jamal attended seven JDDC meetings, where he played an active role in addressing various issues faced by the community.

Before each JDDC meeting, Jamal would meet with members of the LSO to discuss the challenges and issues they are facing. They would identify problems related to health, education, employment, and Community Physical Infrastructure Schemes (CPIs). These discussions helped Jamal understand the needs of the community so that he could address them effectively during the JDDC meetings.

However, the decision to conduct JDDC meetings rested with the District Commissioner (DC). Some DCs would call for a meeting every month or two, while others would rarely convene one within a year. Nevertheless, whenever a meeting took place, it became an important platform to discuss development-related issues, basic human rights, violations of women's rights, prevailing criminal acts in the community, and good governance.



Jamal stated,

“During these meetings, I and other committee members would focus on crucial areas like health, clean drinking water, and education. We realise that specific departments and organisations are not adequately addressing these basic needs, which leads us to take proactive steps.”

Through the JDDC, Jamal and his colleagues were able to address several issues. They ensured the availability of staff at the Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) to improve the health situation in the community. They also held accountable those teachers who were neglecting their duties in primary schools. The issues were initially identified during meetings at the Community Organisation (CO), Village Organisation (VO), and Local Support Organisation (LSO) levels.

Jamal recalls the challenges they faced when forming the COs, VOs, and LSOs. Many religious clerics in the community believed that they were bringing in a Western agenda. However, Jamal and his team patiently negotiated with them in multiple sittings,

explaining that access to clean drinking water, education, and health are the basic needs that transcend religious boundaries. Eventually, those who had made allegations against them began approaching them for help.

Jamal Uddin mentioned,

“It has been a year since the last JDDC meeting, during which we discussed issues related to the incomplete CPI schemes and the unavailability of Basic Health Units (BHUs). Fortunately, we managed to resolve 80% of the major issues concerning schools and hospitals at the district level. The heads of the respective departments have been supportive of resolving these issues, which strengthened my belief in the power of collaboration and teamwork.”

One significant change Jamal has observed is the perception of girls' education within their community was that in the past, discussing girls' education was considered a crime. However, thanks to the BRACE Programme, people's mindsets began to

shift. The community became more conscious of the importance of girls' education, and parents started prioritising their daughters' schooling.

During times of crisis, such as floods, Jamal and his team mobilised resources to help those in need. They managed to distribute ration packs, clothes, and tents to 1800 households affected by the floods. Their efforts provided relief and support to the vulnerable members of the community.

Jamal Uddin's journey as the chairman of the Union Council, the Paish-e-Imam, and his active involvement in the JDDC meetings showcased his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his community members. Through perseverance, collaboration, and dedication, Jamal and his team were making a lasting impact on the community's well-being and paving the way for a brighter future.





**PEOPLE
BEHIND BRACE**



DISTRICT PROGRAMME MANAGER (DPM)

ABDUL JABBAR
DISTRICT PISHIN

Abdul Jabbar is an experienced professional who had been working in the development sector for 26 years before joining BRSP (Baluchistan Rural Support Programme) five years ago. His role as a cluster coordinator in BRSP's BRACE (Baluchistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment) programme opened his eyes to the unique challenges faced by the community.

BRACE was unlike any other project Jabbar had encountered before. With its eight components, it aimed to empower the disorganised community and address their various issues. However, this task was no easy feat. The community lacked organisation, and individuals tended to work solely for themselves.

Determined to create lasting change, the BRACE team worked tirelessly. They divided

the community into three tiers: Community Organisation (CO), Village Organisation (VO), and Local Support Organisation (LSO). With these structures in place, community members could voice their issues to government departments effectively.

Despite challenges, such as the conservative society's resistance to change, the team persevered. Education, especially for women, faced obstacles, but BRACE provided extensive training like Leadership Management Skills Training (LMST) and Community Management Skills Training (CMST) to empower the locals. One of the major hurdles was the unavailability of people due to daily wage jobs or job hunting. The team adapted their strategies, organising meetings at convenient times to ensure maximum participation. BRACE brought about a significant shift in the

development approach. Instead of a top-down method, the project adopted a bottom-up approach, focusing on grassroots issues. This change led to the formulation of the village and Union Council Development Plans (UCDP), enabling other organisations to address specific community needs effectively.

Jabbar added,

“

The project also highlighted gender disparities. With the help of women staff, BRACE began engaging females in the community, gradually breaking cultural barriers, and encouraging women's participation in various sectors.

”

As the project is near its end, the positive impact of BRACE is undeniable. Livelihoods improved, women's empowerment increased, special needs were addressed, and staff received inter-district exposure, even representing BRACE/BRSP abroad.

Though there were propaganda and challenges, dialogue and perseverance

allowed the project to succeed. Jabbar believes that RSPs are uniquely equipped to run such projects due to their widespread presence and reach in Baluchistan.

Jabbar felt immense pride in being a part of this transformative journey. BRACE had not only changed lives but also left a blueprint for future projects to follow. He knew that BRSP's tireless efforts and unparalleled reach made them uniquely qualified to carry out such initiatives.

As BRACE is near its end, the hope for a "BRACE-II" began to emerge. The lessons learned from this project were invaluable, and the team aspired to extend its impact to even more communities, touching countless lives in the process.




The story of BRACE is now engraved into the records of Baluchistan's development history, proving that with determination, unity, and innovation, even the most challenging landscapes could be transformed into flourishing havens of progress and hope.



EUROPEAN UNION

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