HIGHLIGHTS

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Monitoring and Evaluation Training for staff of CSOs

ASP-AiD organized a two-day Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) training for civil society organizations (CSOs) at the ASP head office in Islamabad on December 4-5, 2013. This was the first in a series of 6 trainings being organized in different parts of the country. The overall goal was to share key concepts, and impart skills and knowledge on M&E to development practitioners.

The training incorporated topics such as introduction to M&E, development of indicators, planning for M&E, data collection, and data analysis. The program was designed and conducted following an activity-based methodology so as to help the participants absorb the knowledge as well as acquire new skills. The remaining 5 trainings will take place in 5 cluster hubs namely, Peshawar, Swat, Lahore, Karachi and Gilgit during the next two to three months.
Incorporation of Water & Sanitation Services Peshawar - WSSP

In order to improve municipal services in Peshawar, the Government of KP (GoKP) has established a new Public Limited Company by the name of Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP). Right from the inception stage, ASP-AiD has been providing technical assistance to GoKP for the incorporation of the said company. Our support included technical assistance for developing WSSP PC-1 and provision of legal expertise for drafting of Memorandum of and Articles of Association, constitution of WSSP Board of Directors and completion of registration formalities with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). Furthermore, ASP-AiD’s contribution was critical in bringing key stakeholders on board with regard to the need for the establishment of WSSP and its future role.

We are delighted to report that persistent follow-up and continued efforts of the core team comprising officials of the Local Government and Rural Development Department (LG&RDD) and ASP-AiD have finally bore fruit and SECP issued a license and certificate of incorporation for WSSP on 8th January, 2014. In future, ASP-AiD will continue to support the new entity through a comprehensive capacity building plan, which has already been approved by USAID and agreed to by the LG&RDD-parent department for WSSP.

Development and Leadership: The Gender Dimension, 24-26 October, 2013

ASP-LUMS organized a training on ‘Development and Leadership: The Gender Dimension for Civil Society and Government Officials’ at Rausing Executive Development Center (REDC), LUMS, Lahore. Several organizations including NADRA, Aurat Foundation, Today’s Woman Organization, Institute of Management Sciences, Network for Human and Social Development, Support Agency for Rural & Human Association’s Development, Rural Development Organization-Buner, Mehran Welfare Trust-Larkana, Baltistan Culture & Development Foundation (BFDC), and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), KPK participated in the training.

The training was attended by 38 participants, who appreciated and acknowledged the usefulness of the training as a very rewarding learning experience. Mr. Saad Rasool, a faculty member of LUMS Law School, was the lead faculty for the course. Other faculty from LUMS included Dr. Abdul Karim and Dr. Bushra Naqvi. Guest speakers, Faiza Imtiaz (DCOP-ASP-LUMS) and Fouzia Nasreen (ex-ambassador of Pakistan to Malaysia and Australia), talked about gender challenges in the public and private sectors.

Hasna Cheema, Deputy Program Manager, Aurat Foundation, found the ASP-LUMS training intellectually stimulating. Another participant Faisal Gichki from NRSP said he will directly apply concepts learned at ASP-LUMS to his organization when he goes back.
ASP-LUMS Signs MoU with BUITEMS Quetta

The Assessment and Strengthening Program (ASP) at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) has signed an MOU with Baluchistan University of Information Technology and Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Quetta.

Vice Chancellor, BUITEMS, Ahmed Farooq Bazai and Chief of Party, ASP-LUMS Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qureshi signed the document. Vice Chancellor LUMS, Dr. Sohail Naqi was also present on the occasion. This Memorandum is a part of ASP-LUMS' effort towards capacity building of Pakistan’s institutions by training managers, staff and executives of different Government of Pakistan, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and For-Profit Organizations. BUITEMS is an addition to the already existing partner institutions of ASP which include IBA Sukkur, IBA Karachi and IMS Peshawar. ASP-LUMS’ role focuses on provision of training to the trainers of BUITEMS, and to nominate participants who will be provided training at their institution located at Quetta and thus will increase the reach and impact of ASP-LUMS, which is already working in all other provinces of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmed Farooq Bazai thanked Dr. Sohail Naqi and Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qureshi for trying to reach out to a far-flung and neglected province. He said, initiatives like these would help improve the education standard in the areas.

Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qureshi, while highlighting the significance of this partnership, reiterated his belief and ASP-LUMS’ commitment in contributing to strengthening Pakistan's institutions in all sectors, thereby making it a healthier, prosperous and brighter country.

Dr. Sohail Naqi expressed confidence that the partnership would benefit the faculty and staff of BUITEMS. LUMS has always strived to reach out and build capacity of other organizations of Pakistan and will continue to do so in the future as well, he added in conclusion.

ASP-LUMS Holds Forensic Audit Course

ASP-LUMS conducted a successful training on ‘Forensic Audit’ for participants from ICAP and the Auditor General’s Office. LUMS faculty Dr. Junaid Ashraf and Ayesha Bhatti, along with international consultant Larry D. Crumbley, developed and designed the course.

Dr. Crumbley is a KPMG endowed professor at Louisiana State University, also co-editor of a three-volume Texas Tax Reporter service published by CCH, and editor of Handbook of Accounting for Natural Resources (Shepard/McGraw Hill), co-editor of Handbook of Governmental Accounting and Finance (John Wiley), editor of Handbook of Estate Planning (Dow-Jones) and co-editor of Handbook of Bank Accounting and Finance.

Subjects like understanding of fraud and forensic accounting, identifying the difference between forensic accounting and fraud auditing, obtaining knowledge through in-depth research and studies on fraud, mastering proven interviewing techniques, evidence documentation and investigative methods and tools, recognizing the methodology of red flags, early detection, problem solving and thinking outside the box were discussed in detail with relevant examples and case studies.

The participants appreciated the initiative of ASP-LUMS to conduct a training, which was the first of its kind. They expressed satisfaction over having discussed many new things while also developing clarity on numerous vague issues pertaining to forensic audit. They also appreciated the knowledge imparted to them by the learned trainers.

Muhammad Nasir Muneer from Houth Hussain Chaudhary & Co. termed the training a very good initiative which included a lot of diversity to benefit the participants. Relevant material was used and experienced and competent speakers were invited to share their experiences.

Maqbool Ahmad Gondal, Director General, Auditor General of Pakistan, found this training as being “a step to promote accountability in Pakistan’s institutions.” The participants hoped that the training would help them in conducting forensic audits and that ASP-LUMS will continue to conduct such trainings.
ASP-RSPN Reviews 3-Year Program Implementation with Partners

A three-year program review meeting was held in Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman of RSPN. The ASP-RSPN management presented details of progress achieved and lessons learnt during program implementation. Senior officers from ASP’s partners including Planning Commission, PPRA, and Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended the meeting. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan appreciated the efforts of ASP-RSPN in making Pakistani organizations more effective and accountable. ASP-RSPN’s technical support to government departments was highly acknowledged by representatives of the government departments.

Implementation of Management Systems in Three Power Generation Companies Validated

The validation of capacity building activities carried out by ASP-AID for three Power Generation Companies (GENCOs) i.e., Northern Power, Central Power, and Jamshoro Power Companies Limited, was undertaken by a third party, indicates significant improvements in the implementation of new management systems. ASP-AID provided extensive technical assistance support to these three organizations and improved their financial, procurement, HR, and M&E functions. SAGE 300 integrated ERP solution has also been deployed to make processes efficient and transparent. The re-assessment exercise conducted by independent audit firms has shown positive results in terms of reducing management system risks as compared to levels ascertained prior to the capacity building support.

Secretariat Training Institute’s (STI) Management Systems Automated

STI, in collaboration with ASP-RSPN, has developed new training curriculum and training methodologies for training of Office Management Group officers of the Government of Pakistan. The new curriculum has been approved and is currently being taught in the Institute. ASP-RSPN also extended support for development of a customized Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to automate STI’s training courses, its financial, HR, inventory, performance appraisals, leave management and office management systems. The institute’s new website www.sti.gov.pk has been made live with new resources on training and development.

Deputy Mission Director USAID visits ASP-RSPN

The Deputy Mission Director of USAID Pakistan, Mr. Roger Garner and senior representatives of USIAID technical units visited ASP-RSPN to discuss matters of mutual interest. COP ASP-RSPN briefed the delegation about ASP-RSPN’s interventions with Federal and Provincial Governments. The Deputy Mission Director appreciated ASP-RSPN’s contribution during the design phase of the multi-million dollar Command Area Development Project.