

# ASP NEWS

News, updates and resources from the Assessment and Strengthening Program (ASP)  
1st Edition



Senior Officials from USAID Mission office (Pakistan) visited ASP-RSPN office in Islamabad. DCOP Mr. Khalid Khan presenting program overview

## inFocus Story



**Flood Affected districts - ASP-RSPN reaches the remotest areas in Pakistan**

- Four important Capacity Building projects undertaken in Public Sector i.e. Sindh and KP Municipal Services Delivery Program, Urban Policy Unit KP and Sindh Basic Education Program
- Prior condition for release of donor assistance to finance GoP's Citizens Damage Compensation Program i.e. Third Party Validation completed in 65 districts through an excellent support of EAD and the Cabinet Division
- Five (5) Pre-Award Assessments of For-Profit organizations were completed in its 1st year of program implementation, enabling USAID contracting office to sign contracts with them on a fast track basis
- Study on Assignment Account (account mandatory for GoP managed projects) completed and revised procedures proposed
- 5th preparation of PC-I for Urban Policy Unit in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Advocacy Review and Consultation Workshop planned during March 2012
- Training on Assignment Account planned during March 2012 through the National School of Public Policy (NSPP)

## Highlights

## introduction

Assessment and Strengthening Program (ASP) for Civil Society Organizations and Government of Pakistan is a five-year USAID-funded initiative that is aimed at strengthening the capacity of local organizations to effectively manage development funds. Launched on 27 October 2010, ASP is being implemented by three Pakistani organizations: Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and Associates in Development (AiD). All three organizations have been assigned specific roles under the ASP.

Within the next five years, USAID has plans to deliver a major portion of its development assistance directly through local organizations i.e. both the government and civil society organizations. ASP will help these local organizations develop their institutional capacities for handling U.S. Government funds, an important step in expanding the local share in the implementation of U.S. assistance programs.

ASP model of capacity building follows a step by step process. It will assess the capacity needs of

local civil society organizations and government institutions recognized as key to implementing USAID's development funds within Pakistan. It will strengthen their capacities up to USAID's standards of compliance, transparency and accountability through the provision of necessary technical assistance.

This assistance will include the designing and provision of training courses, research and development of best practices in financial management, administration and procurement functions, the simplification and streamlining of processes for effective management of funds, and the incorporation of these practices into the daily operations of local organizations.

Above all, ASP will assist in generating important paradigmatic shift in the development process: not only USAID, but other organizations working within Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan itself, will be able to deploy necessary development processes within the country through standardized, and indigenously self-reliant and sustainable means.



"This program will enable us to work directly with numerous Pakistani organizations. It will not only ensure most effective and efficient use of resources, but also cultivate a close longer term relationship between our two nations"

**David Ostermeyer, Chief Financial Officer at USAID**

## inFocus Story



## Flood Affected districts - ASP-RSPN reaches the remotest areas in Pakistan

Muhammad Bachal, a resident of remote village named BabaKot of Nasirabad district, in Baluchistan belongs to a poor family with four (4) sons and a daughter. He is the sole bread-earner to his family. He is a tenant (*locally called buz'rug*) working on the lands owned by a Sardar (*Influential head*) of his village. He had to comply with the unwritten pact of cost-and-profit sharing on his cotton crop for land owned by the Sardar.

The real test of time for Bachal was when devastating floods of 2010 hit Patt feeder canal, in Nasirabad and reducing it to wreckage. All of his cultivated lands along the canal were washed away. His katcha house was also left to ruins like many of his fellow villagers.

He went to his Sardar to seek help but in vain. His Sardar instead of helping him demanded to return back the investment made. Bachal assured his Sardar to pay back the expenditures in the form of next year cotton yield.

The government, as in other flood affected areas of Pakistan, came to compensate the flood affected population of Nasirabad through 'Watan cards'. An amount of one (1) lakh was announced to be given to each household for all those possessing the card. Bachal received Rs. 20,000 as the first installment in lieu of his damaged house through the Watan Card. One year passed and he didn't receive further installments. His friends and family kept on insisting to sell off his card (which some card holders did in his neighborhood) as they were hopeless for the rest of installments. But Bachal was confident till the time when ASP-RSPN team visited Babakot to authenticate the beneficiaries. Bachal's prayers were heard.

In his words

"My prayers are heard and am really obliged to ASP- RSPN for clearing and marking my house among the authentic cases in this survey"

### ASP's Website - An online resource



A dedicated website has been developed and regularly updated providing access to the program's information of all the three implementing partners of ASP. The website hosts information/updates related to the ongoing and completed Program interventions. In addition, it maintains a large resource base of government and NGO sector publications on governance ensuring public accessibility at a single site. Please visit [www.asp.org.pk](http://www.asp.org.pk) for details.

## KP Urban Policy Unit: Stakeholders' Consultation

A stakeholder's consultative meeting on the Urban Policy Unit was organized in Peshawar by ASP-AiD on January 4th 2012. The Secretaries of Planning and Development, Housing, Transport and Communications and Works Department as well as the Director General Peshawar Development Authority (PDA), Additional Secretary P&DD, Excise & Taxation and senior representatives of key provincial departments such as LG&RDD, Finance, Law, PHED, PCNA and World Bank WSP attended the event.

Dr. Nasir Javed, Project Director Urban Unit Punjab, facilitated the discussions which focused on the urban profiling of Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the steps involved in the development of the Urban Policy Unit KP.

Mr. Zubair Qureshi, the Executive Director of the Urban Policy Unit gave a detailed presentation on the proposed Urban Policy Unit in KP and highlighted the contemporary practices of urban planning in the KP province, existing legislative and institutional framework, and the mission and objectives of the Unit. The presentation was followed by a very lively and open discussion and deliberations. It was made clear that the proposed role of the Urban Policy Unit will not be duplication of efforts nor will there be any conflict with other departments/ agencies. The Unit will act as a supporting arm of different organizations like the development authorities, municipalities and other provincial departments. It will act as a think tank on urban management and planning issues and will not be involved in implementation.

Recommendations and improvements in the proposed



governance structure i.e. the steering committee and other issues to help finalize the PC-1 for submission to the PDWP were also discussed.



## ASP Zooms-in on Development Governance

Assessment and Strengthening Program (ASP) launched two very important research projects on development governance in its 'research to policy' component marking the beginning of the second year of its life. The projects focus on the Planning Process in the Government of Pakistan and the Project Management Units and its role in development. With these critical initiatives which are very central to the entire development architecture in Pakistan, ASP has moved on to strategic areas of intervention while building on the momentum it had gained during the first year of the Program. Heading towards the achievement of ASP's strategic objective of 'strengthening Pakistani institutions to implement USAID assistance', the program has been successfully engaged with various government and civil society organizations.

ASP initiated research work on these areas during November 2011 with the objective to firstly identify problems in the existing rules/policies & procedures and secondly recommend possible enhancements, suggesting policy reforms through new/revised procedures. Significant progress has been made including compilation and detailed review of existing literature with a number of strategic level dialogues/meetings held both at federal and provincial levels. ASP's research team is foreseeing a number of areas to be considered for improvement including the role of Planning Commission, raising the approval limits of CDWP & ECNEC,



reducing the approval delays of PC-I, improving the quality of PC-I document, activation of Planning Cells, institutionalizing Public-Private Partnerships, importance of PMU and Project Director, ISO certification of Planning Commission processes & procedures. The activity is expected to be completed during the next quarter endeavoring for implementation of improved processes in these areas through ASP.

## ASP-LUMS: Stakeholder's Opening Workshop



A two-day stakeholder's workshop was organized by ASP-LUMS at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) on 17th and 18th of December, 2011.

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) is one of the implementing partners of ASP and will be responsible for the training component of the program.

A total of 58 participants from Government and Civil Society Organizations, including participants from USAID funded projects and USAID officials were a part of the workshop. Participants from other ASP partners, RSPN and AiD also attended the workshop. LUMS faculty led the discussions and brainstorming sessions with the participants and a lot of valuable feedback was received for

the design of courses that LUMS will deliver under the ASP umbrella. The basic purpose of this workshop was to introduce the courses being developed by LUMS faculty, to participants and get feedback from Government and Civil Society Organizations on the design of courses. Participants gave their input in to the course design in the areas of Financial Management, Procurement, HR and Admin and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Each session of the workshop entailed a detailed presentation by the faculty followed by discussion and brainstorming session with participants.

The feedback from the participants was relevant and helpful for the LUMS faculty to emphasize on areas in each program according to government and CSOs needs.

## UPCOMING:

## Training on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for senior managers

The training focuses to bridge the identified skill gaps of project managers in different sectors of the economy. In addition, it aims to equip Senior Managers to efficiently and effectively manage projects within the specified budget, with required quality and timely execution. The thematic areas to be covered include:

- Overview and Importance of M&E
- Evolution and Approaches of M&E
- Alternative Frameworks of M&E
- Common M&E tools and techniques
- Data collection methods and causality establishment
- Dissemination and utilization of Evaluation

### PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

Senior managers from different government organizations (implementing partners of USAID funded projects) including senior managers from Civil Society Organizations will attend this program.

### LEAD FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Ehsan ul Haque is Associate Professor of Marketing at the Suleman Dawood School of Business, LUMS. Dr. Haque received his PhD in marketing from the University of Texas at Arlington. In addition to his contributions in marketing for both the for-profit and social sectors, Dr. Haque's current area of interest is the domain of monitoring and evaluation, specifically in the public sector

### CO-LEAD FACULTY PROFILE

Mr. Anjum Fayyaz has more than 24 years of teaching, training, research and consulting experience in Pakistan, India and Iran. Fayyaz's specialized areas of teaching include strategic business management, entrepreneurship & innovation and human resource management. He initiated and developed the concept of SME Clusters and Networks Development (CND) in Pakistan while working for United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for more than nine years.

### VENUE OF THE PROGRAM

Rausing Executive Development Centre, LUMS

### TRAINING DATES

19th, 20th, 21st Feb 2012

### CONTACT PERSON

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ASP-RSPN conducted 2 days Advanced Gender Training. COP and DCOP with officials from USAID and the Resource Person



Dr. Andrew B. Sisson, USAID's Mission Director in Pakistan visits Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

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