

### **ABOUT THE RSPs NETWORK**

Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) are a national asset of Pakistan. The first RSP - the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) - was established in 1982 by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF).

In July 2000, the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) was established with the efforts of the RSPs. Today, RSPN serves as a strategic platform for 11 member RSPs, bringing together over 30 years of knowledge in Community-Driven Development (CDD). RSPN is now the largest development network of Pakistan.

# SPONSORS OF RSPN













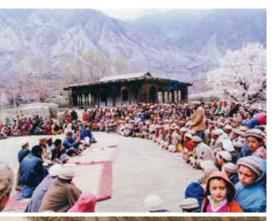














#### THE RSPs APPROACH

RSPs build upon the conceptual framework developed by Dr Akhtar Hameed Khan in 1950s and 60s in the world famous Comilla Project, which was further developed and scaled up by AKRSP under Mr Shoaib Sultan Khan's 12 years of leadership. The centre-piece of the RSP approach, and which is it's distinguish mark, the belief that since poverty is experienced at the household level, the poor need to organise themselves, begin capital formation, and improve their skills. RSPs provide social guidance as well as technical and financial assistance to the rural poor through three-tiered social mobilisation approach for CDD.

### RSPN's Vision: Realising people's potential for economic and social empowerment

RSPN's vision represents the basic philosophy of RSPs' social mobilisation approach to CDD. RSPN's work therefore aligns itself with RSPs work and centres on the belief that poor men and women have an innate potential to help themselves, that they can better manage their limited resources if they organise first. Peoples' own institutions serve as the primary partners in fulfilling the nation's development agenda by extending outreach to the household level across the country, for it is at the household level that poverty is experienced on a daily basis.

## RSPN's Mission: Strengthen RSPs to foster institutions of the people

RSPN's mission is to further facilitate, enable and provide technical support to member RSPs to foster sustainable institutions of the people. RSPN's mandate focuses on:

- Ensuring that all RSPs follow the core social mobilisation approach
- Improving coordination and communication between RSPs, and between the network and key development partners especially the government, donor organisations, and civil society
- Providing technical assistance to RSPs
- Piloting innovative concepts and projects for scale up by the RSPs
- Mobilising resources for RSPs and providing implementation support when required



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

RSPN's strategic objectives for the period 2015-2020 are based on the vision, theory of change, mission, strengths, weaknesses, and the requirements of its key stakeholders. Over the next five years, RSPN will:

- Further promote and expand the social mobilisation based approach to Community-Driven Development approach.
- 2. Generate sound evidence and practical knowledge for improving development results.
- 3. Improve RSPN's performance in delivering better results.

Each of RSPN's strategic objectives has sub-objectives. Each sub-objective is linked to a specific broad action that provides an overview of how RSPN plans to achieve the sub-objective. These broad actions collectively form RSPN's strategy. In order to aid the development of an operational plan, specific activities to be conducted have been indicated under each sub-objective.

## THEMATIC FOCUS

In terms of thematic priorities, RSPN's main focus remains on integrated rural development using the social mobilisation approach to CDD. The RSPs emphasise on a broad range of thematic areas covering several aspects of development. As the network organisation, RSPN will contribute towards all those thematic areas in which RSPs are actively involved. Over the past few years, the following thematic areas emerged as the main focus areas:

- Pro-poor economic empowerment: For the rural poor, fighting extreme poverty remains the biggest challenge. In future, RSPN will continue to work on economic empowerment covering areas like poverty reduction, local economic development, construction of basic physical infrastructure, access to capital, skills enhancement, employment & income generation, agriculture, and livestock.
- · Governance and peace: The absence of peace, justice,

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tolerance, and rule of law can drastically reverse any effort towards sustainable development. In countries like Pakistan, which is severely affected by fragility and conflict, the focus on governance carries immense importance. RSPN therefore gives high priority to improving local governance and promoting peace.

- Social development and improved access to basic services: RSPN aims to focus on the well-being of every individual in society so that they may reach their full potential and strongly believe that the success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen. Social development issues that RSPN will continue to address include education, health, WASH, child protection, social inclusion, and support to minorities and marginalised groups.
- Gender equality and women's empowerment: This is one
  of the priority areas in which RSPN has remained active in
  the past and will continue to invest in the future. RSPN's
  work in this domain will be closely tied to other thematic
  areas and will be anchored in the basic principles of
  human rights.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation: RSPN will work with the RSPs to enhance the capacity of communities to adapt to climate change as it is closely linked to social and economic development. RSPN's work in this area ranges from alternative & renewable energy initiatives to mitigation of risks associated with natural disasters.
- Regional cooperation: Central and South Asian countries share many similar issues and challenges of rural poverty, and can learn from each other particularly in the area of CDD. In the coming years, RSPN will focus on further strengthening partnerships for CDD especially between Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Tajikistan.

Over the coming five years, RSPN will work closely with RSPs and other stakeholders, including government, donors, and civil society, in order to meet its strategic objectives, realise its mission and move towards meeting its vision.

