



Balochistan Rural Development & Community Empowerment Programme (BRDCEP) Note for Record (NFR) - Visit to BRSP: August 19 to 24, 2017

Ahmed Ullah, Programme Manager BRDCEP

Main purpose of the visit was to hold introductory meeting with BRSP management and BRDCEP staff members in BRSP. Other activities planned during the visit include;

1. Participate in some of the sessions of the OTW, specially;
 - o Gender mainstreaming in programme activities
 - o BRDCEP planning, monitoring, evaluation and research
 - o Poverty and its assessment through PSC
2. Follow up on action items discussed/agreed during RSPN's visits to BRSP
3. Discuss and learn various aspects of the programme plan and activities where RSPN support is required

Detail of activities undertaken during the visit

Saturday, August 19, 2017

Participation in BRSP Orientation Training Workshop (OTW): BRSP has planned eight OTWs under BRDCEP Programme to train 202 staff. First of OTWs was held in first week of August 2017 in Balochistan Rural Development Academy. This was the second OTW which planned from August 18 to 25, 2017. Total participants of the event were 29 (23 male and 6 female participants) BRSP staff from seven districts.

Since it was travelled day, I reached the training venue around 3:00 PM. It was second day of the training. Mr. Mohammad Arif Rind Sr. Program Officer SM/CB BRSP facilitated two sessions viz. 1) Community Institutions (CIs) and record keeping by CIs. Sessions were delivered through power point presentations and contents of the presentations were in Urdu. Methodology of the session was participatory. At the end of each session, questions and answers sessions were held.

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Participated in third day of the OTW. Main sessions held included; 1) System of savings and its effective utilization, 2) Resource Mobilisation, 3) Productive linkages and self-help initiatives by Mr. Naimatullah Jan Maryani, Sr. Manager Programmes 4) Gender Mainstreaming in programme activities by Ms. Naseema Salam, Gender Focal Person BRSP and 5) Introduction to BRDCEP by Dr. Shahnawaz Khan, Sr. Manager Programme/Team Leader BRDCEP. Sessions were delivered through power point presentations and were in detail. Participants questions were responded during the presentation. Methodology of the session was participatory. However, most of the presentations' contents were in English. It was suggested that contents of the presentations should be in Urdu so that most of the participants are able to understand. In response to the suggestion, Mr. Akbar Achakzai said that they are in the process of translating the



presentation from English into Urdu and said that majority of the presentation have already been translated.

Monday, August 21, 2017

Meeting held with Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, Chief Executive Officer BRSP in which broader level objectives of the BRDCEP programme, synergy with other projects of BRSP and challenges of BRDCE Programme in prevailing situation in Balochistan were discussed. During the meeting, it was decided that meeting with key stakeholders of BRDCEP will be held before exposure visit to Tajikistan.

Introductory meetings were held with following key staff of BRDCEP (BRSP component) in which relevant activities of the programme were discussed;

- Akbar Khan Achakzai, Human and Institutional Development Coordinator
- Ghulam Murtaza, Coordinator Livelihood
- Mohammad Asim, Senior Manager Finance

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

A detailed meeting was held with Mr. Ibrahim Alvi, Manager Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (PMER). Main purpose of the meeting was to discuss process and progress on Poverty Score Card (PSC) data collection and analysis; and to discuss action items agreed between BRSP and RSPN during Specialist M&E RSPN visit to Quetta.

Mr. Alvi informed that PSC is in progress in all seven BRSP/BRDCEP districts. He said that total PSC targets for seven districts is 353,254 households which is 100% coverage of the districts. He said that PSC data from approximately 19,000 households has been collected so far. According to Mr. Ali, data is being analysed in real time. He said that feedback and input given by Specialist M&E RSPN during his visit, during his visit in July 2017, have been incorporated in data collection process and results (shown in table 1) are now more representative of Balochistan as compared to previous results (shown in table 2).

Table 1:

Poverty Scorecard cut-off range	Poor Band	Percentage
0-11 PSC range	Extremely Poor	10%
12-18 PSC range	Chronically Poor	20%
19-23 PSC range	Transitory Poor	16%
24-100 PSC range	Non-poor	53%

Table 2:

Poverty Scorecard Cut-off Ranges	Poverty Band	Percentage
0-11 PSC Range	Extremely Poor	0.0%
12-18 PSC Range	Chronically Poor	0.37%
19-23 PSC Range	Transitory Poor	3.78%
24- 100 PSC Range	Transitory Vulnerable	95.86%



Given the poverty situation in Balochistan, table 1 still shows high percentage of non-poor in the communities. Main reason for this high percentage, according to Mr. Alvi is that BRSP has planned to collect data in first phase from areas;

- Which were nearest to district headquarters
- Which were easily accessible
- In which BRSP has intervene in the past

He said that since socioeconomic conditions in these areas are relatively better than far-flung areas that why data shows high percentage of non-poor. According to him, remote areas will be covered later and it is expected that percentage of poor will be higher in the remote areas.

Regarding validation of the data, Mr. Alvi said that M&E department and field unit in charge is responsible for the validation of the data. Data validation consists of two types; 1) randomly validated data and 2) special cases data. Validation of both types accounts for 10% of the data. Special cases data include;

- Data with maximum and minimum numerations
- Maximum and minimum household size
- Over achievement by enumerators against daily targets (target is 15 HH/enumerator/day)

In responding to a question regarding the reasons for the appoint of only male enumerators, Mr. Ali said that BRSP's advertisement solicited application from both male and female but majority of the applications were received from male. Some female applied for the position but during the interview they regret accepting the position. Only one female accepted the position of enumerator, she was hire and trained but regretted later to continue her job. Given this constraints, BRSP and RSPN later agreed on appointing only male enumerators.

Follow-up on suggestions and recommendations by Specialist M&E RSPN:

- In response to the suggestion, given by Specialist M&E during his visit, Mr. Alvi said that BRSP considers all requirements before giving a go-ahead for the poverty scorecard survey in the field to ensure quality. He said that 10% of the data is validated, specially data in special cases; including data with maximum and minimum numerations, data with maximum and minimum household size and over achievement by enumerators against daily targets. He also said that regular feedback is given to enumerators.
- During the visit of Specialist M&E RSPN, it was recommended that enumerators should write-down all family member names on a notebook first before entering them in the tablet so that no name is missed. BRSP, according to Mr. Alvi, has been ensuring this practice in the field.
- Based on the suggestion of RSPN M&E specialist, the social mobilisation teams of BRSP first identify community facilitators in the area who disseminate information about PSC survey in their communities and share the enumeration plan developed for covering their village/settlement with the communities. This helped BRSP in reducing issues in data collection and availability of household members.



- In response to the suggestion given for preparing route plans using local maps during data collection, Mr. Alvi said that BRSP is following this recommendation but with a bit different approach. Given the local context and isolated population, data collection teams develop Union Council wise route plans and use template advised by RSPN. He said that BRSP is also using GIS which is linked to main web-based MIS and data collection is in real-time.

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

Meeting held with Naimatullah Jan, Senior Manager Programmes-North BRSP to discuss and follow up on action items agreed during Mohammad Ali Azizi, Specialist Social Mobilisation RSPN during his visit to BRSP in August 2017. Mr. Naimatullah Jan said that based on Mr. Azizi's recommendation, BRSP now keep the number of participants in training up to 35.

Regarding invitation/participation of government stakeholders in BRDCEP events, He said BRSP strongly believe in the participation of government stakeholders in programme. He said that Director General Rural Development Academy (RDA) was invited and participated in the closing ceremony of first Orientation Training Workshop (OTW). In the second OTW, sessions have been planned for Director General and Director RDA on "Capacity building and role of RDA and Local Government in Community Driven Development (CDD)".

Mr. Naimatullah Jan also said that group presentations by participants of the training are improved on the basis of recommendations by Mr. Azizi and the issue of group learning exercises have been improved, and participants of the training now stay at training venue instead of daily outback.

Based on the recommendations from Mr. Azizi, Majority of the presentations were in Urdu during the two days of the training in which I participated. Mr. Naimatullah also informed that we will translate all presentation of the training from English into Urdu.

Mr. Naimatullah Jan also explained the overall structure of Field Units in BRDCEP target districts and explained the reporting mechanism from Community Resource Person to the Team Leader BRDCEP. Later on, he introduced his team members and gave a short orientation on the roles and responsibilities of the members.

Meeting was held with Dr. Shahnawaz Khan, Senior Manager Programmes/Team Leader (BRDCEP) to discuss BRDCE programme BRSP component and various aspect of the program activities, challenges and ways forward. He was very optimistic about the effective and efficient implementation of the programme. He stressed upon the shared understanding and proactive coordination among RSPs and with the stakeholders for attaining programme's results.

Thursday, August 24, 2017

Traveled back to Islamabad to participate in meeting with Afghan delegation. But before travel, a detailed meeting held with Ms. Naseema Salam, Gender Focal Person BRSP to discuss actions items and decisions made during the visit of Ms. Sadaf Dar to BRSP in July 2017. Despite challenges, Ms. Naseema Salam was optimistic women participation in the program. She said that key challenges in regard to women participation in BRDCEP program include, but not limited to, scattered population, mobility of women,



illiteracy, male dominance and prevalence of conservative attitude towards women. The agreed upon action items during Ms. Sadaf visit and updates are as followed;

S. No.	Action Item	Status/Updates
1	The BRSP gender focal person will share recommendations on BRSP's existing Gender and HR policies by August 15, 2017, with RSPN	Recommendations on BRSP's existing Gender policy has been shared while recommendation on BRSP's HR policy will be share by August 28, 2017
2	RSPN and BRSP gender focal persons will work together to design and deliver gender sensitization and mainstreaming training in BRDCEP Orientation Training Workshops (OTW) for staff, in Quetta	A comprehensive presentation has been developed and was presented in second OTW
3	Women staff and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) will be hired to ensure access to women community members;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions advertised and female staff recruited for BRDCEP • 70% of the CRPs will be women. She said that participation of women/girls in the program as CRPs is very encouraging
4	The WCOs will form separate village organizations	If forming separate WVOs are not possible due to cultural constraints, joined VOs will be formed
5	What will be the BRSP approach to ensure coordination between men and women staff and LSOs and VOs. What about budget impacts?	As per Senior Manager Programmes-North, coordination between women staff of LSOs and VOs will be done through women CRPs and coordination committees. Since, it does not require any mobility cost therefore there will be no budget implications
6	Women LSOs and VOs will need extra efforts and resources for capacity building. How to cater to this in terms of limited staff time and budget?	As per Senior Manager Programmes-North, BRSP will ensure field level training through existing trained Human Resources. This will not considerably affect budget.

Ms. Naseem Salam reaffirm the commitments made during RSPN gender focal visit to Quetta which include;

- All programme interventions and awareness should benefit women and girls;
- Women will be part of planning, designing and implementation of all programme interventions;



- The capacity of male staff and male CRPs will be built to facilitate the gender sensitization and mainstreaming process and also to facilitate women staff and CRPs.
- The achievements, issues and challenges will be documented and shared with the RSPs and other stakeholders.