



BALUCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (BRDCEP)
EXPOSURE VISIT TO TURBAT, DISTRICT KECH



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS FOR BRDCEP GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER





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Author, Editing and Formatting

Mawish Iqbal, Documentation and Reporting Officer, BRDCEP, RSPN

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BALUCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRDCEP) is supported by the European Union (EU) and being implemented in close collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RDD) Department of the Government of Balochistan (GoB). The EU funded BRDCEP is a five-year programme. The Grant component of the programme is being implemented by three partners, namely Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), in 249 rural union councils of eight districts of Balochistan. These eight districts are: Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Pishin, Washuk, and Zhob. The EU has also engaged the services of Human Dynamics, an Austrian company, to enable the Government of Balochistan (GoB) to contribute in fostering an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local government/authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory local public sector planning, financing, and implementation processes. BRDCEP will also support GoB in Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms.

The overall objective of the programme is to support the Government of Balochistan in its efforts to reduce the negative impact of economic deprivation, poverty and social inequality, environmental degradation and climate change, and instead to develop opportunities by building and empowering resilient communities to participate actively in identifying and implementing socio-economic development activities on a sustainable basis in partnership with local authorities. The specific objectives are: 1) To empower citizens and communities and provide them with means enabling them to implement community-driven socio-economic development interventions, an increased voice and capability to influence public policy decision making through active engagement with local authorities for quality, inclusive, and equitable service delivery, and civic-oversight; 2) To foster an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory processes of the local public sector planning, financing and implementation process. Under BRDCEP, 1.9 million Pakistani citizens of 300,000 poor rural households in 249 union councils will be mobilised and organised into a network of people's own institutions: 19,129 Community Organisations (COs); 3,103 Village Organisations (VOs); 249 Local Support Organisations (LSOs) and 31 LSO Networks at tehsil level and eight at district level who will closely work with local authorities and other stakeholders for their development.

ROLE OF RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK IN BRDCEP

The specific objective of RSPN in BRDCEP is to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of BRSP and NRSP and provide support and evidence to the EU-TA in order to effectively support the GoB in its objective of improving public service delivery. In addition, RSPN is also responsible for ensuring coherence in programme approaches and uniformity in programme implementation and standardisation in monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

RSPN will assist BRSP and NRSP in operationalisation of the monitoring and evaluation framework and ensure regular reporting on common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) through a joint integrated MIS/GIS system, develop and implemented by BRSP and NRSP. RSPN will develop and implement a web-based real time reporting Management Information Systems (MIS) Dashboard and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to track KPIs in addition to publication of an annual common KPI report. Also, RSPN will conduct research under BRDCEP to generate evidence for policy recommendations to support the Local Development Policy Framework for Balochistan. RSPN will also develop and implement a communication and visibility plan under BRDCEP.

EXPOSURE VISIT TO TURBAT AND ITS OBJECTIVES

BRDCEP team of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) visited District Kech from November 01-03, 2017. The objectives of the exposure visit were as follows.

- To develop understanding and familiarisation with the overall context of the district.
- To visit Community Institution (CIs) formed with the support of NRSP.
- To discuss and understand contribution of the three tier social mobilisation approach of RSPs.
- To meet with Relevant Local Authorities and understand the context Local Authorities work in.
- Transform the learning into knowledge products.
- Identify issues, themes, and community concerns for programme research agenda.

Following members were part of the team:

1. Mr. Ahmed Ullah, Programme Manager, BRDCEP RSPN
2. Mr. Amir Mustafa, Research Coordinator, BRDCEP RSPN
3. Ms. Sadia Rashid, MIS Officer, BRDCEP RSPN
4. Ms. Mawish Iqbal, Documentation and Reporting Officer, BRDCEP RSPN

The said visit provided valuable insights to BRDCEP team about the role and work of NRSP in Kech district. They did not only observe the on ground efforts and work of NRSP but also enjoyed the great hospitality and cooperation by the host team. RSPN team will like to express its sincere appreciation for NRSP for the excellent preparation of the visits and earnest reception. RSPN would also like to thank the local representatives of the GoB for the warm welcome, cooperation and hospitality. Moreover, the reception given to the team, in the visited villages, has left an incredible impression on hearts of the visiting team members.

DAY ONE (NOVEMBER 01, 2017)

MEETING WITH NRSP BRDCEP TEAM

On first day of the visit, the RSPN team had a meeting with the NRSP-BRDCEP team. The purpose of this meeting was as follows:

- To have a formal introduction of both teams with each other.
- To learn more about the work of NRSP in district Kech.
- To share and discuss the role of NRSP and RSPN in BRDCEP.

The meeting began with the recitation from the Holy Quran by one of the participants. After the recitation, Mr. Ahmed Ullah (Programme Manager, BRDCEP RSPN), briefly shared the purpose of the visit. He said, *“We are here to learn from the excellent work, NRSP has been doing for long in District Kech.”*

Following to it, Ms. Gul Afroz, District Programme Officer, NRSP, enlightened the participants on the work and projects



of the NRSP through a power point presentation. She shared that in Kech there are three types of community institutions (i.e., male, female and mixed); as the socio-cultural dynamics in Kech district are different from other parts of the Balochistan. *“Women are more participative in this area”*, said Ms. Gul Afroz. She shared that currently NRSP is implementing four programmes including BRDCEP. Ms. Gul Afroz explained the major activities and achievements under each of these projects and programmes.

Later, Mr. Ghulam Rasool, BRDCEP Programme Manager, NRSP, gave a presentation on the role of NRSP in BRDCEP. Firstly, he shared the overall BRDCEP highlights including its objectives, strategic focus, activities, expected outcomes and results. He then moved to the role, progress and future plan of NRSP in BRDCEP. He informed that the planning and union council mapping for the baseline survey had been completed. While the poverty scorecard census was underway. Out of the estimated 66,795 rural households in the district, 15,327 households had been surveyed. He also underscored the challenges that NRSP was facing at the moment in achieving project targets. These challenges are as given below.

- Migration.
- Socioeconomic issues.
- Security issues.

Mr. Ghulam Rasool shared that BRDCEP data is being uploaded on weekly basis as poor internet service is a major reason for not uploading it daily. Mr. Ahmed Ullah, Programme Manager BRDCEP-RSPN, then thanked NRSP team for the comprehensive presentations. He expressed that this has enhanced the understanding of NRSP work in general and its role in BRDCEP in particular.

FIELD VISIT TO LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION SORAAP

The BRDCEP RSPN team along with the officials of NRSP visited Union Council Gordan to have an exchange of ideas with LSO Soraap. This is a mixed LSO and is registered with the Social Welfare Department. Under this LSO, out of 3036

households, 2604 households are organised. It consists of 129 COs (72 females, 48 males and 9 mixed) and 10 mixed VO. LSO Soraap is composed of 60 general body members that include 30 women and 30 men. Following self-help initiatives have been taken by this LSO so far.

- Established strong coordination with National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and supported community members to get Computerised National Identity Cards (CNIC).
- Supported the rehabilitation camp after the recent floods.
- Set up an English Language Centre.
- Has been facilitating community women with the documentation process of the local Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) office.

One of the important activities of LSO is to manage the Community Investment Fund (CIF). Until now PKR 2,000, 000 has been received; out of which PKR 1,000,000 is CIF amount and PKR 1,000,000 is Community Livestock Fund (CLF). The amount lend is PKR 9960000. The current portfolio is PKR 2620000. On CIF loans to CO members, a service charge of 15 percent per annum is charged and the recovery rate is over 99 percent.



Regarding implementation of Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) schemes, several committees are set up to initiate and complete the execution of the identified and prioritised schemes. Every second year, the Union Council Development Plan (UCDP) is updated. Discussion with the LSO members revealed that asset transfer has impacted the lives of the poor households quite positively. It has helped people, to establish small business enterprises. As the result of strong social mobilisation, women are now more empowered than before. It was interesting to learn that, the local LSO members gathered daily in the evenings and had a strong social cohesion. In this manner, they were becoming more aware of their mutual issues and accomplishments. They said that such gatherings helped in smooth flow of work and issues get resolved quickly.

Until now Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have delivered community sessions at CO level on education and health. Also, in total 45 persons (15 males and 30 females) have received various Technical and Vocational Skills and Training (TVST). The LSO members said that it will be great if a tool kit is also provided at the end of the training as in this way it can be more beneficial for the poor beneficiary to carry out the learned trade. They also said that there is demand for more vocational training in sewing and stitching, mobile repairing and plumbing. LSO members mentioned that NRSP has distributed mosquito nets and provided awareness trainings on



sanitation that resulted in low risk of malaria. It was also mentioned that some members of LSO come/travel from distant locations. In order to facilitate their regular participation in LSO events, their transport costs are reimbursed by LSO from its own funds. LSO members were fully aware about the importance of fostering linkages with the public institutions, local authorities and other government departments. They had the realization that this would not only contribute in benefiting the local people but also would add to the sustainability of LSO itself. During the meeting, some of the LSO members flagged the need of a multi-purpose hall as it would serve as LSO's office, community hall and may be a wedding hall too. They shared that LSO is trying to identify sources to build this community hall.

The team was also taken to the sites of two schemes: Basic Health Unit (BHU) and water supply schemes.

VISIT TO BASIC HEALTH UNIT

BHU Dannuk was selected for necessary repair work under Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) Health Development Plan. It was refurbished through improved basic services such as wash rooms and replacement of doors and windows. A new labor room has also been built here to offer labour services to local communities. newly built. The people of the area now do not go far away as they can now access all necessary health services here. The adjoin communities are also benefitting from BHU Dannuk and are satisfied with its facilities.



VISIT TO DRINKING WATER SCHEME

The need of water scheme was identified by the women CO Qandeel as they women had to fetch water from far away. The resolution was sent to VO and then LSO. About 85 percent share came from Pakistan Poverty Alleviation fund (PPAF) and 15 percent was community contribution under PPR. VO and LSO members were also involved in facilitation and monitoring of the scheme for ensuring quality work. Under this scheme, one overhead water tank and switch room were constructed. About 200 feet bore was drilled, one valve chamber and 860rft pipe line have been installed for beneficiaries. From it, 50 households that comprises of 350 persons are benefiting.



DAY TWO (NOVEMBER 02,2017)

FIELD VISIT TO WOMEN COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

The women based CO Dal-e-Bazar Shey Khn was formed on 02nd June, 2013 and comprises of 19 members. The saving amount varies as per the resources of the member. The members save between PKR.15- 100 per month.

The CO members shared that they have a great role of women in identification of schemes and activities. The VO and LSO members respect their decisions and priorities the schemes that are more inclined towards females and children. They also shared that the asset transfers (from SAP PK) and income generating grants (IGGs) through NRSP funding have transformed the lives of the beneficiaries. Through these, some of the women beneficiaries have been able to upscale their tuck shop and sewing businesses; thereby, contributing more to their household income.

Referring to the effectiveness of trainings provided through CRPs, it was shared that trainings on sanitation and hygiene have been very effective. These have not only raised awareness but improved health issues too. Most women and children are now using latrines. Visiting team identified following training needs during the visit.

- Teacher Training
- Midwifery.
- Embroidery Work.

However, “the key issue in the community is non-availability of safe and clean drinking water”, highlighted the CO members. For fetching water, women have to go far away to a well that is 250 feet deep. It takes 20-25 minutes to fetch one small bucket of water. Another issues highlighted by the CO members were meagre health and education facilities in the area. Also, the need for protection structure on the river bank was mentioned. The CO members shared that the Social Organiser (SO) visits them from time to time.

This visit is always helpful for the monitoring purpose as it also helps them for effective use of CO platform. During the meeting, almost all of the CO members except one, expressed that regular monthly meeting was enough to discuss and share their issues. They shared that their future plan was to further strengthen linkages with VO and LSO.



FIELD VISIT TO MIXED VILLAGE ORGANISATION

The team then visited a mixed VO Godi. It was established on 31st July, 2006 and has 10 members. It comprises of five COs (3 male COs and 2 female COs) and 141 households.

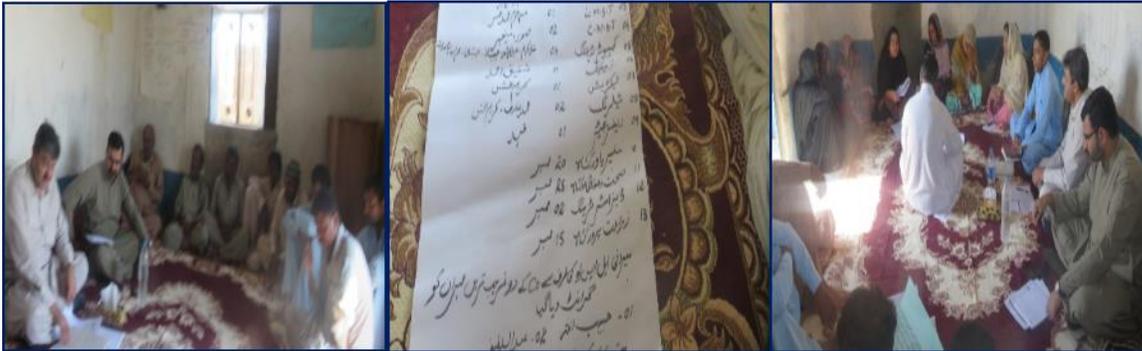
It was interesting to learn that the recovery rate of loans and inter-lending was 100 percent. Through this VO several trainings have been held so far. It includes training on enterprise development; livestock management; leadership management etc.

Whereas, different training of trainers (ToTs) were also held on the topics such as education and enrolment; sanitation; ecotourism; etc. Remarkable achievements have been that two male members of the village secured jobs in Navy due to

the trainings they received. The VO members highlighted their primary issue is of scarcity of drinking water that needs to be addressed on priority basis. The women members shared that they travel miles on foot to fetch water for domestic needs.

The most remarkable self-help initiative carried out by this VO was demonstrated during the flash flood of 2007, when whole village was destroyed and the communities had to relocate themselves to the place they are living now. To ensure the supply of electricity in their new homes, they transferred electricity poles from the flood-affected village by approaching the local authorities.

Another self-help initiative was taken by the communities during the registration and making of national identity cards (CNICs) for Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). The future plans of the mixed VO include to register the VO, built river bank protection scheme and establishment of a literacy centre.



DAY-3 (NOVEMBER 03, 2017)

MEETING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

On the third day, RSPN and NRSP team went to local government office to meet the relevant officials, understand their work mechanism and discuss various aspects of BRDCEP in context of District Kech. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mohammad Azeem, Director Local Government and Rural Development Department (LG&RDD) Makran Division. Other members of the meeting included Union Council (UC) secretaries from district Kech and NRSP staff.

Some of the main points discussed in the meeting were the following:

- District's landscape and key features.
- LG&RDD coordination with RSPs in addressing prevailing issues in the district.
- BRDCEP role in Kech district.

Mr. Mohammad Azeem welcomed the visitors and briefed them about LG&RDD work in district Kech. UC secretaries, present in the meeting, also shared highlights of their work in their respective UCs and coordination with NRSP.

Mr. Ahmed Ullah thanked the Director and his team for the meeting and orientation on their work at district and UC level. He discussed and shared the goal, objectives and activities of the BRDCEP and the coordination mechanism with the host team. LG&RDD appreciated the efforts of RSPs and EU under BRDCEP for Balochistan.

Talking to the meeting attendees, Mr. Ghulam Rasool shared the history of NRSP and how BRDCEP will contribute in development of Balochistan, particularly District Kech. He also provided details of progress made under BRDCEP so far. Referring to PSC census, he said that this would provide information about the current poverty status of the households. Later survey will show how many households have improved their poverty status. He shared that under BRDCEP, community and local government departments will work together to mobilise communities. Another survey will be conducted to capture the socio-economic baseline. Subsequent survey will demonstrate improvement in households' socio-economic status.

Director LG & RDD stated that he was part of the BRDCEP team, that visited Tajikistan for exposure visit and shared "I witnessed that when local government and community institutions work together; the development process becomes accelerated, more inclusive, more transparent and more effective. He further added that he observed there that three facets that contribute to development include: community ownership; quality education and women's participation."

He appreciated working of RSPs and hoped that BRDCEP would make significant contributions to improve the socio-economic status of the rural households of Kech District. He said that he would try his best to invite LSOs from Kech district to attend the development planning and budget related meetings held by local government. He hoped that it would be a good opportunity to exchange information and develop better understanding of programme activities.

Mr. Ghulam Rasool from NRSP enlightened about activities that will take place under BRDCEP such as TVET, adult literacy and numeracy skills, grants to the ultra-poor households to increase income, CIF, capacity building etc.



The Union Councils' secretaries present in the meeting also promised to lend full support under BRDCEP.

DEBRIEFING SESSION WITH NRSP

Later on, a debriefing session was held with NRSP team in which RSPN team appreciated the work and on ground efforts of NRSP team, especially with regards to its efforts in social mobilisation and strong linkage and liasoning with the government. The visiting team also thanked NRSP for their hospitality and impressive coordination during the visit they experienced. Both teams pledged to continue supporting each other in future.



OUTCOMES AND LESSONS LEARNT

The visit on the whole remained very fruitful. It was good to meet and know about NRSP team and its work. Visiting community institutions (CIs) with NRSP team provided a good opportunity to RSPN team in d familiarization with the three-tiered social mobilisation approach.

Women members of the CIs shared their experience of becoming members of community institutions and beneficiary of various components such as: asset transfer, CIF, vocational training, etc.) which raised their self-esteem and increased their role in decision making. It was interesting to learn that how nicely the members of community institutions (Cis) were performing their role and responsibilities for the betterment and development of their people. They are doing it willingly by ensuring financial discipline and transparency quite well.

Meeting different local dignitaries was also a great experience and it was good to see how interested they are in forming synergies with NRSP under BRDCEP. They were cordial and opened to offer their unconditional support and full cooperation if ever required by BRDCEP partners.

Recommendations:

1. Women participation could be low in other districts' CIs, unlike this, women participation in Kech was dominating in efforts and numbers; BRDCEP CIs can be developed with maximum women participation to achieve overall programme outcome 50 percent of members of CIs and beneficiaries of socio-economic interventions are women'.
2. Communities, Local Government and Rural Development Department officials, and NRSP staff in various meetings stressed the scarcity of water for drinking, farming, fishing etc. The issue has crafted multifaceted challenges in rural communities, which need to be addressed during programme interventions. The key challenges in this regard includes

scarcity of drinking water, women in water management, frequent use of aqua tablets, increasing water borne diseases, floods, water deficiency for farming, decreasing animal catering, lessening fishing etc.

3. RSPN may help to streamline research of University of Turbat with focus of Local Government and Rural Development Department and RSPs. Researchers, officials, and CIs of University, LG&RDD, and RSPs respectively may produce joint research using participatory action research approach in local rural context.

Kech/Turbat Visit – A Pictorial View



BHU for the pregnant women and resettled by LSO Surap, trained LDW serves eight hours and available on mobile for 24 hours.



With NRSP help, the BHU reconstructed the rooms and boundary for safe and approachable environment.



LSO Godi controls the water well to supply water to 300000 households, NRSP constructed the water tank with contribution of 300000 and LSO saving 3000000.



Flood suppressed us to leave our village. Rural communities currently facing issues related to disasters, infrastructure, water, livelihood; we expect BRDCEP to address these issues. Sharif, LSO Member



Electricity poles shifted by community and electrified by WAPDA. Community spent 21000 from their saving after to newly settled location after Flood 2007.



Flood 2007 cornered girls' lives more severely, in new settlement no girls' school, no BHU/dispensary for pregnant, water carrying...