



## Field Visit Report District Pishin, Balochistan



**Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRDCEP)**

**EU-funded Programme (BRDCEP) being implemented in collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development Department, Government of Balochistan**

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS FOR BRDCEP GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



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## **Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme**

European Union (EU funded Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRDCEP) is, a five year, being implemented in close collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RDD) Department of the Government of Balochistan (GoB). 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 eight districts of Balochistan. These include 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 support the BRDCEP and 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 (HHs) in 249 union councils (UCs) 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 RSPN 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 programme TA in order to effectively support the GoB in its objective of improving public service delivery. To attain this objective, RSPN is responsible to provide regular support to programme implementing partners for ensuring coherence in programme approaches and uniformity in programme implementation and standardisation in monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Specifically, RSPN will assist BRSP and NRSP in operationalization of the monitoring and evaluation framework and ensure regular reporting on common Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) through a joint integrated MIS/GIS system. 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 for BRSP and NRSP components for the programme.

## Visit to District Pishin

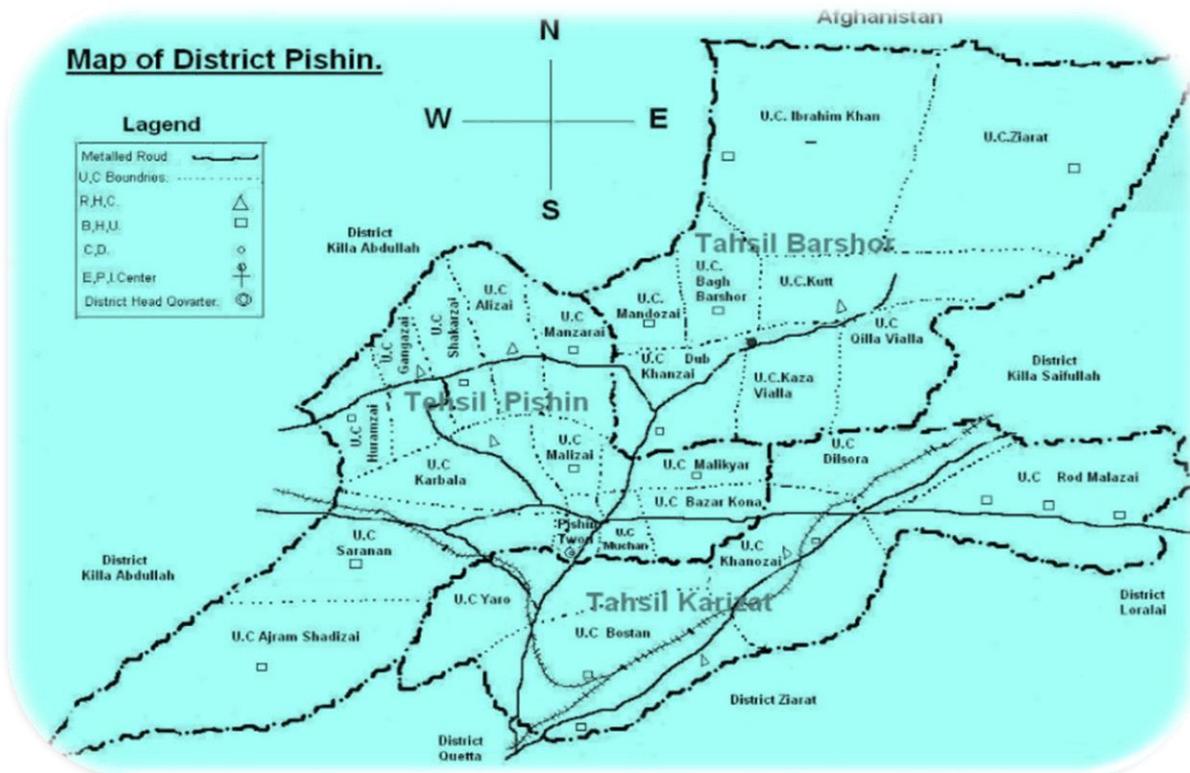
On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the BRDCEP RSPN team visited District Pishin. The purpose of the visit was to meet with members of the Community Institutions (CIs) and learn from the processes they adopt and linkages they have developed and interventions they undertake for development of their communities. This visit has also provided us an opportunity to meet with beneficiaries of Community Physical Infrastructures and livelihood enhancement activities which helped BRDCEP team members understand the role and work of BRSP in the district. Members of the field visit from RSPN team comprised of four members that included:

1. Mr. Ahmed Ullah, Programme Manager BRDCEP
2. Mr. Asmat Kakar, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer BRDCEP
3. Mr. Assad Abbas, Communication Officer BRDCEP
4. Ms. Mawish Iqbal, Documentation and Reporting Officer BRDCEP

RSPN team will like to express appreciation to the communities for their time and affection.

## Short Profile of District Pishin

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 1975, Pishin attained the status of District. Formerly, it was part of the District Quetta. It is situated between 30° 04' to 31° 17' north latitudes and 66° 13' to 67° 50' east longitudes. Predominantly, the Pashtoons reside in the District Pishin. Map of District Pishin is given below.



*District Pishin Map*

As stated by the latest census of Pakistan 2017, the total population of District Pishin is 736,481. The gender wise data integration informs that in total there are 379,122 males, 357,356 females and 03 shemales/transgenders.

Summers are pleasant whereas winters are quite cold. The rain pattern in the district is irregular. The following is the risk status for natural disasters in the District Pishin.

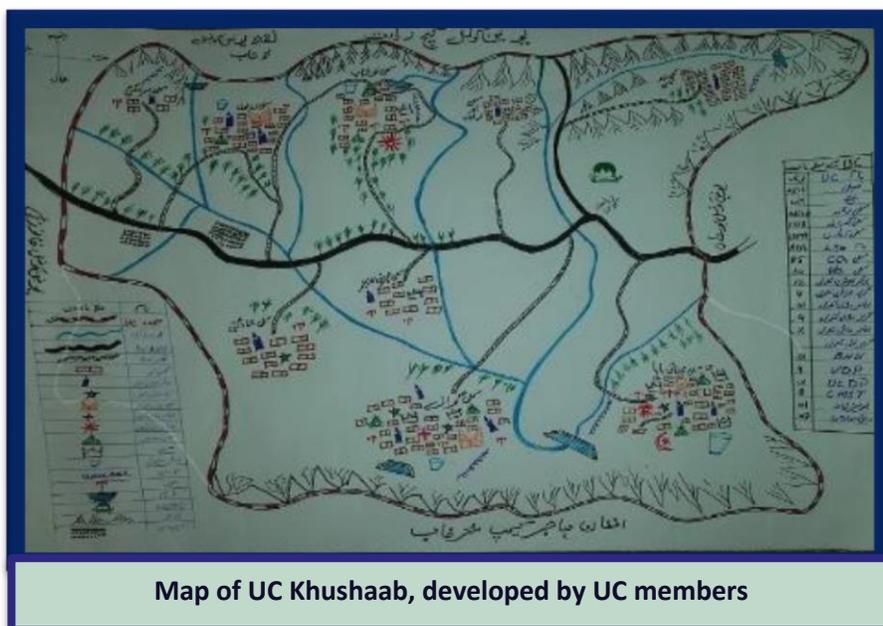
1. high for earthquakes;
2. high for droughts; and
3. low for floods, locusts/pests.

Agriculture and livestock are the main sources of livelihood in the district. As far as education is concerned, relatively lower gender disparity is observed in the district in comparison with the province. However, the health facilities are meager in the district.

### Visit to LSO Area Development Society

The BRDCEP RSPN team along with the BRSP representatives visited Union Council Khushaab to have an interaction with LSO named as Area Development Society. It is a male only LSO and was established on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. It has 96 General Body members and 11 Executive Body members. It is composed of 96 COs and 11 VO.

Firstly, the profile of UC Khushaab was presented through the PowerPoint presentation by LSO Chairman. The LSO comprises of 10 villages and 05 Mouzas. The total population in the UC is 12,899. The disintegrated data informs that there are 3,135 men,



4,684 women and 5,078 children. Pashtu is the main language spoken in the UC. Only one karez remains in the village Khushab, and the other all Karezes have been dried due to the drought.

As per the earlier conducted Poverty Scorecard, 198 HHs fall under 0-11; 685 households (HHs) lie under 12-18; 270 HHs fall under 13-23 and 185 HHs lie under 24-100 in Union Council. It also informed that agriculture is the primary source of income for the majority of the HHs followed by livestock and daily wage earners. The literacy rate depicts that education of male students is preferred over females; as 75 percent males are literate, compared to 45 percent females in the UC Khushaab. Nonetheless, the literacy rate in the district is very low as only 35 percent of the males and 15 percent of the females are literate. With respect to irrigation sources, it was shared that from 47 Tubewells 310 HHs are benefitting followed by three Karez from which 120 HHs are benefitting. In case of drinking water, the majority of the HHs are utilizing water supply schemes followed by dug well, Karez.

The LSO members shared that before the advent of social mobilisation and formation of community institutions in this UC, there were multiple social issues including; limited mobility of women, non-representation of women in the CIs, illiteracy, tribal strife, weak linkages with the local authorities and government departments. The chairman informed that they have undertaken the several self-help initiatives from the platform of LSO; a few of which are as follows:

- Verification of Poverty Score Card of 1382 HHs;
- Supported 85 men and 125 women in attaining their National Identity Cards;



Another noteworthy feature is that this LSO has developed strong linkages with local authorities, government departments and private entities and organisations including, District Chairman, Members National Assembly (MNA), Members Provincial Assembly (MPA) and Government Departments. Strong working relationship with stakeholders has contributed in improved public service delivery. Some of the examples include:

- Through MNA fund, the LSO provided
  - Health treatment to 11 persons.
  - Water supply by installing 2,000 feet pipeline in the UC.
  - Scholarship for 30 children of poorest of the poor families.
- From MPA Fund, the LSO provided
  - Electricity transformer for water supply scheme.
- Two girls middle schools have been upgraded to high school.
- Various awareness raising trainings have been given to members of the LSO.

One of the LSO member shared a very interesting anecdote. One of the religious leaders was initially not happy with the CIs work and thought it to be a source of causing disruption in the social fabric. However, the LSO members explained him the significance and process of social mobilisation. He was so impressed that later he himself became member of one of the CIs.

The LSO members also shared that they envision that in next five years there LSO will be a model LSO in the province, where women voice will be at the top and children will be well aware of their rights. Also, the LSO will ensure that all the children in UC are enrolled in the school.

### Visit to CO Muskaan

The team then visited the CO Muskaan. It was a women only CO and was formed on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. It has 17 members and is part of Zarghoon VO. The CO members shared that it has been formed in a democratic manner involving all the community members. It holds a meeting on first of every month. Further, the CO members reported that before the formation of CO, the key prevailing issues included: meager women's mobility; access of water; no self-help initiatives, etc.

From CO savings, one of the CO members was provided with a sewing machine that enabled her to earn livelihood for her household. Until now, the CO savings are PKR 19,600. It was encouraging to observe that due to the CO Muskaan the women mobility and self-esteem has raised in the community.

The CO members also divulged that they received the trainings on food processing and drying. However, the asset was only transferred to one woman; who in return has been able to capitalize from it. They pronounced that only skill development is not adequate, the asset or toolkit should be provided to the training beneficiaries in order to start earning.

They also said that the trainings should be extensive and of at least 2-3 months. The CO members identified the needs for the following trainings:

- Beautician
- Sewing
- English Language
- Computer Basic Skills

One of the CO member who herself is a student shared that she provides free tuition to young children in the community. Also, the sanitation and hygiene practices have improved through the awareness raising sessions. People are properly disposing off the solid waste. Some of the CO women are engaged in embroidery work.



One of the most important achievement of the CO is establishment of water supply scheme in the village. The need of tube well was identified as women had to fetch water from a faraway place that costed 30 minutes per trip. This need was shared with VO and then later on it was approved. Now, through the tube well the need of 60-70 households is being met. Referring to the future plans of the CO, the members highlighted that they will focus more towards increasing women mobility; establishment of more schools in the village that have local teachers appointed.

### Visit to Primary Boys School

The team then visited the newly reconstructed primary boys school building in Killi (village) Zarghoon. The four classrooms of this school were destroyed in 2008 earthquake. Two shallow intensive earthquakes of Mw 6.5 hit the Pishin-Ziarat districts on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Those two seismic events occurred between 12 hours of each other and are known as Double Earthquake.

It affected approximately 108,000 people; out of which 50 percent of them were children, and around 19,000 children affected were under five years of age. As per the McRAM survey, around 85 percent of the total 300 schools in the affected areas were fully or partly destroyed.

It was shared that the LSO Area Development Society with the facilitation of BRSP has played a major role in construction of two rooms and water tank in the school.



The latrine construction was underway. The LSO has also helped in establishment of Parent Teacher School Management Training and environment club along with the provision of teacher training. Also, UNICEF provided the shelter. After reconstruction, the number of students enrolled in the school has increased to 115 from 72. However, at the moment only two teachers are teaching there.

Furthermore, due to the efforts of the LSO and VO Zarghoon and strong public private linkages the Education Department has upgraded the school to middle level. The new building construction will start in March 2018.

### Visit to VO Khusaab

The team then met with VO Khusaab members. Though the VO Khusaab is a mix VO, only male VO members met us. For the reason, that women members do not attend mixed meetings when participants from outside of the community are present owing to prevailing cultural norms.

A presentation on powerpoint was exhibited to showcase the VO Khusaab profile and achievements. VO Khusaab was formed on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 and is composed of 23 COs. Out of these 23 COs, 16 are male COs and 7 are female COs. It was also informed that 9 persons with special abilities are also members of these COs. This LSO has nine executive body members that comprises of five males and four female members. It also constitutes 46 general body members that includes 32 men and 14 women.



helpful that in the coming years their village be a model village. It will be well aware community and well equipped with all the necessary facilities.

### Visit to Water Supply Scheme

In the isolated setting of Union Council Khushab, District Pishin, the CO Saloo Women are content on the approval of their demand for construction of a water storage tank. Its construction started on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and completed on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017. In its construction PPAF contributed 80% and 20% was community contribution.

The water tank is 2,900 feet and its size is 15x15x6 feet. The water is stored in the tank at night and the women can fetch it in the day time when there is no electricity. From this water supply scheme, 180 HHs comprising of 1,728 persons are currently benefiting. It saves the time of women and now they can do other productive activities. It has contributed improved the health status of the community.



Before this water supply scheme, no clean drinking water was available to the community during day time due to non-availability of electricity. It was shared that initially this tubewell was there but due to the electricity loading shedding water was only available at night time. As the women are responsible for fetching water it was not feasible for them to fetch water at night. The only source of clean water was tanker and it was quite costly as one taker costed PKR 2,000. As it was expensive, most of the community members used to drink water from agricultural source of water that resulted in disease burden. Children were unable to attend the school as well. It was costing a dent on the pockets of the poor HHs.

## Meeting with Raz Muhammad

We then interacted with Mr. Raz Muhammad, a livelihood intervention beneficiary of the VO. He shared his success story with us. Mr. Raz Muhammad is 34 years old and resides in Village Zarghoon, UC Khusaab, District Pishin. His household is comprised of 11 persons.

Before the asset transfer he was unemployed and his household was ultra-poor. His household scored 11 in case of PSC. He said, *“Through BRSP/PPAF in the year 2016, I received PKR 50,000 to purchase a rickshaw in order to earn bread and butter.”*

This asset transfer changed his life. *“Currently, I earn PKR 500 daily which means PKR 15000 monthly. All the children in the household are attending the school and our wellbeing has improved over time”*, shared Mr. Raz Muhammad.



He now has PKR 90,000 as an asset in the form of the rickshaw. He is a member Nai Umang CO and presently he contributes PKR 100 as saving on a monthly basis. He is hopeful that his situation will further improve in the future.

## Meeting with Ali Shah

We also met Mr. Ali Shah, a livelihood intervention beneficiary of the VO, who is a resident of village Bala Khusaab, UC Khusaab. He is 29 years old and his household is composed of 13 members. He is a member of Moonlight CO.

He shared that before the asset transfer, his family was extremely poverty stricken and loaded with loans. He



was the only bread earner and that too a daily wage earner. Most of the days he did not get any labour work. The children in the households were not going to school due to scarce financial resources.

Mr. Ali Shah said, *“In 2015, BRSP did social mobilisation under PPR in his village. Considering the poverty score (10) of my household, the VO suggested BRSP to help my household and provide us with some loan/cash to start a small business. Thus, BRSP provided us with PKR 50,000 as grant*

*with which I opened a butcher shop. I was also provided with the relevant training.”* The butcher shop is then extended to vegetable shop and supply of LPG in the village. He told that he earns PKR 11,000 monthly nowadays. The situation of his household has changed significantly. He said, *“Now we have money to fulfil our basic needs including health and education expenditures. Also, all school age children in my family are now attending school.”* He envisions a bright future for his family.

## **Conclusion, Observations and Recommendations**

Overall, the visit was well arranged. In summary, we observed that an effective social mobilization employing participatory approach intervention contributes largely in the success and sustainability of activities and schemes. In addition to this, the village development plans along with participatory M&E system through social mobilization process is helping CIs to transparently conceptualize the community issues on priority basis. Further the awareness raising sessions and capacity building as well as vocational training activities have increased the community skills to access and properly utilize available resources within communities.

We also have some observations and recommendations to further these efforts.

- **Livestock Management**

Women play a key role in livestock activities; for that reason, the significance of women participation in livestock industry should be recognized in government plans and policies. Access to credit should be available for rural women as this will provide them decision power in livestock management activities.

- **Agricultural Policy Reforms**

Agriculture is the mainstay source of livelihoods in District Pishin. Keeping this in retrospect, policy reforms should encourage the establishment of small rural agro-based industries. This can benefit branching out in the usage of agricultural resources and also spawn employment opportunities for rural men and women.

- **Vocational Training**

More women should be trained in food processing and preservation of various fruits, vegetables and livestock products. Above all, they should get the toolkit after the training.

- **Women Mobility and Representation**

Social mobilisation has enhanced women mobility to some extent. There was no women representation earlier in the community. A lot of women were able to participate in vocational trainings and exposure visits for the first time. This has improved their self-confidence and liberation. Women’s participation would help bring about equity in resource distribution.

- **Gender Mainstreaming**

There is a long way to go in case of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. Though women are present in the form of women COs and mix VOs; but they are not granted permission to take part in joint meetings, when some outsider from the community participate in the meeting, owing to the prevailing cultural norms. Hence, their voice is communicated through male members. The community needs to be sensitized more on women agency and participation. In consequence, in future trainings a session should be conducted on awareness raising with respect to significance of women agency, voice and participation particularly with the key notables and men in the community.