

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme

# Newsletter

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## COVER STORY

### Promoting Community-led Development in Balochistan



# Knowing the BRACE Programme

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) programme is supported by the European Union (EU) and implemented in close collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Department of the Government of Balochistan (GoB). The Grant component of this five year (2017-2022) Programme is being implemented by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in nine districts of Balochistan. BRACE is working in Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Pishin, Duki, Washuk and Zhob. The programme is technically supported by Human Dynamics (HD), an Austrian company that will support Government of Balochistan in fostering an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory local public sector planning, financing and implementation processes.

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IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR THE BRACE'S GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



# Promoting Community Led Development in Balochistan

BRACE Programme believes in the importance of dialogue with communities and makes it part of the programme by engaging communities on different platforms. For this purpose, a community dialogue, led by the RSPN was held with the BRACE communities in district Pishin. The Chairman Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) Mr Shoaib Sultan Khan was the main speaker of the dialogue, who interacted with communities and orientated them on the model and approach of community driven development. This dialogue was part of the BRACE Annual Lesson Learning and Experience Sharing Visit and Workshop in districts Pishin and Quetta held on February 07-08, 2019. The main objective of this Learning Visit and Experience Sharing Workshop was to promote cross-learning and experience sharing regarding RSPs niche of promoting and implementing the social mobilisation approach towards Community Driven Development (CDD) in different parts of Balochistan. At this occasion, speaking to a large number of communities at village Yousuf Kuch of UC Rood Mulazai, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan shared the history of the RSPs, their objectives, approach, methodology and the tremendous impact of the CDD approach on the lives of rural poor all across Pakistan. The central part of his discussion remained on inspiring communities as how could they get benefited from the BRACE Programme by harnessing their innate potential and getting organised into community institutions such as COs, VOs and LSOs, to better their lives by graduating out of household poverty. At this occasion, the community members also discussed and highlighted their day to day challenges that generally pertained to livelihood, health and employment. Participants of the dialogue also included Dr. Rashid Bajwa, CEO



NRSP, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech, CEO BRSP, Ms Shahidah Jaffery, Board Member BRSP, Mr. Khaleel Ahmed Tetlay, Chief Operating Officer RSPN, BRACE Programme team members from RSPN, BRSP and NRSP and the representatives of national and local media from Pishin and Quetta. After the dialogue, the delegation held a meeting with the key stakeholders of district Pishin including Member of National Assembly of Pakistan (MNA), Members of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan (MPA), representatives of political parties, and officials of district administration including Deputy Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue). The field visit was followed by an experience sharing and learning workshop held at BRSP's office in Quetta.



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

### Village Development Plans, a gateway to sustainable development

A Village Development Plan (VDP) is a five-year road map to the village development, devised by the communities, representatives of the village organisations and the local authorities. The VDP plan is developed and designed keeping in view the priorities needs and demands as identified by the communities themselves. Until the reporting period, a total of 681 VDPs are formed under BRACE in 9 districts. The submitted were formed on around the

development initiatives for focusing on Micro Investment Plans (MIPs), youth development, adult literacy, women empowerment and inclusion of all peers and societal groups regardless of their gender or ethnicity. VDP meetings were attended by the executive members of the community institutions, BRSP and NRSP staff and representatives of the line departments.

### Youth Bracing Positive Change through Sports Engagement

Sports is a very effective tool to promote peace and development among youth and society. The inclusion of youth in sports is vital to promote positivity and foster their mental and physical health. With this aim, the BRACE Programme has engaged the local youth in various sports galas. During January to June 2019, BRACE programme has conducted sports galas in Jhal Magsi, Khuzdar and Washuk districts. The activity offered the local youth a platform to demonstrate their mental and physical skills through different sports in front of their parents, teachers, communities and the district administrations. Sports played in the two-week long galas included Cricket, football, Kabaddi and Taekwondo. The Sports galas held in all 3 districts received full support and cooperation from the district and local administration. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the sports gala in Khuzdar, the Deputy Commissioner Mr Ilyas Kibzai thanked BRACE Programme and European Union for enabling the local youth an opportunity to showcase their skills and talent. He said that it was necessary to engage the local youth in such activities to inculcate values of fair play, cooperation, sharing, respect, patience anger

management and remaining positive. The sports galas also served the purpose of BRACE's viability and promotion among locals.



### Educating Women Through Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills



It is essential for a country to have a minimum of 70% literacy rate for a sustainable growth and socio-economic development. However, these numbers in Pakistan, especially in Balochistan, are grim. Only 27 out of 100 adults are literate with a ratio of 13% for women vs 38% of men in the province.

To address this enormous gap, RSPN and its partners under the EU funded BRACE Programme are playing a critical role by targeting 08 districts of the province with special attention towards the rural women of Balochistan. In order to increase the literacy rate among the rural women at the household level, Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) under the EU funded BRACE Programme has established 55 Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) Skills Building Centres.

At these centres, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are coaching local women on basic reading, writing and counting skills to address their daily numeracy matters. A total of 1340 learners have so far been enrolled in the districts of Pishin, Loralai, Khuzdar, Zhob, Washuk, Jhal Magsi and Killa Abdullah. After attending this 6-month course, these women learners will have the literacy and numeracy level of a third grader. The learners have been selected based on their poverty score card rating and their willingness to acquire basic level literacy skills.

Sharing her experience at one of the ALN centres in Zhob, Jamal Bibi, 35 and a mother of 3 children says;

*“I am ecstatic to get enrolled at the ALN centre. I am learning so many new things here! The most amazing thing which I have learnt so far is to write my own name in Urdu. I hope that after completing the 6-month course, I will be able to read and write better and will not be dependent on others. This will help us understand the use of medicines and to maintain the record of daily household expenditures.”* Upon graduation, the women learners will qualify to be part of income generating activities and will influence gender roles positively.

## Capacity Building of Local Authorities on Participatory Local Development

One of the potential outcomes of the BRACE Programme is to maximize the participation of the communities into decision making in local development. However, this objective cannot be achieved without sensitising and improving working between supply and demand drivers. For this purpose, BRACE Programme organised three days training of elected members, local government authorities' staff, and officials of the line departments to adopt participatory approach by involving communities from planning, to budgeting and execution of the development projects as per the felt needs of the local communities. The trainings conducted by BRSP in Jhal Magis, Loralai and Khuzdar were attended



by the officials from the local government line-departments and LSO representatives. The cross-cutting themes of the training were social mobilization, planning and development, formation of Village Development Plans (VDPs) and Union Council Development Plans (UCDPs), resource mobilization, gender & development, joint district development committee & joint tehsil development committees.

## Inclusive Approach Towards Persons with Special Needs

Balochistan is the most underdeveloped province in terms of humanitarian and infrastructural activities. This gap doubles the sufferings of the already marginalized population including women, children, elderly and persons with special needs, in terms of social, economic and political rights in the province. Especially the PWDs are the most neglected subgroup in the community. It is anticipated that results generated from this disability survey will contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of Persons with Disabilities and their families in Balochistan; initiate a discussion on the concepts and understanding of "disability" and facilitate the government policies,



programmes and donor support on the wellbeing of the population of the Persons with Disabilities. According to PSC survey report 44885 persons with disabilities were identified in the 8 BRACE focused districts of Balochistan.

## Community Women Trained on Enterprise Development (EDT)

NRSP organised the training of Income Generating Grants beneficiaries on enterprise development. The training was aimed to give the IGG beneficiaries the basic concepts on how to establish and run a successful micro enterprise with the received finances. This training also included basic numeric and business management skills so that the women can keep and maintain their income and expenditures record.



## Livelihood Support Through Income Generating Grants

The first trench of 44 sub grants worth of around 6 million has been allocated to the community Institutions for the disbursements of Income Generating Grants to 1086 identified beneficiaries of 6 out of 9 targeted districts. The core purpose of Income Generating Grants (IGGs) is to provide assistance to the poor community

members through one-time cash grant and guidance so that they are able to start economic and income generating activities to generate or increase their incomes. Poverty scorecard is used to identify the eligible households to ensure that only the poor and poorest households (with Poverty Score 0-23) access IGG.

## Technical and Vocational Education for Local Youth

BRSP under BRACE Programme will equip 2,110 women and youth with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) over the course of five years. These TVET skills are meant to provide both youth and the women an opportunity to learn on the skills and knowledge for income generation and economic empowerment. The first batch of 300 youth from 8 target districts are attending a 3 months training on 22 trades as of auto mechanic, auto electrician, general electrician, mobile phone repair, motorcycle



repair, plumbing, refrigeration, solar system installation in Islamabad and Karachi.

## Ensuring Gender Sensitisation and Mainstreaming under BRACE Programme

Rural Support Programme Network organised a four-day Training of Trainers on Gender Sensitisation in Quetta. The training was aimed at sensitising Master Trainers from Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and relevant GoB staff from Social Welfare Department (SWD), Women Development Department (WDD), Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD) on the importance of gender sensitive implementation of the Programme in attaining its objectives and capacitating the staff so that they are able to mainstream gender in all aspects of the Programme. These master trainers will roll-out the training to other programme implementation staff from BRSP and NRSP as well as sensitise the leaders of Community Organisations (COs), Village Organisations (VOs) and Local Support Organisation (LSOs).



Secretary Women Development Department (WDD), Ms. Saira Atta and CEO BRSP Mr. Nadir Gul Barech attended the closing ceremony. Secretary WDD appreciated the efforts of Rural Support Programmes and vowed full support to mainstream gender in respective areas. She also distributed certificates among the master trainers.

## Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (June 2017-June 2019)

Key Performance Indicators	Target June 2017 to June 2019	Achievements June 2017 to June 2019	Percentage Achievement
Households Organised	156,842	141,252	90%
Population Covered Under PSC Survey	2,787,315	1,840,881	66%
No. of HHs with PSC Survey Completed	380,772	334,470	88%
Community Organisations Formed	10,169	9,623	95%
Village Organisations Formed	1,669	2,017	121%
Local Support Organisations Formed	131	92	70%
Micro Investment Plans	152,628	90,852	60%
Village Development Plans	1,708	681	40%
Union Council Development Plans	129	21	16%
Community Management Skills Training	17,574	10,951	62%
Leadership Management Skills Training	2,919	1,594	55%
Technical Vocational & Educational Skills	790	300	38%
Literacy & Numeracy Skills	1,462	1,090	75%
Participants Trained on Community Awareness Toolkit	651	194	30%
Training on CAT & CIF for CRPs	717	181	25%
Total amount of CIF disbursed to poor households by (VOs/LSOs) (PKR) (0-23 PSC Band)	99,800,000	50,115,000	50%
Total amount of IGG sub-grants disbursed to poor households (PSC 0-23) -(PKR)	105,384,000	8,698,800	8%



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