COVID-19 Emergency Response

Updates as of May 11, 2020
BRSP joined hands with GoB and Law Enforcement Agencies to complement their efforts to respond to COVID in districts of Barkhan, Chaghi, Dera Bugti, Duki, Harrai, Jaffarabad, Jhal Magsi, Kachhi, Kalat, Kharan, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah, Kohlu, Loralai, Mastung, Musa Khail, Naseerabad, Noshki, Pishin, Quetta, Sherani, Sibi, Sohbatpur, Washuk, Zhob.

### BRSP’s Response to COVID-19 in Balochistan – A Timeline

- **11 Jan** BRSP initiated awareness raising campaign in Kharan and Chaghi districts
- **23 Feb** Pakistan closed its border to travellers from Iran at Taftan border
- **07 Mar** WHO announces that COVID-19 is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern
- **10 Mar** Pakistan re-opened its border, after a 14 days’ closure
- **11 Mar** First case confirmed in Quetta, the patient was a 12-year old boy, who had returned from Iran with his family via Taftan border
- **15 Mar** WHO declares COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic
- **20 Mar** BRSP expanded its COVID-19 emergency response to 27 districts
- **20 Apr** BRSP launched IPC mass awareness campaign in Quetta
- **22 Apr** BRSP launched comprehensive need assessment of all Health Facilities
- **11 May** GoB, imposed full lock down in the province.

### BRSP reached 5.65 million people of 807,142 HHs in 425 towns & rural councils of 27 districts*

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- **5.65 million people** given awareness on COVID-19 through loudspeakers, masajid announcements, billboards, banners, sessions and dissemination of IEC material
- **COVID-19 awareness messages** are being aired in Urdu and all local languages
- **Provision** of 111,529 Surgical Masks, 4,578 N95 Masks, 27,378 Sanitisers, 26,280 Gloves, 40,964 Soaps, 182 protective suits and 340 packs of tissue papers
- Installation of **271 Handwashing places**
- **Fumigation** at BRSP offices, Town and 06 Rural UCs of Pishin district
- **PKR 10.4 million** disbursed to **460 poor HHs** in 8 districts as CIF/Interest Free Loan/IGGs
- **23,543 HHs** linked with Ehsaas Emergency Programme and district administration for Cash/In-kind support
- **BRSP participated** in 163 coordination/task force meetings on COVID-19 response
- **59 Health Officials and HCF staff** capacitated on COVID-19 case management, surveillance and rapid response. While, **1,709 CRPs/Volunteers** oriented on COVID-19 preventive measures and mass awareness among communities.
- Completed a comprehensive need assessment of Health Facilities/Quarantine Centres across the province.
  - A real-time data management system has been deployed. In addition, technical support is being provided to Health department and PDMA in data consolidation
- **BRSP’s fostered LSOs** linked 13,083 poorest HHs with Dist; Administration for in-kind support. Through Self-help initiatives, **1,933 poorest HHs provided with food packages.**
The substantial geographic presence and outreach to household level enabled BRSP to come up with swift and all-inclusive COVID-19 Emergency Response for complementing Government of Balochistan, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and Health Care Providers. With the support of GoB, LEAs, donors and the Cs BRSP has been able to expand its emergency response to 27 districts, spread over an area of 243,576 km², which is 70% of the province and also include the districts bordering with Afghanistan, Iran, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Punjab.

BRSP’s result framework for COVID-19 emergency response revolves around six components which includes:
1. Increased awareness regarding COVID-19 prevention and control
2. Enhanced capacity on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) particularly COVID-19
3. Increased resilience of citizen, communities, government line department staff, LEAs personnel and health care facilities through provision of PPEs
4. Improved WASH practices at public places and Health Care Facilities
5. Ensured food security and livelihood opportunities through provision of food supplies or the Cash Grants
6. Strengthened coordination among stakeholders and synchronized information flow

The salient feature of BRSP strategy in this response is that it does not treat this emergency response as standalone rather this has been integrated with all existing regular projects and programmes that are effectively been contributing to SDGs in the province. This integration would also contribute in post-pandemic recovery.

1. Increased awareness regarding COVID-19 and Infection, Prevention & Control:
Under a comprehensive awareness raising campaign BRSP has reached out 5.65 million people in 425 UCs of 27 districts given awareness on COVID-19. This awareness campaign carried out through different means including:

- Mobile Loudspeakers announcements in 3,975 hamlets of 425 UCs
- 1,115 Masajid in 260 UCs
- 90,000 brochures/IEC distributed
- 1,709 CRPs Oriented, who further reached out 43,124 HHs in 199 UC of 15 districts
- 168 banners and 12 Billboards installed on all key locations and entrance of Quetta City
- In addition, COVID-19 awareness messages, in Urdu and all local languages, are being aired on FM 89 and local cable channels respectively across the province.

In addition, 1,000 copies of a book written on “COVID-19 - Islamic Perspective on Pandemics” by Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman, printed and distributed in 124 Madaris and Masajid in district Quetta.

Mass awareness campaign on IPC in Quetta District was launched in collaboration with District Administration and Municipal Corporation on 20th April and continued till May 01, 2020. Under this campaign 100% localities have been covered through mobile loudspeaker announcements and door-to-door awareness raising on COVID-19. While, 33,522 shopkeeper and street hawkers, donkey-cart riders and scavengers were provided and demonstrated with masks and IEC material during this campaign. Hundreds of banners and leaflet displayed/distributed. Quetta Metropolitan Corporation fumigated the...
whole Quetta city covering around 172 km² area. Al-Khidmat Foundation fumigated regularly more than 1,000 Mosques, Churches, Gurdwara, Mandir (temples) and Parsi Colony. Assessment of health facilities and quarantine centres for identifying gaps in supplies and PPE kits BRSP started assessment in 25 districts of Balochistan to cover more than 750 health facilities including Quetta District.

Keeping in view the need and effectiveness of mass awareness campaign on IPC, BRSP is expanding this activity to 08 high risk districts i.e. Pishin, Jaffarabad, Chaghi, Noshki, Loralai, Naseerabad, Zhob and Killa Saifullah.

2. Enhanced capacity on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) particularly COVID-19
To enhance capacity of HCPs a thorough capacity building programme has been initiated, so far, 30 HCPs have been trained on IPC in District Noshki, the similar training events will be carried out in district Quetta, Chaghi and Naseeabad. In addition, BRSP’s Loralai district office hosted a training programme for 29 HCPs on COVID-19 case management, surveillance and rapid response. The training was organised jointly by USAID and District Health Department was held in BRSP Loralai office on April 17, 2020.

Furthermore, 139 janitorial staff have been trained on Environmental cleaning and disinfection principles for health care facilities and will provided with Calcium Hypochlorite for next three months to ensure cleaning disinfection of HCFs/Isolation Wards/Quarantine Centres in district Quetta, Killa Saifullah, Killa Abdullah, Naseerabad, Noshki, Chaghi and Zhob.

3. Increased resilience of citizen, communities, government line department staff, LEAs personnel and health care facilities through provision of PPEs
To equip the health facilities, quarantine centres and the front-line health care providers, district administration and Law Enforcement Agencies’ (FC, Police, FIA and Pakistan Customs) personnel; a total of 111,529 Surgical masks, 4,578 N95 Masks 27,378 sanitisers, 26,280 gloves, 40,964 soaps, 182 protective suits and 340 packs of tissue papers have been distributed.

The distribution of masks also include provision of 18,225 masks (13,170 surgical masks and 4,728 N-95) to 439 Health Facilities (281 Public and 183 Private), with support the of 11 districts provided by The Indus Hospital/The Indus Health Network:

Disinfectant sprays were carried out in all BRSP Offices, while in collaboration with district administration, town area and 06 UCs of district Pishin were fumigated. Moreover, during IPC mass awareness campaign in district Quetta, BRSP teams facilitated Al-Khidmat Foundation and Municipal Corporation, Quetta in fumigation of Quetta city covering around 172 km² area.

4. Improved WASH practices at public places and Health Care Facilities
To promote hand-washing practices 271 Handwashing points have been installed at public place in 18 districts, this also includes installation of Hand Washing Points at 26 HCFs and Quarantines Centres in Quetta, Kohlu, Chaghi, Killa Saifullah, Loralai, Noshki, Zhob and Killa Abdullah districts. In addition, 40,964 Soaps have been provided to district authorities, health department, health care facilities and quarantine centres in 21 districts.

Furthermore, to improve WASH in Health Facilities, work has been initiated on Construction/Rehabilitation of WASH services (including construction of MHM and PWD oriented washrooms) in 12 health care facilities. The total cost this component is PKR 29.58 million. Similarly, to improve WASH and IPC in education facilities 20 schools of Quetta districts are being targeted with the total estimated cost of PKR 25.48 million.
5. Ensured food security and livelihood opportunities through provision of food supplies or the Cash Grants

Besides, raising awareness and contributing to strengthen the health facilities, it is also urgent and necessary to create livelihood opportunities, protecting jobs and promoting small enterprises for poor HHs and vulnerable working groups. In this regard, BRSP ensured disbursement of PKR 10.4 million to 397 HHs through Community Investment Fund, Income Generating Grants and Interest Free loan. While, for the immediate support, 23,543 poorest HHs were facilitated in their registration with Ehsaas programme and linked with district administration, other CSOs, Philanthropists. Furthermore, BRSP in collaboration with an MPA distributed a ration package and hygiene items (Soaps & anti-septic liquid) to 2,000 poorest HHs District Killa Abdullah

A special “Zakat/Charity Committee” constituted by DC Pishin on the suggestion of BRSP, mobilized PKR 2.5 million from the personal contribution of committee members and other local/oversees philanthropists that would be used for distributing food packages and/or disbursement of cash grants to the poorest HHs of the district. The Committee consists of political parties, local notables and BRSP. In addition, through this forum, a local philanthropist distributed 300 floor bags (50 kg each) to 300 poorest HHs in tehsil Huramzai, Pishin.

Under this component, BRSP fostered CIs, also played a key role as 38 LSOs not only linked the poorest HHs with district administration and other charity organisation, but also through self-help initiatives, served 1,510 HHs with distribution of food packages. Further, 478 TVET beneficiaries trained under BRSP’s Skills Development Programme, produced 7,622 masks in 37 UCs of 8 districts for selling out in local market to reduce the spread of COVI-19 in communities.

Assessment for livelihood restoration is under progress in three UCs of Killa Abdullah and one UC of Kharan districts, after the assessment around 1,520 HHs will be provided with livelihood support.

6. Strengthened coordination among stakeholders and synchronized information flow

Close coordination with Government Departments, LEAs and other development partner, positions as utmost priority in BRSP implementation strategy in both regular and emergency operation. Hence, BRSP’s HO and district teams maintained regular and close liaison with GoB, Administration, concerned departments/authorities and CSOs to ensure coordinated efforts to fight the pandemic. Till date, BRSP has participated in 163 coordination/task force meetings on COVID-19 response and has regularly been attending National WASH Cluster meetings and also attended the 1st Provincial WASH Cluster Meeting While, regular sharing of BRSP’s contribution with all stakeholders is also ensured.

BRSP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with United Nation Development Program on Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19 in UNDP Balochistan office. The Chief of Section and Head of SDG Unit in Planning and Development Department Government of Balochistan was also presented at the occasion. This collaboration with UNDP will contribute in enhancing the effectiveness of development efforts to promote advocacy, research and generate policy debate around issues of sustainable development and implementation of SDGs and dissemination of COVID-19 messages through its COs, VOs and LSOs to the general public and rural communities

Apart from providing HR Support to maintain MIS on COVID-19 in emergency cell at Department of Health, GoB; BRSP, in consultation with PDMA, health Department, UNICEF, has developed an android-based MIS to record 4W progress, which has been deployed at PDMA and is also being set up at Department of Health.
Moreover, for more effective and meaningful response, BRSP has initiated two Comprehensive Need Assessment Exercises in 25 districts i.e. 

i. Need Assessment of Health Facilities/Quarantine Centres  
ii. Assessment of WASH facilities at Public Places.

The both assessments will give an overview of the existing capacity and immediate requirements for next three months, which will help GoB, donor agencies and other stakeholders to plan their response to address acuter needs in both Health and WASH sectors.
Salute to the defenders of Pakistan