Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)
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COVID-19 Emergency Response

Updates as of May 21, 2020
**Following Human Resource engaged:**

- 643 BRSP staff
- 134 Local Support Organizations
- 1,893 Community Resource Persons
- 434 Office Bearers of Community Institutions
- 354 Religious Scholars
- 114 Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills Teachers
- 34 Master Trainers
- 30 Book Keepers

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

**1. Increased awareness regarding COVID-19 and Infection, Prevention & Control:**

- **6.76 million people** given awareness on COVID-19 through loudspeakers, masjid announcements, billboards, banners, sessions and dissemination of IEC material
- Mobile Loudspeakers announcements in **3,983 hamlets of 425 UCs**
- 1,115 **Masajid** in 260 UCs
- 380,000 brochures/IEC distributed
- **1,893** CRPs Oriented, who further reached out 43,124 HHs in 199 UC of 15 districts
- 660 banners and **400** visibility boards including the large billboards installed on all key locations and entrance of Quetta City
COVID-19 awareness messages are being aired on FM 89 and local cable channels in Urdu and all local languages across the province.

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.

2. Enhanced capacity on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) particularly COVID-19:
   - **61 Health Officials and HCF staff capacitated** on COVID-19 case management, surveillance and rapid response.
   - **1,893 CRPs/Volunteers** oriented on COVID-19 preventive measures and mass awareness among communities.
   - **141 janitorial staff** have been trained on Environmental cleaning and disinfection principles for health care facilities.
   - Fumigation at BRSP offices, Town and 06 Rural UCs of Pishin district

3. Increased resilience of citizen, communities, government line department staff, LEAs personnel and health care facilities through provision of PPEs:
   - **166,700** Surgical Masks
   - **4,578** N-95 Masks
   - **13,170** surgical masks and 4,728 N-95) to 439 Health Facilities (281 Public and 183 Private), with support of 11 districts provided by The Indus Health Network.
   - **45,997** sanitisers
   - **26,280** gloves
   - **40,964** soaps
   - **2,811** protective suits
   - **2,000** packs of tissue papers
   - **60** thermal guns/Infrared Temperature Gun (ITG)

4. Improved WASH practices at public places and Health Care Facilities
   - Installation of **404** Hand washing Units (LEAs joined hand for Operation & Maintenance and Behavioural Change Communication (BCC)
   - 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**.
   - 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:
   - **PKR 18.51 million disbursed to 644 poor** Households (HHs) in 8 districts as Community Investment Fund (CIF)/Interest Free Loan/Income Generating Grants (IGG)
   - **23,543 HHs** linked with Ehsaas Emergency Programme Government of Pakistan and district administration for Cash/In-kind support
   - BRSP’s fostered Local Support Organisations (LSOs) linked **13,083 poorest HHs** with District Administration for food packages.
   - LSOs mobilised resources on their own to provide food packages to **2,158 poorest HHs**.
   - **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.

6. Strengthened coordination among stakeholders and synchronized information flow:
   - BRSP participated in **164 coordination/task force meetings** at provincial and district level on COVID-19 response.
- Completed assessment of 778 health facilities to assess their readiness for COVID-19 Response and deployed a real-time data management system (4Ws) at PDMA for a concerted response to an emergency outbreak of COVID-19.
- 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 extensive geographical footprint was the strength to undertake rapid and inclusive COVID-19 Emergency Response for complementing the efforts of Government of Balochistan, PDMA and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and Health Care Providers. The European Union, PATRIP Foundation, Indus Health Network and Directorate of Malaria Control Programme, UNICEF, Water Aid and GIZ enabled BRSP to reach out to 27 districts, spread over an area of 243,576 km², which is 70% of the province which includes the bordering districts with two countries i.e. Afghanistan, Iran and three provinces i.e. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Punjab.

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.

Under a comprehensive awareness raising campaign BRSP has reached out 6.76 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 3,983 hamlets of 425 UCs
- 1,115 Masajid in 260 UCs
- 380,000 brochures/IEC distributed
- 1,893 CRPs Oriented, who further reached out 43,124 HHs in 199 UC of 15 districts

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. This IPC campaign would have not been effectively and efficiently completed without the active participation and the support of Metropolitan Corporation and the District Administration, Quetta. Keeping in view the need and effectiveness of mass awareness campaign on IPC, BRSP has expanded this campaign to 08 high risk districts i.e. Pishin, Jaffarabad, Chaghi, Noshki, Loralai, Naseerabad, Zhob and Killa Saifullah.

In addition, BRSP also facilitated the District Administration, Sherani by organising a training for Tiger Force, who will voluntarily be supporting the district administration in COVID-19 emergency response activities particularly awareness raising at community level.

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, 61 HCPs have been trained on IPC in District Noshki, the similar training events will be carried out in district Quetta, Chaghi and Naseerabad, whereas; 184 CRPs were also oriented on IPC in the same districts.

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, 141 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 166,700 Surgical masks, 4,578 N95 Masks 45,997 sanitisers, 26,280 gloves, 40,964 soaps, 2,811 protective suits and 2,000 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 404 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 essential to create livelihood opportunities, protecting jobs and promoting small enterprises for poor HHs and vulnerable working group. In this regard, BRSP ensured disbursement of PKR 18.51 million to 644 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 39 LSOs not only linked the poorest HHs with district administration and other charity organisation, but also through self-help initiatives, served 2,158 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 164 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.

RSPN signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), government of Pakistan to combat COVID-19 pandemic through capitalizing on RSPs’ fostered Community Institutions (CIs), particularly increasing awareness in rural populace across the country. Under this MoU, provincial/district administration have been recommended to incorporate Community Institutions in their existing community mobilization plans and extend support in awareness campaigns, assistance in Trace and Quarantine, disinfection of public places, data collection, hospital duties of volunteers, ration collection and distribution, utility store inspection, price control and anti-hoarding measures, anti-dengue measures and any other task commensurate with their capacity.

BRSP entered into partnership 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 present 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.
A Brief on Health Facilities’ Assessment

BRSP, on the request of Health Department Government of Balochistan, designed and conducted a rapid needs assessment of 778 Public health facilities (Including tertiary and teaching hospital, DHQs, THQs, RHCs, BHUs, CDs, MCH centres and health auxiliaries) in 25 districts of Balochistan. The result of assessment revealed that 59% of facilities’ staff was unaware of preventive measures of Covid-19 and Just 3% facilities were equipped with Ventilators (those are mostly at tertiary health facilities level) and 5% HFs were using thermal guns for temperature check. There are 10,800 staff deputed (including Medic, paramedic and administration staff) in 778 health facilities and due to unavailability of Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) 90% of staff was at risk of being exposed to Covid-19. The WASH facilities’ status in public health facilities were also not satisfactory and it was revealed that 60% of facilities lacking drinking water facility with very limited sources. A total of 60% HFs were having toilets for both OPD patients and staff. However, toilets access able to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) were almost none in the HFs. The unavailability of Hand washing places and hand sanitizer for personal hygiene were also not available at the HFs. The HFs were also probed on frequency of surface disinfection that revealed 20% of facilities were being disinfected on regularly basis. On the capacity building side, the HFs’ staff was asked on awareness raising of Covid-19 and its preventive measures, 42% of the total staff was oriented on Covid-19 while rest of staff were unaware of preventive measures.

Though, there are lot of efforts being made by the Government, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs but there is dire need to address COVID-19 through improving health facilities, changing behaviour at the community level and developing a strong database to monitor diseases surveillance in high risk districts of Balochistan.
Requirement Summary

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>Surgical Gloves</th>
<th>Medical Cap</th>
<th>Shoecover</th>
<th>N95 Mask</th>
<th>Surgical Mask</th>
<th>Gown</th>
<th>Sanitizer (Ltr)</th>
<th>Soap</th>
<th>Disinfectant(Ltr)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tertiary Care Hospital</td>
<td>11,534,000</td>
<td>204,940</td>
<td>204,840</td>
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<td>Quarantine Center</td>
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