



# Rural Communities in the Fight Against **COVID-19**

Strengthening the Citizen-State Relationship

**Update on RSP Collaboration with 66 District Administrations  
(1500 Union Councils) (Community Mobilisation for TTQ)**

15 June 2020

## Scope of NCOC collaboration with RSPs



**Pakistan's** first, organised community-led response in rural areas to the COVID-19 emergency



This unique public-private partnership between **the GOP and community Local Support Organisations (LSOs)** created by RSPs, is strengthening citizen-state links. LSOs are union council-level community institutions



In **1500** union councils of 66 districts seven RSPs are entering into agreements with district administrations as a public service, linking LSOs to government to battle COVID-19;



**1,500** LSOs in 66 districts in all provinces, AJK, GB and NMDs will work with government through trained community activists (women and men) to create awareness about COVID-19, preventive measures, assist in contact tracing and reporting of suspicious cases (TTQ), after being trained by district authorities;



About **20 million** people will benefit from this collaboration.

## Geographic outreach of RSP-NCOC collaboration

Ref.	Province/ Region	No. of Districts	No. of LSOs / Rural UCs	Name of RSP
A	Azad Jammu & Kashmir	8	127	NRSP
B	Balochistan	11	223	NRSP, BRSP
C	Gilgit-Baltistan	9	58	AKRSP
D	Islamabad Capital Territory	1	5	NRSP
E	Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa	7	141	SRSP, NRSP, GBTI, AKRSP
F	Punjab	14	406	NRSP
G	Sindh	16	540	SRSO, NRSP, TRDP
	Total	66	1,500	7 RSPs

## Signing of MOUs between Provincial/District Authorities & RSPs

S. No	Province	Total No of Districts for NCOE Collaboration	No of Districts and No of MOUs Signed with RSP	No of District Level Coordination Meetings Held
1	Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK)	8	8 (AJK level MOU covering all 8 districts)	2
2	Balochistan	11	7 MOUs for 6 Districts *	13
3	Gilgit Baltistan (GB)	9	5	26
4	Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)	1	1	2
5	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)	7	2	4
6	Punjab	14	12 **	24
7	Sindh	16	17 MOUs for 15 Districts ***	49
Total		66	52 MOUs for 49 Districts	134

\* Duki is a recently created district from Loralai, therefore a separate MOU signed with Duki's administration to work with LSOs was included in Loralai district

\*\* For Muzaffargarh, a tehsil-level MOU is signed with Assistant Commissioner - Jatoi

\*\*\* SRSO and NRSP have signed an MOU each with DCs of Badin and Thatta (Sindh)

## Activities conducted by trained LSO leaders and Community Resource Persons (CRPs)

Serial No	Province	Activities Done	No of LSOs involved. UC Level	No of Revenue Villages Covered	Total Beneficiary Population			Total No. of Community Activists Involved in Activities		
					Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
1	ICT (NRSP)	1) Community awareness raising 2) Mosque announcements on distancing, 3) IEC material distribution, 4) Distribution of face-masks 5) Distribution of soap, 6) Implementation of TTQ strategy.	5	164	23,183 Women, 8,914 Men, <u>32,097 Total</u>	234 Women, 178 Men, <u>412 Total</u>				
2	Punjab (NRSP)*	1) Community awareness raising, 2) Mosque announcements for distancing, 3) IEC material distribution, 4) Distribution of face-masks 5) Distribution of soaps, 6) Chlorine spraying	100	851	37,312 Women, 65,427 Men, <u>102,739 Total</u>	294 Women, 671 Men, <u>965 Total</u>				
3	Sindh (SRSO)**	1) Community awareness raising, 2) awareness announcements in public spaces, 3) IEC material distribution	109	149	4,147 Women, 345 Men, <u>4,492 Total</u>	155 Women, 17 Men, <u>172 Total</u>				
Total			214	1,010	64,642 Women, 74,686 Men, <u>139,328 Total</u>	683 Women, 866 Men, <u>1,549 Total</u>				

\* NRSP reported community-level activities in 7 districts of Punjab ie Attock, Chakwal, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Jhelum, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur

\*\* SRSO reported community-level activities in 10 districts of Sindh ie Badin, Jacobabad, Kambar-Shahdadkot, Kashmore, Khairpur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Shikarpur & Thatta

## RSP staff and community activists oriented/trained by district authorities

Serial No	Province	Number and Type of Training Organised by District Authorities	No of RSP Staff Trained			No of Community Activists Trained (ie LSO Leaders and Community Resource Persons (CRPs))			No of UCs
			Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	
1	ICT (NRSP)	4 Events of Training on Combating COVID-19	-	-	-	80 Women, 20 Men, 100 Total	-	-	5
2	Punjab (NRSP)	53 Events of Training on Combating COVID-19	41 Women, 141 Men, 182 Total	-	-	680 Women, 485 Men, 1,165 Total	-	-	100
3	Sindh (SRSO)	2 Events of Training on Combating COVID-19	1 Women, 5 Men, 6 Total	-	-	8 Women, 5 Men, 13 Total	-	-	13
Total		59 events organised. Content includes public awareness and TTQ.	42 Women, 146 Men, 188 Total	-	-	768 Women, 510 Men, 1,278 Total	-	-	118

## List of activities conducted by community activists



**254**

suspected cases identified and referred to ICT health department



**16**

contacts traced on request of ICT health department



**6,573**

**(77% women)** benefitted from community awareness raising sessions



**73,138**

**(48% women)** provided IEC materials (pamphlets, brochures, leaflets)



**7,739**

**(51% women)** face-masks distributed



**1,002**

individuals benefitted from chlorine spraying in rural areas



**21,406**

**(34% women)** individuals reached via mosque announcements for enhancing community awareness on COVID-19 and preventive measures



**18,730**

**(34% women)** reached via mobile announcements for enhancing community awareness on COVID-19 and preventive measures



**7,394**

poorest families supported to access cash and in-kind support

## Case studies on community leaders' work

### Case 1:

#### Muhammad Yousuf (President LSO) & Rehmatullah (Manager LSO) of LSO Sangat, UC Sikhani Wala, Dist. Rajanpur, Punjab

##### Training

Muhammad Yousuf and Rehmatullah attended the training conducted on combating COVID-19 by the Govt. Health Department, on 2nd June 2020.

##### Activities of Community Leaders

- Awareness sessions on COVID-19 at a village level;
- Announcements in local mosques for community awareness, distancing;
- Training for community members on making face masks at home;
- Spraying antiseptic-mixture in mosques and public places;

##### Community response

People listen to LSO leaders and take their advices on precautionary measures against COVID-19 seriously and have started following measures like social distancing, avoiding crowded places, not visiting relatives, etc.

**Challenges:** Significant transportation issues are being faced and they need sanitizer as they cannot afford to buy this.



### Case 2:

#### Ms. Shameem (Community Resource Person-CRP) UC/LSO Odero Lal Station, District Matiari, Sindh

##### Training

Shamim received training on community awareness and COVID-19 from NRSP.

##### Activities

Delivered awareness sessions on health/hygiene and COVID-19 preventive measures, and also distributed soap among poorest households.

##### Community response

Very positive and attended awareness sessions on COVID-19 eagerly.

##### Challenges

Due to closure of transportation, it is very tough for her to commute by foot to deliver awareness session in adjacent villages.



## Community Leaders and Activists are at Work



Community awareness session by female activist in village and UC/LSO Naushera, of Khushab district learning about best practices to ensure social/physical distancing at public places.



Female community leaders of LSO Lawa, Chakwal district displaying IEC material about COVID-19 and preventive measures in their local area.



Training of community leaders and activities on Competing COVID-19 of LSO Phulgiran, ICT.

## Lessons, Challenges & Recommendations

- There is a general lack of awareness about COVID-19 and preventive measures in rural areas – unlike the common perception that everyone is aware;
- People's response is overall positive. Communities are eager to get information on disease and gain knowledge about preventive measures;
- Provincial & district authorities have started realising the importance of social capital i.e. community institutions fostered by RSPs, to put out awareness messages. They have shown interest to work through community institutions to deliver other, essential services eg EPI, polio campaigns, family planning, etc.;
- Initial results from the collaboration are more positive where the provincial governments are strongly leading the initiative;
- RSPs are supporting NCOC collaboration through other, funded programmes. Scale-up, if required, can only be done through providing RSPs with resources;
- There is increased violence at household level due to male unemployment creating economic stress;
- Protection of community activists and RSP staff is extremely important i.e. PPEs. NCOC is requested to facilitate this. RSPN is collecting PPE demand from RSPs.
- Many district administrations have no training material or training expertise. RSPs doing this at their own cost in most districts;
- Health Department needs to provide clear guidelines to communities and ensure cooperation in contact tracing and reporting of suspicious cases. This requires testing and follow up. Testing facilities non-existent in rural areas. Testing facility in Balochistan only in Quetta.

## Next Steps

- 17 district MOUs remain to be signed (5 Balochistan, 4 GB, 5 KP, 2 Punjab, 1 Sindh)
- RSPs are increasingly coordinating activities funded by donors and others in these UCs for greater impact
- Communication strategy submitted by RSPN to NCOC needs feedback
- Current 1500 UCs in 66 districts are being done at RSP cost. Any scale-up first has to address these challenges and provide resources to RSPs, following which RSPs can consider scale-up.

## Quetta (Balochistan) First Coordination Meeting, BCOC and BRSP



BRSP Senior Manager, Dr. Shahnawaz Khan and Manager Mr. Akbar Khan attended the introductory meeting of Balochistan Command & Operation Center (BCOC) on the interventions of COVID-19 response in the province. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Khadim Hussain, Executive Director BCOC.

## Nagar (GB) Meeting with AC Nagar on Implementation of MOU signed on 5th June 2020 with Aga Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)



## Implementation of TTQ Strategy in VO Kalya of UC/LSO Chirah, ICT with Support of Health Department and National Institute of Health (NIH)



NIH team field visit in vo kalya Iso chera „took 70no of tests of suspect persons with support of Health Department

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