**Combating COVID-19 Crisis**

**NRSP’s Response and Interventions**

**July 10, 2020**

- **6.5 million** people reached out for access to different services and information on COVID-19 (including awareness raising, provision of masks, soaps, sanitizers, linking with government services/programmes etc)

- **14,091** poor and poorest households provided cash-grants for emergency use, consumptions and purchase of essential food/non-food items with the support of Local Philanthropists, Local Communities, Rotary International, Akhuwat, Ehsaas Programme Govt, District Governments etc.

- **153,205,500** cash-grants (PKR) provided to poor and poorest households with the support of Local Philanthropists, Local Communities, Rotary International, Akhuwat, Ehsaas Programme Govt, District Governments etc.

- **65,756** poor and poorest households provided in-kind support ie essential food items, soaps, sanitizers, etc.

- **65,321,204** total amount (PKR) of in-kind support provided to poor and poorest households

**NRSP**

**Prime Minister awards two women activists from the National Rural Support Programme’s (NRSP) ICT unit for outstanding work in rural ICT against COVID-19, marking 100 days of the work of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC)**

**Training on TTQ Implementation by Dr. Imtiaz from DHO Mardan**

**LSO Shamozai Khawatein Welfare & Development, UC Shamozai, district Mardan**

**Awareness session on COVID-19 by Community Resource Person**

**District Gwadar, Balochistan**

**Prime Minister**

**Collaboration with NCOC and MOU signed with District Governments**

**Task Forces/Special Committees set up by the Divisional, District and Tehsil Authorities**

**Number of Community Volunteers (50% Women)**

**Community Institutions (LSOs/VOs/COs) engaged to undertake awareness campaigns and response activities**

**Number of IEC Material Distributed/Displayed in Communities**

**Awareness Campaigns Undertaken on COVID-19**

**Number of Face-Masks Made and Distributed by the Community Members**

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COMBATING COVID-19 CRISIS
UPDATE ON NRSP’S RESPONSE AND INTERVENTIONS

Summary of Achievements (as of July 10th, 2020)

96
Task-forces/ Special-committees set up by the divisional, district and tehsil authorities

157
Special-committees with active membership of LSO activists, CRPs and community leaders

8,181
Community volunteers trained on public awareness campaigns and preventive measures (59% Women)

34,766
Community Institutions (LSOs/ VOss/ COs) engaged to awareness campaigns and response activities

193,794
IEC material on COVID-19 distributed/ displayed in communities

28,444
Announcements made on Mobile phones/ Loud Speakers at local mosques/ religious places/ others etc.

36,123
Awareness sessions undertaken on COVID-19 outbreak and preventive measures

144,918
Assistance provided to HHs for registration with the GoPak’s Ehsaas Cash Programme

12,391
Community members making face-masks at home (50% Women)

97,869
Face-masks made by community members

14,714
Face-masks provided to the communities by NRSP

Support provided to public private health facilities

» 12 quarantine centers set-up by local authorities and private entities supported by provision of cooked food, surgical-masks, sanitisers and soap
» 129 public and private medical health facilities supported by provision of medicines, surgical-masks, sanitisers and soap
» 5,232 surgical-masks provided to these public and private centers
» 1,738 hand-sanitizers provided to these public and private centers
» 3,560 soaps provided to these public and private centers
The Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) aim at reducing poverty and improving quality of life of rural people.

The RSP’s experience of last three decades of working with people show that people have tremendous potential that when harnessed help them overcome the obstacles that come on their way to progress. In the times of natural calamities or outbreaks of diseases this potential takes the form of resilience. The RSPs harness this potential and resilience through the following:

a. Community Organizations (generally known as COs/VOs/LSOs) and their members;
b. Community Activists/Community Resource Persons (CRPs); and
c. Linking people with government, NDMA/PDMA/DDMAs, District/Local Government

As regards the situation arising out of spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), NRSP believes that responding to COVID-19 situation will cover the following phases:

» Prevention of spread of coronavirus  
» Relief support  
» Recovery and rehabilitation

As regards to prevention of spread of coronavirus, the WHO has recognized social distancing as the most effective method. Following this requirement of social distancing, the RSPs have for the time being suspended the meetings of CIs and are currently working directly with the Community Activists/CRPs. The NRSP’s field units have compiled directories of these activists/CRPs. Here the social media, internet and cell phone technologies play a very important role, hence only those activists/CRPs are contacted who are well equipped and literate in using this technology. The NRSP’s Social Organizers have established a system of contacting these activists/CRPs on a daily basis and pass on approved messages/printed handouts or banners. They in turn coordinate with local/district government and the people through phone calls, door to door individual level contacts, announcements using loudspeakers or megaphones and other locally ways of communication. As soon as the government announced the completion of this phase of prevention and relief, the CIs meetings will be organized to engage people in the recovery and rehabilitation process for which various interventions are already available i.e. vocational and technical skills, microfinance, community investment fund, income generating grants, community physical infrastructure etc.

Based on the experience of responding to 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods NRSP has developed tremendous capacity to implement large scale projects through the platform of CIs and CRPs. At the same time, NRSP has developed sound procurement systems, financial management and M&E systems to ensure responsible management of government and donor funds. This experience will enable NRSP to implement the projects relevant to all the three phases of the response.
We are grateful to following donors including IFAD, PPAF, EU, WaterAid, UNICEF, Unilever, DFID, who have supported NRSP in fostering community institutions and activists/CRPs; and supporting NRSP during the current response. Following are some details of ongoing projects:

**WaterAid:**
Provided some grant for COVID awareness raising and hand washing facilities establishment in district of Thatta and Hyderabad city. Messages through FM radio, local cable network, mobile, banners, bill boards, posters were used for communication. (3.4 million PKR for Hyderabad, 0.5 million for Thatta)

**BRSP/UNICEF:**
Under their support NRSP is assessing few health facilities about hand washing and sanitation facilities and provided technical and financial support for implementation of any infrastructure need in five major health facilities of Kech, Gwadar, Lasbela and Panjgoor. Capacity building of health facility staff including sanitary workers and medical staff is also part of PCA along with disinfection process for facility. Awareness among communities and people visiting health facility is also part of the campaign. (16.2 million PKR, including cash and in kind support).

**DAFPAK:**
DAFPAK is funded by RSPN through PSI which gets funds from DFID. They have allowed postponing project activities of RH while engaging the team for awareness raising about COVID and participation of staff in TTQ if needed at local level.

**UNILEVER:**
More than 30,000 soaps were distributed among communities in Hyderabad, Lahore and Rawalpindi regions, which they are using along with awareness raising through LSOs and WISE programme.

**PSSP/TACS/AWAZ:**
Under these projects we are using existing project resources and teachers / volunteers for awareness raising against COVID 19 spread and support to poor households affected due to current situation. Awaz is currently planning to change its approach and focus on COVID which will be shared soon.
NRSP’s Partnership with National Command Operation Center (NCOC)

» In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, GoP established National Coordination Council (NCC) on March 13th.
» On March 27th, NCOC was established to act as implementing arm of the NCC
» Immediately after its setup, a presentation was given to NCOC about potential role of community institutions created by NRSP and other RSPs to combat Covid-19 through TTQ and awareness raising campaigns
» On May 12th, NCOC wrote a letter to RSPN, federal Health Ministry and the Chief Secretaries of all provinces, AJK and GB, requesting that RSPs and community organisations set up by them be employed in the fight against COVID-19.
» NCOC is being reported on COVID-19 response on weekly basis and achievements being shared by the community institutions are being communicated
» NRSP has been trying to focus only on TTQ (Testing Tracking and Quarantine) as part of the MoUs being signed with the local governments and the CRPs / community institutions are actively doing the awareness raising through different forums including announcements from mosques, printed material and through CO / VO / LSO platforms

List of NRSP’s District Offices who have signed MoUs with the District Government Authorities under NCOC

<table>
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<th>District</th>
<th>Status of MoU</th>
<th>Date of Signature</th>
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