4th July 2020: Prime Minister Imran Khan awards two women activists from the National Rural Support Programme for outstanding work in rural ICT against COVID-19, marking 100 days of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC).

Shabana and Shagufta are the two activists trained by NRSP and the ICT Health Department under an MOU between District Administration ICT and NRSP. The activists spread awareness about COVID-19 in their villages and will help government in contact tracing and identifying suspected cases. Shabana and Shagufta belong to Community Local Support Organisation (LSO) Chirah.
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;

The work is happening in all provinces, AJK and GB, with the Health Department training community activists (women and men) in awareness about COVID-19, related preventive measures, contact tracing and reporting of suspicious cases (TTQ) to the Health Department;

About 20 million people will benefit from this collaboration.

Geographic outreach of RSP-NCOC collaboration

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

Signing of MOUs between Provincial/District Authorities & RSPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total No of Districts for NCOC Collaboration</th>
<th>No of Districts and No of MOUs Signed with RSP</th>
<th>No of District Level Coordination Meetings Held</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Azad Jammu &amp; Kashmir (AJK)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8 [AJK level MOU covering all 8 districts]</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Balochistan</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 MOUs for 11 Districts *</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gilgit Baltistan (GBI)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10 for 7 Districts **</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14 ***</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sindh</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 MOUs &amp; 1 Letter for 16 Districts ****</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>70 MOUs &amp; 1 Supporting Letter for 65 Districts</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.
** SRSP & NRSP have signed an MOU with DC of Mardan, similarly SRSP & GBTI signed an MOU with DC Haripur, 2 MOUs signed for Chitral (Upper & Lower)
*** For Muzaffargarh, a tehsil-level MOU is signed with Assistant Commissioner – Jatoi
**** SRSP & NRSP have signed an MOU each with DCs of Badin & Thatta along with a letter issued by district administration of Tando Allah Yar to work with NRSP on NCOC collaboration.
### RSP staff & community activists oriented/trained by district authorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Province/RSP</th>
<th>Number and Type of Training Organised by District Authorities</th>
<th>No of RSP Staff Trained</th>
<th>No of Community Activists Trained (ie LSO Leaders and Community Resource Persons (CRPs))</th>
<th>No of UCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No of RSP Staff Trained: Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Balochistan (BRSP)</td>
<td>6 Events of Training on Protection Measures against COVID-19 and TTQ</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AJK, ICT, Balochistan, Punjab, KP, Sindh (NRSP)</td>
<td>453 Events of Training on Combating COVID-19</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gilgit-Baltistan (AKRSP)</td>
<td>One Event of Training of Master Trainers on Gender Violence, Mental Health &amp; Infant Young Child Feeding</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (SRSP)</td>
<td>36 Events of Training on COVID-19 Awareness and TTQ</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (GBTI)</td>
<td>One Event on SOPs for COVID-19 and Tracing/Tracking of Suspected Cases</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sindh (SRSO)</td>
<td>56 Events of Training on COVID-19 Precautionary Measures Awareness</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>553 events organised. Content includes public awareness and TTQ</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Province/RSP</th>
<th>Activities Done</th>
<th>No of LSOs involved, UC Level</th>
<th>No of Revenue Villages Covered</th>
<th>Total Beneficiary Population</th>
<th>Total No. of Community Activists Involved in Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No of LSOs</td>
<td>No of Revenue Villages Covered</td>
<td>Total Beneficiary Population</td>
<td>Total No. of Community Activists Involved in Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Balochistan (BRSP)</td>
<td>1) Awareness sessions, 2) Mosque and mobile announcements, 3) IEC material distribution</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>18,320</td>
<td>30,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AJK, ICT, Balochistan, Punjab, KP, Sindh (NRSP)</td>
<td>1) Public awareness campaigns, 2) Implementation of TTQ strategy, 3) Mosque and mobile announcements, 4) IEC material distribution</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>3,212</td>
<td>1,067,876</td>
<td>812,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (GBTI)</td>
<td>1) Public awareness campaigns, 2) Mosque and mobile announcements, 3) IEC material distribution</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23,280</td>
<td>23,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (SRSP)</td>
<td>1) Public awareness campaigns, 2) Mosque and mobile announcements, 3) Radio and SMS Campaigns</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>16,959</td>
<td>25,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral and Chitral (AKRSP)</td>
<td>1) Public awareness campaigns, 2) Implementation of TTQ strategy, 3) Mosque and mobile announcements, 4) IEC material distribution</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>70,475</td>
<td>67,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sindh (SRSO)</td>
<td>1) Public awareness campaigns, 2) Social protection, 3) IEC material distribution, 4) Implementation of TTQ strategy</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>126,962</td>
<td>2,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>4,525</td>
<td>1,268,089</td>
<td>911,492</td>
<td>2,148,890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of community awareness and TTQ activities conducted by community activists

- **256** (34% women) suspected cases identified and referred to health department *
- **57** (54% women) contacts traced through 9 COVID cases on request of ICT health department
- **637,400** (60% women) benefited from community awareness raising sessions
- **1,108,150** (55% women) provided IEC materials (pamphlets, brochures, leaflets, banners, posters)
- **473,140** (57% women) individuals reached via mosque announcements and mobile announcements for enhancing community awareness on COVID-19 and preventive measures
- **13,125** (42% women) benefited from COVID-19 awareness campaigns via Radio and SMS
- **637,400** (60% women) benefited from community awareness raising sessions

List of other activities undertaken by communities through linkages with government authorities, other development organisations

- **17,027** (70% women) face-masks distributed
- **177,994** poorest families supported to access public social protection initiatives
- **73,750** poorest families provided in-kind support (essential food items, soaps, sanitizer)
- **9,500** (29% women) benefited from hand-washing facilities created

Scaling-up

- Current **1500 UCs in 66 districts** are being done at RSP cost
- RSPN has submitted a proposal to NCOC on 8 July 2020 for scale-up in **4,757 UCs of 112 rural districts** (62 additional districts plus 50 from Phase-I collaboration in UCs not covered earlier)
- Government will be able to leverage on the RSP outreach of community organisations, reaching a total of **118 million rural people** with a total budget of PKR 7.5 billion for a one-year period
- The per district cost of scale-up will be Rs 67 million and the per UC cost will be Rs 1.6 million for a one-year period.

*(146 Hunza-Nagar, 83 ICT, 10 Kashmore (Sindh), 5 Mardan (KP), 4 Haripur (KP), 4 Abbottabad (KP), 2 Larkana (Sindh), and 2 Duki (Balochistan)*
Case studies on community leaders’ work

Case study 1: Mr Malik Amanullah, UC Shabozai, District Loralai

**Training:** Mr Malik Amanullah, President of LSO and General body members, received training on community awareness and tracing of COVID-19 suspected cases, arranged by district health department and BRSP.

**Activities:** Delivered 70 awareness sessions on COVID-19 precautionary measures and sensitised 350 individuals;
Provided ration to 25 most vulnerable households through self-help initiative;
Registered 500 families in GoPak’s Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme out of which 150 families received cash grant of PKR 12,000. Also registered the poorest households with district administration to receive ration from the government;

**Community response:** communities have started avoiding large gatherings. The poor households who received ration are grateful to BRSP and the GoB. As of now, not a single case of COVID-19 has been reported in his UC.

**Challenges:** resistance from religious leaders in the villages who are of the opinion that Corona only affects non-muslims. The LSO consists of 29 VOs and the sheer distance is making it difficult to reach every village.

Case study 2: Ms Meena, UC/LSO Fatehabad, District Badin, SRSO

**Training:** Ms Meena is Manager of VO Palyo Bagat, LSO Fatehabad. She received training on safeguarding measures against the spread of COVID-19 from SRSO.

**Activities:** Meena and other active women members of LSO, visits households and villages in the UC to spread the safeguarding messages about COVID-19. They are also started doing follow-up visits to the villages to ensure that the people are adopting precautionary measures.

**Community response:** Ms Meena is happy that despite being her from a minority community member, all people in the UC respect her due to her communal work using the LSO platform, and they listen to her advices about practicing precautionary measures.

**Challenges:** Community generally perceives that the pandemic is over, therefore some people do not take precautionary advices seriously.
Lessons, Challenges & Recommendations

- **District Health Department and activists link needs strengthening:** The Department needs to be regularly in touch with activists who are identifying suspected cases and contact tracing.

- **There is no facilitation in testing:** Testing facilities are non-existent in rural areas. Testing facility in Balochistan only in Quetta.

- Some cases are not reported in most areas as people fear they will be quarantined in hospitals and centres, by government. **With increasing awareness about home quarantine, people are less apprehensive. SOPs on home quarantine and self isolation need greater attention at this stage. This requires better link with Health Departments in districts.**

- There is a general **lack of awareness about COVID-19 in rural areas.** Once given information, people’s response is overall positive and they are beginning to practice SOPs.

- **Easing/ending of lockdown** does make it more difficult for activists to convince more people to observe preventive measures. However, the government’s steps for observing serious smart-lockdown on Ashora would help to contain the spread of COVID-19.

- **Many district Health Departments have no training material.** RSPs doing this at their own cost in many districts.

- **Provincial & district authorities have started realising the importance of community institutions** fostered by RSPs, for the delivery of other services eg EPI campaigns, polio campaigns, family planning, etc.

- **There is increased pressure on rural women due to unemployment of men and its impacts.** Domestic violence against women and children has increased;

- **RSPs are supporting NCOC collaboration through other, government and foreign donor funded projects eg training material, provision of soap, masks. Scale-up, if required, can only be done through providing RSPs with resources.**

### Proposed Geographic Scale-Up of RSP Collaboration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AJK</td>
<td>NRSP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>533,483</td>
<td>3,392,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balochistan</td>
<td>NRSP, BRSP</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>1,169,321</td>
<td>7,550,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB*</td>
<td>AKRSP</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>198,444</td>
<td>1,538,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>NRSP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>165,246</td>
<td>991,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KP</td>
<td>NRSP, SRSP, AKRSP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>2,866,568</td>
<td>21,579,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>NRSP</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2,869</td>
<td>10,714,102</td>
<td>69,625,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindh</td>
<td>NRSP, SRSO</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>1,898,286</td>
<td>12,984,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>5 RSPs</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>4,757</td>
<td>17,545,450</td>
<td>117,662,603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Appreciated the Efforts of NRSP and Community Activists/Leaders to Fight Against COVID-19 in Rural Islamabad through his Official Twitter Account on 22nd August 2020

Print Media Coverage of SRSO Work with Rural Communities in the Fight with COVID-19 under Collaboration with NCOC and Local Authorities in 10 Districts of Sindh.
Men and Women Community Resource Persons (CRPs) from BRSP are raising awareness about the COVID-19 and preventive measures through loudspeaker announcements and sessions with female communities in 16 Union Councils of Quetta and Jaffarabad Districts.

**SRSO: Community Awareness Sessions about COVID-19 Precautionary Measures in Sindh**

Appreciation Letter from District Health Officer (DHO) of Tando Muhammad Khan (Sindh) acknowledging the efforts of NRSP, CRPs and LSOs in supporting the health campaigns including COVID-19 in all Union Councils of the districts.