



Launching Ceremony of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, held on November 25, 2020 at Governor House Quetta



Background

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on November 25, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until December 10, the International Human Rights Day. Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), in collaboration with Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) Alliance Balochistan, hosted an event to commemorate 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in the province on November 25, 2020 at the Governor House Quetta. Dr. Samina Yasinzai, wife of the Honorable Governor, was the chief guest. Women parliamentarians, representing the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Balochistan Assembly, Ombudspersons Balochistan, representatives of civil society, Human Rights, Women Development Department, Social Welfare Department, academia, UN Women, UNFPA and media participated in the event. This event was financially supported by BRSP through its European Union funded Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme and UNFPA GBV Project.





WELCOME REMARKS

Mr. Nadir Gul Barech (CEO BRSP) welcomed the chief guest of the occasion Dr. Samina Yasinzai, wife of the Honorable Governor and all the participants. He appreciated the efforts of EVAW/G Alliance for women development and efforts for ending violence against women. He informed the participants that BRSP has implemented many projects on Education, Health, WASH, NRM, CPIs in the province and always focuses on women participation in all its interventions. He said that 50% of our population is women and we can neither ignore them nor they should be neglected. BRSP has imparted many long and short term trainings for women. It has involved women in the enterprise development trainings and imparted skills training to women in agriculture, livelihood, and small scale enterprises. He shared about BRACE programme that it is being implemented in 9 districts and is one of the biggest programmes of Balochistan.

WOMEN GENDER & EMPOWERMENT POLICY BY WDD

Ms. Rukhsana Baloch, Assistant Director Women Development Department Government of Balochistan thanked BRSP and EVAW/G Alliance for organising this event. She gave presentation on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy (2020-24) which was recently approved. She thanked all the stakeholders who played their role in policy making and approval. The main objective of this policy is gender equality, equity, gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. She thanked BRSP for giving women preference in Livelihood sector. She said that half of our population is women and we have to provide them equal opportunities in livestock and agriculture, as these two are the main components of livelihood in Balochistan. We can initiate project on embroidery and food processing for women. We need to work on equal paid wages. All the stakeholders need to work on women protection. She further mentioned that we need to sensitise government, parliamentarians and key policy makers regarding women participation in economic activities. She said that while formulating the Women Gender & Empowerment Policy, many thematic areas are focused, such as Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Responsive Governance, Women Economic Empowerment, Women Political Empowerment, Women Education, Pro-Women Legislation and Access to Justice, Climate Change and Emergencies. She stressed on that the essence of the implementation of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy revolves around gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive governance which needs to be addressed by all government departments and initiatives.



ROLE OF EVAW/G AND HISTORY OF 16 DAYS ACTIVISM

Ms. Ayesha Wadood, Provincial Head of UN -Women Balochistan expressed her views about the Activism campaign. She shared the history of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence and role of Civil Society in mitigation of violence and mistrust in society and importance of EVAW/G Alliance. She said all the participants have orange scarves. Orange is the color of life and it expresses positivity, as we are hopeful to improve the status of women. We all are here to represent women. She mentioned that we should not ignore women, minorities, people with disabilities, women with vulnerabilities and Trans Gender in development.



ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIAN IN COUNTERING VIOLENCE

Dr. Rubaba Buledi, Chairperson Women's Parliamentary Caucus thanked BRSP and EVAW/G Alliance for conducting the Launching Ceremony of 16 Days Activism Against Gender Based Violence. She said that our efforts should continue for this cause throughout the year not only during campaign. She said that our Parliamentary Coccus will work on pro- women legislation and do lobbying for the pending bills of women which were highlighted by Watan Yar Sahib. She said that we are not only working for women but also for the first time in the history of Balochistan, we are working on a Transgender health policy. We need to recognise them as a marginalised community and work towards inclusive policies.



CHARTER OF DEMANDS

Chairman of EVAW/G (End Violence Against Women and Girls) Alliance Balochistan shared the gender related issues and presented its Charter of Demands from EVAW/G Alliance;

- Provincial Commission on the Status of Women
- Early childhood marriage bills
- Acid throwing bill
- Inheritance Bill for women
- Domestic violence bill
- Honour killing
- Implementation of Anti Sexual Harassment Law and formation of Inquiry committees
- Provision of equal job opportunities to women in government and private sector
- Home Based Workers policy
- Women Friendly Spaces
- Policies and legislation for the rights of Trans Gender

He requested the honorable Parliamentary Secretary Women Caucus, Dr. Rubaba Buledi to take action in the assembly, forwarding pro- women legislation.



VIEWS OF HONORABLE CHIEF GUEST

Dr. Samina Yaseenzai, chief guest wife of Honorable Governor Balochistan said that I highly appreciate BRSP & EVAW/G Alliance for taking lead in a crucial campaign against gender-based violence. In today's age, it now stands as a social responsibility for us to ensure women inclusive policies to be overviewed and implemented. She appreciated the role of BRSP and EVAW/G Alliance for creating awareness in the society regarding the rights of women. She said that in Balochistan women are very talented but they have limited opportunities. She informed the participants women are facing issues such as unemployment, health and education. She said our current government is taking interest in women issues and working for women empowerment. All the stakeholder need to work for women development.

During 16 days of Activism we will focus to work for the rights of home based workers and their protection. She stressed on women parliamentarian to bring the pending pro- women bills to assembly and get the approval.



Celebration of World Toilet Day by NRSP District Kech under BRACE Programme



National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) is implementing Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRACE) with the financial support of the European Union (EU) in District Kech. One of the activities of the BRACE Programme is to sensitise the community organisation members by Community Resource Persons (CRPs) on cross-cutting themes including Health, Education, Hygiene, Sanitation, Safe Water, Disaster Risk Reduction, Basic Human Rights, Civil Documentation and Civil Engagement, Protection of Laws to basic human rights, Environmental Pollution and Climate Change. NRSP celebrated "World Toilet

Day" on 19th November 2020 in different union councils of District Kech under BRACE Programme through CRPs. The theme of this year was "Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change". The objective of the event was to raise the awareness of community members to use toilets and stop open defecation. Climate change is accelerating. Flood, drought, and rising sea levels are threatening sanitation systems – from toilets to septic tanks to treatment plants. Floodwater can contaminate wells used for drinking water or flooding might damage toilets and spread human waste into communities and food crops, causing deadly and chronic diseases.

Everyone must have sustainable sanitation, alongside clean water and handwashing facilities, to help protect and maintain our health security and stop the spread of deadly infectious diseases such as COVID-19, cholera, and typhoid. Sustainable sanitation begins with a toilet that effectively captures human waste in a safe, accessible, and dignified setting. The waste then gets stored in a tank, which can be emptied later by a collection service, or transported away by pipework. The next stage is treatment and safe disposal. Safe reuse of human waste helps save water, reduces and captures greenhouse gas emissions for energy production, and can provide agriculture with a reliable source of water and nutrients.

CRPs and NRSP staff conducted awareness sessions with community organisation members on the importance of toilets, difficulties for women without toilets at home, the benefits of using toilets, disadvantages of open defecation, handwashing with soap after using toilets, and key messages of health & hygiene. 630 women and 8 men community members participated in the awareness events on "World Toilet Day 2020".

Seminar on the Role of Journalists in Community Development, Environment and WASH



Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in collaboration with Balochistan Forum for Environmental Journalists (BFEJ) and Pakistan Youth Peace Movement (PYPM) arranged a two day seminar on the “Role of Journalists in Community Development, Environment and WASH” with renowned journalists & parliamentarians in BRSP’s Head Office in Quetta from December 26 – 27, 2020.

On day one, Federal Minister for Defence Production Zubaida Jalal graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Spokesperson Balochistan Government Liaquat Shahwani, Parliamentary Secretary on Minorities Affairs Dinesh Kumar, Advisor to CM for QDA Mobin

Khilji & President PYPM Major Sadat presided. Prominent journalists like Shakeel Qarar, Dr. Sajjad Bukhari, Hassan Khan, Dr. Sana Achakzai, Watan Yar Khilji, Zahid Nasar and Environment expert Professor Zahoor Bazi of the University of Balochistan addressed the seminar with participants from all walks of life. In the workshop, BRSP’s interventions on WASH and environment were briefed and the journalists were sensitised on how they can ensure community development while highlighting and working towards resolving the issues.

On day two, Pakistan Youth Peace Movement in collaboration with BRSP and BFEJ organised talks in Serena Hotel Quetta on the

role of political leadership, media and civil Society in furthering the philosophy of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Qasim Khan Suri and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan honoured the occasion with their presence. Quaid e Azam Awards were also held alongside, which acknowledged the efforts of and rewarded distinguished achievers of the civil society, security forces, bureaucracy, journalists and paramedics. CEO BRSP, Mr. Nadir Gul Barech also received an award for his tireless efforts.



District Kech Field Visit Report

The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)’s Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme team, including Mr. Omer Farooq, Communications Officer, Rahim Khetran, Research Coordinator, Savaila, Documentation and Reporting Officer and Zahra Rao, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer visited Kech District from 14 - 20 December 2020. The objectives of this visit was to observe and attend the on-going field activities under BRACE Programme, to meet community institutions and beneficiaries

of Income Generating Grants (IGGs), Community Investment Fund (CIF), Technical Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) and Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) scheme, and to document the beneficiaries’ experiences of successes and struggles under BRACE Programme.

The field visit was divided into three parts:

- (a) Attend/observe on-going Programme activities including trainings,
- (b) Meeting community institutions formed

- (c) Meeting beneficiaries of the Programme interventions (IGG, TVET, CIF, CPI) provided by NRSP under BRACE Programme.



Day-1 (14 December, 2020)

RSPN team had a meeting with the NRSP-BRACE team including Mr. Nabeel Baloch, Regional General Manager NRSP Kech, Ms. Gul Afroz, Programme Manager, BRACE and Mr. Saeed Alim, M&E Officer to have a formal introduction with the new RGM NRSP, to learn more about the work of NRSP in district Kech and share the field visit plan. The team then attended the Enterprise Development Training for NRSP staff and participated in the Training of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skill (ALNS) Teachers:



Day-2 (15 December, 2020)



Team then travelled to Kuntedar village in UC Sangahi, Tehsil Dasht and attended O&M training for five CPIs and met some beneficiaries of TVET and IGG. Then they attended the Operations and Maintenance training for CPIs: RSPN team then visited LSO Dasht Kunchiti with the officials of NRSP in Union Council Kunchiti. The delegation then visited the CPI scheme in that LSO and met the O&M committee members.



Day-3 (December 16, 2020)

RSPN BRACE team attended the first day of Management Leadership Skill Training (MLST) in Mir Ghulam Rasool village of UC Sari Khan.



Day-4 (December 17, 2020)

On fourth day, RSPN BRACE team visited CO Nadeem Muhallah (female) in village Peerani Lamb, UC Sanghai. They further visited a women's CO, Suleiman Chaht, in Meshod muhallah of Village Peerani Lam in UC Sanghai.



Day-5 (December 18, 2020)

The field team visited Municipal Corporation Turbat in UC Koshkalat and attended a Managers' Conference. This event was attended by the CO, VO and LSO leaders.



After the district visit, RSPN team conducted a debriefing session with the NRSP staff including Mr. Nabeel Baloch, Regional General Manager NRSP Kech, Ms. Gul Afroz, Programme Manager, BRACE and Mr. Saeed Alim, M&E Officer and shared the key findings and observations.



DISTRICT
Kech



UNION COUNCIL
Kunchiti



DATE OF FORMATION
24th June 2008



DATE OF ADOPTION UNDER
BRACE PROGRAMME
28th Sep 2018



TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS IN
UNION COUNCIL
1,472



ORGANISED
HOUSEHOLDS
881



COVERAGE
60%



53 NUMBER OF COMMUNITY
ORGANISATIONS (COs)
36 WOMEN | 13 MEN | 44 MIX



10 NUMBER OF VILLAGE
ORGANISATIONS (VOs)



40 NUMBER OF GENERAL
BODY MEMBERS



11 NUMBER OF EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Local Support Organisation - Dasht

LSO Dasht, from District Kech, was formed on 24th June 2008 by 881 member households organised into 53 men and women COs and 10 men and women VOs. The leaders of LSO Dasht are planning and implementing development activities both on a self-help basis as well as in collaboration with government agencies. The EU-funded BRACE Programme is empowering rural men and women in Balochistan through realising the power they gain from collective action. Organised men and women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Preventive Measures to Contain Spread of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic caused serious socio-economic challenges along with health issues. The leaders of LSO Dasht, which has been revitalised under EU funded BRACE Programme, instantly came into action and played their part in helping the locals, and coordinating with Government Authorities. The LSO leaders played key roles in the following activities:

- 1. Provision of ration to poorest families:** When the Government imposed nation-wide lockdown to prevent the spread of the virus, the poorest people, mainly daily wagers, lost their work opportunities and livelihood sources. The households faced a scarcity of food items for their family members. The LSO leaders identified such families in need, collected donations from its members and provided ration to twelve families.
- 2. Registration with the GoP's EHSAAAS Emergency Cash Programme:** When the government announced EHSAAAS Emergency Cash Programme, a nation-wide social protection initiative, the poor members of the LSO were facing difficulties in registering themselves under the programme. The LSO leaders, in close coordination with the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and VO leaders, helped register 135 poor families under the programme. Around 110 poor families received cash grants.
- 3. Awareness raising about COVID-19:** The pandemic posed a major challenge regarding awareness gaps on the potential threats of the COVID-19 virus, precautionary measures to be taken to avoid getting infected by the virus and quarantining procedures for the infected persons. The awareness raising campaigns conducted by the Government via TV channels and mobile messages were not reaching the majority of the community members. Therefore, the LSO decided to conduct

focused awareness raising campaigns via its Community Organisations (COs). The LSO trained the CRPs on COVID-19 preventive measures and asked them to deliver a session to CO members after their routine Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions. So far, the CRPs have conducted 191 awareness raising sessions on COVID-19. The response of the community was very positive and they are trying their best to follow the government instructions.

- 4. Distribution of pamphlets/brochures/leaflet:** Along with verbal communication in CO meetings, the LSO distributed informative documents containing awareness raising messages on COVID-19. So far, they have distributed 405 pamphlets/brochures/leaflets among the community members. The documents were provided to the LSO by NRSP.
- 5. Display of banners:** The LSO leaders also displayed four banners, conveying precautionary messages on the pandemic in the central places of their UC. NRSP provided technical and financial support in developing these banners.

Rehabilitation of Basic Health Unit

The Basic Health Unit (BHU) of UC Kunchiti was closed for the past several years. This was because the building of the BHU was old and run-down, it was in need of heavy investment for its rehabilitation. Furthermore, the staff of the BHU was from far flung places which prevented them from performing their duties regularly. The out-of-service BHU was a cause for serious concern for the community members.

When the LSO was revitalised under the EU funded BRACE Programme, the LSO leaders discussed the matter of the out-of-service BHU in their meeting and decided to contact the authorities of People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) to seek their support in rehabilitation of the BHU. The LSO



leaders briefed the PPHI authorities about the condition of the BHU and requested them for its rehabilitation. PPHI repaired the BHU building and provided all required medical equipment and machines. On consistent advocacy of the LSO leaders, the Government Health Department posted staff residing in nearby areas, at the BHU, so they perform their duties regularly. At the moment, a Lady Health Worker (LHW), a dispenser, a vaccinator and a midwife are working at the BHU. Due to the improved performance of the BHU staff, people from nearby UCs too now take their patients there for treatment. This advocacy by the LSO members has not only helped the residents of UC Kunchiti receive quality health care from the rehabilitated BHU, but has also benefitted residents of nearby UCs.

Arrangement of Playground for Youth

Playgrounds offer a multitude of benefits that go far beyond aesthetics and give youngsters something fun to do. Youth constantly learn through play by making new friends, sharing, taking turns and interacting with different children. This increased interaction with children of all backgrounds and abilities gives youth a more open view of the world and the opportunity to build new relationships. However, due to lack of a proper playground, the youth of UC Kunchiti was deprived of such benefits.

The matter was discussed at an LSO meeting and the leaders decided to acquire land to set up a playground. The LSO leaders identified a suitable, two-acre land that was situated nearby the town centre of the UC. Since land is very expensive in the township, the LSO was unable to raise enough funds to purchase this land. As an alternative, the LSO leaders formed a committee to meet with the land owners. They requested the land owners to consider donating their land for the public good so they can construct a playground. Fortunately, each of the land owners happily gifted his share of the land to the LSO and the LSO converted it into a playground. Now both the kids and youth of the UC come to play at the playground and organise tournaments of cricket, volleyball and other games in it.



Civic Registration

After rehabilitation of the LSO under the EU funded BRACE Programme, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) started giving awareness sessions in COs through Community Awareness Toolkits (CAT). It was through these sessions that the LSO leaders learnt about the importance of civic registration and started campaigns for civic registration. So far, they had achieved the following progress in this regard:

1. Preparation of Computerised Identity Card (CNIC) is difficult and costly for the people living in remote villages, because, they have to pay heavy transport cost to travel from their village to the district Head Quarter, where the NADRA office is located. Because of this, a lot of the villagers did not have a CNIC. Having been made aware of the importance of CNIC, people are now taking an interest in preparing their CNIC. So far, 84 men and women have prepared their CNICs.
2. There was little awareness in the local community about the importance of registering themselves to vote with the Election Commission. However, as a result of awareness raising efforts of the LSO leaders, all the people who acquired their CNICs got themselves registered with the Election Commission.
3. Birth registration on time is a crucial step in getting CNIC and Local Certificate later on in life. The practice of birth registration was very rare in the UC. However, the awareness raising efforts of the LSO leaders, helped enlighten community on its importance and people have now started registering their new born children with NADRA. So far, 109 birth registrations have been reported by the member VOs of the LSO.
4. Local Certificate is a key document in getting Government jobs on quota basis and accessing other benefits. The LSO leaders motivated people to prepare Local Certificates for the educated youth of the area. So far, 133 people have prepared Local Certificates.
5. Wedding ceremonies were held according to the old local traditions, in which registration of Nikah was not a necessary practice. This meant many people in the Union Council were not registering their Nikah. Upon the awareness raising efforts of the LSO, 77 couples have obtained their marriage certificates.

Tree Plantation Campaign

Under the BRACE Programme, the LSO leaders were provided awareness on the role of trees in improving the local environment, providing shade and wood for the family members and fodder for their domestic animals. These sessions motivated them to launch a tree plantation campaign. However, finding tree saplings was a major obstacle. The LSO leaders learnt from the BRACE Programme staff that the Government Forest Department distributes rooted plants free of cost among interested people. The LSO President and Manager went to the Forest Department and requested such plants. The Forest Department provided them with 430 rooted plants. They loaded the plants in jeeps and brought them to their UC. Here, they organised a tree plantation campaign and invited the Deputy Commissioner Kech for its inauguration. The Deputy Commissioner accepted their invitation, appreciated their efforts and inaugurated the campaign by planting a tree with his hands. The LSO leaders distributed the plants among interested households through member VOs and COs. So all the plants were planted by the community members in their courtyards. The LSO leaders are planning to get more plants from the Forest Department at the time of the next plantation season.

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