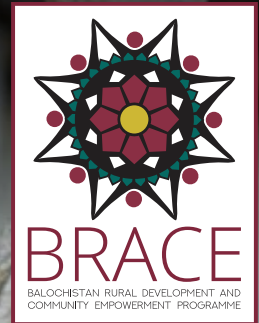


Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme

# NEWSLETTER

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BRACE  
Programme  
celebrating the  
success of Adult  
Literacy learners



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR THE BRACE'S GRANT COMPONENT



PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



# BRACE Programme celebrating the success of Adult Literacy learners

The ratio of adult literacy is very low in Balochistan. Only about one-fourth (27%) of the population of Balochistan aged 15 years and over is literate.



Programme started organising women into community and village organisations in village Chakarsul in Tehsil Basima of district Washuk. Safoora started going to the meetings where she learned about the importance of savings as a community and getting organised into community institutions.

“One day we were told by the BRACE team that BRACE Programme is going to set up an Adult Literacy and Numeracy Center in the village and 25 women will be enrolled for a period of six months. When I was told that my name is in the list too, I just couldn’t believe it. I didn’t know that my childhood dreams of learning and getting education has come true at this age,” Safoora said gleefully. The ALN center was inaugurated and women were given an orientation along with learning and writing materials by the BRACE team. Safoora along with other women went regularly to learn numeracy skills. “We have learnt a lot here. We can read the names of medicines, can write our names and have developed a better understanding about maintaining our personal hygiene. When I go to bazar, I am able to not only read names of the shops but also the names of the products. Similarly, If I go to a doctor now, I can better communicate to the doctor on health issues as the coaching at ALN centre has enhanced my confidence to interact and communicate with others,” Safoora says confidently. The learners at ALN centres have also learnt to do savings as also provided an opportunity to these women learner to learn on various

“I am very thankful to BRACE Programme for giving me the opportunity to learn to read and write when I had lost all hope.”

- Safoora Bibi

This low rate of literacy is putting serious negative impacts on the development of youth and the province. The women are also a prime subject to discrimination for getting least opportunities of education due to many reasons including, religious, cultural and societal obstacles. Safoora Bibi is one of the victims of the societal taboos wrongfully associated with the right to education for girls.

Safoora Bibi’s journey is a story of triumph and accomplishment. “The biggest regret of my life was not getting education” says Safoora Bibi wistfully. Safoora Bibi is a learner enrolled in the Adult Literacy Numeracy center in district Washuk. Safoora’s parents could not educate their children due to abject poverty. “I couldn’t tell the difference between a doctor’s prescription and other papers lying around in the house”. Two years ago BRACE



## POLICY

# Paving way for Community Driven Development

The BRACE Programme is consistently advocating the case for devolution through Local Government to communities. BRACE Programme is striving to place the Community Organisations at the center of local development. The success of any local development project lies in close coordination between the local government and the communities. To attain the goal of community driven development, the EU funded BRACE Programme has put a special emphasis on the close collaboration among local level institutions and the communities. Citizens and communities know what they want from public services, and what needs to be done to improve the places where they live. BRACE Programme wants to use these strengths to drive up



service standards and foster a sense of community and civic pride. District Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Loralai, conducted successful Joint District Development Committee meetings this quarter.

## ADVOCACY

# Widening Opportunities for Differently-abled Persons

The EU funded BRACE Programme ensures that the needs of all peers and marginalised segments of targeted local communities are addressed on various levels. During the reporting period, BRACE Programme held a distribution ceremony of orthotic and prosthetic devices, hearing aids, wheel chairs and tricycles for Persons with Special Needs in 7 BRACE Programme districts. The objective this initiative was to ensure the inclusion of marginalised and physically challenged persons into BRACE interventions. A total of 1377 orthotic devices, 315 prosthetic devices, 562 wheel chairs, 190 tricycles, and 800 hearing aid devices were distributed among 3244 individuals.



## COMMUNITY

# Exposure visit by members of the Government of Balochistan, Line Departments and LSO representatives to the SUCCESS Programme Field

BRACE Programme arranged a one-day visit for representatives from the Government of Balochistan, Line Departments and LSOs to district Sujawal and Hyderabad, Sindh. The delegation, consisting 16 persons with 6 females and 10 males, visited LSO Shah Muhammad Shah in Sujawal, where they met with the LSO representatives. Ms Hameeda Zaur, president of the LSO gave the delegation a presentation, highlighting their extensive work and achievements. The delegation was impressed with the work getting done under the approach of social mobilisation towards community driven development. At the end of the presentation,



members of the LSO Sujawal presented the traditional Ajrak as a souvenir to the visiting delegation.

## COMMUNITY

# Communities Getting Empowerment under BRACE

BRACE team members from RSPN visited the Kech district to attend the mixed LSO meetings in Union Council Kuddan and Kunchti. They were very impressed with how the community had come together to establish a solar panelled water supply and were actively participating in its maintenance. They also met with charismatic community resource persons and TVET beneficiaries who with their success stories of socio-economic empowerment, were helping lead the community into a brighter future.

## YOUTH

# Youth Engagement Through Sports Activities

Recreation and leisure activities are critical dimension of the quality of life for the youth. Sports provide the younger generation opportunities for growth and development. It is essential to engage youth in constructive and productive activities that encourage tolerance and urge them to respect the rights of all. Under the EU funded BRACE Programme, a youth sports gala in district Loralai in collaboration with local administration. The gala was attended by a large number of youth and notables from Civil and Paramilitary institutions, LSOs representative and local communities. The gala was concluded with distribution of prizes amongst the winners and runner ups.



## INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT

# Women of BRACE districts attend 12th Annual Conference on “International Rural Women’s Day” in Islamabad

The female members of community institutions formed under BRACE Programme participated in the 12th Annual Conference on the International Rural Women’s Day in Islamabad. This year the theme of the conference held on October 15-17, 2019, was “Synergising Rural Women Leadership for Rights-Based Development”. The conference is the largest networking event for rural women of Pakistan where over 3,000 women from over 100 districts interact with policymakers, donors and stakeholders from government, businesses, civil society, media and academia. The community women from BRACE districts were highly excited to get this opportunity of attending the Annual Conference and



meeting with community women from across the country. They actively participated in the event and participated into discussions with regards to life and challenges of rural women, especially in Balochistan.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

# Programme Planning and Inception Workshop for BRACE Programme Field Unit Staff



BRACE Programme organised Programme Planning and Inception workshop for newly hired field unit staff of recently established Field Unit Offices. The purpose of this one day workshop was to give the new joiner a detailed orientation on BRACE Programme and its interventions as to ensure equal level of understanding for all participants regarding Programme objectives, interventions, implementation and the inter-dependencies of Programme interventions. Detailed sessions given to participants included three-tiered social mobilisation, resource mobilisation, Planning, conflict resolution, gender mainstreaming, communication and Visibility and poverty score card.

## Advocating for Participatory Community Development Approaches

Aimed at creating more synergies with the local government and stakeholders, NRSP District Kech organised a training on 'Participatory Community Development Approaches in Karachi for the provincial government officials, members of the line departments and LSO representatives. Mr. Syed Zahoor ul Hassan (Divisional Director Local Government & Rural Development - Makran Division) was the chief guest of the training. A total of 16 participants attended the training with 6 females and 10 males. During the training, the participants were oriented in detail regarding the process of social mobilisation, objectives of the BRACE and the role of every partner under the Programme.



## RESEARCH

# Dynamics of Household Poverty and Inclusive Development in Balochistan



A longitudinal study titled 'Dynamics of Household Poverty and Inclusive Development in Balochistan with emphasis on Women Empowerment', is being conducted in three districts of Balochistan namely; Loralai, Khuzdar and Kech. In this regard, the data for the first out of three waves has been collected in all the three district.

The main purpose of the study is to provide and disseminate evidence-based findings around poverty dynamics in Balochistan and prepare policy recommendations to support the formulation of local development policy framework for Balochistan. Such a policy framework will be able to address the fundamental

challenges of poverty alleviation through an increased participation and empowerment of women while introducing inclusive development intensive policy measures for the people and communities of Balochistan province.

Furthermore, the research findings will be used to promote evidence-based advocacy and learning with relevant stakeholders, policy makers and donors so that community-led development framework for Balochistan can be designed and successful CDD approaches could be scaled up.

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019)

KPIs	Achievements	Achievement (%)
<b>Social Mobilisation Outreach</b>		
% of Union Councils with RSPs presence under the BRACE	198	80%
Number of Households with PSC survey completed	351,643	84%
Total Population covered under PSC survey	1,891,199	68%
No. of Households Organized	136,687	46%
No. of COs formed	14,254	75%
No. of Male COs	7,838	82%
No. of Female COs	6,227	65%
No. of Mixed COs	189	
COs membership	208,119	71%
Men CO members	115,905	79%
Women CO members	92,147	63%
Mix CO Membership	67	
No. of VOs formed	2,822	91%
No. of LSOs formed	126	51%
LSOs general body membership	4,354	
LSOs executive body members	1,128	59%
% of VOs registered/notified by the local registration awarding/notification authority	148	8%
% of LSOs registered/notified by the local registration awarding/competent authority	86	60%
Number of community organisations that have a saving programme CO	7,789	41%
Total Amount of Savings by CO	4,056,922	
No. of RSP staff trained by RSPs master trainers on CAT	82	78%
No. of Participants Trained on CAT	7,133	
No. of CAT Sessions held	1,565	72%
Rollout of the PIM Trainings to all Relevant Staff Members	67	57%
No. of community members trained in CMST (2/CO)	19,731	57%
Number of Community members trained in LMST.	2,834	51%
Number of community members trained as Community Resource Persons (CRPs)	531	66%
Number of Community members trained in MALT.	89	18%
Prepare and deliver training on CAT & CIF for CRP's	396	49%
Number of community members (men and women)Trained in TVET	630	30%
Number of community members (specially women) trained in ALNS (Adult literacy & Numeracy Skills)	4,595	70%
Number of government officials and local government representatives trained on CDD approaches	140	60%
Facilitate experience sharing among community-based organizations through arranging Manager Conferences - CBO Conferences	162	78%
Knowledge sharing exposure visits for community activists	678	31%
Knowledge sharing exposure visits for LA's and LSO representatives and staff	214	104%
Youth engagement in development by arranging recreational activities in schools/Youth Clubs	1,585	146%
Orientation and establishment of joint development committees at District level JDC	13	108%
Joint Development committee's meetings at District level on Quarterly Basis from Year II (JDDC)	29	32%
<b>Community Investment Fund (CIF)</b>		
Number of LSOs managing CIF	43	29%
Total amount of CIF with LSOs (PKR)	84,600,000	29%
Number of HH benefiting from CIF for productive asset building and income generation	584	6%
Total amount of CIF disbursed to poor households by (VOs/LSOs) (PKR) (0-23)	19,415,000	16%
<b>Income Generating Grants (IGG)</b>		
Number of LSOs managing IGG sub-grants	41	31%
Number of VO's managing IGG sub-grants	34	
Total amount of IGG sub-grants with LSOs/VOs (PKR)	94,336,800	77%
Number of households benefiting from income generation grants (IGGs) for productive asset building and income generation	1,985	70%
Total amount of IGG sub-grants disbursed to poor households (PSC 0-18) - (PKR)	91,077,800	75%
<b>Development and Planning</b>		
Preparing household level MIPs (247,956 HHs),	141,766	49%
Preparing VDPs and (2685 VDPs)	1,267	41%
Preparing UC Development Plans (211 UCDPs)	71	29%
<b>Community Physical Infrastructure CPI</b>		
Community needs identified for basic infrastructure in the VDPs and UCDPs CPIs	580	160%
Prepare technical, financial and environmental feasibilities of infrastructure schemes	171	49%
Technical training of community institutions on Project management, financial management, O&M of the infrastructure schemes (19 participants / event x 24 events each of 3 days = 456 participants)	75	5%
Approval by Joint District Development Committees for the infrastructure project	147	57%
Initiation of approved infrastructure projects.	93	36%
Number of HHs Benefiting from CPIs	7,359	
Individual Beneficiaries	41,847	
CPIs Initiated	93	36%
CPIs Completed	2	1%
<b>Gender</b>		
Gender ToT on organisational HR/Gender policies and anti-sexual harassment laws:	17	113%
Gender ToT for BRSP key BRACE staff on gender mainstreaming and sensitisation actions in communities	50	125%
Prepare and deliver gender sensitization session for CRPs and LSO members (20 participants/session x 63 sessions =(633 CRPs +633 LSO members = 1266 Participants)	889	64%
<b>PWD</b>		
Assesment survey of PWDs in targeted Union Councils	4,400	123%
Provision of assistive devices to identified PWDs (Orth/Prosth)	3,244	
Provision of assistive devices to identified PWDs (Hearing devices)	800	

## The European Union Funded **BRACE Programme**

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) programme is supported by the European Union (EU) and being implemented in close collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Department of the Government of Balochistan (GoB). The Grant component of this five year (2017-2022) Programme is being implemented by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in nine districts of Balochistan. BRACE is working in Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Pishin, Duki, Washuk and Zhob. The programme is technically supported by Human Dynamics (HD), an Austrian company that will support Government of Balochistan in fostering an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory local public sector planning, financing and implementation processes.



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