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The Balochistan Local Government Act has been Amended to Formally Recognize the Role of Community Institutions

The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, passed the proposed amendments in Local Government Act 2010 and adopted the Balochistan LG Act (Amended) 2022 wherein Section-87 was included which provides that a Local Council, subject to approval of the Local Government Board, may engage registered community Based Organizations (CBO), or Community Institutions (CI) in its local area development or execute such projects funded by the donor organizations/ agencies.

The registered and mobilized Community Institutions (CI) under this legal cover, are now formally recognized as partners in the Government Local Governance systems to take part in the local development processes.

The LG Act amendment, Section 87, will strengthen Community-Led Bottom-Up Planning and Development. and **this provision is a major achievement of the LG&RD Department and the Government of Balochistan**

This provision will also provide legal coverage to the proposed Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy,

The amendment of LGA Section 87 was prepared and promoted by the Local Government & Rural Development Department, with technical support from the EU BRACE TA Project. A key role in the adoption process was played by the Hon Qadir Nayal, MPA, in his capacity as Chair of the Provincial Assembly Sub-Committee on LG Act reforms.

The GoB Community Led Local Governance Policy;
Institutionalizing Community Engagement in the Development Process (News Coverage)

Daily Balochistan Express Quetta

Saturday August 20, 2022

'Approval of Balochistan LB act big step forward'

By Our Reporter

QUETTA: The approval of Balochistan Local Government Act is a big step towards the development and prosperity of the province.

Through this act, more reforms are being made which will yield better results. These views were expressed by the Focal Person of Balochistan Rural Development Community and Empowerment, Gul Mohammad Mengal, while talking to the participants of a two-day training workshop in Balochistan Rural Development Academy with the support of Local Government Department, Brace Technical Assistance. District Deputy Commissioner employees, Local Government employees and representatives of Rural Support Program participated in the training workshop.

During the work shop training was provided on community-led local government policy, policy implementation and the role of district stakeholders.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Focal Person BRACE

Gul Muhammad Mengal said that under the Local Government Act 2A, the Local Council Financial Commission is being established while the councils will be empowered in place of the DCC at the divisional level. He said that the participants who received the training have a responsibility to play a role for the improvement and development of their areas. Training will be started at the district level very soon. In the training workshop, lectures will be delivered by the officials of Rural Support Program BRACE, experts and faculty members of Balochistan Rural Development Academy. Director General BRDA Nimatullah Babar, Deputy Director Muhammad Arif and Team Leader EU Funded BRACE Technical Assistance Project Peter Portier also expressed their views from the workshop.

At the end of the workshop, certificates were also distributed to the participants who participated in the training.

Adoption of the GoB Community Led Local Governance Policy by the BRACE Strategy and Policy Dialogue Committee (SPDC)

The final draft of the GoB Community-led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy was approved by the BRACE SPDC Forum for onward submission to the GoB Authorities for its formal adoption.

The 6th BRACE Programme, Strategy and Policy Dialogue Committee (SPDC) of 7 September, chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS/Dev), endorsed the Balochistan Community-Led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy.

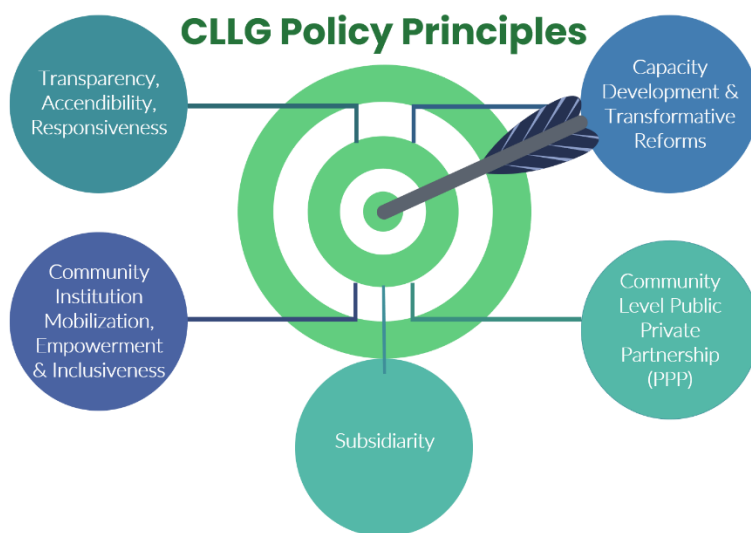
The CLLG Policy and the Policy Framework, provide a comprehensive development planning, fiscal, and regulatory framework that makes Community-Led Local Development a formal part of the GoB Local Governance systems. The GoB CLLG Policy will enhance the sustainability and will allow signification scaling up, of Community-Led Local development initiatives and investments, to be funded by Development Partners, and Government and from Community own-resources.

The BRACE SPDC Meeting endorsing the Balochistan Community-Led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy



Following through on the Balochistan LG Act Amendment (Section 87), the CLL Policy will regulate how Community Institutions can access, or benefit from public sector funds, and become a full partner in the GoB Local Governance and local development processes, which aim at increased service delivery to the rural and urban poor.

The Additional Chief Secretary (ACS/Dev) appreciated the efforts of the Local Government Department and EU BRACE Technical Assistance (TA) Team in developing this transformational GoB Policy and the



supporting governance framework. The Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD) will implement the CLLG Policy together with the key Provincial Departments and with the District Administration and the Local Councils

A comprehensive capacity-building

programme is to be developed and to ensure adoption and implementation of the CLLG Policy. The Balochistan Rural Development Academy (BRDA) is to be strengthened and is to play a lead role, in building capacity of relevant provincial Departments, the district administrations, the elected local government officials, and the beneficiaries at local level.

The CLLG Policy builds on the poverty-reduction evidence and the proven effective Community Mobilization (CM) approached of the BRACE Programme, as applied by the Rural Support Programmes (RSP) and other CM NGOs. Poverty reduction Impact studies have provided the evidence, which mobilized and empowered Community Organizations and Citizens, facilitate Local Government and other Government Department to increase and sustain their outreach to the rural/urban poor, resulting in more sustained and improved access to, and better quality of front-line public services delivery. Under the BRACE Programme this is done through small-scale community physical infrastructure (CPI) schemes, and a mix of CM stimuli that cover TVET, Community Investment Fund (CIF) loans, Income Generating (IGCG) Grants, support to People with Special Needs (PWSN), and a range of other CM support measures, that are identified and then self-prioritized by the mobilized Communities in their respective Community/Village and UC Development Plans (VDP/UCDP). The GoB CLLG Policy provides the Implementation and Regulation Framework and proposes Fiscal Allocations, to continue this CM approach more sustainably aiming at scaling up to cover all relevant Districts of Balochistan and the whole target group of poor families living below the poverty line. The CLLG provides the GoB with a forum for better outreach into the villages and this CLLG platform may also facilitate implementation of relief and mitigation programme of natural or man-made disasters, in flood affected districts.

The GoB CLLG Policy is a transformational governance framework, and at the local level it will rebuild the trust, especially of those citizens who did not yet receive their basic public services. At the global level the CLLG Policy may inspire enhanced trust with our development partners/ donors to commit more resources and join hands with the Balochistan Government, to reach out to local poor communities through this the CLLG Policy.

Group Study Tour and Exposure Visit by GoB Officials to The Hague Academy for Local Governance (HAfLG), in The Netherlands.

Following approval from the EU Delegation, the BRACE TA prepared and facilitated a Study Tour and Exposure visit for a group of 19 senior GoB Counterparts, consisting of Government Officials, Elected Representatives, and RSP (BRSP/NRSP/RSPN) community leaders and TA Staff.

The Study Tour was to (a) expose the Group to innovative Local Government and Local Governance systems, and (b) to foster in the group a shared common understanding that will allow the group to become a critical mass of Balochistan change-agents and motivated stakeholders, who will advocate the proposed innovative and transformative CLLG Policy Reforms upon their return.

The one one-week Tailor Made Training (TMT) Programme was designed with the HAfLG, scheduled and was successfully held from 26 to 30 September 2022.

The Study Tour provided exposure to innovative Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) systems, poverty alleviation, pro poor local economic development processes. The 5-days Study Tour and Exposure visit course programme covered following topics (see Textbox).

Concept of Decentralization & Multi Level Governance
Decentralization Governance in Netherlands
Decentralization Governance in Netherlands.
Participatory & Inclusive Governance
Study visit foodbank shop KIES
Local Economic & Social Development
Rotterdam Innovation Dock Campus & briefings on different sections of Complex/Research activities/Business and start-up initiatives
Pro-Poor Service Delivery & Social Protection.
Visit to City District East Amsterdam & presentation on Working of the city Government with communities
Visit to local Community Centre De Archipel & briefings on activities of Community Institutions
Decentralization & Pro-Poor Local Service Delivery an International Perspective
Identifying Takeaways and Action Planning/Group works for the local governance in Balochistan

Group Picture at the Hague Academy for Local Governance



Top rows: Team Leader BRACE TA: Peter Portier, Instructor BRDA: Muhammad Arif, Chief Foreign Aid P&DD GoB: Najeed Ullah, Director BRDA: Abdul Manaf, DS BLGB GoB: Atta Ullah, Chief Executive officer BRSP: Dr Shahnawaz Khan, Regional Manager NRSP: Nabeel Baloch, Director General BRDA: Niamat Ullah, Director Planning & Finance LGRDD: Gul Muhammad Mengal, Director District Coordinator BRACE TA: Nazar Muhammad, Monitoring, Evaluation & Communication Specialist BRACE TA: Muhammad Asim Hanif,
Below Row from left to right; HAfLG Course Director Ms Emmely Benschop, Member Chief Minister IT: Salman Mufti, Deputy Team Leader BRACE TA: Atif Masud. MPA Chairman Standing Committee LGRD: Qadir Nayel, Minister P&DD: Haji Noor Muhammad, Parliamentary Secretary WDD: Mahjabeen Sheran, Secretary S&GAD: Abdul Rehman Buzdar, Programme Manager RSPN: Sajjad Hussain, Team Facilitator: Shahenda

Twining Options between Balochistan Rural Development Academy and the Hague Academy for Local Governance,

To implement the GoB Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy, the capacity of all relevant stakeholders at provincial level and in the districts needs to be strengthened. A comprehensive capacity-building programme is being designed to ensure implementation of the CLLG Policy. The Balochistan Rural Development Academy (BRDA) to play a lead role, in building capacity of the relevant provincial Departments, the district administrations, the elected local government officials, and the beneficiaries at local level. In turn, the BRACE TA is mandated to strengthen the Capacity of the Balochistan Rural Development Academy (BRDA).

The Hague Academy for Local Governance (HAfLG) is a globally reputed institute that possesses technical capacity to provide capacity-development training courses, training modules & manuals based on global best practices and new & innovative local governance initiatives that are directly related to the CLLG Policy Reforms, and the HAfLG has provided “institutional and organizational Capacity development” to organizations in Africa and Asia, like the BRDA. Therefore, BRACE TA initiated discussions with the HAfLG, on options for the HAfLG to provide institutional and organizational Capacity development support to the BRDA, possibly in the form of twinning linkages between the BRDA and HAfLG.

The Study Tour at the HAfLG (September 2022) provided a unique opportunity for the Director General of the BRDA, to discuss with the HAfLG the scope and options of twinning arrangements. Specific actions were identified covering the following topics.

- Training of Trainers: to build the capacity of BRDA faculty members following international best practices
- Curriculum Development
- Designing of Standard in house courses for BRDA
- Joint Development of Training Materials including Trainers Guides, Participants Guides, Power Point Materials, Handouts etc.
- Online Training Opportunities
- Training of the Back Office Team, Standardization and Quality Management, Marketing and Communications
- Exchanges on Management Models and a Business Setup, and Human Resources Development

Meeting on Twinning linkages between DG BRDA and the Hague Academy for Local Governance, in The Hague, Netherlands



District Coordination Course Topic 4: “The GoB Community Led Local Governance Policy: Institutionalizing Community Engagement in Local Development Process”

BRACE TA in partnership with the Balochistan Rural Development Academy (BRDA) conducted the 2-day District Coordination Training Course Topic 4 on “*The Government of Balochistan (GoB) Community Led Local Governance Policy: Institutionalizing Community Engagement in the Development Process*” at the BRDA campus on 16 and 17 August 2022.

The DC Topic 4 Course is the last of the series of capacity building activities conducted at the BRDA, for a critical mass of 57 district-based participants among which are the 36 GoB officials; 2 officers from each Deputy Commissioners Office and 2 officers from each LGRDD District office in the 10-BRACE districts, and 8 BRSP, 1 NRSP district staff participated. as primary trainees. In addition, the TA Experts participated and the BRDA Trainers, and DG BRDA opens and/or closes the DC Courses.



The adopted amendment to the Balochistan Local Government Act, Section 87, to institutionalize the role of Community Institutions (CI) in Local Government and Governance, was presented as a decision that provides a string legal cover for the Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy, and this was directly connected to the objectives of the DC Training Course Topic 4. The participants were briefed on following:

- 1) The legal context of the CLLG policy and Framework, the amended Balochistan LG Act
- 2) The institutional setup that is to be put in place after the CLLG policy is adopted
- 3) The GoB Public Finance Management (PFM) Framework and the alignment of the CLLG Policy funding arrangements with the GoB PGM systems
- 4) Social mobilization of community institutions and the guidelines for their registration with GoB and Bank Account Opening, as stipulated in the CLLG Policy
- 5) Community Mobilization support and investments as regulated by the CLLG Policy, covering; Community Mobilization support, development of Community Development Plans, and specific empowerment investments like community physical infrastructure schemes, and livelihood interventions; Income Generating Grants, Community Investment Funds, Technical Education and Vocational Training.
- 6) The roles of the district stakeholders like the GoB Line Departments, the CIs, the District Administration, and how these stakeholders are to work with each other through the streamlined Joint District Development Committees.
- 7) The systems and procedures that will be in place for Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning once the CLLG policy becomes operational



The DC Training Course is conducted with and at the BRDA and is delivered in close cooperation with the BRDA Faculty. In this way, the TA DC Course provided “on-the-job” capacity building support to the BRDA faculty. The DC training course **Topic 4** marks the completion of the series of DC training course that were scheduled under the TA BRACE component. The DC Course target group and “critical mass” of 57 district trainees are to play a key role as “Training of Trainers (ToT)/Change Agents” when the CLLG Policy will be launched and implemented at district level.

One-Day Session on GoB Community Led Local Governance Policy in the Pre-Service Training of Newly Inducted District Level Administrative Staff of LGRDD

The GoB Local Government and Rural Development Department organized training for its newly appointed district administrative staff. A total of 30 new appointees which include Local Government Chief Officers and Local Government Engineers were part of the pre-service training that was held at BRDA for three months from July to October 2022. This training is mandatory for all of the newly appointed staff of the local government department to ensure they internalize the administrative and financial rules and procedures as well as the technical aspects and become fully aware of the mandate of the local government department.

With the GoB **Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) policy** is in its final phase of adoption by the relevant Government of Balochistan Authorities, it is expected to become part of the local government system. Therefore, TA, with the permission of the Secretary LGRDD and in cooperation with the BRDA, scheduled a one-day session (22/09/22) during the pre-service training, to orient the newly appointed staff on the CLLG policy.

The one-day session touched on the important concepts, systems, procedures and institutional setup of the CLLG Policy. The trainees were also informed that once the GoB formally adopts the CLLG policy and becomes operational, the TA will organize with the BRDA, detailed and operational district level training of the staff of the local government department, other line departments including other non-government key stakeholders.



One-Day Session on GoB Community Led Local Governance Policy for LGRDD Pre-Service Training Participants