





Implemented in Collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development Department, Government of Balochistan

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme

# NEWS LETTER

Issue 16 | July - September 2022



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS







TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER



### **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs as of September 2022)**

Key Performance Indicators(KPIs)	Total Targets (2017- 2022)	Achievement as of September 2022 (2017-2022)	Achievement(%)
Number of Households with (Poverty Score card) survey completed (Targeted Districts)	413,809	417,185	100.8%
Number of Households Organised	294,713	287,805	97.7%
Community Organisations Formed	19,129	25,995	135.9%
Number of Female COs	-	11,390	43.8%
Village Organisations Formed	3,085	5,653	183.2%
Number of Female VOs	-	2,109	37.3%
Local Support Organisations Formed	243	237	97.5%
Number of Female LSOs	-	3	1.3%
No. of Participants Trained on Community Awareness Toolkit	280,699	279,880	99.7%
Female Participants Trained	-	432,435	154.5%
Community Management Skills Trainings	40,258	36,104	89.7%
Female Members Trained	19,129	16,014	44.4%
Leadership Management Skills Trainings	5,600	5,425	96.9%
Female Members Trained	3,296	2,118	39.0%
Micro Investment Plans Formed	294,729	382,917	129.9%
Village Development Plans Formed	2,467	3,521	142.7%
Union Council Development Plans Formed	243	236	97.1%
Technical, Vocational and Educational Trainings	3,183	3,432	107.8%
Female Members Trained	1,085	2,174	63.3%
Number of target poor households members who have received the Income Generating Grants	13,632	12,214	89.6%
Number of HH benefiting from Community Investment Fund for productive asset building and income generation	19,550	9,838	50.3%
Women Trained on Adult Literacy & Numeracy Skills	12,064	12,104	100.3%

### **RSPN – Rural Support Programmes Network**

#### Gender Mainstreaming - A Step Towards Sustainable Development

The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) organised a twodays workshop under the European Union-Funded BRACE Programme, titled "Gender Mainstreaming - A Step Towards Sustainable Development" at the Serena Hotel Quetta, from 21st to 22nd July 2022. A total of 21 participants (10 men and 11 women) from the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), and Technical Assistance team from DAI participated in this workshop. The main target group was Gender Focal Persons (GFPs) from BRSP and NRSP. The earlier training workshops by RSPN were organised in August 2021 and May 2022 in which basic concepts and BRACE Programme's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy were discussed. The District Programme Managers (DPMs) and Gender Focal Persons (GFPs) together, drafted the Gender Action Plans for the BRACE Programme. This workshop was an



advanced level training for GFPs and was an important event in the series of gender sensitisation workshops with BRACE Programme's district Gender officers; as mentioned, in the BRACE GMS, and as recommended by the External Monitoring Mission after their fifth round of monitoring.

The Master Trainer of the workshop was Ms Sadaf Dar, Gender and Development Officer at RSPN. The Assistant Trainer was Ms Qurat ul Ain, The trainers moderated all the presentations and group activities of the two-days training event. The methodology was interactive, as the trainers engaged participants in discussions and kept the forum open for feedback, queries, and suggestions. The discussions and interactive sessions were supported through training materials, such as group tasks, videos, media articles, case studies and presentations.







# Introducing Government of Balochistan's Communications & Visibility Committee (C&V) Focal Person

EU-Funded BRACE Programme team from RSPN and TA hosted the Government of Balochistan's C&V Committee Focal Person, Mr Mohibullah Baloch in Islamabad on 30th of September 2022. C&V members discussed their Communications Strategy and Action Plan for 2022 – 2023 and beyond.



Mr Mohibullah was pleased to meet the representatives from the implementing partners of the BRACE Programme and assured his full support from the Government side. He keenly suggested to speed-up outreach with frequent live meetings and follow-up actions.





## **BRSP - Balochistan Rural Support Programme**

#### In Our Darkest Hour, LSO Viala Duki Shines Out!

Balochistan was hit with the worst monsoon rains and floods, leaving millions in need of help. Although the relief efforts have started, yet there are countless more who are still waiting. The Local Support Organisations are the people's forums and this flood was a good test of the effectiveness of these forums. For instance, European Union-Funded BRACE Programme fostered LSO Viala Duki was the only LSO in entire province which mobilised ration for the 94 flood affected households from Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA) Balochistan. Social mobilisation is the core philosophy of the BRACE Programme, for equipping communities to take self-help initiatives and work collectively for greater good.



#### Giving Voice to the Rural People - Stakeholders' Meeting in Zhob

In conflict-ridden societies, it is important that social mobilisation becomes an inclusive process. It builds cohesiveness and harmony within communities by focusing on the common denominators within the community. Stakeholders' workshops, negotiation consensus building is an important element of the social mobilisation strategy. The important point is that everyone is heard, and his/her point of view is incorporated into the planning process. It is a peoplecentered advocacy approach, as it enables communities to interact with the stakeholders, gives voice to their issues, and seek their buy-in for the model, as they will be a part of this intervention too. A Stakeholders' Meeting was held in district Zhob to



discuss issues faced by the people and how to work their way towards a collective solution. Representatives from Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD), Local Support Organisations (LSOs), Non-Government Ogranisations (NGOs) participated in the meeting.

The president of the meeting, Mr Gul Mohammad, District Coordinator UNICEF, thanked BRSP for its efforts in Zhob since 2007. He further added that the stakeholders' meeting is such an important forum in which community can easily discuss and solve their issues with the support of different line-departments

#### 1683 Rural Community Member Benefitting from a Drinking Water Supply Scheme in Pishin

298 Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) Schemes have been initiated since the inception of the Programme. Currently, more than 34,000 families are benefitting from these services. As an example, a Drinking Water Supply Scheme (DWSS) was constructed in Union Council Yaru 2 in Village Organisation Roshaan in district Pishin, with the financial support of European Union and implemented by BRSP. The scheme was identified through focus group discussions held between LSO and VO members, including women members of the community. The scheme consists of an overhead water storage tank and a 900 ft PVC pipe connecting it with the village pipe networking system. Due to electricity shortage, villagers were facing severe water shortage. After the completion of the scheme, community members can now store water in the tank and use it to meet their daily needs. The scheme costed PKR 2 million, with European Union's share of 1.75 million and community share of 0.25 million. The scheme is operational with a regular Operation and Maintenance (O&M)



committee and collects tariffs for the upkeep of the scheme. A total of 1683

community members are benefiting from this scheme.

#### Programme Manager Rural Development of the European Commission to Pakistan, Mr Ivan Borisavljevic Visited BRSP Head Office Quetta

In his first visit to Balochistan and BRSP. Mr Ivan was briefed about the outreach of BRSP in 9 districts. Mr Ivan was curious about BRSP's response to recent floods and after the briefing by CEO Dr Shahanwaz Khan, he admired BRSP's outreach and efforts on the ground and its collaborations with goverment and donor agencies. He was briefed on the progress of Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme. In the last five years The Programme is benefiting 2.7 million citizens in 257 Union Councils of 10 districts of Balochistan namely Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Chaman, Loralai, Pishin, Washuk, Zhob and Duki.





### NRSP - National Rural Support Programme

#### **BRACE Programme Helped Him to Achieve His Full Potential!**

The provision of Assistive Devices under BRACE Programme have changed the lives of dozens of men and women Persons with Special Needs (PWSNs) in District Kech, Balochistan. Rather, the lives of these less privileged men and women have been completely transformed; from being a burden on their family and society, to becoming an economically active family member and a useful citizen for the society. They have been mainstreamed into the normal life.

Abdul Razaq, 19, hailing from of a remote village Balgatar Fearozi Dasht in the Union Council Tijaban, Kech is one of those luckiest PWSNs whose lives have been transformed by the BRACE Programme. He was disabled by both legs due to a Polio attack in his early childhood. This disease devastated his entire future plans. His two elder brothers were Polio victims and disabled too. He insisted to go to school when he was four, however as they were poor and did not have any conveyance, his family refused to take him. But he was adamant and committed that he will not allow his disability to come in his way. Seeing that he was determined for education, his parents and some other family members decided to



arrange for him a donkey as a ride for school. He ended up in a government school and passed the Matriculation Exam with flying colours.

But he had another challenge now. He wanted to join a college in the nearest town Hoshab, some 38 kilometers away. However, the donkey ride was not possible this time due to the long distance.

Meanwhile, his mother Mehnaz Mai who is a member of CO Dar-e-Kund Balgather, heard the NRSP staff talking about provision of assistive



devices to the PWSNs with the support of European Union. She spoke to her fellow CO members who backed her and approved a resolution to provide a tricycle to Abdul Razaq, so that he could continue his education and mainstream into the normal life. This has been a turning point in the life of Abdul Razaq, as he has resumed his educational career by joining Boys Degree College, Hoshab.

Abdul Razaq is grateful to the EU-Funded BRACE Programme and NRSP which have helped him to make his dreams come true. He says, "I had lost my hopes after completing school education after a great struggle and fighting with my disability, as well as poverty. I did not wish to live rest of my live rotting home and as a burden on my poor family. I was desperate to resume my education so that one day I could start a decent life and support my family. I am happy that I am no more disabled, I am as complete as anyone else because I am moving on my own and I am getting education. The role of our community organisation has been instrumental in linking me with a social protection support. I can see a silver lining now. One day I shall payback to my society which helped me at the very outset of my educational career, when I was struggling to begin my education."



### **BRACE Technical Assistant (TA) - DAI**

# The Balochistan Local Government Act has been Amended to Formally Recognise 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 Organisations (CBO), or Community Institutions (CI) in its local area development or execute such projects funded by the donor organisations/agencies.

The registered and mobilised Community Institutions (CI) under this legal cover, are now formally recognised 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. 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 honourable MPA, Mr Qadir Nayal, 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)

# Express

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.

ransoque tant acce, their recognitions are being made while will yield better results. Then when were openiously by these were openiously by these were openiously by the control of the c

During the work shop traing was provided on commuty-ted local government polpolicy implementation and sole of district stakeholdors. Addressing the closing or more, Focal Person BRA and Muhammad Mongal said that under the Local Government Art 2A, the Local Council Financial Commission (Covernment Art 2A, the Local Council Financial Commission (Covernment Art 2A, the Local Council Financial Commission in place of the DCC at the division of the DCC at the divisional level. He said that the participants who received the training have a responsibility to place a role for the imprevenent and development of their areas. Training will be stated at the distinct level very soon, in the training workshop, loctures will be deficient of better the distinct place of the difficulty of the di

At the end of the workshop, certificates were also distributed to the participants who particinated 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 7th 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 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



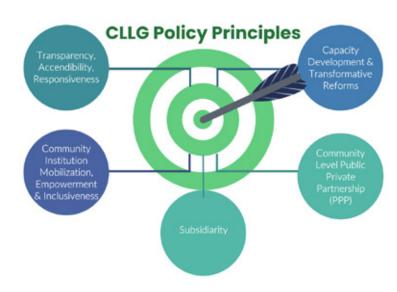
allow signification scaling up, of Community-Led Local development initiatives and investments, to be funded by Development Partners, and Government and from Community own-resources. Following through on the Balochistan LG Act Amendment (Section 87), the CLLG Policy will regulate how Community Institutions 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 the proven effective Community Mobilisation (CM) approach of the BRACE Programme, as applied by the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) and other NGOs. Poverty reduction Impact Studies have provided the evidence, which mobilised and empowered Community Organisations and Citizens, facilitate Government Local 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 (IGG) Grants, support to People with Special Needs (PWSN), and a range of other support measures, that are identified and then self-prioritised by the mobilised Communities 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 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 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 26th to 30th September 2022.

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

Concept of Decentralisation & Multi-Level Governance

Decentralisation Governance in the 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

Decentralisation & 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: Najeeb 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

#### Twinning Arrangements 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) plays 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



organisationalCapacitydevelopment" to organisations in Africa and Asia, like the BRDA. Therefore, BRACE TA initiated discussions with the HAfLG. on options for the HAfLG to provide institutional and organisational 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. 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 includina **Trainers** Materials Guides. **Participants** Guides. Power Point Materials, Handouts etc.
- Online Training Opportunities
- Training of the Back Office Team, Standardization and Quality Management, Marketing Communications
- Exchanges Management on Models and a Business Setup, and Human Resources Development

#### District Coordination Course Topic 4: "The GoB Community-Led Local Governance Policy: Institutionalising Community Engagement in Local Development Process"

BRACE TA in partnership with the Rural Development Balochistan Academy (BRDA) conducted the two-day District Coordination Training Course Topic 4 on "The Government of Balochistan (GoB) Community Led Local Governance Policy: Institutionalising Community Engagement in the Development Process" at the BRDA campus on 16th and 17th 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 institutionalise 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. amended Balochistan LG Act
- 2. The institutional setup that is to be put in place after the CLLG policy is adopted
- The GoB Public Finance Management (PFM) Framework and the alignment of the CLLG Policy funding arrangements with the GoB PGM systems
- 4. Social mobilisation of community institutions and the guidelines for their registration with GoB and Bank Account Opening, as stipulated in the CLLG Policy

- Community Mobilisation support and investments, as regulated by the CLLG Policy, covering; Community Mobilisation 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.
- roles of district 6. The the 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 organised a training for its newly appointed district administrative staff. A total of 30 new appointees, which included 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 internalise 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 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, the 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 organise 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.

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### **BRACE Programme**

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