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FINAL REPORT

Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme

Balochistan Rural Development & Community Empowerment (BRACE)
Technical Assistance (TA)

Report Date: December 2023

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Balochistan Rural Development &
Community Empowerment (BRACE)
Programme

Comparative Study Report

of BRACE Programme's Grant Component

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COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE GRANT COMPONENT OF THE BRACE PROGRAMME

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Balochistan Rural Development & Community
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ABBREVIATIONS

ALNS	Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills
BDC	Business Development Center
BI	Business Intelligence
BRACE	Balochistan Rural Development & Community Empowerment
BRSP	Balochistan Rural Support Programme
CI	Community Institution
CLLG	Community-Led Local Governance
CO	Community Organisation
CIF	Community Investment Fund
CPI	Community Physical Infrastructure
CAT	Community Awareness Toolkit
DQS	Data Quality Standard
ER	Expected Results
EU	European Union
GOB	Government of Balochistan
IGG	Income Generation Grants
iOS	iPhone Operating System
IPs	Implementing Partners
JDC	Joint Development Committee (Tehsil Level)
JDDC	Joint District Development Committee
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LSO	Local Support Organisation
NRSP	National Rural Support Programme
ODK	Open Data Kit
PSDP	Public Sector Development Programmes
PWSN	Person with Special Needs
ROM	Result-Oriented Monitoring
RSPN	Rural Support Programme Network
TA	Technical Assistance
TOC	Theory of Change
TVET	Technical & Vocational Education & Training
UC	Union Council
VO	Village Organisation

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Balochistan Rural Development &
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Executive Summary

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme has been the largest European Union initiative for empowering communities in Balochistan. This flagship EU programme has been implemented by the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in ten districts and the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in the remaining one district of Balochistan while Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) was entrusted to provide technical support to the grant component's implementing partners. The DAI Global was engaged by the European Union Delegation in Pakistan to extend Technical Assistance to the Government of Balochistan. The government of Balochistan in particular, Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD) has been closely working with the implementing partners facilitated by the Technical Assistance Team.

This flagship EU programme that essentially covered 300,000 rural households across one-third of Balochistan province, comes to closure in December 2023. After years of advocacy and policy craft involving district and provincial stakeholders, the LGRDD and its Technical Assistance (TA) partner earned some major achievements on the policy front: the amendment of the Local Government Act (2010) and the promulgation of the Balochistan's Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) policy. These two legislative and administrative steps were crucial in providing legal cover to the Government of Balochistan so they could engage Community Institutions (CIs) in planning, resource mobilisation, implementation, and participatory monitoring of local development initiatives. With these two important wins at the policy level, it was imperative that the Local Government & Rural Development Department and the Government of Balochistan have an impartial and objective evaluation of the grant component as already implemented by BRSP and NRSP between 2017-2023, that could help mobilise provincial governments and external donors' resources. It is in that spirit that this comparative assessment study was initiated by the Technical Assistance team.

By employing mix-methods and collecting quantitative and qualitative data, the research consultants have evaluated the grant component. For practical reasons and in agreement with TA team in the Inception Phase, district Pishin in the north and district Kech in the south were drawn as selected sample districts. This selection also allowed a careful study of institutional variety since BRSP was tasked with implementing the BRACE Programme in Pishin and NRSP implemented this programme in Kech. On top of this geographic and institutional variety, this selection also allowed distillation of key programme lessons in terms of ethno-social and political-economic diversity. In each selected district, four union councils were randomly selected, two of them comprised of treated group i.e., organised households who participated and benefitted from the BRACE Programme and the other half making control group, either union councils or population within the BRACE target UCs who were not covered under the BRACE Programme. With 440 survey respondents, eight (08) Focused Group Discussions and 20 Key Informant

Interviews (KII), it is safely claimed that the results drawn are statistically significant with 95% confidence rate.

In the discussions with wide range of provincial and district-level government officials and mainly the ultimate beneficiaries (communities) in both Kech and Pishin, BRACE Programme has earned positive perception of having contributed to reducing poverty, improving access to basic services, and bridging the gap between the state and citizenry. What was more unanimously pronounced across the spectrum of respondents was BRACE Programme's intended strife for social and economic empowerment of women. This also supplements the GoB CLLG Policy's philosophy to engage the communities in development process through adopting the community driven development models especially implemented under the BRACE Grant Component.

Although, study of the Reports on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) shows that almost all programme interventions except one have been completed as agreed in the logical framework and the work plan, communities varying expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of relief BRACE Programme was able to provide to the poor households reflecting appetite of the community driven development interventions. Community leaders in the FGDs, mentioned COVID-19 pandemic, Floods in 2022 and the incorrigibly high rates of inflation to make the argument that the size of the Income Generating Grant and the Community Investment Fund, two economic interventions, were insufficient. What surprised as was the contrast that treated population, i.e., programme beneficiaries were more pronounced in expressing dissatisfaction than the control group i.e., non-beneficiaries. Upon investigation, this variance in responses and dissatisfaction at the IG grant and CIF loan sizes is judged as a positive outcome of the programme because these can be attributed to the 'awareness' of the poverty status and 'voice and agency' to articulate the demands.

District-level stakeholders heaped particular praise for the Joint District Development Committee (JDDC). In Kech, a Social Welfare Officer expressed gratitude because the JDDCs not only elevated his social standing amongst his people but also because it connected government officials with one another, resulting in improved coordination.

Questions on "sustainability" earned varied responses and concerns from all stakeholders. While the treatment group are pretty confident that the Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) schemes and the Community Investment Fund (CIF) will continue long after the BRACE Programme ends, the same optimism was not shared by key informants, government officials as well as control group respondents.

Overall, the BRACE Programme has undeniably triggered positive change on the fronts of social, economic, and political empowerment, however, treatment and control group attribute differently. Both groups recognise improvements in key areas, only that the treated groups see the BRACE Programme as a crucial catalyst

for these advancements. In contrast, the control groups perceive similar progress as a result of their own local efforts.

As seen from the eyes of community leaders and district-level government officials, BRACE Programme has played instrumental role in empowering communities, particularly women who now participate in decision-making in their households, in their communities and some even engage administrative hierarchies such as the Deputy Commissioners. However, they express concerns about sustaining the benefits in total absence of technical support. Now that the Government of Balochistan has the legal structure in place in the shape of Balochistan's Community Led Local Governance Policy, it is important and only logical that the Government of Balochistan and the development stakeholders and donors join hands together to make use of the conducive environment established after six years of relentless efforts and that the hard-earned policy is realised to implement social protection system and participatory local development across the width and breadth of Balochistan province, a region that has lagged behind the rest of Pakistan and a people that deserve this support the most.



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Balochistan Rural Development &
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Background

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BACKGROUND

The Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme is a significant development initiative aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by communities residing in rural areas of Balochistan, Pakistan. With a vision to mitigate the adverse effects of economic deprivation, poverty, social inequality, environmental degradation, and climate change, the programme aspires to transform these challenges into opportunities for growth and resilience.

BRACE is strategically implemented across ten districts in Balochistan, targeting a vast network of 249 Union Councils (UCs) and an ambitious goal of reaching 300,000 households. The approach is deeply rooted in community engagement and empowerment, with a comprehensive structure of Community Organisations (COs), Village Organisations (VOs), and Local Support Organisations (LSOs) established at various administrative levels. Of the 237 LSOs, 222 are registered with the government and have operational bank accounts.

They have 9,206 general body members and 2,112 executive body members. For the office bearers of these community institutions, capacity building training was organised by BRSP and NRSP and 6,170 office bearers were trained in Leadership and Management Skills (LMST). In addition, 399 activist workshops were organised where 13,753 community members participated, 42% of them women.

The overview and the coverage of the BRACE Programme is illustrated below is Figure 1:

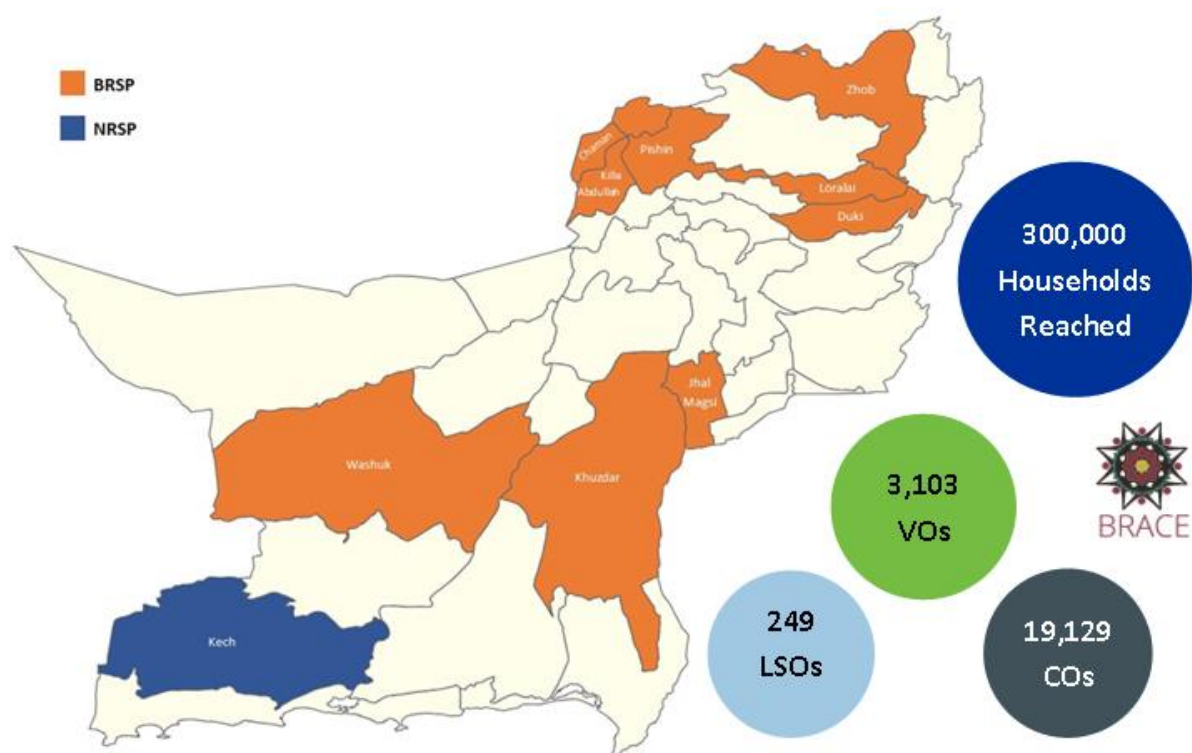


Figure 1 - Overview and Coverage of BRACE Programme

One of the fundamental objectives of the BRACE Programme is to empower citizens and communities, providing them with the means to implement community-driven socio-economic development interventions. By enhancing their voice and capabilities to influence public policy decision-making, and fostering civic oversight, the programme aims to ensure quality, inclusive, and equitable service delivery through active engagement with local authorities.

Through diligent implementation and active partnerships with local authorities, the BRACE Programme endeavours to create lasting positive impacts on the lives of people in rural Balochistan.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The Overall Objective is to support the Government of Balochistan in reducing the negative impact of economic deprivation, poverty and social inequality, environmental degradation, and climate change, and to turn this into opportunities to build and empower resilient communities participating actively in identifying and implementing socio-economic development activities on a sustainable basis in partnership with local authorities.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

S01: To empower citizens and communities and provide them with means enabling them to implement community-driven socio-economic development interventions, an increased voice, and the capability to influence public policy decision-making through active engagement with local authorities for quality, inclusive, and equitable service delivery, and civic oversight.

S02: To foster an enabling environment for strengthening the capacities of local authorities to manage and involve communities in the statutory processes of the local public sector planning, financing, and implementation process.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Under Specific Objective 01, there are a total of six expected results that will be focused on under the study. The expected results are outlined below in Figure 2:

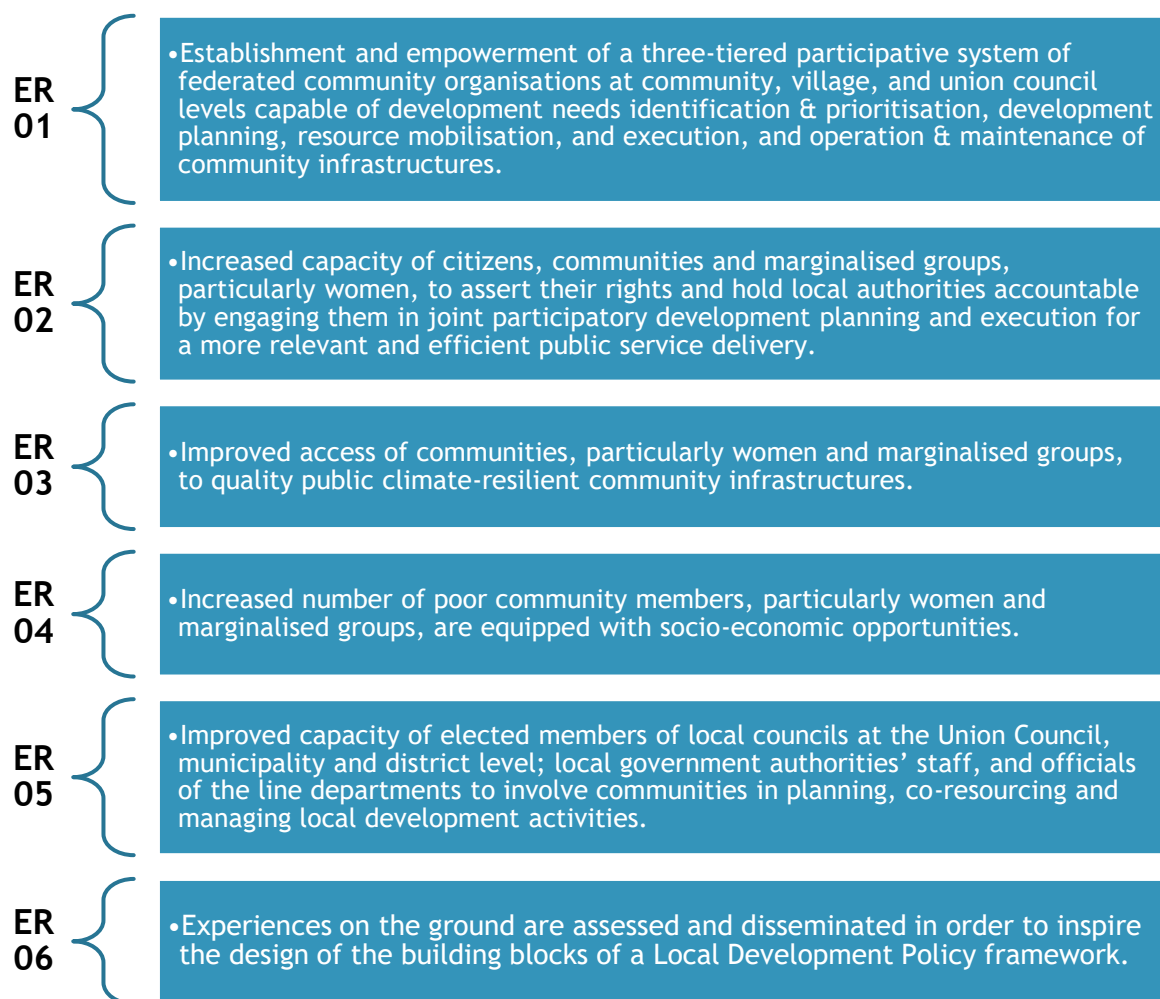


Figure 2 - Expected Results of BRACE Programme



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Study Objectives

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STUDY OBJECTIVES

Under the specific objective two, the Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy has been developed by the Government of Balochistan and successfully launched with the Technical Assistance of European Union implemented by the DAI. The GoB CLLG policy has been formulated based on the learnings and thorough evaluation of both positive/negative aspects of the BRACE programme. The major sectors that have implemented on ground have mostly drawn positive results.

There is a dire need to justify the hypothesis of BRACE success, for this purpose, under Expected Result 5 of Specific Objective 2, there is an Action Research Component. Under this component the BRACE Technical Assistance has proposed a comparative assessment study to be undertaken for conclusive research-based evidence to not only inform the Government of Balochistan on its way forward during the implementation of its CLLG policy implementation programme but also provide further learnings based on the research. Moreover, the BRACE Programme Grant Component has been completed and it is high time to conduct such a study for making informed decisions.

The study also aims to provide empirically evident immediate outcomes of the interventions leading to encourage and build the confidence of the development partners to supplement the GoB's 9.2 billion outlay and 1.5 billion allocations under the PSDP-2023-24 for the CLLG policy implementation programme 2023-28. The results gathered through this proposed comparative assessment research of the BRACE Programme applied to treated and control groups will provide the GoB with a basis to mobilise the development partners and donors to provide support for the continuous implementation of the BRACE activities. This research will support the efforts of the Government of Balochistan to seek the support of Development Partners and Donor for the implementation of the empirically evident and research-based facts.

Moreover, the overarching purpose of the comparative assessment study is to rigorously assess and analyse the implementation of the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme in the targeted Union Councils (UCs) within sampled districts of Balochistan and evaluate the comparison of the level of implementation in the focused UCs with those UCs where the interventions were not carried out to measure the change triggered by BRACE and success of the interventions. The comparative assessment study aims to achieve the following specific objectives:



Figure 3 - Specific Objective of the Comparative Assessment Study

ASSESS IMPLEMENTATION LEVELS AND QUALITY

Evaluate the level and quality of implementation of the BRACE Programme within the selected focused Union Councils (UCs), comparing them with non-focused UCs. This assessment will provide insights into the effectiveness of the programme in realizing its objectives at the grassroots level.

EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INTERVENTIONS

Evaluate the extent to which the BRACE Programme has empowered citizens and communities, enabling them to implement community-driven socio-economic development interventions. This comparative assessment study will focus on measuring the impact of the programme in promoting self-reliance and sustainable development initiatives.

ENHANCED VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT

Assess the effectiveness of the programme in enhancing the voice and capabilities of communities to actively engage with local authorities, thereby influencing public policy decision-making. This evaluation will shed light on the programme's success in fostering meaningful partnerships between communities of focused UCs in comparison with the communities of non-focused UCs and local government bodies.



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Ethical Consideration

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Ensuring ethical standards in every aspect of the assignment is paramount to uphold the integrity of the research and protect the rights and well-being of all participants involved.

By integrating these ethical considerations, the Comparative Assessment Study seeks not only to abide by ethical norms and standards but also to prioritise the welfare, privacy, and dignity of the participants, fostering a research environment built on trust and respect.

The following comprehensive approach outlines the key ethical considerations integrated into the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme.

INFORMED CONSENT FOR INTERVIEWING

Prior to any data collection activities, participants will be provided with clear and detailed information about the study's objectives, methodologies, and potential implications. Participants will be assured of their voluntary participation and the right to withdraw from the study at any stage without facing consequences.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All collected data, whether quantitative or qualitative, will be treated with strict confidentiality. Participants' identities will be anonymised to prevent any personal information from being disclosed in the final reporting. Rigorous measures will be implemented to ensure secure storage, transmission, and handling of sensitive data, both in digital and hard copy formats.

RISK OF DISCLOSURE

Personal identifiers will be minimised to the greatest extent possible during data collection, transcription, and analysis, minimizing the risk of inadvertent disclosure. Any potential risks associated with the disclosure of participant identities will be carefully assessed, and appropriate safeguards will be implemented to mitigate these risks.

PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

Special attention will be given to the protection of vulnerable groups, including but not limited to women, children, and marginalised communities. Inclusivity measures will be implemented to ensure that the voices of vulnerable groups are heard without compromising their safety or well-being.

CONSENT FOR RECORDING VIDEO OR TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS

Participants will be explicitly informed and asked for consent before any video recording or photography takes place during the study. Participants will have the

right to refuse to be recorded or photographed without facing any consequences or prejudice in their participation.

CONTINUOUS MONITORING AND FEEDBACK

The study will undergo review by the consultants to ensure alignment with ethical guidelines and standards. The consultants will continuously monitor ethical considerations, and any emerging ethical concerns will be promptly addressed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging with the local communities throughout the research process to ensure their perspectives are considered and that the research outcomes are beneficial to the community.



Figure 4 - Ethical Considerations for the Study



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Methodology & Approach

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METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The methodology and approach of the study was carried out in sophisticated steps to achieve the overall objectives of the Comparative Assessment Study. Below in Figure 5 are the key phases of the study that rigorously followed during the assignment:

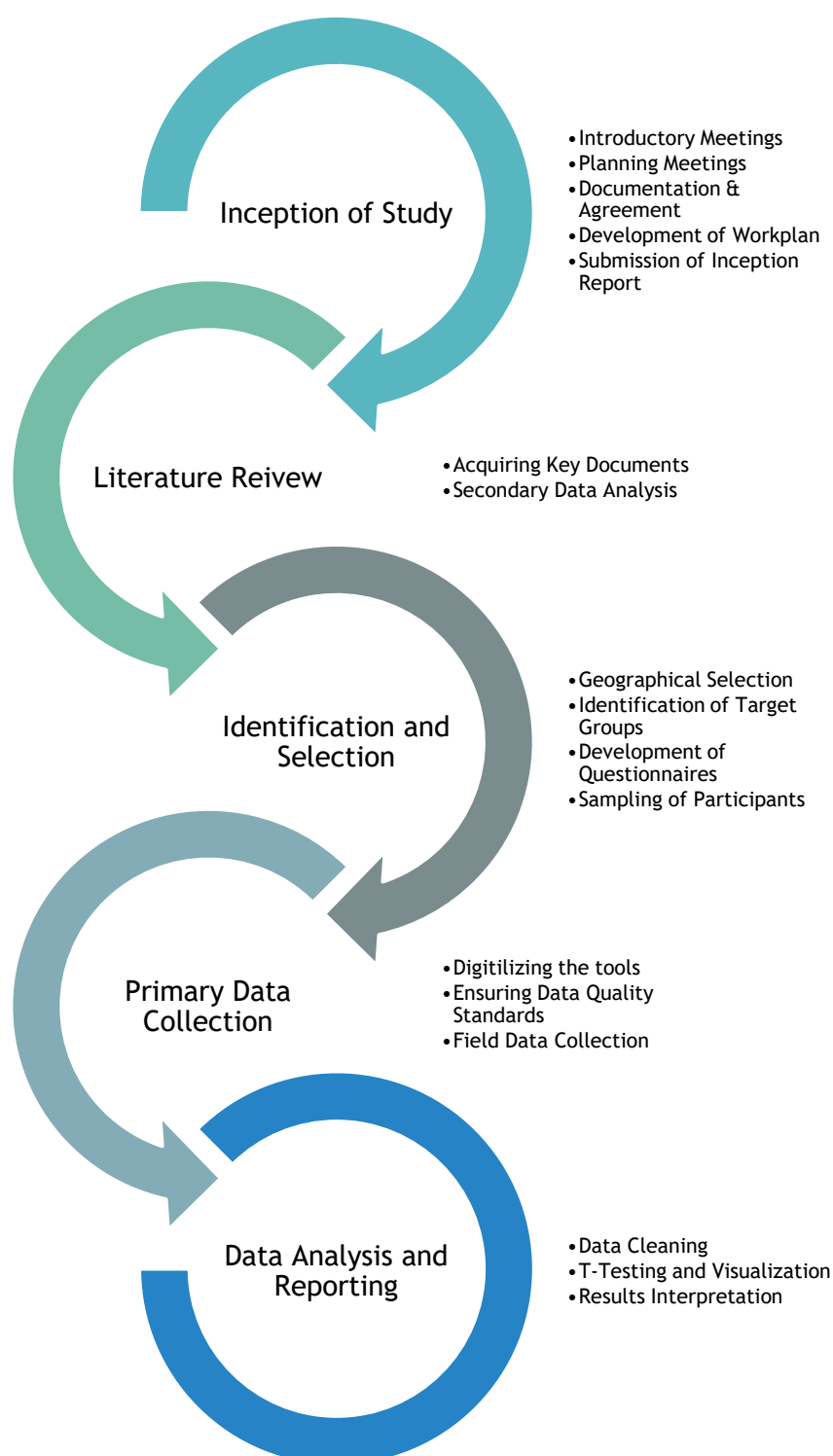


Figure 5 - Methodology and Approach of the Comparative Assessment Study

INTRODUCTORY AND PLANNING MEETING

The successful execution of the research study relies heavily on effective communication and collaboration between the consulting team and the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Technical Assistance (TA) team. To ensure a comprehensive understanding of the assignment and to establish a well-defined plan, a series of planning meetings were conducted.

Introductory Meeting

- The consultants initiated the collaboration with an introductory meeting with the BRACE TA team.
- The purpose of this meeting was to provide an overview of the research study, its objectives, and the role of the BRACE TA team in facilitating the process.
- Discussion points included the scope of the assignment, key research questions, and the expected outcomes.
- Initial concerns or queries from the BRACE TA team were addressed during this session.

SUBSEQUENT PLANNING MEETINGS

Following the introductory meeting, a series of planning meetings were scheduled and conducted to delve into the specifics of the research methodology.

- **Sampling Methods & Techniques:** Detailed discussions were held to finalise the sampling methods and techniques to be employed at both the district and union council levels.
- **Sampled Districts & Union Councils:** The consultants worked closely with the BRACE TA team to determine the criteria for selecting districts and union councils, ensuring a balanced representation of treated and controlled groups.
- **Overall Work Plan:** The work plan for the entire assignment was meticulously outlined during these planning meetings. This included timelines for each phase, milestones, and key deliverables.
- **Iterative Process:** The planning meetings followed an iterative process, allowing for feedback and adjustments as needed. This collaborative approach ensured that the final methodology aligns with the goals and expectations of both parties.

DOCUMENTATION AND AGREEMENT

- Minutes of each meeting were documented and shared with the BRACE TA team for review and confirmation.
- Modifications and refinements to the plan were duly noted and mutually agreed upon.

- The finalised plan, including sampling methods, selected districts and union councils, and the overall work schedule, were documented in a comprehensive agreement for reference throughout the assignment.
- These meetings aimed not only to establish a solid foundation for the research methodology but also to foster a collaborative and transparent working relationship between the consultants and the BRACE TA team. Open communication and continuous feedback were encouraged to ensure the success of the research endeavour in partnership with Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE).

DEVELOPMENT OF WORK PLAN

To ensure a systematic and timely execution of the research assignment, the consulting team developed a 50-Day Work Plan. This comprehensive plan reflected all activities on a day-to-day basis, commencing from October 27 and concluding on December 28, 2023.

Key Components of the Work Plan

Activities Breakdown

- The work plan provided a detailed breakdown of activities, outlining specific tasks accomplished each day.
- Activities encompassed various stages of the research process, including literature review, district and union council selection, sampling procedures, data collection, and analysis.

Timeline Considerations

- The 50-Day Work Plan was structured to ensure a balance between thoroughness and efficiency.
- Strategic inclusion of weekends, where necessary, reflected the commitment to meeting deadlines without compromising the quality of the research.

Feedback Integration

- Throughout the development of the work plan, the consulting team engaged in regular meetings with the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Technical Assistance (TA) team.
- Feedback obtained during these meetings was instrumental in refining and updating the work plan. This iterative process ensured alignment with the expectations and objectives set forth by BRACE.

The development of the 50-Day Work Plan, with careful consideration of feedback from the BRACE TA team, signified the commitment to a structured and collaborative approach. Moreover, an Implementation Schedule (attached as **Annex-A**) providing a high-level overview of the project milestones and major activities. It served as a

quick reference for key dates and deliverables, offering a snapshot of the project's progress. Additionally, the Detailed Implementation Plan (attached as **Annex-B**) offers a more granular view of the project timeline, breaking down each day's tasks into specific actions. These annexures served as a comprehensive guide for both the consulting team and the BRACE TA team, ensuring clarity and transparency in the execution of the research.

REVIEW OF SECONDARY DATA

To enrich the foundation of the Comparative Assessment Study and enhance the efficiency of result accumulation, the consulting team diligently conducted a comprehensive review of secondary data. This review involved the acquisition and examination of various documents provided by the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Technical Assistance (TA) team.

Documents Acquisition

The consultants obtained essential documents from the BRACE TA team, including but not limited to:

1. **Paving Potential Pathways for Poverty Graduation:** Annual KPI Report that presented progress from all implementing partners for the year 2020-21
2. **Community Livelihood Enhancement through CIF, IGGs and TVET for Poor Households in Balochistan:** A third-party report by Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) in 2021 that measured outcomes of socio-economic interventions under the BRACE Programme
3. **Dynamics of Household Poverty and Inclusive Development in Balochistan with a Focus on Women's Empowerment:** Three reports of a longitudinal study with Round I in 2020, Round II in 2021 and Round III in 2022.
4. **Study on Assessment of Outcomes from the Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) component of the BRACE Programme:** a 2022 report by Reenergika that assessed social, economic, and environmental outcomes of the CPIs constructed under the BRACE Programme
5. **Paving Potential Pathways for Poverty Graduation:** Annual KPI Report that presented progress from all implementing partners for the year 2021-22
6. **Assessment of the Fostering and Strengthening of Citizen-State Engagement: Achievements, Lessons Learned and Way Forward:** a 2022 report by a third-party, Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) that assessed the Joint District Development Committees (JDDCs) and overall engagement between State and citizenry as facilitated by the BRACE Programme
7. **Results of the Socio-economic Baseline Survey:** NRSP's baseline survey in 2017-18 of socio-economic standing of households in district Kech

8. **Results of the Socio-economic Midline Survey:** NRSP's midline survey in 2020-21 of socio-economic standing of households in district Kech as in 2020-21
9. **Results of the Socio-economic Endline Survey:** NRSP's baseline survey 2023 of socio-economic standing of households in district Kech
10. **Community-Led Local Governance (CLLG) Policy:** Providing insights into the local governance framework and community participation strategies.
11. **Mid-Term Review Report:** Offering an intermediate evaluation of the BRACE Programme's progress and effectiveness.
12. **Monthly KPI Report (August 2023):** Monthly sheet that reports output level progress against Key Performance Indicators as of 31st August 2023
13. **Women Village Organisations' Networks in BRACE Programme District:** a 2023 qualitative report on how Women VO Networks progress in district where women struggled to co-attend meeting with men.
14. **Synthesis of Assessments and Surveys under the BRACE Programme:** a 2023 third-party report by DevTrio, a Lahore-based firm that presented a summarised report on assessments done by RSPs.
15. **Overall TORs of BRACE Programme:** Outlining the overall Terms of Reference, guiding principles, and objectives of the BRACE Programme.
16. **ROM Mission Report:** Documenting the findings and recommendations from the Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission.
17. **External Performance Monitoring of the Balochistan Rural Development & Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme:** Six bi-annual reports of an EU-commissioned team of consultants who visited BRACE Programme every six months and monitored and reported progress.
18. **Other Relevant Documents:** Various reports, guidelines, and policy documents that contribute to a holistic understanding of the context and objectives of the BRACE Programme.

Purpose of Review

The meticulous review of these documents served multiple purposes within the framework of the Comparative Assessment Study:

1. **Contextual Understanding:** Gaining a nuanced understanding of the local governance policies, programme objectives, implementation methodology of grant component, and contextual factors influencing the study area.
2. **Informing Methodological Choices:** Informing the consultants' methodological choices by aligning the study design with the existing programmatic landscape.
3. **Identifying Data Gaps:** Identifying potential gaps in primary data that may be addressed through supplementary secondary data sources.

- 4. Enhancing Comparative Analysis:** Facilitating a more robust comparative analysis by integrating insights from previous assessments and programme evaluations and responding to the research questions.

Efficiency in Result Accumulation

By tapping into the wealth of information embedded in these documents, the consultants streamlined the data collection process, optimised research efforts, and ensured a more efficient synthesis of results during the Comparative Assessment Study. This strategic utilisation of secondary data not only enriched the depth of the analysis but also contributed to a more comprehensive and contextually grounded interpretation of the study findings.

In summary, the review of secondary data from BRACE TA formed a crucial component of the research methodology, empowering the consultants with valuable insights and contextual knowledge essential for the success of the Comparative Assessment Study.

GEOGRAPHICAL SELECTION

The selection of geographical locations within the Comparative Assessment Study was a critical aspect that ensured a representative and diverse sample, aligned with the needs and objectives of the research. The purpose of selecting districts was to capture a nuanced understanding of the impact and effectiveness of the BRACE (Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment) Programme in different geographical contexts.

BRACE Targeted Districts

The BRACE Programme targeted 300,000 households in 249 Union Councils of 10 districts. The households reached through 26,375 Community Organisations (COs) at the hamlet level, 5,739 Village Organisations (VO) at the village level, 237 Local Support Organisations (LSO) at Union Council level, and 27 LSO Networks at Tehsil level, and 09 LSOs Networks at district level. Of the 237 LSOs, 222 are registered with the government and have operational bank accounts. They have 9,206 general body members and 2,112 executive body members. For the office bearers of these community institutions, capacity building training was organised by BRSP and NRSP and 6,170 office bearers were trained in Leadership and Management Skills (LMST). In addition, 399 activist workshops were organised where 13,753 community members participated, 42% of them women.

The BRACE Programme essentially covered one-third of the Balochistan province. It was implemented in 10 districts namely: 1) Chaman, 2) Killa Abdullah, 3) Zhob, 4) Pishin, 5) Loralai, 6) Duki, 7) Jhal Magsi, 8) Washuk, 9) Khuzdar, and 10) Kech. However, NRSP implemented BRACE only in Kech and BRSP implemented BRACE in

the remaining 9 districts. The map in Figure 6 highlights the BRACE districts with legends of implementing partners.

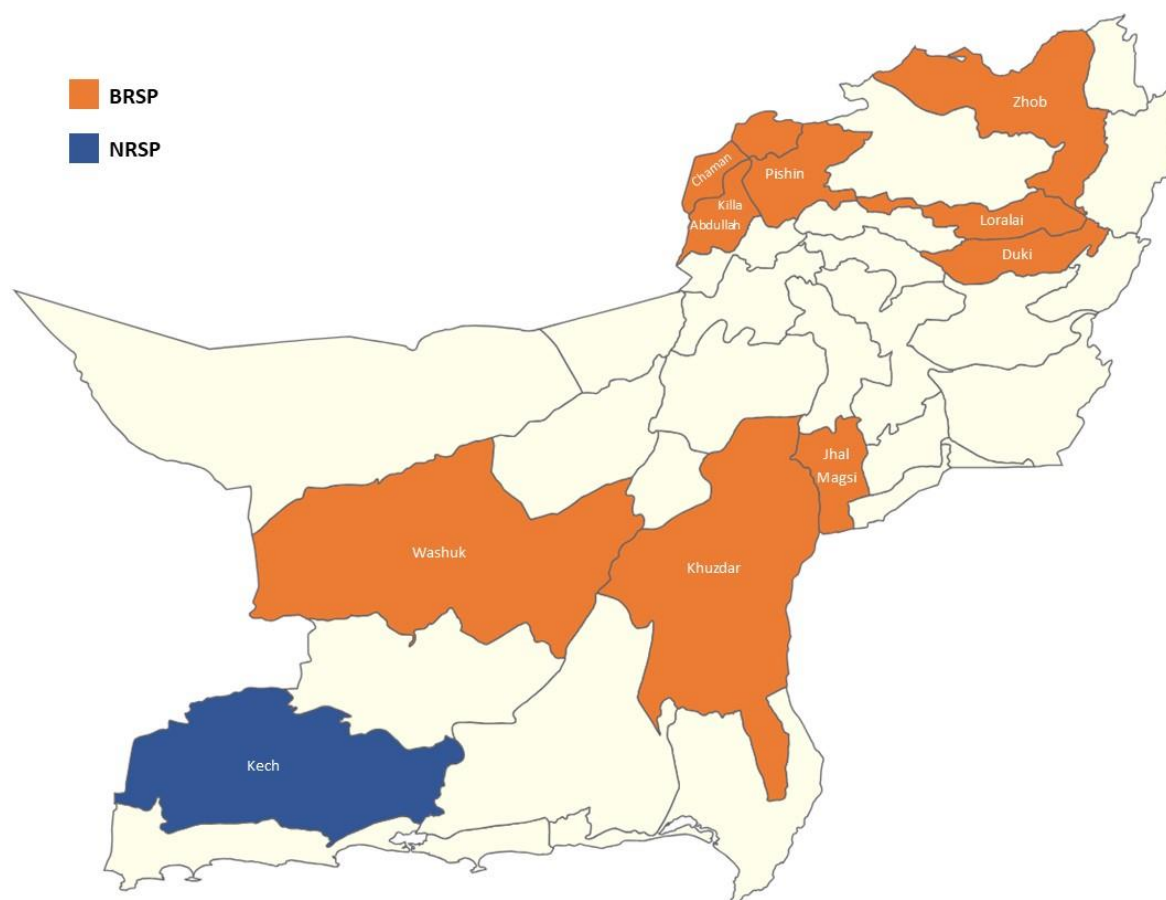


Figure 6 - Map of Balochistan with IP-Wise Highlighted BRACE Districts

Selection of Districts

Selection of districts was a pivotal element in the Comparative Assessment Study, designed to provide a nuanced understanding of how the BRACE Programme operates in different contexts within Balochistan. Each district has its unique socio-cultural dynamics, economic conditions, and geographic features. By intentionally selecting districts from both BRSP and NRSP implementation areas which also were best fit to other considerations of district's selection as elaborated below, the study aimed to capture a comprehensive picture of the programme's impact across diverse landscapes and implementing partners.

During the selection process of the sample districts, the below points were considered:

1. Consideration of Equal Participation of IPs:
 - i. The BRACE Programme has been implemented in ten districts through the implementing partners, i.e., Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP).

- ii. BRSP had implemented the BRACE Programme in ten districts, i.e., Zhob, Loralai, Duki, Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Chaman, Jhal Magsi, Khuzdar, and Washuk. Whereas, NRSP had implemented the BRACE Programme in only one district, i.e., Kech.
 - iii. Recognising the significance of including both implementing partners, the study ensured a fair representation from both BRSP and NRSP-focused districts.
2. Selection of NRSP-focused District:
 - i. Since NRSP managed only one district within the BRACE programme, that district was inherently selected in the sample.
 3. Selection for BRSP-Focused District:
 - i. To select the BRSP-focused district, a random formula was applied to the list of ten districts managed by BRSP.
 - ii. This random selection strategy was employed to eliminate bias and ensure an unbiased representation of one district from BRSP's implementation areas.
 4. Resultant Sampled Districts:
 - i. The application of the random formula led to the selection of District Kech (NRSP-focused) and District Pishin (BRSP-focused) as the sampled districts for the study. The list of districts with applied random formula for the selection of districts is attached as ***Annex-C***.
 5. Cultural Diversity Consideration:
 - i. Beyond the administrative distinctions, the sample also reflected the cultural diversity within Balochistan. District Kech, representing South Balochistan, and District Pishin, representing North Balochistan, offered the opportunity to explore variations in cultural practices, traditions, and community dynamics.

Institutional Diversity

Geographical selection in the Comparative Assessment Study reflected a thoughtful consideration of institutional diversity, mirroring the distinct roles played by implementing partners in different districts. With NRSP exclusively operated in District Kech and BRSP overseen the programme in the remaining ten districts, a unique institutional landscape emerged.

In District Kech, NRSP's focused implementation allowed for an in-depth examination of the programme's impact under the stewardship of a single implementing partner. This district-specific institutional approach was contrasted with the broader regional footprint of BRSP, which oversees the programme in multiple districts, including the selected District Pishin. The intentional inclusion of both NRSP's and BRSP's operational spheres introduced a dynamic dimension to the study, enabling a comparative analysis of institutional strategies, community engagement models, and overall programme effectiveness. By examining the programme's outcomes across

districts with varied institutional frameworks, the study aimed to distill valuable insights into the diverse approaches employed by different institutions in fostering rural development and community empowerment in Balochistan.

Ethno-Cultural Diversity

The selection of District Kech in the south and District Pishin in the north of Balochistan for the Comparative Assessment Study provides a strong ethno-cultural diversity. This sample of districts stemmed from the distinctiveness in the implementation of the BRACE Programme by two key partners, NRSP and BRSP. NRSP's exclusive focus on District Kech, while BRSP implements the programme in the remaining nine districts, presented an opportunity to explore the impact of the programme across regions with different cultural dynamics.

District Kech, situated in the southern part of Balochistan, reflects the cultural nuances and ethnic compositions characteristic of Makran Division. Populace in Kech speak Balochi and the sea trade in neighbouring districts of Gwadar and Lasbela the border trade with Iran plays a major role in economic choices and opportunities in that region. In contrast, District Pishin in the northern region introduces a diverse set of cultural elements and ethnic groups. Populace in Pishin are ethnic Pashtuns and speak Pushto. Other than agriculture and businesses, the bordering Afghanistan also casts social influence. This selection not only aligned with the need for equal representation of implementing partners but also enriched the study by capturing the varied cultural and ethnic contexts within the broader framework of the BRACE Programme. The exploration of these two districts promised a nuanced and representative understanding of the programme's influence, accounting for the unique socio-cultural factors that shape community dynamics and development outcomes in South and North Balochistan.

Significance of Ethno-Cultural and Institutional Diversity

The inclusion of districts from different cultural regions enhanced the richness of the study. It allowed the research team to examine how the BRACE Programme adapted and addressed the unique needs of communities with distinct cultural backgrounds. This consideration acknowledged that the effectiveness of development programmes was often influenced by the cultural context in which they were implemented.

In essence, the selection of District Kech and District Pishin was a strategic decision aimed at promoting a comprehensive and representative evaluation of the BRACE Programme's impact, taking into account both the organisational dynamics of implementing partners and the cultural diversity within the study area.

Selection of Union Councils

Within the geographical framework of the Comparative Assessment Study, the focus extended to the selection of Union Councils (UCs) within the sampled districts. This sub-heading details the process and considerations undertaken to identify the specific Rural UCs for the study.

Rural UCs and Treated vs. Controlled Groups

The BRACE Programme primarily targeted Rural Union Councils (UCs), making them the focal point of the study. Within these UCs, the study was designed to differentiate between treated groups, comprising communities actively engaged in BRACE activities, and controlled groups, representing communities not involved in BRACE initiatives.

Selection Process in District Kech

1. Number of UCs:
 - a. In District Kech, there are a total of 44 UCs.
2. BRACE Implementation:
 - a. BRACE was implemented in 27 UCs.
3. List Preparation:
 - a. Two separate lists were prepared for treated and controlled groups based on BRACE implementation.
 - b. The treated list included UCs involved in BRACE activities, while the controlled list comprised UCs not part of BRACE initiatives.
4. Random Formula Application:
 - a. A random formula was applied to both lists.
 - b. The list of the UCs of District Kech with the applications of the random formula is attached as ***Annex-D***.
5. Selection Criteria:
 - a. The top two UCs from each list, determined through the random formula, were selected for inclusion in the Comparative Assessment Study.

Selection Process in District Pishin

1. Number of UCs:
 - a. In District Pishin, there are a total of 53 UCs.
2. BRACE Implementation:
 - a. BRACE was implemented in all Rural UCs with the strategy of reaching out to 70% of the community members in each UC.
3. List Preparation:
 - a. A list of all 53 UCs was developed.
4. Random Formula Application:
 - a. A random formula was applied to the list.

- b. The list of the UCs of District Pishin with the applications of the random formula is attached as **Annex-E**.
5. Selection Criteria:
 - a. The top four UCs, determined through the random formula, were selected for the Comparative Assessment Study.
 - b. The first two UCs represented the treated group, focusing on the 70% treated population.
 - c. The latter two UCs represented the controlled group, with a focus on the 30% controlled population.

Objective of UC Selection:

The meticulous selection of Rural UCs ensured a focused examination of the impact of BRACE activities within specific communities. The distinction between treated and controlled groups allowed for a comparative analysis that contributed to a nuanced understanding of the programme's effectiveness and its influence on the target population in both District Kech and District Pishin.

TARGETED GROUPS

In collaborative discussions with the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Technical Assistance (TA) team, the consulting team identified and finalised five distinct categories of targeted groups as depicted in Figure 7. These groups were strategically chosen to ensure a comprehensive and multi-faceted perspective in evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the BRACE Programme.



Figure 7 - Targeted Groups for the Comparative Assessment Study

Community Leaders and Influencers

- Encompassing members of Local Support Organisations (LSOs), Village Organisations (VOs), and Community Organisations (COs).
- This group represented individuals with significant influence within the community and provided valuable insights into the local dynamics and the perception of BRACE activities.

Community Members

- Direct engagement with the broader community members ensured a representative sample that reflected the diversity of perspectives within the targeted districts.
- Captured firsthand experiences and perceptions of those directly impacted by the BRACE Programme.

Representatives of Government Departments

- Inclusion of key representatives from various government departments, including but Deputy Commissioners, Women Development Department, Social Welfare Department, Local Government, Education Department, Health Department, Livestock Department, Agriculture Department, and Irrigation Department.
- This group provided a governmental perspective on the programme's alignment with broader development goals and its collaboration with various sectors.

Representatives of Partners

- In recognition of the collaborative nature of the BRACE Programme, representatives from implementing partners were included.
- Specifically, representatives from the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in Kech, Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in Pishin, and DAI Global in both districts contributed insights into programme implementation and partnership dynamics.

Provincial Political Leadership

- Engaging political leaders at the provincial level allowed us to gain a macro-level understanding of the programme's alignment with policy objectives and its impact on the larger development agenda.

Rationale for Selection

The selection of these targeted groups was rooted in the desire to capture a comprehensive range of perspectives, ensuring a holistic evaluation of the BRACE Programme. By engaging with community leaders, members, government representatives, programme partners, and political leaders, the study aimed to gather diverse insights that reflected the multifaceted impact of the programme on both a micro and macro scale.

This strategic approach to targeting groups enhanced the depth and breadth of the Comparative Assessment Study, providing a well-rounded evaluation that takes into account the varied perspectives of stakeholders directly involved or affected by the BRACE Programme in District Kech and District Pishin.

SAMPLING

In the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme in District Kech and District Pishin, a meticulous sampling strategy was employed to ensure a representative and comprehensive examination of the target population. The primary sampling technique utilised was random sampling, a method known for its unbiased and statistically sound approach.

Population Consideration

The study encompassed a total population of 10 BRACE-focused districts, with an estimated population size of 2,000,000 individuals.

Survey Sampling

With a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error set at 5%, the calculated sample size for the survey was 385 individuals for the two sampled districts. To account for variability and ensure robust representation, the consultants prudently set the survey sample size at 440, with 220 individuals selected from each district. This included a deliberate effort to achieve gender balance, with 50% of the sample representing women participants out of 100% of the sampled population.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Eight FGDs were conducted, with four in each district. To ensure diversity and inclusion, 50% of the FGDs were composed of women's groups out of 100% of the sampled population.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

For KIIs with partners, each district had two partners, either BRSP or NRSP and DAI, resulting in a total of four interviews. Three Provincial Political Leaders were interviewed to provide a macro-level perspective on the programme's impact. In each district, ten representatives from various departments were interviewed, totaling 20 interviews for key informants.

Rationale for Sample Size Determination

The determination of sample sizes considered the need for statistical significance, representative diversity, and a gender-inclusive approach. Keeping a safe margin above the calculated sample size added an extra layer of reliability to the findings.

Sampling Breakdown

The sample size of the Comparative Assessment Study is elaborated below tool-wise:

1. **Survey:**
 - a. **Total Sample Size:** 440
 - b. **District-wise:** 220 individuals per district
 - c. **UC-wise:** 110 individuals per union council
 - d. **Gender Distribution:** 50% women
2. **Focused Group Discussions:**

- a. **Total FGDs: 8**
 - b. **District-wise: 4 FGDs per district**
 - c. **UC-wise: 2 FGDs per union council**
 - d. **Gender Distribution: 50% women's groups**
- 3. Key Informant Interviews**
- a. **Total KIIs with Partners: 4 (2 per district)**
 - b. **Total Department Representatives: 18 (9 per district)**
 - c. **Total Provincial Political Leaders: 3**

The above sample size is also reflected in tabular form in the below table:

Respondent Types	District Kech		District Pishin		Total Sample
	2 Treated UCs	2 Controlled UCs	2 Treated UCs	2 Controlled UCs	
Survey with Community Members	110	110	110	110	440
FGDs with Community Elders (LSO, VO, CO)	2	2	2	2	8
KII with Partners	2		2		4
KII with Government Representatives	9		9		18
KII with Provincial Political Leadership	3				3

The Figure 8 reflects the sample size in graphical representation:

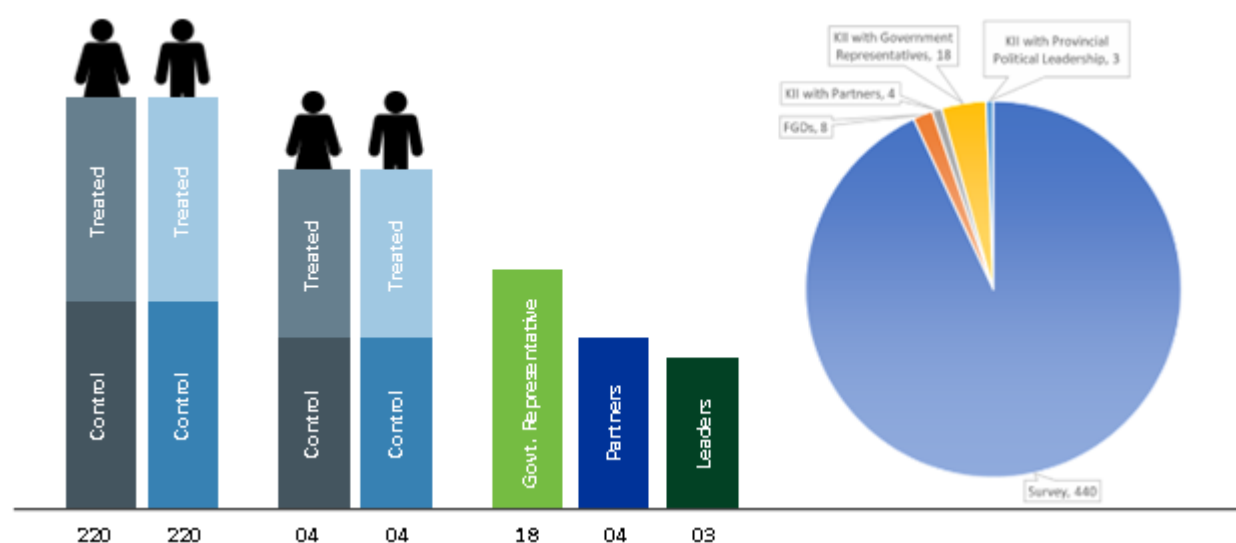


Figure 8 - Graphical Representation of the Sample Size

Sampling Outcome

The carefully designed sampling approach ensured a robust and representative dataset that allowed a nuanced understanding of the BRACE Programme's impact in District Kech and District Pishin. This approach aligned with best practices in survey research and qualitative data collection to maximise the validity and reliability of the study's findings.

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

To comprehensively gather insights from the identified targeted groups within the Comparative Assessment Study, a suite of specialised Data Collection Tools was devised. These tools were carefully crafted to suit the unique requirements and engagement styles of each targeted group to ensure a robust and nuanced collection of data.

Survey Tool

Purpose: To conduct structured interviews with community members.

Format: A dynamic survey tool was developed using XLS forms.

Platform: The tool was hosted on the Kobo Toolbox platform.

Data Collection: Data collectors utilised mobile phones, employing the ODK Collect app on Android devices and the GIC Collect app on iOS devices.

Methodology: The survey tool facilitated a systematic data collection, ensuring a standardised approach to capturing the perspectives and experiences of the broader community.

The survey tool for interviewing the community members is attached as *Annex-F*.

Focus Group Discussion Tool

Purpose: To engage in focused group discussions with community elders and influencers.

Format: A specialised FGD tool designed in paperback, used during discussions.

Data Collection: Following FGDs, the data recorded on paper were transcribed into digital form using MaxQDA's transcriber feature.

Methodology: The FGD tool aimed to foster open dialogue, allowing for in-depth exploration of community leaders' insights and perspectives.

The tool for focused group discussions with the community elders and influencers including the members of LSOs, COs, and VSOs is attached as *Annex-G*.

Key Informant Interview Tools

Purpose: To conduct Key Informant Interviews with representatives of government departments, partners, and provincial political leadership.

Format: Separate KII tool was developed, tailored to each targeted group's context and requirements, designed in paperback.

Data Collection: Like the FGD tool, the data recorded on paper was transcribed into digital form using MaxQDA's transcriber feature.

Methodology: The KII tool facilitated focused interviews, ensuring a deep understanding of the targeted groups' perspectives and contributions to the BRACE Programme.

The tool for key informant interviews with representatives of government departments (Deputy Commissioners, Women's Development Department, Social Welfare Department, Local Government, Education Department, Health Department, Livestock Department, Agriculture Department, and Irrigation Department), representatives of the partners (DAI, BRSP, and NRSP), and provincial political leaders is attached as *Annex-H*.

Integration with Digital Platforms

The use of XLS forms and hosting on the Kobo Toolbox platform allowed for seamless integration and organisation of data. Mobile data collection, facilitated by ODK Collect and GIC Collect apps, enhanced efficiency, and accuracy in the field.

FGD Tool Conversion

While FGDs were initially conducted using a paperback tool, the subsequent conversion of data into digital form through MaxQDA's transcriber feature ensured consistency in data handling and analysis across all components of the study.

In summary, this tailored suite of Data Collection Tools was designed to accommodate the diverse needs of the Comparative Assessment Study, optimizing efficiency, and ensuring the comprehensive capture of insights from the targeted groups involved in the BRACE Programme in District Kech and District Pishin.

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

The primary data collection phase of the Comparative Assessment Study was a crucial step in gathering firsthand insights from the selected districts, Kech and Pishin. This section outlined the comprehensive approach undertaken by the consultants to ensure efficient and ethical data collection.

Enumerator and Data Collector Selection

Diverse Team: Enumerators and data collectors, including both male and female representatives, were carefully selected to ensure a diverse and representative team.

Local Expertise: Priority was given to individuals with local knowledge and cultural sensitivity to foster effective engagement with the communities.

Training Session

One-Day Training: A one-day training session was organised for enumerators and data collectors in each district.

Content: The training covered tool proficiency, ethical considerations, and security measures while interacting with communities.

Tools Training: Detailed training on using the survey tool, FGD tool, and KII tools was provided to ensure uniform understanding and implementation.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Survey Implementation: Enumerators and data collectors visited the sampled Union Councils (UCs) to conduct surveys with community members using the developed survey tool.

Government Representatives Interviews: Concurrently, representatives of government departments were interviewed by the enumerators and data collectors.

Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)

Engagement with Community Elders and Influencers: FGDs were organised and conducted with community elders and influencers, including members of Local Support Organisations (LSOs), Community Organisations (COs), and Village Organisations (VOs).

In-depth Exploration: The FGDs aimed to facilitate open discussions and allowed an in-depth exploration of the perspectives and experiences of community leaders.

Interviews with Partners

Partnership Dynamics: Representatives of the partners, including NRSP in Kech, BRSP in Pishin, and DAI in both districts, were interviewed to gain insights into the dynamics of programme implementation and collaboration.

Provincial Political Leadership Interviews

Post-District Data Collection: As data collection at the district level was completed, interviews with Provincial Political Leaders were conducted.

Macro-level Insights: These interviews provided a macro-level understanding of the programme's alignment with broader political objectives and its impact on provincial development goals.

Ethical Considerations and Security Measures

Informed Consent: Enumerators and data collectors prioritised obtaining informed consent from participants before data collection activities.

Privacy Protection: Stringent measures were in place to protect the privacy and confidentiality of participants.

Security Guidelines: Enumerators and data collectors were adhered to specific security guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of both the data collection team and the communities they engaged with.

Quality Assurance

Supervision: The consultants provided ongoing supervision and support to enumerators and data collectors throughout the data collection process.

Quality Checks: Regular quality checks were conducted to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the collected data.

By implementing this comprehensive approach to primary data collection, the Comparative Assessment Study aimed to gather rich and diverse insights from various stakeholders, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the BRACE Programme's impact in the selected districts.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In this pivotal phase of the Comparative Assessment Study, the focus shifted to extracting meaningful insights from the rich dataset acquired through meticulous planning and rigorous data collection. The following sections delve into the intricacies of data analysis, quality assurance, and the application of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

Leveraging state-of-the-art tools and methodologies, the consultants navigated through the vast array of quantitative data, utilizing Kobo Toolbox and Microsoft Excel's Power Query for thorough cleaning and subsequent analysis. Concurrently, the qualitative data, meticulously transcribed and cleaned in MaxQDA, undergone a rigorous coding process, culminating in comprehensive analysis using various tools such as Code Matrix, Code Relations, Word Clouds, Code Frequencies, and MAXMaps.

The synthesis of these findings, further validated through triangulation and t-test using R Studio for comparison of treated and controlled groups, laid the foundation for robust interpretation and the generation of nuanced insights into the impact of the BRACE Programme. The graphical representations crafted through Microsoft

Power BI brought clarity and visual impact to the final reporting, ensuring that the study's outcomes are not only statistically sound but also narratively compelling. The Figure 9 depicts the architecture of the data analysis and interpretation phase:

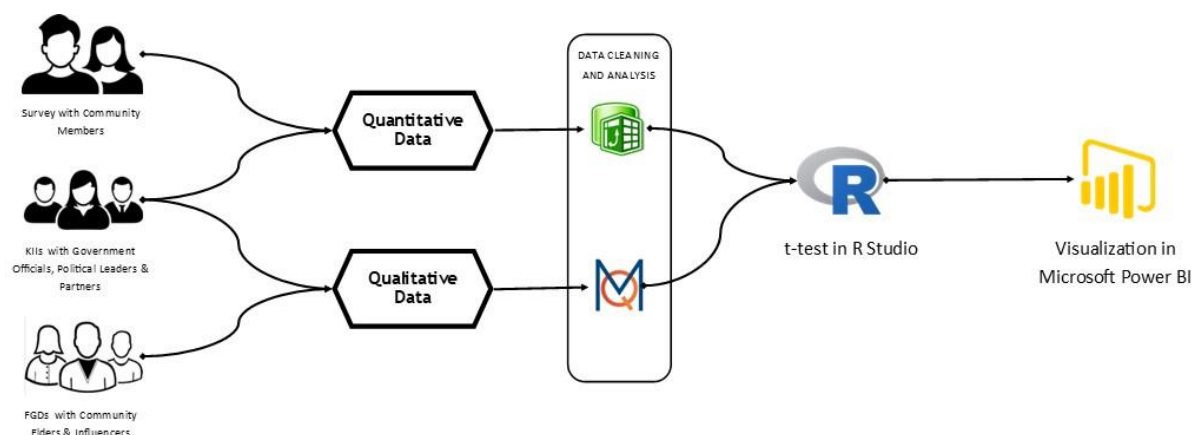


Figure 9 - Architecture of Data Analysis and Interpretation Phase

Data Quality Standards

The designed data collection formats were concise but still concrete in their manner that fulfilled the objectives/demands of the study. Unlike many, it was planned to avoid creating a data deluge but gathered information keeping in view the data quality standards pertaining to the assignment needs.

Likewise, data collection tools were developed in a way that each of them reflected the set objectives and variables of the assignment. Questions in each tool captured the required data accurately and adhered to the project objectives.

Data quality standards were kept intact through the selection and setting up of questionnaires. Although several authors and statisticians define standards in their own unique ways, here the consultants focused on the set data quality standards presented by USAID and widely accepted. These standards are Validity, Integrity, Precision, Reliability, and Timeliness of the data.

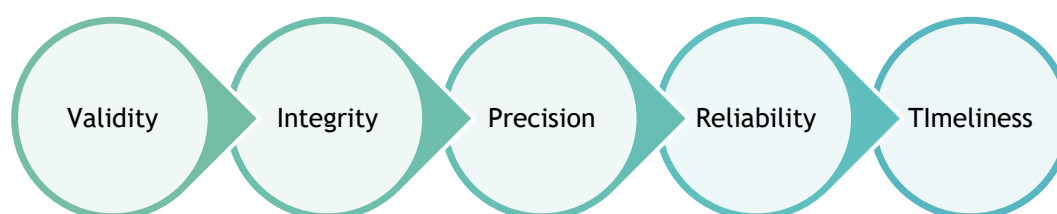


Figure 10 - Data Quality Standards

The following table presents a brief description of each standard as well as how the study tools are based on them:

S#	DQS	Definition	How do the survey tools adhere to it?
1	Validity	Data should clearly and adequately represent the intended result	Questions from the Study Tools have been set reflecting on the assignment objectives and expected outcome.
2	Integrity	Data collected should have safeguards to minimise the risk of error or data manipulation	<p>A three-pronged approach was used to ensure high data integrity and avoid misinterpretation of data or manipulation at any level.</p> <p>1. Orientation and Mock: Keeping in view the tool's length, a one-day orientation along with a mock exercise on the field has been planned. It would help to clarify the tools, field planning, identifying intended participants, and providing hands-on practice at the field level.</p> <p>Two-tier supervision in the field: Consultants kept monitoring and facilitating the data collectors at the district level to ensure accuracy and transparency at every level/step. The data uploaded on the Kobo Toolbox daily, the Data Analyst Consultant monitored data daily/ frequently to spot/ identify the loopholes and provided inputs/ feedback to overcome the gaps/ errors.</p> <p>Cloud Database: The data was uploaded to the Kobo Toolbox at the end of each day which ensured that the data is being filled and submitted daily.</p>
3	Precision	Data should have a sufficient level of detail to permit management decision-making	The tools had additional questions that provided insights into details of the status after implementation of the BRACE programme as well as captured the participants' points of view in detail of both treated and control groups. The tools were designed to support evidence-based decision-making through accurate, detailed, and reliable data.

4	Reliability	Data should reflect stable and consistent data collection processes and analysis methods over time	The tools were designed as per the specific needs of the study. This way the same tools were used over time as a follow-up study anytime later.
5	Timeliness	Data Should be available at a useful frequency, be on time, and be accurate enough to ensure decision-making on time	Under this study, the consultants visited the sampled district of Balochistan with the team of enumerators/data collectors to gather the relevant information for the study within the stipulated timeline as per the work plan.

Data Cleaning

The process of Data Cleaning was a crucial step in ensuring the accuracy, consistency, and reliability of the collected data. In the Comparative Assessment Study, a meticulous approach outlined for cleaning both quantitative data from Surveys and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and qualitative data from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Quantitative Data (Survey and KII)

Export from Kobo Toolbox:

- Upon completion of data collection, quantitative data from Surveys and KIIs were exported from Kobo Toolbox in Microsoft Excel format.

Cleaning Process:

- Quantitative data cleaning was conducted using Power Query in Microsoft Excel.
- This involved identifying and rectifying inconsistencies, outliers, and missing values.
- The Power Query tool streamlined the cleaning process, ensuring a standardised and efficient approach.

Qualitative Data (FGD)

Transcription in MaxQDA:

- FGD data, initially recorded on paper, were transcribed into digital form using MaxQDA's transcriber feature.

Cleaning Process:

- Qualitative data cleaning was conducted within MaxQDA using the transcribe feature.

- This involved reviewing and refining transcribed text, ensuring accuracy in the representation of participants' statements.
- Inconsistencies or errors identified during transcription were corrected to maintain the fidelity of the qualitative data.

Rationale for Tool Selection

Power Query in Microsoft Excel:

- Leveraging Power Query provided a structured and efficient way to clean quantitative data.
- It enabled the automation of data cleaning processes, minimizing the likelihood of errors, and expediting the overall cleaning timeline.

MaxQDA Transcribe Feature:

- MaxQDA's transcriber feature offered a comprehensive environment for qualitative data cleaning.
- The tool allowed for in-depth scrutiny of transcribed text, ensuring that the qualitative data accurately represents participants' responses and perspectives.

Quality Assurance:

A stringent quality assurance process was implemented throughout the data cleaning phase, involving multiple reviews and cross-checks to enhance the reliability and validity of the data.

Documentation:

Detailed documentation of the data cleaning process, including any decisions or alterations made, was maintained for transparency and reproducibility.

By employing these targeted approaches to data cleaning, the Comparative Assessment Study aimed to achieve a high standard of data quality, laying the groundwork for robust analysis and meaningful insights into the impact of the BRACE Programme in District Kech and District Pishin.

Data Analysis

The Data Analysis phase of the Comparative Assessment Study was a pivotal step in deriving meaningful insights from the acquired data. This section outlined the comprehensive approach undertaken by the Data Analyst Consultant to analyse both quantitative and qualitative datasets.

Quantitative Data Analysis

Data Source: Quantitative data was collected through the survey tool via Kobo Toolbox.

Data Export: The data was exported to CSV files from the Kobo Toolbox for further analysis.

Data Cleaning in Microsoft Excel:

- The initial cleaning process was conducted in Microsoft Excel using Power Query.
- Further steps included the development of measurement scales for required variables, assigning scales (Nominal, Ordinal, Ratio), and sequencing data appropriately.

R Studio Analysis:

- The cleaned data was imported into CSV files.
- T-tests were executed using R Studio with R Language syntax to compare results between treated and controlled groups.

Qualitative Data Analysis

Data Source: Qualitative data from FGDs and open-ended questions transcribed and cleaned in MaxQDA.

Transcription and Cleaning: FGDs and open-ended question responses were transcribed and cleaned in MaxQDA to prepare the data for analysis.

Coding Process: Segments of the transcriptions were coded using various open and in-vivo coding techniques.

Analysis Tools in MaxQDA: Utilisation of Code Matrix, Code Relations, Word Clouds, Code Frequencies, and MAXMaps for a comprehensive qualitative analysis.

Triangulation of Findings: Qualitative and quantitative findings were triangulated to generate a holistic understanding of the research questions.

Integration of Results

Triangulation Process: The results of both qualitative and quantitative analyses were triangulated to ensure a comprehensive and nuanced interpretation of the data.

Graphical Representations: Graphical representations of findings were generated using Microsoft Power BI for visual clarity and impact.

Final Reporting:

Compilation of Findings: The findings from both data types were compiled to form a cohesive narrative.

Graphical Presentation: Microsoft Power BI were utilised to create visually appealing graphical representations for the final report.

Quality Assurance

Iterative Review: The analysis process has undergone iterative reviews to ensure accuracy and reliability.

Validation: Peer validation and expert review were incorporated to enhance the credibility of the findings.

Ethical Considerations

Confidentiality: Strict adherence to ethical guidelines regarding participant confidentiality was maintained throughout the analysis process. The foundational Belmont Report¹ in the ethics of human subjects' research, outlining principles of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)², in EU law on data protection and privacy that also addresses the transfer of personal data were mainly considered in data protection of participants throughout the process.

By employing this detailed and thorough approach to data analysis, the consultants aimed to unravel insights that were not only statistically robust but also rich in contextual depth. The integration of both qualitative and quantitative findings ensured a comprehensive understanding of the BRACE Programme's impact on treated groups in comparison with the controlled groups.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality assurance was a critical aspect of the overall assignment, ensuring that each phase, from inception to final reporting, met high standards of accuracy, reliability, and ethical considerations. In research American Psychological Association (APA)³ and the American Sociological Association (ASA)⁴ guidelines and ethical standards were employed to the best possible means. The following detailed approach outlined how quality was assured throughout the assignment:

Methodological Rigor

Inception Report Review: The initial Inception Report has undergone thorough review and feedback from both internal and external stakeholders to ensure clarity of research objectives, sound methodology, and alignment with the study's goals.

Team Competency and Training

Consultant Selection: Ensured that consultants possess the necessary expertise in the field, with a focus on local knowledge and cultural sensitivity.

¹ https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/sites/default/files/the-belmont-report-508c_FINAL.pdf

² <https://gdpr.eu/tag/gdpr/>

³ <https://www.apa.org/ethics/code>

⁴ <https://www.asanet.org/about/ethics/>

Training Sessions: Conducted training sessions for the entire team to ensure a unified understanding of tools, ethical considerations, and security measures.

Planning Meetings and Continuous Communication

Regular Updates: Held regular planning meetings to track progress, address any challenges, and provide continuous feedback to the team.

Open Communication: Encouraged an open communication environment to foster collaboration and address any emerging issues promptly.

Data Collection Quality Control

Supervision: Implemented a robust supervision mechanism during data collection to ensure adherence to protocols and ethical guidelines.

Pilot Testing: Conducted pilot testing of data collection tools to identify and rectify any ambiguities or challenges before full-scale implementation.

Data Cleaning and Analysis

Documentation: Thoroughly documented the data cleaning and analysis processes to facilitate transparency and reproducibility.

Quality Checks: Regularly checked the quality during data cleaning and analysis stages to identify and rectify any anomalies or inconsistencies.

Ethical Considerations

Informed Consent: Ensured proper and documented informed consent procedures are followed during participant engagement.

Privacy Protection: Adhered to strict privacy protection measures to safeguard the confidentiality of participants.

Peer Review and Expert Validation

Iterative Review: Engaged in iterative reviews of key deliverables, such as the Inception Report, data analysis, and final reports, to incorporate feedback and enhance overall quality.

External Expert Validation: Seek external expert validation to provide an unbiased assessment of the assignment's rigor and validity.

Triangulation of Findings

Following the best practices and guidelines of American Sociological Association (ASA) and the American Psychological Association (APA) following were considered for triangulation of findings.

Cross-Verification: Cross-verified findings from different data sources (qualitative and quantitative) to ensure consistency and reliability.

Triangulation: Employed triangulation methodologies to integrate multiple perspectives and strengthen the robustness of the study's conclusions.

Final Reporting

Clear Presentation: Ensured that the final report is presented in a clear and concise manner, with transparent methodologies and well-supported findings.

Feedback Incorporation: Reviewed the final report based on stakeholder feedback to make necessary adjustments and improvements.

By integrating these comprehensive quality assurance measures, the overall assignment aimed to uphold the highest standards of excellence, delivering reliable and insightful results in the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme.



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Challenges & Mitigation

The Technical Assistance Partner



POTENTIAL CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Conducting a Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme may encounter various challenges throughout its lifecycle. By proactively identifying potential challenges and integrating these mitigation measures, the Comparative Assessment Study aims to navigate complexities and ensure the reliability, validity, and ethical soundness of the research outcomes. Ongoing monitoring and adaptive management will further enhance the study's resilience to unforeseen challenges.



Figure 11 - Potential Challenges

Proactive mitigation measures have been incorporated into the study's design to address these challenges effectively:

LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES

Challenge: Unforeseen logistical challenges, such as adverse security conditions or transportation issues, disrupted the planned schedule.

Mitigation: Implemented contingency plans and built flexibility into the project timeline to accommodate unforeseen circumstances. Regular communication and coordination with local partners facilitated timely adjustments.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Challenge: Difficulty in achieving optimal community engagement and participation levels, especially in sensitive or hard-to-reach areas.

Mitigation: Conducted extensive community outreach, fostering strong relationships with local leaders, and emphasised the benefits of the study to the community with the active engagement of partners at the field-level. Ensured inclusivity in the research process enhanced community buy-in.

DATA COLLECTION CHALLENGES

Challenge: Issues related to data collection, such as understanding questions, language barriers, or challenges in transcribing qualitative data accurately.

Mitigation: Implemented rigorous training for enumerators and data collectors, conducted pilot tests to identify and rectify potential issues, converted the questionnaires in Urdu, and maintained ongoing supervision to address challenges in real-time. Detailed guidance of data collection processes to the team contributed to transparency and quality assurance.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Challenge: Adhering to ethical standards, especially in contexts where cultural nuances may impact informed consent or confidentiality.

Mitigation: Provided comprehensive training on ethical guidelines for all team members, engaged with partners at field-level to ensure cultural sensitivity, and maintained open communication with participants to address any concerns. Frequent ethical review helped align the study with evolving ethical considerations.

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

Challenge: Difficulty in recruiting a diverse and representative sample of participants, especially from vulnerable or marginalised groups.

Mitigation: Implemented targeted recruitment strategies, worked closely with local community leaders and members of LSOs, COs, and VOs, and employed inclusive approaches to ensure the representation of diverse perspectives. Continuous monitoring of participant recruitment facilitated adjustments as needed.

QUALITY OF SECONDARY DATA

Challenge: Dependence on the quality of secondary data acquired from BRACE TA and potential variations in data reliability.

Mitigation: Conducted thorough reviews of the secondary data, cross-verified information from multiple sources, and engaged in regular communication with BRACE TA to clarify any discrepancies. Transparent documentation of data sources and limitations enhanced the study's credibility.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SENSITIVITIES

Challenge: Navigating political and social sensitivities in the study areas that may impact the research process or the willingness of participants to engage.

Mitigation: Understanding the political and social context prior to the study, maintained neutrality in the research approach, and built trust through transparent communication. Developed contingency plans to address potential disruptions related to political or social dynamics enhanced the study's resilience.

DATA ANALYSIS COMPLEXITY

Challenge: Managing the complexity of both quantitative and qualitative data analysis, especially when integrating findings for triangulation.

Mitigation: Employing a skilled Data Analyst Consultant with expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Regular team meetings of both consultants (Research Consultant and Data Analyst Consultant) and peer reviews facilitated a collaborative approach, ensuring the robustness of the analysis. Clear documentation of the analysis process enhanced transparency and reproducibility.



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Results

The Technical Assistance Partner



RESULTS

The Results Section of this report has been divided into three major sub-chapters, perception of the communities, perception of stakeholders (including government officials, partners, and political leaders), and controlled treatment groups variance as reflected in the Figure 12.



Figure 12 - Division of Results Section

PERCEPTION OF COMMUNITIES

The perception of the communities has been accumulated through conducting survey and focused group discussions among the treated and controlled groups in the sampled union councils and districts.

Survey Results

Demographic Information

In the survey conducted, the participant distribution varied across two districts, Kech and Pishin, and was divided into two groups: Control and Treated, as reflected in Figure 14. The gender distribution within these categories presented some intriguing insights:

Kech District: In the Control group, the distribution was almost evenly split, with females constituting approximately 12% and males slightly higher at 13% of the total survey participants. The Treated group in Kech showed a different pattern. Here, female participants were more prevalent, accounting for 15%, compared to 11% for male participants. This indicates a higher female participation in the Treated group within the Kech district.

Pishin District: In Pishin, the gender distribution was remarkably balanced across both groups. For the Control group, both male and female participants each represented 12% of the total survey participants. A similar trend was observed in the Treated group of Pishin, where both genders contributed equally, each comprising 12% of the total survey participants.

The survey data suggests a varied gender representation across groups and districts. Kech's Treated group had a notably higher female participation, while other groups and districts maintained a more balanced gender distribution. The actual number of participations is reflected in Figure 8. These insights could be pivotal for understanding gender dynamics and engagement in different regions and intervention groups.

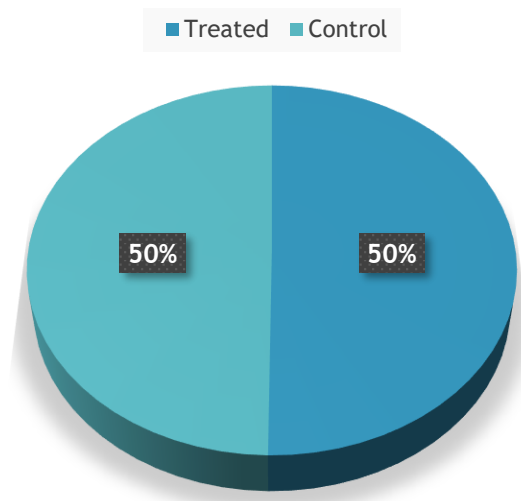


Figure 13 - Control/Treated Group

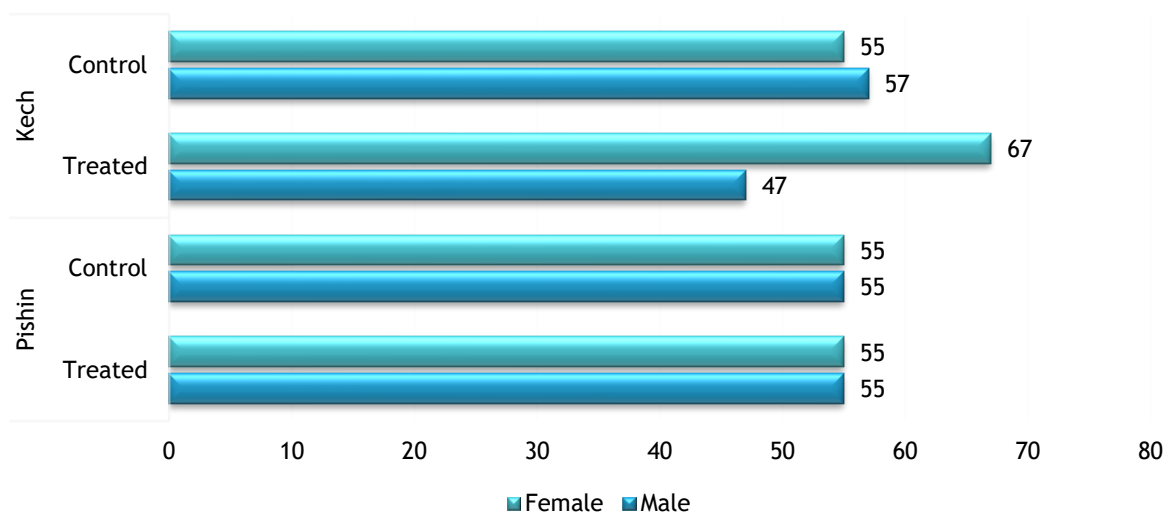


Figure 14 - Segregation of Male and Female Group and District-Wise

Perception of BRACE

The survey data revealed a stark contrast in perceptions of the BRACE Programme's interventions' relevance to community needs, between the 'Control' and 'Treated' groups.

An overwhelming majority (100%) of participants in the Treated group found all interventions to be highly relevant to their community's needs.

However, the Control group presented a more varied view. Only 19% of participants in this group believed that all interventions were highly relevant. A significant portion (46%) judged all interventions as irrelevant, which suggests a considerable degree of skepticism or dissatisfaction with the interventions. Additionally, 31% felt that some interventions were relevant whereas 4% felt that many interventions were irrelevant, indicating a mixed opinion about the effectiveness of these interventions.

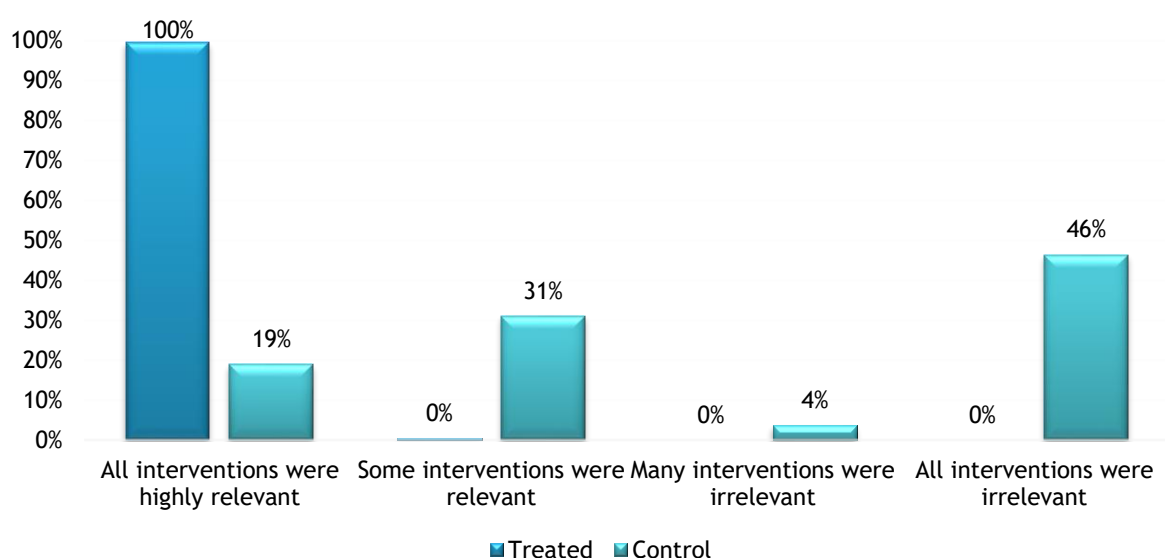


Figure 15 - Relevancy of Interventions with Community Needs

These findings suggest that the participants in the Treated group had a far more favourable view of the interventions' relevance to their community needs compared to those in the Control group. The high percentage of Control group participants finding all interventions irrelevant points to a need for reevaluation or improved communication regarding the objectives and benefits of these interventions. This disparity in perceptions between the two groups highlights the importance of context and direct involvement in shaping community members' views of development interventions.

Complementarity

The survey responses provided an insightful look into the perception of the BRACE Programme's interventions and their synergy with other projects. A significant majority (80%) of participants in the Treated group acknowledged that the BRACE Programme's activities complemented those of other projects. Only a small fraction (18%) had no idea about the complementarity, while a negligible 2% felt that the activities were only partially complementary.

The Control group had a more diverse range of opinions. About 31% felt that the BRACE Programme's activities complemented other projects. A notable 47% of participants in the Control group were unsure ('No Idea') about complementarity. A smaller segment (6%) believed that the activities did not complement each other, and 16% perceived only partial complementarity.

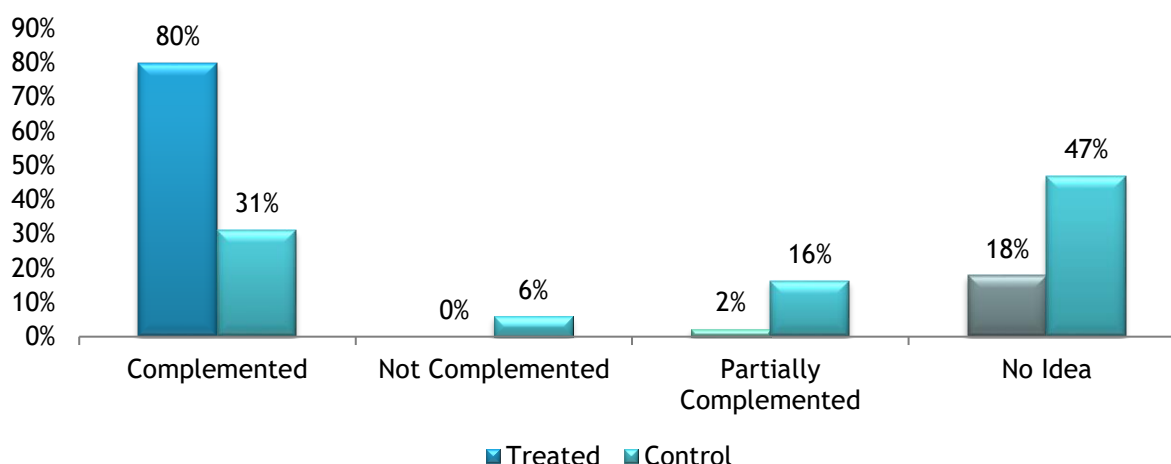


Figure 16 - Complementarity of BRACE with other Projects

This analysis suggests a marked difference in the perception of the BRACE Programme's complementarity with other projects between the Treated and Control groups. Participants in the Treated group were more likely to see a complementary relationship between the BRACE Programme and other projects. In contrast, a significant portion of the Control group was either unsure or perceived less complementarity. This could indicate varying levels of engagement or awareness about the wider development context among different groups. It also highlights the importance of effective communication and collaboration among different development projects to maximise impact and public perception of their synergy.

The survey data reveals distinct perspectives between the Treated and Control groups regarding the sustainability of the BRACE Programme's interventions. In the Treated group, there is a unanimous consensus (100%) that the interventions of the BRACE Programme will continue now that the project has ended. This strong belief in the sustainability of the interventions reflects either a high level of satisfaction with the programme or a strong sense of community ownership and commitment to continue the initiatives.

Sustainability

The Control group, however, presents a more skeptical viewpoint. A majority (72%) believe that the activities will not sustain post-project. Only 28% have confidence that these activities will continue. This could indicate either a perceived lack of effectiveness or sustainability in the interventions, or perhaps a lesser degree of

involvement or awareness about the programme's activities compared to the Treated group.

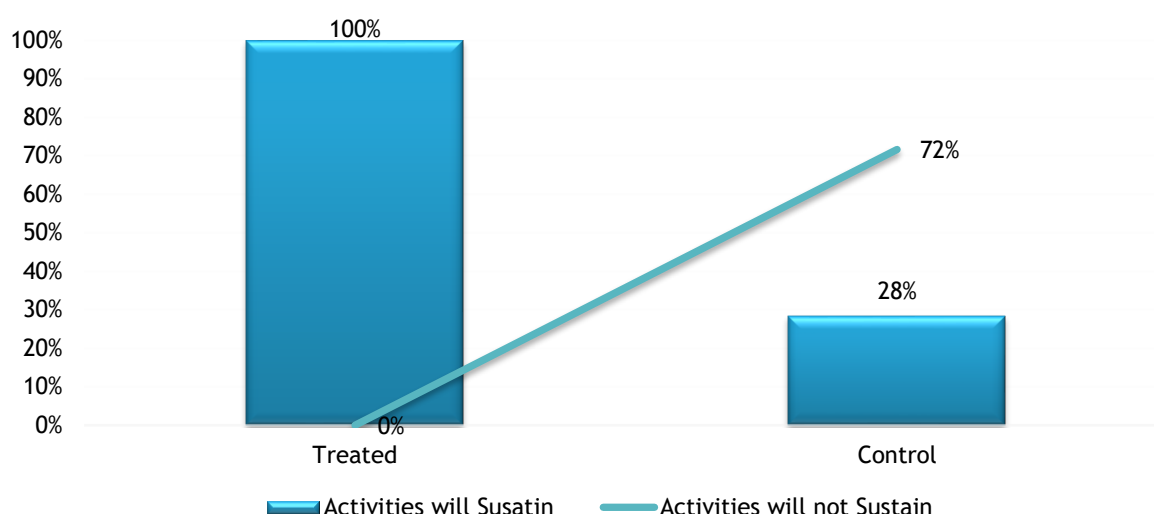


Figure 17 - Post-BRACE Sustainability

The survey responses offer a varied perspective between the Treated and Control groups on the expected duration of sustainability for at least one BRACE intervention. The Treated group shows a strong belief in the long-term sustainability of the interventions, with a significant majority (89%) expecting that at least one intervention will be sustained for 5 years after the programme's conclusion. Only a small percentage expect sustainability for shorter durations (1 year: 5%, 3 years: 5%).

In contrast, the Control group exhibits less optimism. A notable 54% believe that no activity will be sustained post-programme. Among those who do foresee sustainability, 22% expect it for 5 years, while smaller proportions anticipate it for 1 year (13%) and 3 years (11%).

The Treated group's responses reflect a strong belief in both the immediate continuation and long-term sustainability of the BRACE Programme's interventions. This could be attributed to direct benefits received, higher engagement, or a stronger sense of community ownership and commitment. The Control group, on the other hand, exhibited a notable level of skepticism regarding both the continuation and long-term impact of the interventions. This perspective may be rooted in a lack of direct involvement, perceived ineffectiveness of the interventions, or concerns about their sustainability.

Overall, these contrasting viewpoints highlight the critical need for ensuring that development programmes like the BRACE Programme not only provide immediate benefits but also foster long-term sustainability and community engagement. Addressing the concerns and enhancing the awareness and involvement of all community members, especially those akin to the Control group, is essential for the enduring success of such initiatives.

Impact

The survey data presents a clear dichotomy in the perception of the BRACE Programme's success and impact on the Treated and Control groups. There is unanimous agreement (100%) among the Treated group that the BRACE Programme was successful and impactful. This strong positive response indicates a high level of satisfaction and perceived benefit from the programme among this group.

In contrast, the majority of the Control group (66%) does not view the BRACE Programme as successful or impactful. Only 34% of the Control group agree that the programme was successful. This significant disparity suggests that the Control group either did not perceive the benefits of the programme or had expectations that were not met.

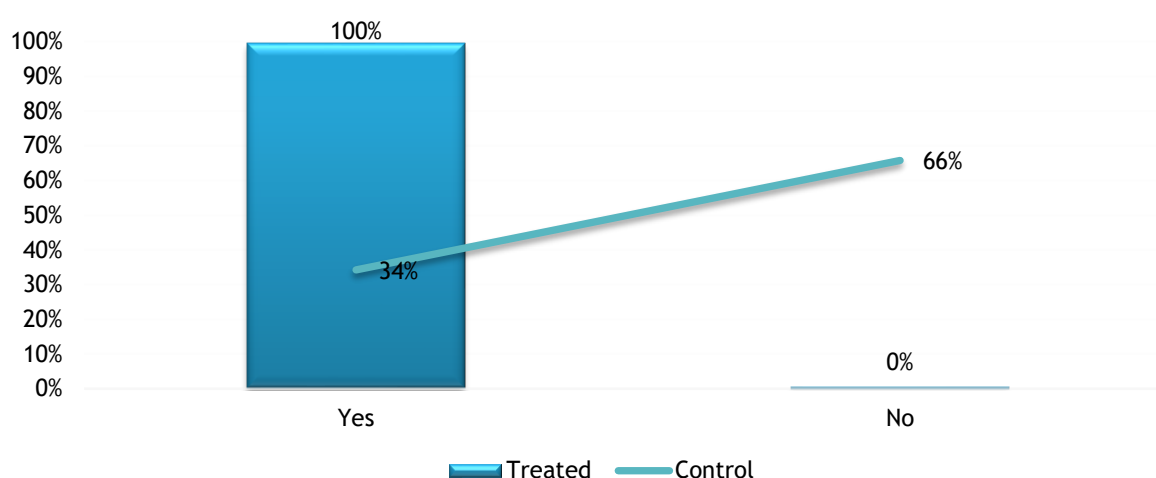


Figure 18 - Impact of the BRACE Programme

The analysis reveals a stern contrast in the perceived success and impact of the BRACE Programme between the Treated and Control groups. The Treated group's unanimous positive perception suggests that they experienced direct benefits, felt more engaged, or saw tangible improvements in their community due to the programme. Conversely, the skepticism and negative perception among the Control group highlight the challenges in meeting expectations or communicating the programme's benefits effectively to all community segments.

These insights are crucial for understanding the varied impacts of development programmes and underscore the need for inclusive and transparent communication strategies that address the concerns and expectations of all community members, not just those directly benefiting from the interventions.

Community Engagement

The engagement levels in the BRACE Programme as reported by the Treated and Control groups reveal a significant divide in participation across different stages. The initial phase of Need Identification was nearly universally embraced by both

groups, with the Control group at full involvement (100%) and the Treated group just slightly lower (96%). This high level of initial engagement suggests that both groups recognised and were eager to articulate the community needs that the Programme intended to address.

As the Programme moved into the Design phase, the Treated group's involvement declined to less than half (46%), raising questions about the inclusivity of the planning process and the potential for missed insights from a significant portion of the group. The complete lack of involvement from the Control group during both the Design and Implementation/Procurement phases (0%) is particularly notable, indicating a possible oversight in leveraging a broader range of community perspectives and expertise. The trend continues into the Implementation / Procurement phase, with the Treated group's engagement hovering just under the majority (49%). This suggests that while a significant number of Treated group members were involved in bringing the Programme's plans to fruition, there was still a sizable portion that was not engaged. Again, the Control group was entirely uninvolved, highlighting a disconnect between the Programme's actions and this segment of the community.

Finally, the Operation and Maintenance phase, which is critical for ensuring the Programme's sustainability, shows continued participation from half of the Treated group (50%). The persistent non-involvement of the Control group could indicate a missed opportunity for wider community ownership and support for the Programme's long-term success. The Treated group's involvement in the BRACE Programme declines over time, however they maintained a significant presence in all phases. The Control group, however, is consistently disengaged after the Need Identification phase. This pattern suggests a need for strategies to ensure that all segments of the community are included throughout the Programme's lifecycle, to foster inclusive decision-making and broad-based support for sustainable development initiatives.

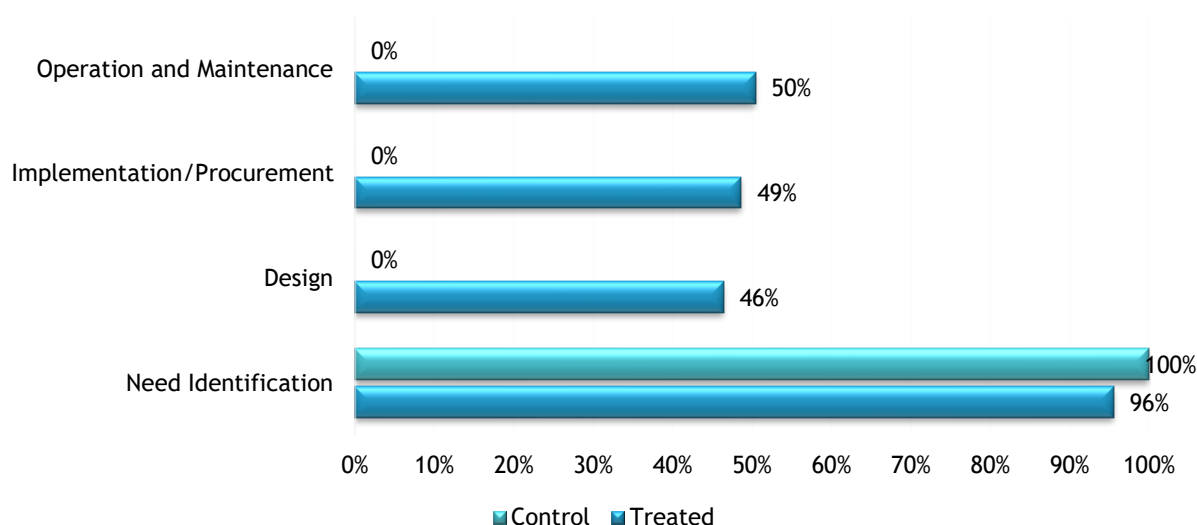


Figure 19 - Participation of Communities in Different Phases of BRACE

Programming Needs

The survey responses provide insights into the perceived ongoing need for the BRACE Programme in the community, across both Treated and Control groups. A majority (83%) of the Treated group believes that the BRACE Programme is still needed in their community. This indicates a continued reliance on or appreciation for the programme's interventions, suggesting that the participants see ongoing or additional benefits to be gained from the programme.

Similarly, a significant majority of the Control group (81%) also feel that the BRACE Programme is still needed in their community. Despite their previous skepticism about the programme's success and impact, this high percentage reflects a recognition of the programme's potential benefits or an acknowledgement of unmet needs within the community.

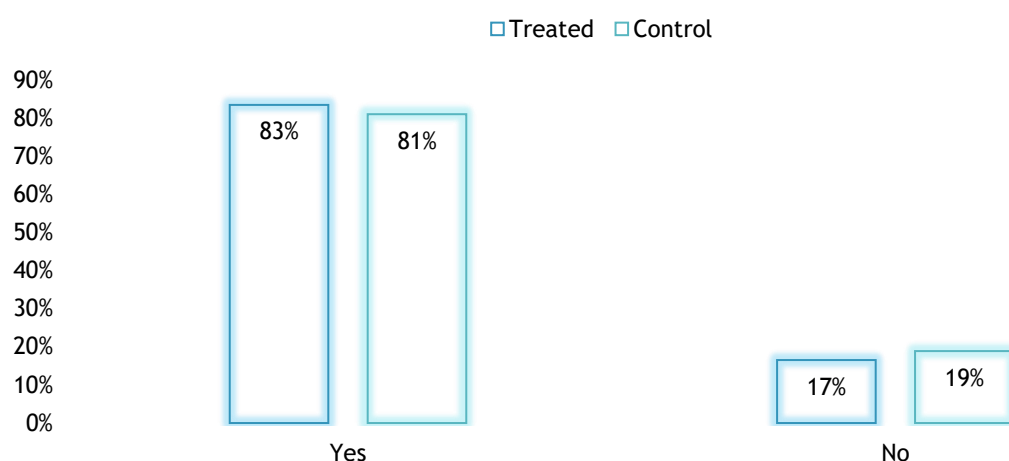


Figure 20 - Continuous Need of BRACE-Like Programmes

The analysis reveals a strong and consistent perception across both Treated and Control groups that the BRACE Programme remains necessary for their communities. This suggests that, irrespective of their direct experience or satisfaction with the programme, both groups recognise the continuing or unaddressed needs that the BRACE Programme aims to fulfill. It underscores the importance of sustained and responsive engagement in community development programmes, highlighting the need for ongoing support and adaptation to the evolving needs of the community.

Participation in BRACE

The survey revealed a clear and distinct division between the Control and Treated groups in relation to their involvement with the BRACE Programme. The Control group, by definition, appeared to have had no involvement with the BRACE Programme, as evidenced by the unanimous 'No' responses. Conversely, the Treated group's universal affirmation of participation ('Yes') indicates that this group was selected based on their participation.

100% of the respondents in the Control group answered "No," indicating that they have not been part of the BRACE Programme in any capacity and 100% of the respondents in the Treated group answered "Yes," indicating that they have been part of the BRACE Programme in some capacity.

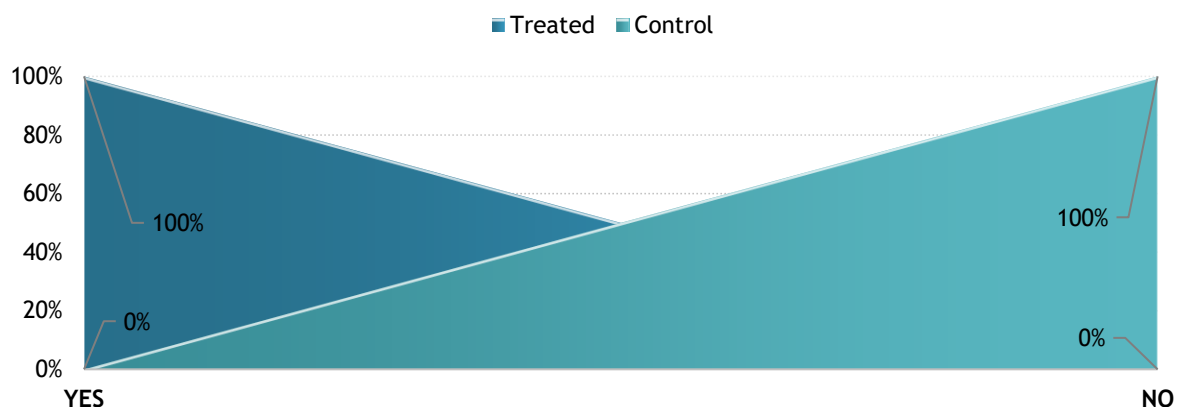


Figure 21 - Involvement of Communities in BRACE Programme

This data demonstrates the multifaceted engagement of the Treated group in the BRACE Programme. The diversity of roles selected reflects the broad scope of the programme and its various activities. Participants were not confined to a single role; instead, they were involved in multiple aspects of the programme, as indicated by the numerous combinations of roles. This variety likely catered to different interests, skills, and capacities of the participants, enabling a more inclusive and comprehensive community involvement. Overall, the data highlights the multifaceted nature of community engagement in the BRACE Programme and underscores the programme's capacity to engage participants in diverse roles reflected in the below graph.

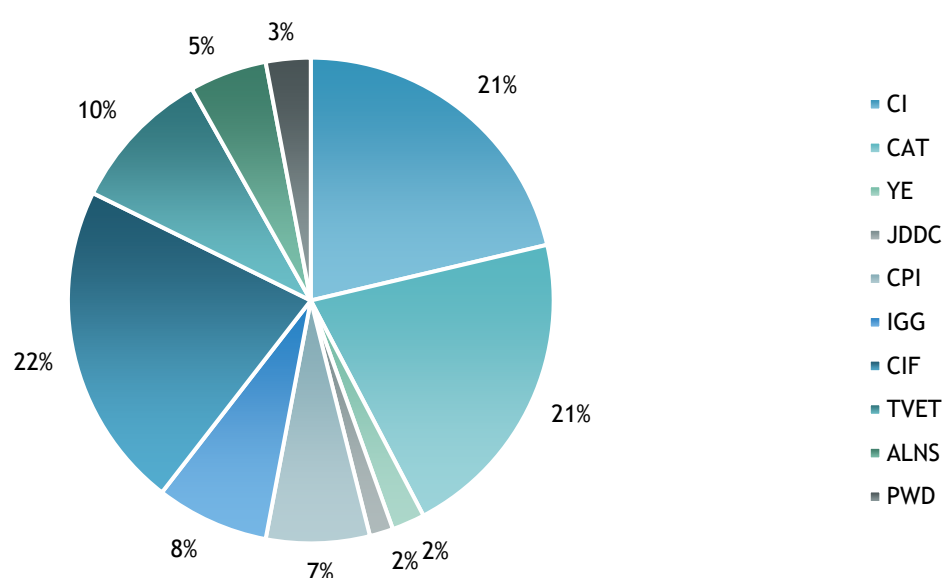


Figure 22 - Participation of Communities in BRACE Activities

Community Institutions

The results show a significant difference in the regularity of meetings between the Control and Treated groups. In the Control group, there is a notable proportion (50%) reporting that the meetings were "Non-functional," which implies a lack of regular meetings or possibly inactive community organisations (CO, VO, and LSO). This contrasts sharply with the Treated group, where the vast majority (92%) reported that meetings were held "Once every month," indicating a high level of regular engagement and active participation.

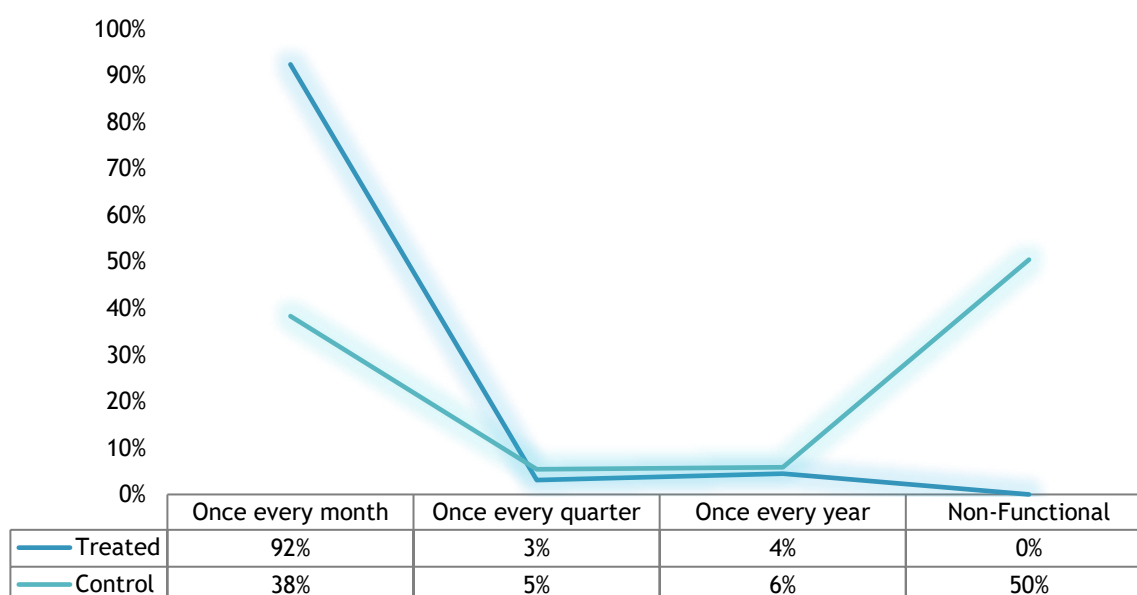


Figure 23 - Participation of Communities in CI Meetings

This stark difference suggests that the BRACE Programme had a substantial impact on the regularity and functionality of community organisation meetings. The high frequency of monthly meetings in the Treated group reflects the emphasis on consistent community engagement and participatory activities fostered by the programme. In contrast, the Control group's significant report of non-functionality indicates a lack of similar interventions or supports.

The results revealed a contrast in the level of satisfaction with participation in CO, VO, and LSO between the Control and Treated groups. Nearly all respondents (99%) in the Treated group expressed a high level of satisfaction ("Super satisfied") with their level of participation. This overwhelming satisfaction suggests that the interventions and support provided by the BRACE Programme were highly effective in engaging participants in a meaningful and satisfying manner. The near unanimity in this positive response indicates a successful integration of participants into the CO, VO, and LSO activities, fostering a sense of accomplishment and contentment.

However, the satisfaction levels are notably mixed, with a substantial portion (40%) feeling "Super dissatisfied." This suggests a significant level of discontent or unmet expectations regarding their involvement. The varied responses, including both high

satisfaction and high dissatisfaction, indicate inconsistencies in experiences or expectations within the Control group. This divergence might be due to varying levels of engagement, organisational effectiveness, or differing expectations of what participation entails.

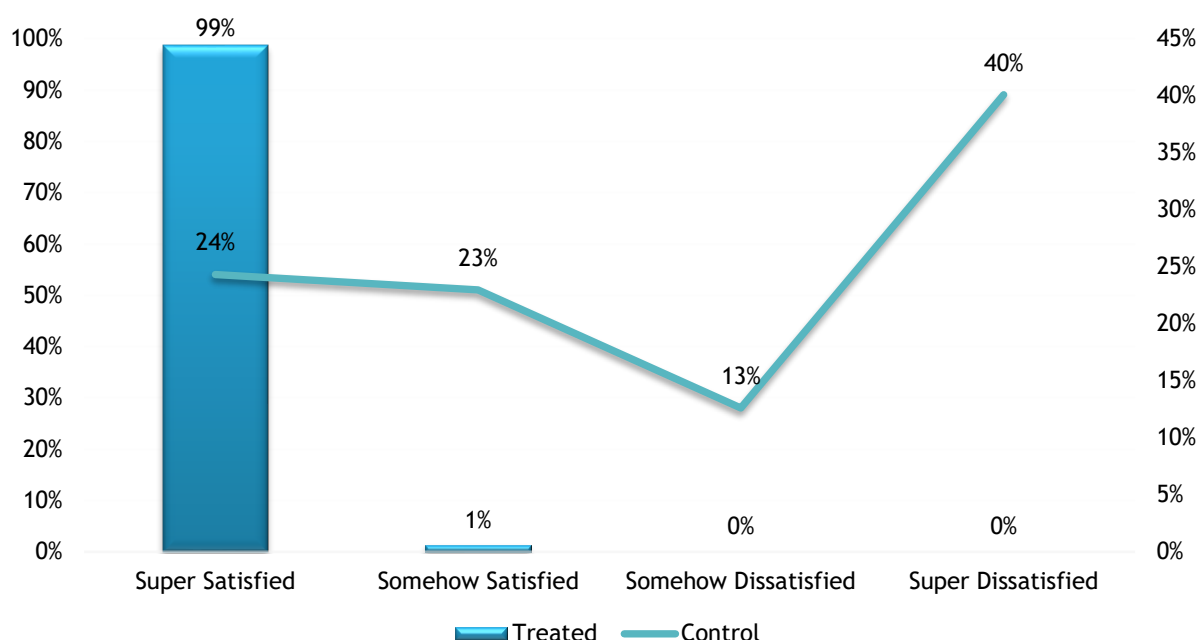


Figure 24 - Satisfaction with the CI Meetings

Overall, the contrast in satisfaction levels between the Treated and Control groups reflects the impact of structured and supportive interventions like those in the BRACE Programme. Such programmes may enhance the quality of participation and satisfaction by providing clear frameworks, resources, and objectives for community organisation activities. The results underscore the importance of well-designed engagement strategies in community programmes to ensure participant satisfaction and effective involvement.

Joint District Development Committee (JDDC)

The results reflected a significant difference in the regularity of JDDC meetings between the Control and Treated groups. The overwhelming majority (98%) of the Control group indicated that the JDDC meetings met only once. This suggests a lack of regular, ongoing engagement with the Joint District Development Committee. Such infrequency could imply limited opportunities for sustained dialogue, input, or influence from the Control group on district-level development matters. However, the responses are almost evenly split, with a slight majority (52%) indicating that JDDC meetings were held regularly. This contrast with the Control group suggests that participants in the Treated group, possibly due to their involvement in the BRACE Programme, had more frequent and consistent engagement with the JDDC. Regular meetings could reflect better opportunities for ongoing participation, input, and influence in local governance and development processes.

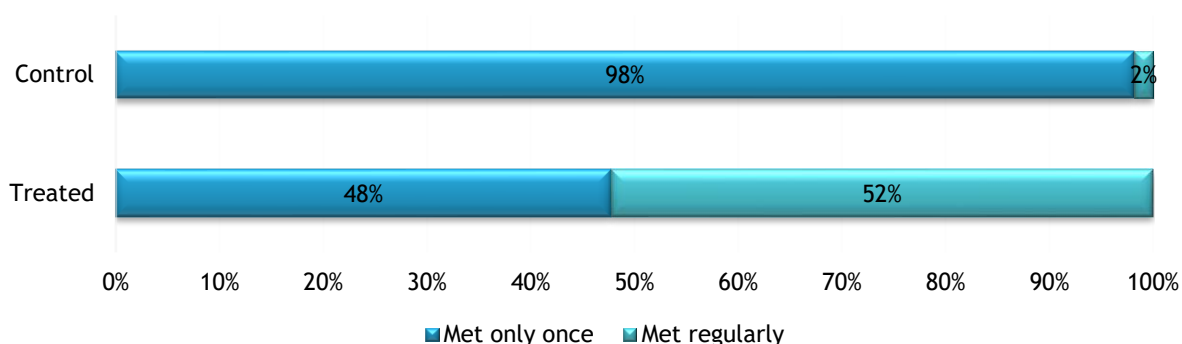


Figure 25 - Meeting Frequencies of JDDCs

Overall, it is indicated that the Treated group had more regular interaction with district-level development committees compared to the Control group. This disparity is a result of the structures and opportunities provided by the BRACE Programme, which could facilitate more frequent and meaningful engagement with local governance structures like the JDDC.

The results revealed a significant disparity between the Control and Treated groups regarding their ability to present and advocate for their needs in JDDC meetings. A large majority (92%) of the Treated group reported being able to effectively present and advocate for their needs. This high percentage suggests that the Treated group, likely influenced by their involvement in the BRACE Programme, had greater access, confidence, or capability to engage actively in these meetings. The BRACE Programme may have provided them with the necessary skills, knowledge, or platforms to effectively voice their concerns and needs. In contrast, a substantial majority (76%) of the Control group reported that they were unable to present and advocate for their needs. This is due to a lack of opportunities and participation in JDDC meetings. The absence of programmatic support similar to that of the BRACE Programme might have left them less equipped or less empowered to engage in such advocacy roles.

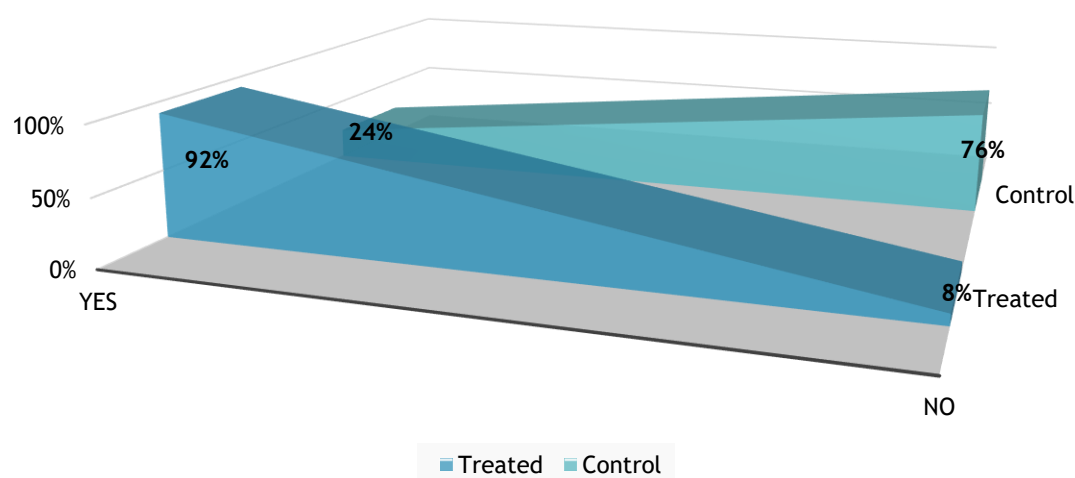


Figure 26 - Active Participation of Communities in JDDC Meetings

The comparison between the two groups underscores the potential impact of structured community engagement and capacity-building programmes. Such initiatives can significantly enhance the ability of community members to participate in and influence local governance structures like the JDDC. This difference highlights the importance of providing communities with the necessary tools and platforms to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed in local development processes.

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

The results present a notable difference between the Control and Treated groups regarding their perceptions of the fairness and participatory nature of the Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) projects. The unanimous response (100% "Yes") from the Treated group indicates a strong perception that the CPI was finalised, planned, and implemented in a fair and participatory manner. While a majority (97%) acknowledged the fairness and participatory nature of the CPI ("Yes but there are still unmet needs"), the addition of "unmet needs" suggests that while the process was deemed fair, it did not fully address all community concerns or requirements. This indicates that, despite a fair process, there may have been gaps in meeting the expectations or needs of the community.

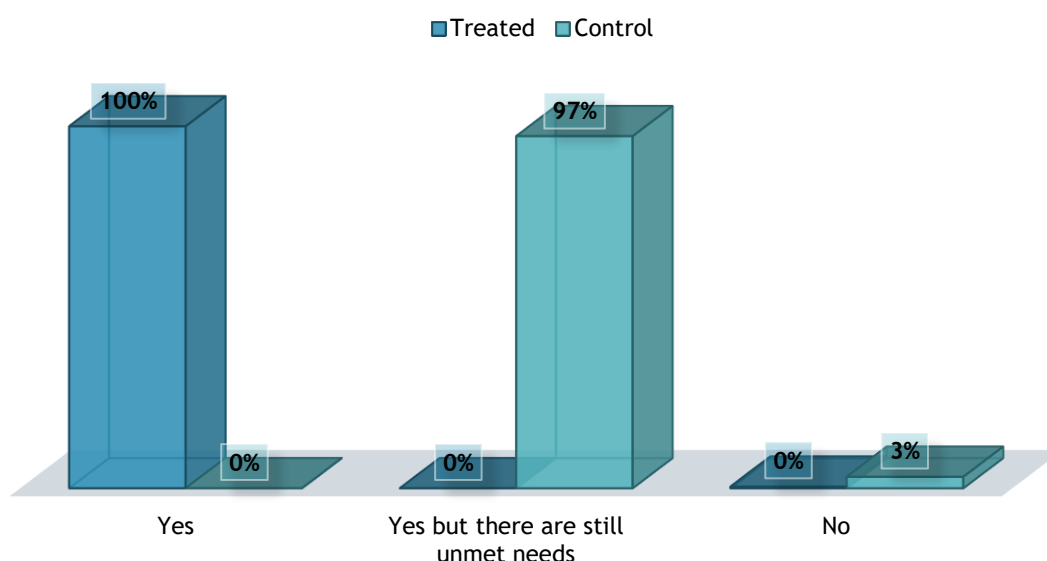


Figure 27 - Fairness and Participatory Nature of CPIs

The near-unanimous positive response from the Treated group, compared to the slightly qualified positive response from the Control group, highlights the potential impact of comprehensive community engagement and thorough planning processes. It suggests that when community members are actively involved in developmental projects, they are more likely to perceive these initiatives as fair and inclusive. The Control group's acknowledgment of unmet needs, despite recognizing fairness, points to the complexity of fully addressing community expectations in development projects. Overall, the data underscores the importance of not only engaging

communities in a fair and participatory manner but also ensuring that the outcomes of such participatory processes align closely with the community's needs and expectations.

Technical & Vocational Education & Training (TVET)

The results show a distinct difference in perceptions of the effectiveness of TVET programmes between the Control and Treated groups. The overwhelming majority (91%) in the Treated group found the TVET they or their family member received to be "Highly Effective," indicating a strong positive impact. This suggests that the TVET programmes associated with the Treated group, possibly influenced by the BRACE Programme, were well-received and met the needs and expectations of the participants. The additional 9% who found it "Effective but had minor issues" also support the general effectiveness of these programmes. However, the responses are more varied, with a significant portion (54%) perceiving the TVET as "Effective but had minor issues" and a notable 41% finding it "Irrelevant." This divergence reflects the irrelevancy of the TVET programme due to the non-participation of the Control group in the BRACE Programme activities.

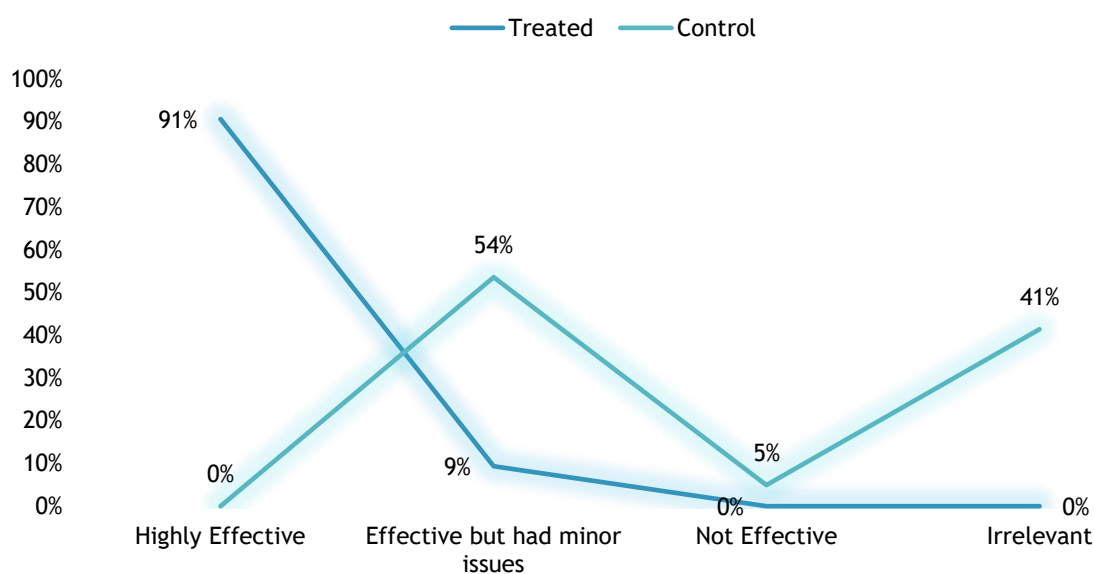


Figure 28 - Effectiveness of the TVET Programme

The results revealed a significant distinction between the Control and Treated groups in terms of earning outcomes from TVET programmes. The unanimous response (100% "No") suggests that none of the respondents in the Control group are earning through TVET. This could be due to a lack of access to TVET programmes and participation in the BRACE Programme. Whereas the varied responses in the Treated group paint a more complex picture. While a notable portion (38%) is successfully earning through TVET, a nearly equal percentage (36%) indicates being skilled but earning too little, suggesting underemployment or insufficient income from their acquired skills. Additionally, 14% report being skilled but not earning, highlighting a gap between

skill acquisition and employment opportunities. The remaining 12% are not earning through TVET, which could point to challenges in the job market, or the relevance of the skills taught.

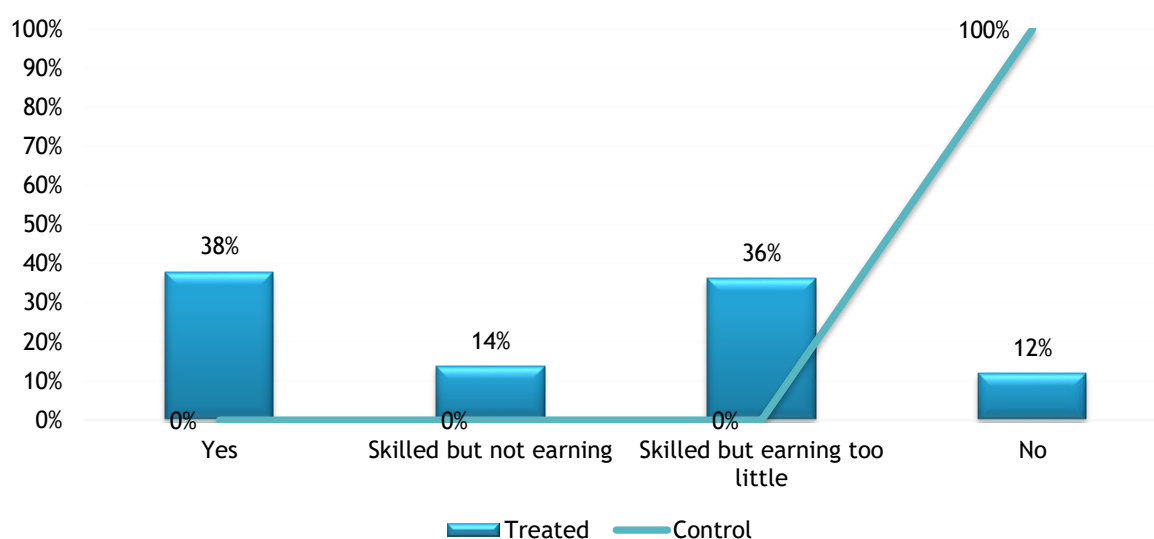


Figure 29 - Utilization of Skills for Income Generation

Overall, the results suggest that while the Treated group has benefited from TVET programmes to a certain extent (with 38% earning), there are notable challenges in translating these skills into sustainable and adequately remunerated employment. The high percentage of respondents who are skilled but either not earning or earning too little indicates potential issues with the market demand for the skills taught, the quality of the training, or the overall economic context.

Income Generation Grants (IGG)

The results present a notable difference in perceptions of fairness and transparency in the IGG process between the Control and Treated groups. The unanimous positive response (100% "Yes") from the Treated group indicates a strong perception that the process of identifying individuals for IGG was fair and transparent. This could be attributed to effective communication, clear criteria, and a transparent selection process associated with the BRACE Programme. The uniformity in the positive response suggests a high level of trust and satisfaction with the process among the Treated group.

While, the responses are more mixed from the Control group, with a majority (64%) perceiving the process as fair and transparent, but a significant minority (36%) disagreeing. This divergence might reflect inconsistencies in the implementation of the process or variations in understanding or perceptions among different community members. The lack of a unanimous positive response, as seen in the Treated group, indicates room for improvement in ensuring perceived fairness and transparency across all community members.

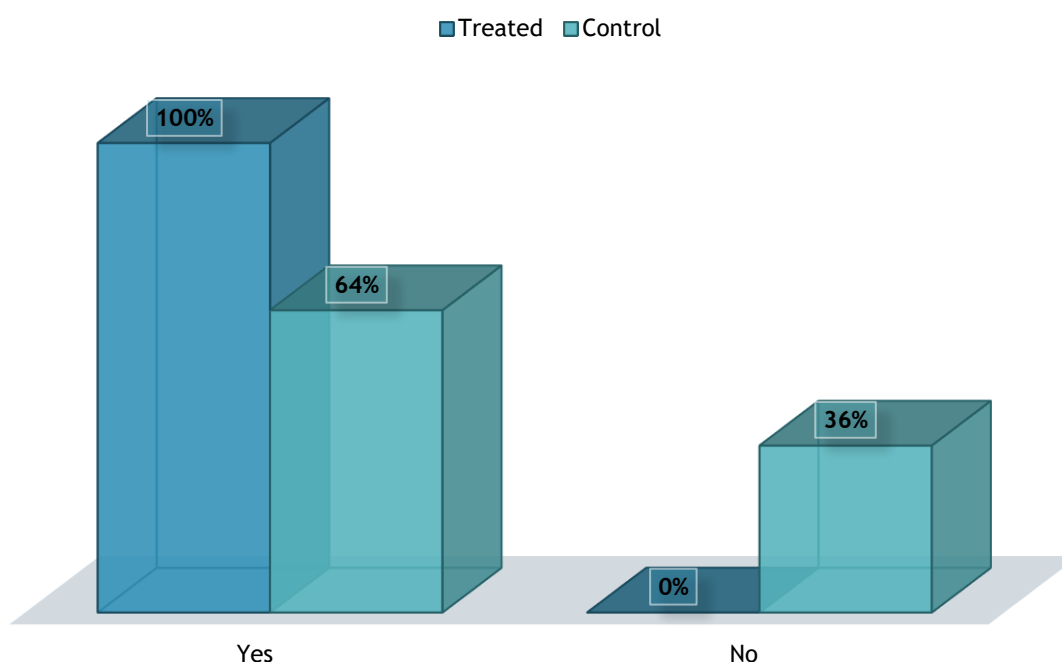


Figure 30 - Fairness and Transparency in Selection of IGG

Overall, the contrast in perceptions between the two groups might suggest that the mechanisms or approaches used in the Treated group were more effective in ensuring a perceived fair and transparent process. For the Control group, the significant minority perceiving a lack of fairness and transparency highlights the importance of consistent, clear, and equitable processes in community development initiatives, particularly in sensitive areas like grant distribution. Ensuring that these processes are perceived as fair and transparent is crucial for maintaining trust and participation in community development programmes.

In continuation to IGG processes, the groups were asked about the adequacy of the IGG grant size. The results show a surprising trend, particularly within the Treated group, regarding perceptions of the adequacy of the Income Generation Grants size.

The responses are evenly split by the Control group, with half of the respondents finding the IGG size adequate and the other half not. This balanced distribution suggests that while some individuals felt the grant size was sufficient to impact their income positively, an equal number felt it was inadequate. The mixed responses could reflect whether the Control group is unaware of the grant size, needs of the establishment of income generation ventures, or the actual economic impact of the grant size due to non-participation in the BRACE Programme.

Whereas a larger proportion (65%) of the Treated group, which is more closely associated with the BRACE Programme, reported that the IGG size was not sufficient. This higher level of dissatisfaction compared to the Control group might indicate higher expectations or needs that were not met by the grant size. It could also

suggest that the Treated group had a clearer understanding of the potential and limitations of the grants, leading to a more critical assessment of their adequacy.

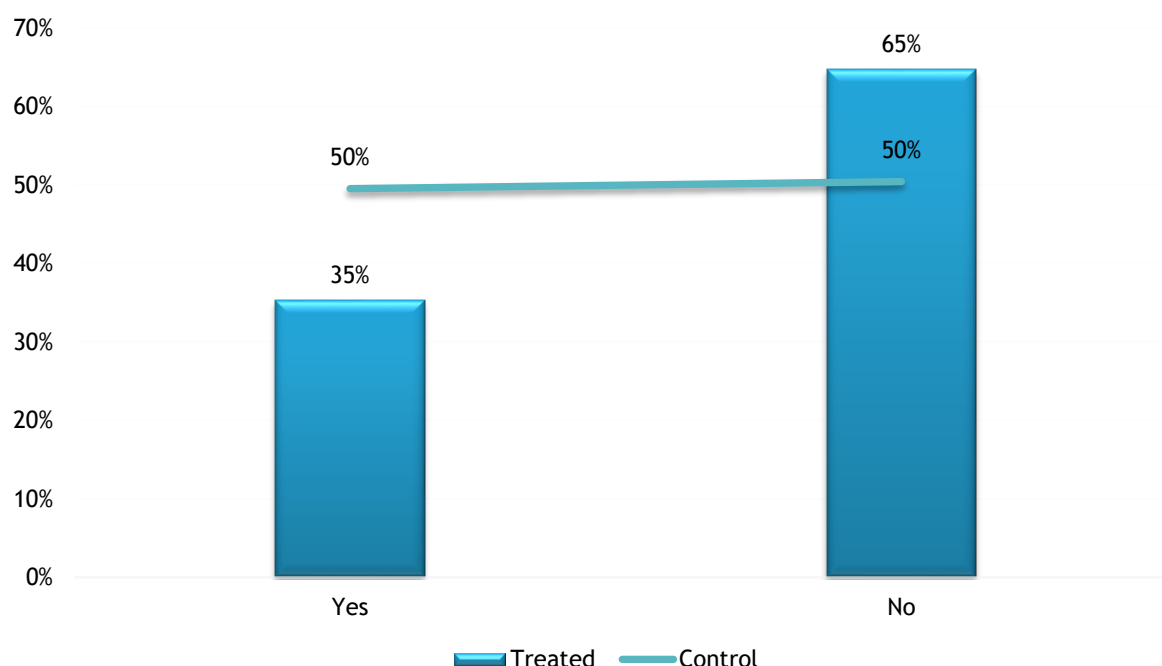


Figure 31 - Sufficiency of IGG Amount

Overall, the results revealed that the perceived adequacy of the Income Generation Grants varied significantly between individuals and groups. While some found the grants sufficient, a significant number did not, highlighting the challenges in determining an optimal grant size that meets the diverse needs and expectations of different community members. This analysis underscores the importance of careful assessment of local economic conditions, individual needs, and realistic outcomes when determining grant sizes in income generation programmes. The goal should be to strike a balance that maximises the grants' effectiveness and impact across a diverse beneficiary population.

Community Investment Fund (CIF)

The results present a notable difference in perceptions of fairness and transparency in the CIF process between the Control and Treated groups. The unanimous positive response (100% "Yes") from the Treated group suggests a strong perception that the process of identifying individuals for the Community Investment Fund was conducted fairly and transparently. However, the responses are more divided by the Control group, with a slight majority (57%) perceiving the process as fair and transparent, but a significant minority (43%) disagreeing. This divergence might reflect inconsistencies in how the process was implemented or understood among different community members.

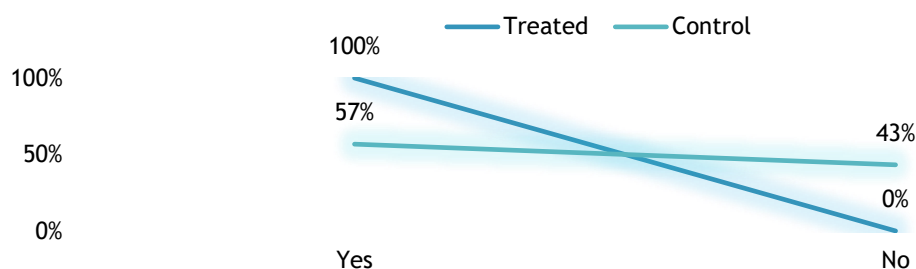


Figure 32 - Fairness and Transparency in CIFs

Overall, the contrast in perceptions between the two groups might suggest that the methods or approaches used in the Treated group were more effective in ensuring a perceived fair and transparent process. For the Control group, significant minority perceiving a lack of fairness and transparency points to the importance of consistent, transparent, and equitable processes in community development initiatives and information sharing among both focused and non-focused community members, especially in areas like fund allocation. Ensuring that these processes are perceived as fair and transparent is critical for maintaining trust and participation in community development programmes.

Furthermore, talking about the adequacy of the CIF loan size, the results presented an interesting distribution of opinions regarding the adequacy of the Community Investment Fund loan size in both groups, with a notable difference in perceptions between the Control and Treated groups. The responses are evenly divided, with half of the respondents finding the CIF loan size adequate to accelerate income and the other half not. The balanced distribution could be due to variations in individual needs, business plans, or expectations regarding the impact of the loan.

However, a larger proportion (66%) of the Treated group, which is more closely associated with the BRACE Programme, reported that the CIF loan size was not sufficient. This higher level of dissatisfaction compared to the Control group might be due to higher expectations, greater awareness of financial needs, or the specific economic activities they engaged in. The 34% who found it adequate indicated that for some participants, the loan size was able to meet their requirements for income generation or acceleration.

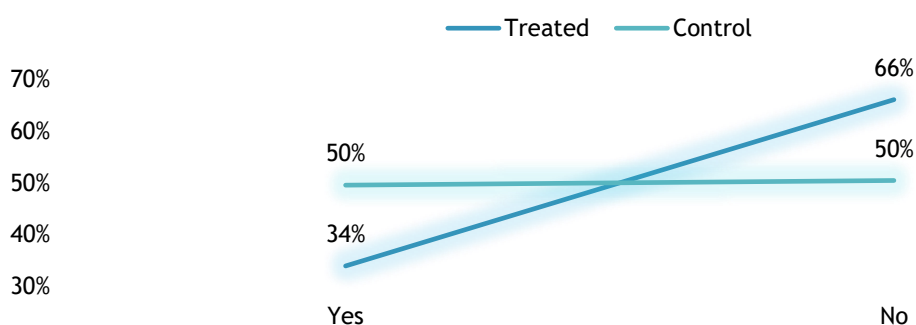


Figure 33 - Sufficiency of CIF Loan Size

Overall, the data highlights the challenges in determining an optimal loan size that meets the diverse needs and expectations of different community members in income generation programmes. The disparity in opinions underscores the importance of a nuanced approach to loan sizing, taking into account the local economic context, the nature of income-generating activities, and individual or household needs. Ensuring that CIF loans are both accessible and adequate in size is crucial for maximizing their effectiveness and impact across a diverse beneficiary population.

Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills (ALNS)

The results clearly show a significant impact of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills (ALNS) on the Treated group, with every respondent in this group affirming the receipt of literacy and numeracy skills. In contrast, the Control group exhibited a mixed response, with a larger portion (over 60%) indicating that they did not receive such skills. This disparity suggests a possible effectiveness of the interventions or programmes associated with the Treated group only.

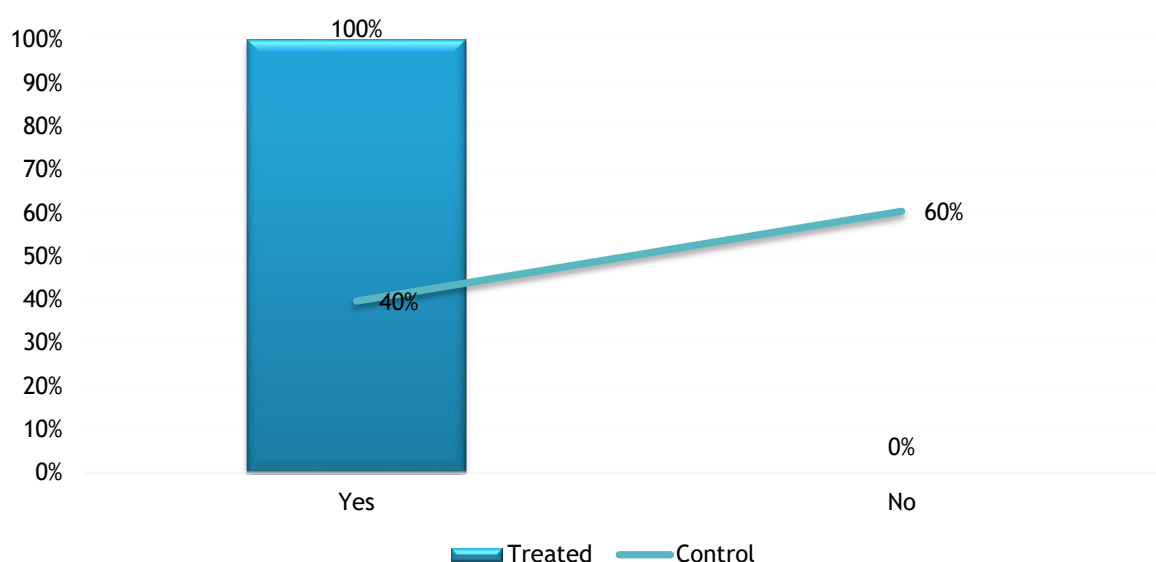


Figure 34 - Participation of Communities in ALNS

The ALNS center appears to have had a substantial positive impact on the Treated group in terms of providing literacy and numeracy skills. This is evident from the unanimous affirmative response from this group. The Control group's results, however, indicate a lack of similar impact, which can be a point of further investigation to understand the differentiating factors or interventions that led to this discrepancy.

People with Special Needs (PWSNs)

The survey included a question about the satisfaction with the distribution of assistive devices for People with Special Needs (PWSNs), directed at two groups: 'Control' and 'Treated'. The responses were either 'Yes' (satisfied) or 'No' (not

satisfied). The Treated group showed overwhelming satisfaction with the distribution of assistive devices for PWSNs, with nearly 96% of respondents affirming satisfaction.

In contrast, the Control group exhibited a nearly even split in their satisfaction levels, suggesting that the distribution of assistive devices might not have been as effective or well-distributed by the BRACE Programme.

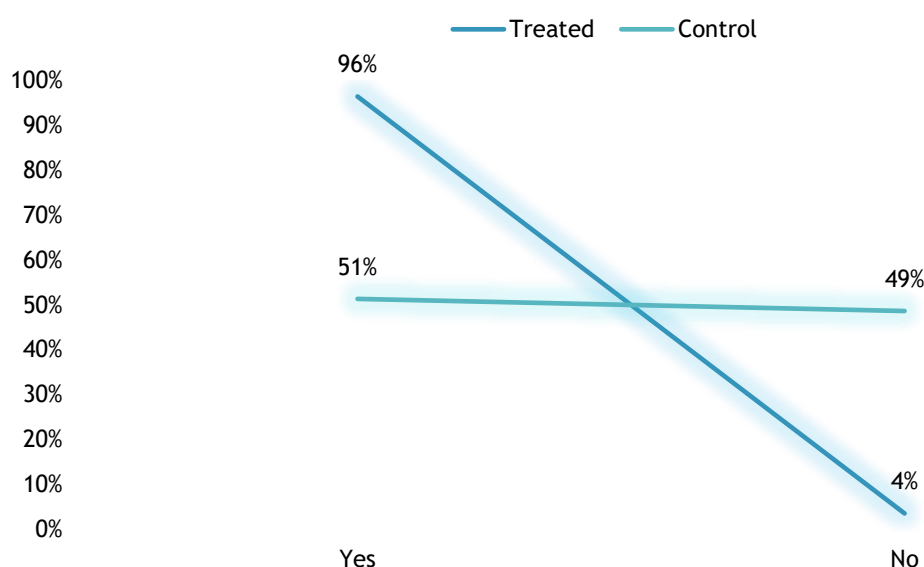


Figure 35 - Satisfaction with Assistive Devices for PWSNs

The results indicated a pronounced difference in satisfaction levels between the two groups. The Treated group's high satisfaction rate points towards effective distribution and impact of the assistive devices among PWSNs within this group. On the other hand, the almost evenly split responses in the Control group suggest a need for improvement or further investigation into the distribution methods or the types of devices provided. This contrast highlights the importance of targeted interventions and the potential need for tailored approaches in the distribution of assistive devices among PWSNs.

Sensitised Government

The survey asked respondents whether Local Government/Council and District Authorities are sensitised to allowing citizens to engage in planning and executing development. The Treated group displayed a high level of confidence (83%) in the sensitisation of local authorities towards citizen engagement in planning and executing development. This suggests effective communication and collaboration between the citizens and the authorities in this group.

The Control group, while still leaning towards a positive response, showed a more divided opinion. Nearly 45% of respondents feeling a lack of sensitisation indicates potential areas of improvement in the relationship between citizens and local authorities.

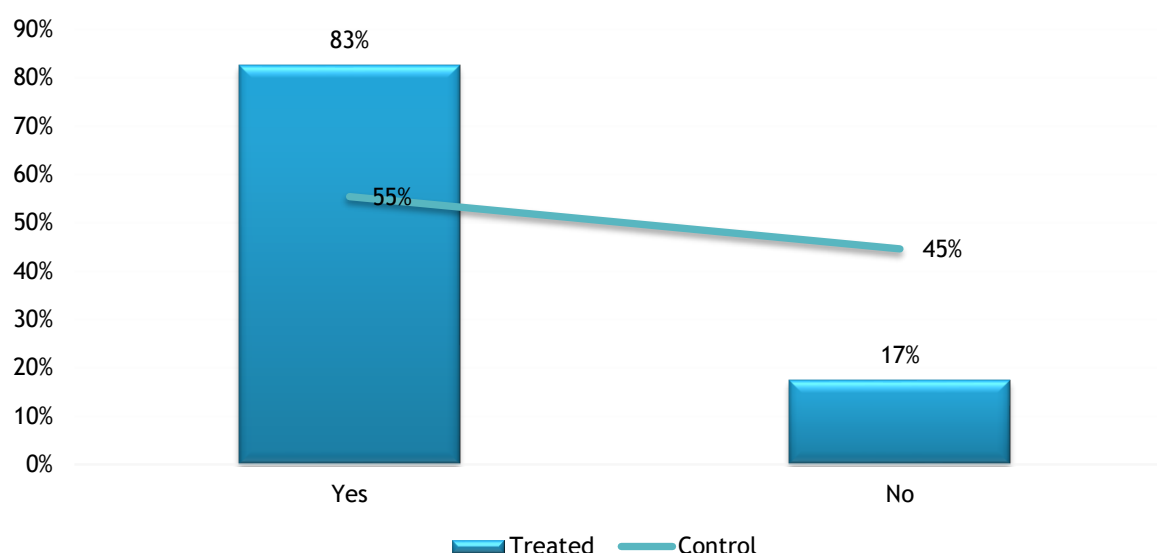


Figure 36 - Support to Engage Communities by Government

The contrasting responses between the Treated and Control groups highlight differences in how local government and council authorities interact with citizens in these groups. The Treated group's high rate of positive responses suggests more effective or visible efforts by authorities to include citizens in decision-making processes. In contrast, the Control group's responses suggest a need for increased efforts to sensitise and involve citizens in development planning and execution. This difference underscores the importance of fostering strong, collaborative relationships between local authorities and the communities they serve.

Focused Group Discussions Results

Local Development and BRACE Programme's Impact

The analysis of the feedback from control and treated groups regarding the impact of the BRACE Programme on local development reveals distinct perspectives. The Control Groups acknowledged positive strides in poverty reduction, women's empowerment, and governance; these improvements were attributed to the BRACE Programme which impacted their communities as well. Specific factors mentioned include local initiatives and the establishment of women's resource centers. This group's feedback suggested that progress in these areas could occur if the BRACE Programme is also implemented in their communities as well.

In contrast, the Treated Groups report significant improvements in the same areas but directly linked these advancements to the BRACE Programme. They specifically highlighted the Programme's role in enhancing community infrastructure and health facilities, in addition to poverty reduction and women empowerment. The treated groups attribute enhanced decision-making roles for women, successful resolution of water challenges, and overall community empowerment to the direct impact of the BRACE Programme.

The dichotomy in the responses suggested that while both groups recognised improvements in key areas, the treated groups see the BRACE Programme as a crucial catalyst for these advancements. In contrast, the control groups perceive similar progress as a result of local efforts as an indirect impact of the BRACE Programme. This difference underscores the perceived effectiveness and direct impact of the BRACE Programme in the communities where it has been implemented.

Social, Financial, and Political Improvements by BRACE

The analysis of responses regarding the impact of the BRACE Programme on social, financial, and political improvements presented contrasting perspectives from control and treated groups. The Control Groups recognised incremental improvements in community aspects. However, they also highlighted significant gaps, particularly in addressing the needs of Persons with Special Needs (PWSNs) and emphasised the necessity for investment in skills training. This feedback indicated an awareness of progress but also pointed out critical areas where the BRACE Programme might not be fully effective or inclusive.

On the other hand, the Treated Groups reported a more comprehensive development across social, financial, and political spheres due to the BRACE Programme. They specifically mentioned the empowerment of marginalised groups, increased financial literacy, and active participation in governance as notable achievements. These responses suggested that the BRACE Programme has had a significant and wide-reaching impact in the areas where it was implemented, addressing various aspects of community development.

The contrast between the two groups' feedback is striking. While both acknowledged improvements, the treated groups attributed a more holistic and inclusive development to the BRACE Programme, whereas the control groups, despite recognizing progress, pointed out crucial shortcomings, especially in inclusivity and skill development. This divergence highlighted the potential variable effectiveness of the BRACE Programme in different contexts or its varied implementation strategies.

Complementarity with Other Projects

The analysis of responses from control and treated groups regarding the complementarity of the BRACE Programme with other projects revealed insights into collaborative efforts in community development. The Control Groups discussed the impact of other initiatives, such as the PPR (Program for Poverty Reduction) and kitchen gardening. This indicated a recognition of a collaborative environment in community development where multiple initiatives contributed to overall progress. Their emphasis on different projects like PPR and kitchen gardening suggested a diverse range of community needs being addressed through various programmes, highlighting the multifaceted nature of community development.

In contrast, the Treated Groups specifically noted collaborations with other organisations and initiatives that complemented the objectives of the BRACE Programme. They mentioned significant joint efforts in areas like malaria control and food distribution during floods. This response underscores the BRACE Programme's role in not just standalone community development but also in enhancing and supporting broader initiatives. The emphasis on collaborative efforts in areas such as health and emergency response indicated a more integrated approach to community development, recognizing the interconnected nature of various challenges communities face.

The feedback from both groups illustrated a common understanding of the importance of collaborative efforts in community development. While the control groups highlighted a variety of independent initiatives contributing to community progress, the treated groups emphasised the synergistic effects of the BRACE Programme working in tandem with other projects, suggesting a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing community needs.

Continuity post-BRACE

The responses regarding continuity post-BRACE from both control and treated groups provided insights into the sustainability of community development efforts. The Control Groups emphasised the role of ongoing community-driven initiatives such as Community Investment Funds (CIF) and health centers, suggesting a focus on ensuring sustained efforts in development even after the conclusion of the BRACE Programme. This indicated a recognition of the importance of continued community engagement and local initiatives in maintaining and advancing developmental gains.

On the other hand, the Treated Groups discussed the continuation of initiatives like Income Generating Grants (IGG), CIF, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), highlighting a specific focus on sustained economic growth and skill development. This response suggested that the BRACE Programme had instilled a forward-looking approach, concentrating not just on immediate improvements but also on long-term economic stability and capacity building within the community.

Both groups underlined the significance of sustained development efforts, but the treated groups particularly emphasised economic and skill development as key areas of continued focus. This difference might reflect the BRACE Programme's influence in shaping community priorities towards long-term economic resilience and skill enhancement. The control groups' focus on general community initiatives, in contrast, suggested a broader approach to sustaining development gains. Overall, the responses indicated a shared understanding of the need for continuity in development efforts, with specific strategies varying between groups.

Implementation and Impact of BRACE

The analysis of responses regarding the implementation and impact of the BRACE Programme revealed different perspectives from control and treated groups. The Control Groups reflected on the success of other programmes rather than BRACE itself, with a particular emphasis on the role of community engagement and local partnerships. This focus suggested an appreciation for grassroots-level initiatives and the importance of community involvement and collaboration in achieving successful outcomes. Their responses indicate that, in their experience, the key to effective programme implementation lies in actively involving local communities and forging strong local partnerships.

In contrast, the Treated Groups specifically praised the BRACE Programme for its effectiveness in uniting communities, providing economic opportunities, and addressing issues of discrimination. This feedback highlighted the direct impact of BRACE in fostering community cohesion, economic development, and social inclusivity. The emphasis on uniting communities and providing economic opportunities aligns with the objectives of BRACE, suggesting that, in the areas where it was implemented, BRACE has been successful in achieving its intended goals.

The differing responses underscore the varied perceptions of development programme success. While the control groups highlighted the effectiveness of community-driven approaches in general, the treated groups attribute specific positive changes in their communities to the BRACE Programme. This variation in perspectives might reflect the different experiences and contexts of the two groups, with the treated groups having direct exposure to the specific impacts of BRACE.

Programmatic Lessons from BRACE

The analysis of responses concerning programmatic lessons learned from the BRACE Programme revealed distinct emphases from the control and treated groups. The Control Groups focused on the significance of strengthening health facilities, the development of community enterprise schools, and the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This perspective underscores a recognition of the crucial role of health infrastructure, entrepreneurial education, and skill development in community development. Their emphasis on these areas suggested an understanding that long-term improvements in community well-being are closely tied to health, education, and vocational training.

On the other hand, the Treated Groups highlighted the impact of initiatives like Community Investment Funds (CIF), Community Physical Infrastructure (CPIs), and Adult Literacy and Numeracy Schools (ALNS), with a particular emphasis on community involvement and the development of tailored strategies. This feedback indicated that the BRACE Programme's success in these areas is largely attributed to active community participation and the customisation of interventions to meet

specific local needs. The focus on CIF, CPIs, and ALNS suggested that economic empowerment, infrastructure development, and adult education are seen as pivotal in driving community development.

The contrasting responses from the two groups revealed different insights into effective programmatic strategies. While the control groups prioritised health, entrepreneurial education, and skill training as key lessons, the treated groups emphasised the importance of community-driven economic initiatives, infrastructure projects, and adult education, stressing the need for community involvement and bespoke strategies. These differences highlighted varied approaches to community development and the potential for diverse strategies to be effective in different contexts.

Continued Need for Programmes like BRACE

The responses from both control and treated groups regarding the continued need for programmes like BRACE illustrate a unanimous recognition of their importance, albeit with slightly different emphases. The Control Groups expressed a strong desire for the implementation of BRACE-like programmes in their areas, motivated by the observed successes in neighbouring regions where BRACE has been active. This aspiration indicated that, even without direct experience, the perceived impact of BRACE in nearby areas has been significant enough to generate interest and a recognised need for similar interventions in their communities. Their focus appeared to be on replicating the successes they had observed in areas such as community development, poverty reduction, and enhanced governance.

In contrast, the Treated Groups specifically advocated for the revival of the BRACE Programme, highlighting its crucial role in empowering women and promoting literacy in their communities. This endorsement underscores the direct and positive impact of BRACE that these groups had experienced. The emphasis on women's empowerment and literacy suggested that these areas have been particularly transformative and beneficial as a result of the BRACE Programme.

Both groups' responses collectively illustrated a widespread recognition of the value and effectiveness of programmes like BRACE in community development, particularly in empowering underrepresented groups and enhancing education. The control groups' interest in adopting similar programmes and the treated groups desired for a continuation of BRACE reflected a common understanding of the essential role such initiatives played in fostering sustainable development and enhancing quality of life in their communities.

Positive and Negative Changes by BRACE

The analysis of responses to the positive and negative changes brought about by the BRACE Programme illustrated a nuanced understanding from both control and treated groups. The Control Groups recognised the absence of negative impacts from

BRACE, instead focusing on the success of other initiatives such as the Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) and the Poverty Score Card specifically in District Kech. This suggested that while they were aware of positive developments in their regions, they had not directly associated any significant negative impacts with the BRACE Programme. Their emphasis on the success of other initiatives also implied a broader view of community development, where multiple programmes contributed to overall progress.

In contrast, the Treated Groups provided a more complex picture by discussing both positive and negative impacts of BRACE. On the positive side, they noted improvements in health outcomes, which aligned with one of the core objectives of the BRACE Programme. However, they also mentioned economic disruption and the creation of unintended dependency as negative consequences. This feedback indicated that while the BRACE Programme has had beneficial effects, it has also brought about challenges that need to be addressed. The mention of economic disruption suggested that while aiming for positive change, the programme may have inadvertently affected local economies in ways that were not entirely beneficial. Similarly, the concern about creating dependency highlighted a potential issue in sustainable development initiatives, where the goal was to empower communities to be self-reliant rather than reliant on external aid.

The divergent responses from the control and treated groups underscore the complexity of assessing the impact of development programmes like BRACE. While the control groups saw no direct negative impacts, the treated groups' experience allowed them to provide a more detailed account of both the benefits and the challenges posed by such interventions. This contrast highlighted the importance of considering a range of perspectives and outcomes when evaluating the overall effectiveness and impact of development programmes.

Indirect Impact of BRACE on Non-Focused Populations

The analysis of responses regarding the indirect impact of the BRACE Programme on non-focused populations highlighted a perceived broader influence of the programme beyond its primary targets. The Control Groups acknowledged indirect benefits of initiatives like Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and other BRACE-related activities on neighbouring communities. This recognition implied that the effects of the BRACE Programme had spilled over into areas not directly targeted by the programme. Their focus on TVET and other initiatives suggested an understanding that skills training and educational programmes had the potential to impact surrounding communities, possibly through enhanced employment opportunities or improved skills in the workforce.

On the other hand, the Treated Groups specifically noted the influence of BRACE on non-focused populations, highlighting outcomes such as increased enrollment opportunities in education and the dissemination of knowledge. This feedback suggested that the BRACE Programme had contributed to a broader educational and

informational environment, extending benefits to populations that were not the primary focus of the programme. The mention of increased enrollment opportunities and knowledge dissemination points to a cascading effect where the benefits of the programme extend beyond the immediate recipients to impact the wider community.

Both groups' responses indicated an awareness of the ripple effects of development programmes like BRACE. While the control groups focused on the indirect benefits seen in neighbouring areas, the treated groups emphasised more specific outcomes such as educational and informational benefits. This collective feedback underscores the multifaceted impact of development programmes, which can extend benefits beyond their immediate target groups, contributing to broader community development.

Overview of Focused Group Discussions

The analysis revealed that the BRACE Programme had a substantial impact on treated communities, particularly in areas of social, financial, and political development. Control groups also experienced positive changes through other local initiatives. There is a continued need for programmes like BRACE, as evidenced by the expressed desire for their revival and implementation. The lessons learned from BRACE offer valuable insights for future community development programmes.

Word Cloud

The word cloud presented in the image below in Figure 37 is a visual representation of key terms from a dataset focused on community-centered discussions. Analyzing the Word Cloud provided insights into the key themes discussed within FGDs.



Figure 37 - Word Cloud based on FGDs Exploration

Below is the analysis of the Word Cloud based on the prominence and relevance of the terms:

Central Themes: The most prominent words, which are the largest in the Word Cloud, are "communities," "BRACE," "EU," "members," and "Programme." This suggests that the documents are heavily focused on community-oriented programs, with an emphasis on membership and involvement with the European Union initiatives.

Secondary Themes: Moderately sized words like "empowerment," "opportunities," "sustainable," "impact," "involvement," "projects," and "development" indicate that the programme was focused on creating lasting change, offering opportunities for development, and involving stakeholders in sustainable projects.

Specific Areas of Focus: Smaller words indicate more specific areas of focus and activities related to the main theme. Words such as "CIF," "LSOs" "funds," "activities," "training," "financial," "women," "economic," "interventions," and "TVET" suggest that financial aspects, growth of local service organizations, women's involvement, vocational education and training, and economic interventions are topics of concern.

Values and Goals: The presence of words like "empowerment," "positive," "social," "success," and "participation" reflects the values and desired outcomes of the initiatives, such as social inclusion, successful implementation, and active participation.

Target Groups and Methods: The word "women" indicates that there was a gender focus within the initiatives. "Training," "skill," "programmes," and "activities" suggest that the methods to achieve the goals include skill development and structured programs.

Implications for Stakeholders: The Word Cloud can inform stakeholders such as program administrators, community leaders, and EU officials about the focus areas and perceptions of the community regarding these initiatives. It can be used to evaluate whether the intended message or focus of discussions aligns with the strategic goals of the programs.

From this Word Cloud, it was identified that the focus group discussions revolved around community development initiatives, with significant emphasis on sustainable impact, empowerment, and skill development, with EU support.

Word Trend

Figure 38 depicts a trend analysis graph, illustrating the relative frequency of several key terms across different sections of a document based on Focused Group Discussions. The terms analyzed are "EU," "GOB," "community," "BRACE," "programme," and "development."

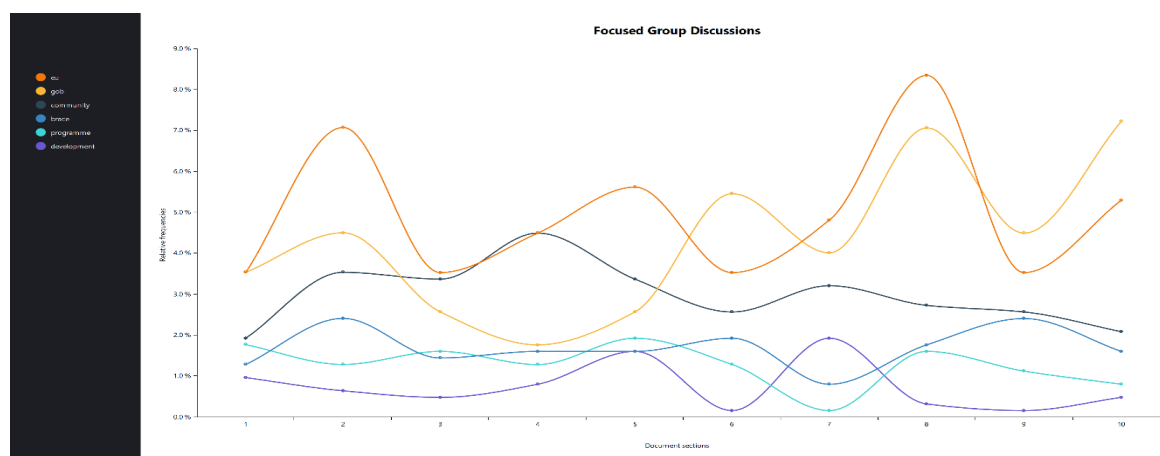


Figure 38 - Word Trends in FGDs

Below is the analysis of the visible trends:

"EU": This keyword has the most pronounced peaks, suggesting there were specific sections where the discussion strongly focused on topics related to the European Union. The discussions pertaining to the EU show significant variation, with three prominent peaks indicating that EU-related topics were of high importance or interest at specific points.

"GOB": This term shows moderate and more consistent frequency throughout the discussions, with a notable peak around near the end of discussions. This suggests that the term "GOB" (an acronym for Government of Balochistan) was a regular part of the discussion but had moments of heightened emphasis.

"Community": The term "Community" has a steady presence across the sections with mild fluctuations. This indicates that community-related issues were a consistent part of the discussions, which is typical for FGDs that often focus on community issues.

"BRACE": The frequency of "BRACE" shows a significant peak around sections 4 and 5, and another towards section 10. This could indicate that the discussions in these sections were particularly focused on a topic or program referred to as "BRACE."

"Programme": The word "Programme" has a couple of noticeable peaks, especially in section 5 and again towards section 8, suggesting that the programme was discussed in detail at these points.

"Development": This keyword has the lowest frequency in comparison to the top five keywords but does show some peaks, particularly in sections 3 and 8, indicating that development issues were discussed occasionally.

The trends indicate that while some topics like "Community" and "GOB" were consistently discussed throughout the FGDs, others like "EU," "BRACE," and "Programme" had more focused discussions at certain intervals. The term "Development" seems to have been less frequently discussed in the top five keywords.

but still present. These trends suggest that the FGDs covered a variety of themes, with certain topics taking precedence at different times, aligned with the structured agenda of the discussions and the interests of the participants.

PERCEPTION OF STAKEHOLDERS

The BRACE Programme has notably contributed to community development, with significant impacts on women's empowerment, poverty reduction, and trust-building. While it shows substantial successes, sustainability and engagement challenges, particularly post-programme, require attention. Future initiatives could benefit from these insights, focusing on enhanced coordination, sustainability strategies, and addressing cultural and administrative barriers.

Key Informant Interviews Results

Below are the results accumulated from the key informant interviews with the district-level government stakeholders, partners, and political leaders:

Efficiency of Organised Communities and Local Government in Development

The responses from Kech and Pishin districts provided insightful perspectives on the efficiency of organised communities and local government in fostering development. In Kech, the emphasis on grants, women's empowerment, basic facilities, social mobilisation, and building trust in government was significant. Particularly noteworthy was the reported substantial reduction in poverty and a marked increase in women's empowerment. This underscores the effectiveness of targeted interventions in these critical areas.

Pishin's responses aligned with this view but further stressed the interconnectedness of grassroots development with women's empowerment. They highlighted the BRACE Programme's pivotal role in not only enhancing socio-economic status but also in strengthening community building. This reflected an understanding of the complex interplay between various development aspects and the empowerment of women as a central element.

Combining these insights, it's clear that both Kech and Pishin recognised the critical role of organised communities and local government in driving local development. Women's empowerment emerged as a key theme, linking it directly to broader socio-economic progress and the establishment of trust between citizens and the state.

The BRACE Programme was acknowledged across both districts for its effectiveness in achieving these goals. However, the feedback suggested a potential area for improvement: the need for increased authority and engagement at the district council level. This indicated a desire for more localised control and deeper involvement in programme execution, which could potentially enhance the efficiency and impact of such development initiatives.

In conclusion, the organised efforts of communities and local governments, as seen in the BRACE Programme, had evidently been instrumental in advancing development goals, especially in terms of poverty reduction and women's empowerment. However, a more decentralised approach, involving greater authority at the district council level, might lead to even more effective outcomes.

Impact of BRACE on Communities

The BRACE Programme's impact on communities, as reflected in the responses from Kech and Pishin, demonstrated a multifaceted influence spanning social, economic, and political sphere. In Kech, the programme was credited for enhancing socio-awareness, providing economic assistance, fostering political accountability, and bolstering community engagement. These aspects collectively indicated a comprehensive approach by BRACE towards community development, addressing various facets from awareness to actionable support.

Pishin's responses complemented this view but placed a stronger emphasis on awareness campaigns and the creation of better earning opportunities. This highlighted the programme's role in not only informing communities but also in tangibly improving their economic conditions. However, a recurring theme in the responses from Pishin pointed towards a gap in knowledge about the programme's specifics. This suggested a need for more effective communication and dissemination of information regarding the benefits and opportunities offered by BRACE.

Overall, BRACE has evidently made significant contributions to improving the social, financial, and political dynamics within communities. Its efforts in raising awareness, empowering economically, and engaging communities have been particularly impactful. Nonetheless, the feedback also underscores the importance of enhancing the understanding of the programme's objectives and outcomes among beneficiaries. Addressing this gap in knowledge could further optimise the effectiveness and reach of such community development initiatives.

Coordination in Local Development

The responses regarding the coordination in local development under the BRACE Programme highlighted a significant variance in awareness about complementary projects. This variance indicated a crucial need for enhanced coordination and communication among different departments and stakeholders involved in local development. While some departments demonstrated awareness of projects that complemented BRACE's initiatives, particularly in critical areas like poverty reduction, education, and health, others appear less informed. This gap suggested that there may be missed opportunities for synergistic efforts and resource optimisation.

The emphasis on the importance of coordinated efforts underscores the potential benefits of a more integrated approach. Effective coordination can prevent the duplication of efforts, ensure efficient use of resources, and amplify the impact of development projects. However, the current scenario, as depicted by the responses, pointed towards a need for improved information sharing and joint strategic planning.

In conclusion, for local development initiatives like BRACE to be more effective, there is a clear necessity for strengthening the mechanisms of coordination and communication among various implementing departments and partners. Closing the information gap and fostering collaborative planning could lead to more cohesive and impactful development outcomes.

Sustainability post-BRACE

The sustainability of the initiatives and impacts of the BRACE Programme post its conclusion is a subject of varied opinions and notable concern. Responses indicated a split in perspectives: while some stakeholders expressed confidence in the lasting benefits of the programme, others were apprehensive about the ability to sustain these activities without ongoing support in the form of similar projects or funding. This dichotomy pointed to a fundamental challenge in the field of development work: ensuring that the positive changes initiated by a time-bound programme can endure and evolve independently.

The concern about sustainability was particularly pronounced in the context of financial and infrastructural support. The absence of continued funding and similar supportive initiatives post-BRACE could potentially lead to a gradual decline in the effectiveness of the strategies implemented or even a complete cessation of certain activities. This uncertainty underscores the importance of integrating sustainability planning into the core design of development programmes like BRACE.

In summary, while the BRACE Programme has undoubtedly created positive changes, the future of these initiatives hinges on finding sustainable models that do not rely solely on external funding or project-based support. Developing self-sustaining mechanisms, building local capacities, and ensuring the commitment of local governments and communities might be key to maintaining the momentum achieved by the programme. However, in case of BRACE, the GoB with the support of EU funded technical assistance created a sustainable structure where local government under its GoB CLLG Policy can mobilize resources and build on BRACE model to sustain and expand the development landscape in the province.

Implementation Successes and Challenges

The implementation of the BRACE Programme showcased a blend of successes and challenges that offered valuable insights for future initiatives. Key successes included the effective delivery of skill training, robust community engagement, and

active government involvement, indicating a well-rounded approach to development. These elements had evidently contributed to enhancing community capabilities, fostering participation, and ensuring governmental support, which are critical for sustainable development.

However, the programme also faced significant challenges that somewhat hindered its full potential. Cultural barriers emerged as a major obstacle, particularly in initiatives related to gender sensitisation. These barriers often stem from deep-rooted societal norms and values that can be resistant to change, making it difficult to fully implement programmes that seek to alter traditional roles or practices. Additionally, instances of administrative misconduct presented another layer of complexity, potentially undermining the efficacy and credibility of the programme.

In conclusion, while the BRACE Programme has achieved notable successes in skill development, community involvement, and government participation, it also encountered substantial challenges related to cultural resistance and administrative issues. Addressing these challenges is crucial for the holistic success of similar development programmes in the future, particularly those that aim to tackle sensitive issues like gender equality and systemic administrative reform.

Programmatic and Operational Lessons

The programmatic and operational lessons learned from the BRACE Programme highlighted critical aspects essential for the success of similar future initiatives. A key lesson is the emphasis on economic empowerment, which has proven effective in elevating the socio-economic status of communities. This approach aligned with the understanding that financial stability is a cornerstone of sustainable development and community resilience.

Another significant lesson is the importance of providing continued support to local organisations. Such support ensures that the momentum gained during the project was maintained, enabling these organisations to become self-sustaining entities that can drive ongoing development in their communities.

Additionally, the necessity of regularly updating poverty scorecards has been identified as crucial. This practice allowed for adaptability to the ever-evolving socio-economic landscape, ensuring that interventions remained relevant and targeted towards those most in need. Accurate and current data are fundamental for effective decision-making and resource allocation.

In summary, the BRACE Programme's experience reinforces the importance of focusing on economic empowerment, sustaining engagement with local organisations, and maintaining up-to-date poverty assessments. These lessons serve as a blueprint for enhancing the effectiveness and impact of future development programmes, ensuring they are responsive to the needs of the communities they aim to serve.

Continued Need for Programmes Like BRACE

The consensus among stakeholders on the continued need for programmes like BRACE underscores the enduring relevance of such initiatives in addressing key socio-economic challenges. This ongoing requirement is reflective of persistent issues such as poverty, educational disparities, and unemployment, which remained significant hurdles in many communities. BRACE-like programmes, with their comprehensive approach towards community development, have demonstrated their effectiveness in tackling these issues by empowering communities, enhancing educational opportunities, and creating employment avenues.

The demand for the continuation or replication of similar programmes highlighted the recognition of their value in facilitating sustainable development and long-term societal improvement. These programmes are not just about immediate alleviation of hardships but are crucial for laying down the groundwork for enduring progress and resilience in vulnerable communities.

In conclusion, the sustained need for initiatives affiliated to BRACE is a clear indicator of their vital role in driving socio-economic development. Their ability to address a range of critical issues - from poverty reduction to improving education and boosting employment - makes them an indispensable tool in the journey towards more equitable and prosperous communities.

Impact of BRACE

The BRACE Programme has evidently marked its impact predominantly in positive ways, notably through community mobilisation, empowerment, and capacity building. These facets highlighted the programme's success in engaging communities at a grassroots level, empowering them with the necessary skills and knowledge, and building their capacities to drive sustainable development. Such initiatives are crucial in fostering self-reliance and promoting a participatory approach in community development, thereby enhancing the overall well-being and resilience of the communities involved.

However, the programme has also encountered significant challenges, particularly in the areas of engaging community organisations and in management efficiency. The limited engagement of community organisations indicated barriers in reaching out to or involving all relevant stakeholders effectively, which is critical for the holistic development and success of such programmes. Management challenges, on the other hand, could impede the programme's efficiency and effectiveness, potentially affecting its sustainability and long-term impact.

In summary, while BRACE has positively influenced community development and empowerment, addressing the challenges in community organisation engagement, and improving management efficiency is essential. Tackling these issues would not

only enhance the current impact of the programme but also ensure its sustainability and effectiveness in the long term.

Indirect Impact on Non-Focused Population

The BRACE Programme's influence extended beyond its direct target areas, as evidenced by the observed spillover effects on neighbouring, non-focused communities. This phenomenon highlighted the broader reach and impact of the programme, where the benefits designed for specific populations inadvertently benefited adjacent areas as well. Such indirect impacts are indicative of the programme's effectiveness in creating waves of positive change that ripple through to surrounding regions.

This spillover effect can be particularly impactful in areas such as community development, education, and economic empowerment, where improvements in one community can inspire and influence adjacent communities. It suggested that the methodologies and successes of the BRACE Programme are not confined to its immediate focus areas but have the potential to foster a wider scope of developmental impact.

In summary, the indirect impacts of BRACE on non-targeted populations underscore the expansive nature of its benefits. This wider reach not only amplified the programme's overall effectiveness but also contributed to a more extensive and inclusive approach to community development and empowerment.

Word Count

The Word Cloud in Figure 39 generated from responses collected during Key Informant Interviews, conducted to gather in-depth information on a specific topic from knowledgeable individuals.



Figure 39 - Word Cloud based on KIIs Exploration

Below is the analysis of the Word Cloud based on the prominence and relevance of the terms used during the Key Informant Interviews:

Primary Focus Areas: The most dominant words are "BRACE," "EU," "GOB," "communities," and "community." This indicates a strong focus on community-related topics within the context of BRACE and EU programs or initiatives, with possible involvement or support from a government body referenced as "GOB."

Key Entities and Programs: The acronyms "BRACE," "EU," "GOB," "NRSP," and "BRSP" suggest specific programs or organizations that are central to the discussions in the KIs. These could be various programs, projects, or government bodies.

Outcomes and Approaches: Words like "impact," "improved," "empowerment," "implementation," and "changes" suggest discussions about the outcomes of programs, their improvements, and the empowerment of individuals or communities. They also imply that implementation strategies and changes are of importance.

Target Groups and Issues: "Women," "population," and "poverty" indicate that the interviews may have focused on these demographic groups and social issues, likely discussing how programs are addressing poverty and the role of women in these communities.

Operational Terms: Terms like "funds," "financially," "free," "factors," "programmes," and "government" point towards operational aspects of initiatives, including funding, financial considerations, governmental involvement, and possibly free services or factors influencing program success.

Concepts and Methods: The presence of words such as "think," "grassroots," "LSOs," and "continue" suggest that there is an emphasis on thought processes, local or grassroots level involvement, continuation of efforts, and possibly the role of Local Service Organizations (LSOs).

Descriptive Attributes: The words "positive," "social," "economic," and "activities" provide an indication of the attributes and types of activities discussed. This could relate to positive impacts, social and economic development, and specific activities undertaken by the communities or programs.

Implications and Contextual Factors: The size of words such as "political" and "result" implies that political context and results of the programs are also considered relevant in these discussions.

In summary, the KIs appear to focus on the evaluation and discussion of community-focused programs related to BRACE and EU initiatives, with an emphasis on improvement, empowerment, and the role of women, as well as the financial and operational aspects of program implementation, with the involvement of local organizations and government bodies.

CONTROLLED TREATMENT GROUPS VARIANCE

This section delves into the analysis of controlled and treated groups variance through the application of t-tests, a statistical method widely employed to assess the significance of differences between sample means. The focus of the investigation centers on two primary comparisons: firstly, between the controlled and treated groups, and secondly, within the treated groups of two distinct sampled districts, namely Kech and Pishin. The primary objective is to scrutinise the potential disparities in mean values, shedding light on whether the implemented treatments have led to significant alterations in the measured variables. Through rigorous statistical examination, aiming to either substantiate or refute the null hypothesis, which suggests no distinct differences between the groups under consideration. This exploration forms a crucial component of this study, contributing valuable insights into the effectiveness of the applied treatments and offering a nuanced understanding of the variance within controlled and treated groups.

Control and Treated Groups

In the comparison between the control and treated groups, notable statistical findings were observed.

T-Test Results

The statistical analysis conducted through a t-test has yielded a clear outcome regarding the comparison of two groups labeled as "Control" and "Treated." The t-statistic for the comparison stands at -16.924977117733405, indicating a substantial difference in the means of the two groups, with the negative sign pointing to the Treated group having a higher mean than the Control group. Complementing this, the p-value is extraordinarily low, at $1.149230452400258 \times 10^{-43}$, which virtually eliminates the possibility that the observed difference in means could be due to random chance. This p-value is significantly below any standard threshold for statistical significance, such as 0.05 or 0.01, reinforcing the conclusion that the difference between the groups is indeed statistically significant. Whether we frame the comparison as Control versus Treated or Treated versus Control, the magnitude of the t-statistic remains the same, although the sign changes to reflect the direction of the comparison. This robust statistical evidence supports the assertion that the treatment had a significant impact, resulting in a higher mean for the Treated group when compared to the Control group.

T-Statistics and P-Value

The t-test conducted to compare the "Control" and "Treated" groups produced a t-statistic of -16.924977117733405, which reflects a large difference in the mean values between the groups. The negative sign of the t-statistic indicates that the mean of the Control group is lower than that of the Treated group. Furthermore, the p-value obtained from the test is $1.149230452400258 \times 10^{-43}$, which is an

exceptionally small number. Such a minuscule p-value far exceeds conventional levels of statistical significance, strongly suggesting that the difference in means is not a result of random chance. This p-value indicates an extremely high level of confidence in the result, reaffirming the conclusion that there is a statistically significant difference between the Control and Treated groups.

Statistical Significance

The statistical significance of the t-test comparing the "Control" and "Treated" groups is exceptionally high. With a t-statistic of -16.924977117733405 and a corresponding p-value of $1.149230452400258 \times 10^{-43}$, the results indicate a very strong likelihood that the observed difference in means between the two groups is not due to random variation. This p-value is well below the commonly accepted threshold for significance (usually set at 0.05), which suggests that there is an extremely small probability that the significant difference in means could have arisen if there were actually no difference between the groups. Therefore, we can conclude with a high degree of certainty that the treatment had a real, measurable effect when compared to the control.

Visual Significance

The boxplot in Figure 40 provides a visual representation of the distribution of a variable for two different groups: Treated and Control.

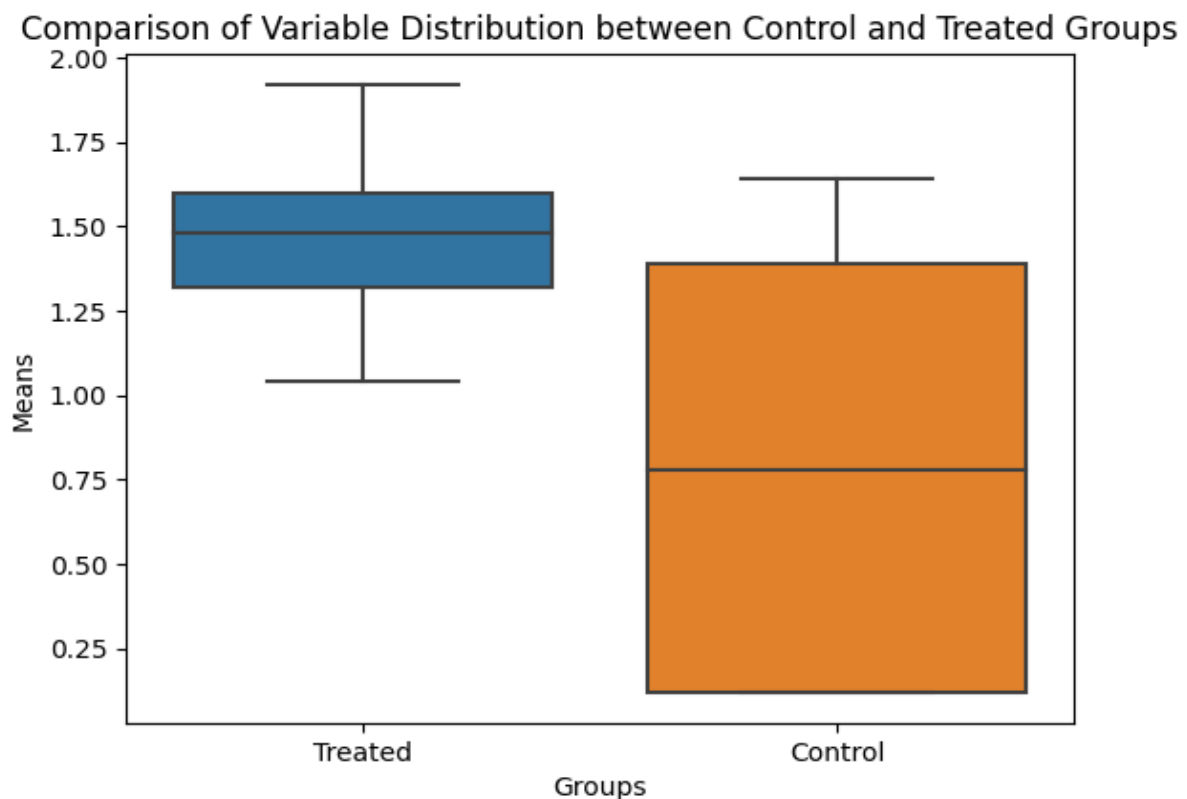


Figure 40 - t-test Results of Control Vs. Treated Groups

Below are the interpretations based on the boxplot:

Central Tendency: The line within each box represents the median of the data, which is the middle value when the data is ordered from lowest to highest. The Treated group's median appears to be around 1.4, while the Control group's median is about 1.0. This suggests that the central tendency is higher in the Treated group.

Spread of the Data: The length of the box shows the IQR, which is the range of the middle 50% of the data. The IQR for both groups appears to be roughly the same, suggesting similar variability around the median. The "whiskers" (the lines extending from the top and bottom of each box) indicate the range of the data, excluding outliers. Both groups have a similar range of data, as indicated by the similar length of the whiskers.

Outliers: There are no visible outliers in this boxplot, which means all data points fall within a reasonable range of the upper and lower quartiles.

Symmetry and Skewness: Both boxplots appear fairly symmetrical around their medians, suggesting that the data is evenly distributed without a significant skew.

Comparison: The Treated group not only has a higher median but also the entire box is located above the entire box of the Control group, indicating that all quartiles of the Treated group are higher than those of the Control group. This is consistent with the t-test results which showed a statistically significant difference between the groups, with the Treated group having a higher mean.

In summary, the boxplot visually confirms the results of the t-test. The Treated group has a higher median, and its distribution of values is consistently higher than that of the Control group, indicating a positive effect of the treatment on the measured variable.

Growth Measurement

The "Treated" group has performed better. The median value for the Treated group is visibly higher than that of the Control group, and the overall distribution of values in the Treated group is shifted upwards compared to the Control group.

This suggests that the intervention or treatment applied to the Treated group had a positive effect on the measured variable, leading to higher values compared to the Control group. The statistical analysis corroborates this visual interpretation, as the t-test indicated a statistically significant higher mean in the Treated group compared to the Control group.

Treated Groups of Two Districts

In the examination of the treated groups from Kech and Pishin districts, a t-test was conducted among the Kech Treated and Pishin Treated groups by providing the mean values for each group for clarity.

T-Test Results

The t-test results comparing the "Kech Treated" and "Pishin Treated" groups reveal a statistically significant difference. Specifically, the t-statistic for the comparison between Kech Treated and Pishin Treated is 10.011827692867936, with a corresponding p-value of approximately 2.15×10^{-19} . Interestingly, when the comparison is reversed (Pishin Treated vs. Kech Treated), the t-statistic is -10.011827692867936, but the p-value remains the same, approximately 2.15×10^{-19} . This consistency in p-values across both comparisons underscores the robustness of the statistical significance observed between the two groups. The results strongly suggest that there is a meaningful difference in the measured variable between the Kech Treated and Pishin Treated groups.

T-Statistics and P-Value

In the t-test analysis comparing two groups, "Kech Treated" and "Pishin Treated," the calculated t-statistic is 10.011827692867936 when comparing Kech Treated to Pishin Treated, and -10.011827692867936 for the reverse comparison. This t-statistic reflects a substantial difference between the groups. The p-value for both comparisons is remarkably low, at approximately 2.15×10^{-19} , indicating a highly statistically significant result. This extremely low p-value suggests that the probability of observing such a difference by chance is virtually negligible, reinforcing the validity of the observed difference between the Kech Treated and Pishin Treated groups.

Statistical Significance

The statistical significance in the t-test comparing the "Kech Treated" and "Pishin Treated" groups is quite pronounced. The extremely low p-value of approximately 2.15×10^{-19} in both comparisons (Kech Treated vs. Pishin Treated and Pishin Treated vs. Kech Treated) indicates a highly significant statistical difference between the two groups. Typically, in statistical analyses, a p-value below 0.05 is considered significant. Here, the p-value is far below this threshold, implying that the likelihood of the observed differences occurring by random chance is extremely low. Therefore, we can confidently conclude that there is a significant difference between the "Kech Treated" and "Pishin Treated" groups based on the data analyzed.

Visual Significance

The boxplot in Figure 41 provides a visual comparison of the variable distribution between two groups: Kech Treated and Pishin Treated.

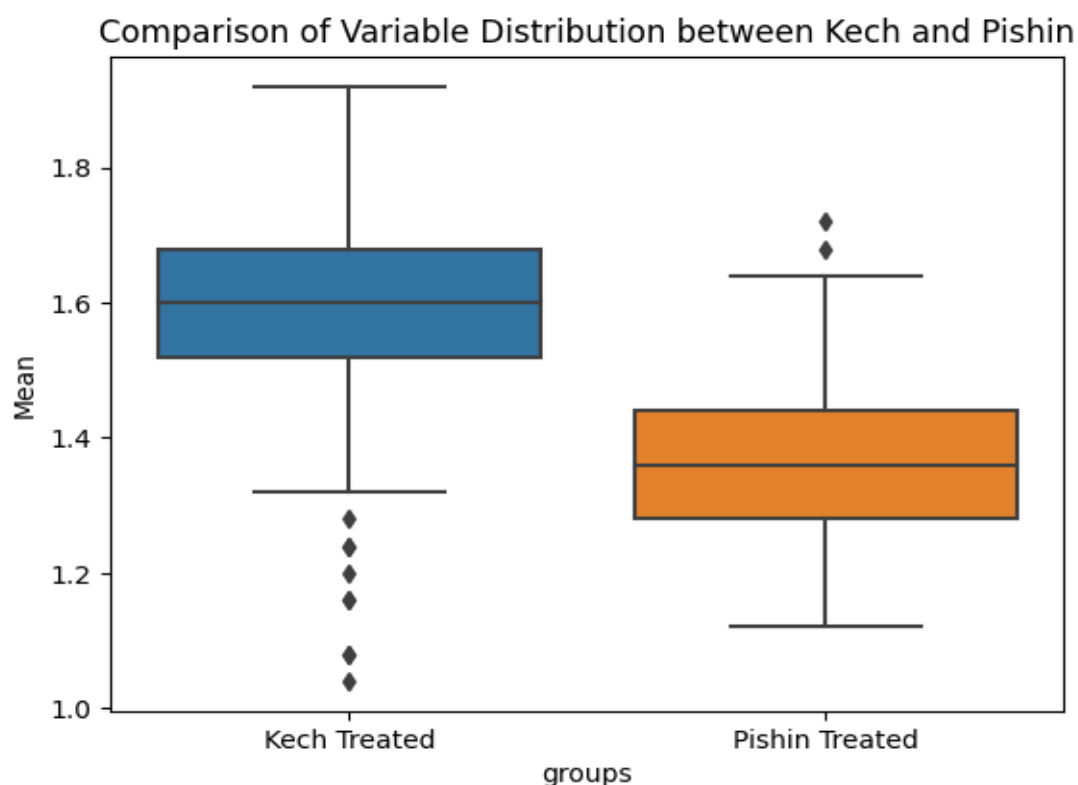


Figure 41 - t-test Results of Treated Pishin Vs. Treated Kech

Below are the interpretations based on the boxplot:

Central Tendency: The median of the Kech Treated group is around 1.56, as indicated by the line in the middle of the blue box. The median of the Pishin Treated group is slightly lower, around 1.37, indicated by the line in the middle of the orange box.

Spread of the Data: The interquartile range (IQR), which is the range of the middle 50% of the data, is represented by the length of the boxes. Both groups seem to have a similar spread since the boxes are approximately the same size. The range of the data, indicated by the "whiskers" (lines extending from the boxes), shows that both groups have a similar overall spread from the lowest to the highest values.

Outliers: There are several data points that are classified as outliers (diamond shapes) for both groups. Outliers are data points that fall below the lower whisker or above the upper whisker. These points are more than 1.5 times the IQR away from the lower or upper quartile. The Kech Treated group appears to have a few lower outliers, while the Pishin Treated group has a couple of higher outliers.

Symmetry and Skewness: The Kech Treated group's boxplot appears to be fairly symmetrical, suggesting a fairly even distribution of data around the median. The Pishin Treated group's boxplot appears slightly skewed towards the lower values, with the median closer to the upper quartile.

Comparison: Comparing the two groups, the Kech Treated group not only has a higher median but also higher values overall, which aligns with the previous information that the Kech Treated group had better growth measurement outcomes.

This visual representation supports the earlier statistical analysis that indicated a significant difference between the two groups, with Kech Treated showing better performance in terms of growth measurements.

Growth Measurement

The t-test results are based on the mean values for growth measurements:

- Kech Treated has a mean of approximately 1.5669.
- Pishin Treated has a mean of approximately 1.3736.

Given these mean values, the "Kech Treated" group has a higher average growth measurement compared to the "Pishin Treated" group. Coupled with the statistically significant t-test results, we can conclude that the Kech Treated group performed better in terms of growth measurement. The higher mean value in the Kech Treated group indicates that their growth was greater than that of the Pishin Treated group within the context of this analysis.



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Balochistan Rural Development &
Community Empowerment (BRACE)
Programme

Findings & Discussion

The Technical Assistance Partner



FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES

To rigorously assess and analyze the implementation of the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme in the targeted Union Councils (UCs) within sampled districts of Balochistan and evaluate the comparison of the level of implementation in the focused UCs with those UCs where the interventions were not carried out to measure the change triggered by BRACE and success of the interventions.

Specific Objective I

The study evaluated the level and quality of implementation of the BRACE Programme within the selected focused Union Councils (UCs), comparing them with non-focused UCs. The analysis provided an insight into the effectiveness of the programme in realizing its objectives at the grassroots level. The level of implementation has been determined using the KPIs and Log Frames. Similarly, the quality of implementation has been determined using the results of the survey and focused group discussions.

Level of Implementation:

The study evaluated the level and quality of implementation of the BRACE Programme. While the quality of the implementation of the BRACE Programme was a subject of primary data collection, level of implementation, especially at the output level, was also judged through the available secondary data in the form of updated logframes and the latest KPI report updated as of 31st August 2023.

Consolidated progress of the grant's component against the KPIs are shown below.

Social Mobilisation

As of September 2023, the formation of COs, VOs and LSOs have remained on track in terms of targets as well as the quality of processes being followed in mobilising the rural poor. Overall, 290,042 households were organised which is 98% achievement against the overall target of 294,713. Out of these households, 144,815 (which is 50%) households are in the PSC score 0-23 category that is poor. Usually, the poor have a lower social standing and it's quite a task to include them against marginalization. A big achievement of the RSPs is that poor households have been particularly focused and 98% of all poor households in the target areas are now members of the Community Institutions.

The members of these organised households are organised into 26,375 COs which is 138% achievement against the overall target of 19,129. Of the total membership, 45% of the COs are women. These COs have been federated into 5,739 VO's which is 186% achievement against the target of 3,085. The women membership in VO's is

40%. At the union council level, these VOs have been federated into 237 LSOs which is 98% achievement out of the overall target of 243 LSOs to be formed.

Training and Capacity Building

As of September 2023, 40,268 office bearers of COs have been trained on Community Management Skills and Training (CMST) module which is 100% achievement against the overall target of 40,258. Out of the total trained community leaders, 22,604 (56%) are men and 17,664 (44%) are women.

Similarly, 6,170 office bearers of VOs and LSOs have been trained on Leadership and Management Skill Training (LMST) module which is 93% achievement against the total target of 6,656. Out of the total trained community leaders, 3,922 (64%) are men and 2,248 (36%) are women.

As of reporting period, 1,071 Community Resource Persons have been trained which is 130% achievement against the target of 823, out of these 532 (50%) are women. These trained CRPs have conducted 132,868 CAT sessions on crosscutting social issues sensitising 742,549 community members of the organised households including 199,001 (27%) men and 543,548 (73%) women community members. The outcomes on social indicators are also tracked quarterly to assess the action on these sessions.

Local Development Planning

As of September 2023, 398,077 MIPs have been developed which is 135% achievement out of the overall target of 294,713. Similarly, 3,521 VOs have been involved in developing 3,521 VDPs which is 119% achievement against the target of 3,085. At the Union Council level, these VDPs have been consolidated into 237 UCDPs against the target of 243, which is a 98% achievement.

Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills and Technical & Vocational Educational Training

As of September 2023, 12,104 women who are 100% achievement against the overall target of 12,064, completed the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills (ALNS) training under the BRACE Programme.

As of September 2023, 3,187 community members including 1,348 (42%) men and 1,839 (58%) women are trained in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) which is 103% of achievement against the overall target of 3,098. The mobility constraints for women due to cultural barriers and limited job market and businesses at the local level, left them with limited choices when selecting a TVET training.

Community Investment Fund (CIF)

As of September 2023, 14,714 beneficiaries have taken CIF loans which is 75% achievement against the overall target of 19,550. The loan disbursement has faced challenges of registration of CIs and bank account opening, which has been resolved in the last quarter of Year 3 and thus CIs have paced up the progress on CIF disbursement to CIs. During the last year a 66% change in the number of HHs benefiting from CIF is visible compared with last year.

Income Generating Grant (IGG)

As of September 2023, 224 out of 243 LSOs are managing IGG which is 92% achievement. In addition, 51 VO are also managing IGGs.

Overall, 13,968 (102% against the overall target of 13,632 poorest households) received Income Generating Grants (IGGs). During the final year, an 11% change in the IGG sub-grant can be seen in comparison with the progress of year 5. Out of total IGG beneficiaries, 10,002 (72%) were women beneficiaries and 3,966 (28%) were men.

Out of 13,968 beneficiaries, the highest number of people have invested in livestock 10,435 (75%). This includes 7,429 (71%) women have invested in livestock, followed by investment in agriculture 374 (3%) which includes 211 women (56%) and the number of people who invested in enterprise is 3,159 (24%) out of which 2337 are women (74%) are women. During year 6, a change of 16% can be seen as compared to year 4.

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

As of September 2023, 1,711 CPIs (471%) Community Physical Infrastructure (CPIs) have been identified by CIs. This indicates the dire need for CPI schemes in the communities where the BRACE Programme worked. The technical, financial, and environmental feasibilities of 361 (99%) infrastructure schemes have been prepared, and 357 (83% of the total target that is 363) approved by Joint District Development Committees.

Overall, 357 CPIs have been initiated, which is 98% achievement against the overall target of 363 and indicates a 28% change as compared to last year. Total, 350 CPI schemes are completed and functional which is 96% achievement against the target of 363 and indicates 88% change as compared to progress in year 4. In addition, the total expenditure on the completed CPIs indicates a 28% change as compared to last year.

Joint District Development Committees (JDDCs)

JDDCs in all Programme districts have been notified by the Deputy Commissioners and 99 meetings (89% against the overall target) of the JDDCs have been conducted. These Committees provide a forum for interaction between government officials at the local level and the community representatives (office bearers of the COs/VOs/LSOs) to interact with each other, share development plans, avoid duplications, and finalise them according to the local needs.

During the reporting period, under the research component, RSPN commissioned a study on the citizen-state linkages to a third-party consultant. As of date, data collection has been completed and the final draft has been submitted, reviewed, and approved. The final report will be published in the first quarter of Year 6. A critical finding of this report titled “Assessment of the fostering and strengthening of citizen-state engagement under the BRACE Programme: Achievements, lessons

learnt and way forward” is that there is little bottom-up community development taking place under the current arrangements. Pakistan has a highly centralised governance system and despite the BRACE Programme promoting bottom-up development, communities are forced to establish linkages in a hierarchical and vertical manner where linkages result in top-down development.

Quality of Implementation:

The community participation in the BRACE Programme, based on both treated (focused Union Councils) and control (non-focused UCs) groups, reveals that the majority of the community members of Treated group believed that the interventions carried out under the BRACE Programme were highly relevant and provided in a fair and participatory manner. They also believed that the local government, councils, and district authorities had good sensitisation to allow the citizens to engage in planning and executing development.

On the other hand, the Control groups were not able to find relevancy with the programme activities due to non-participation in BRACE. Similarly, these groups find the procedures fair and transparent but with reservations due to unmet needs in their specific communities. However, like Treated groups, the Control groups also believed that the local government, councils, and district authorities had good sensitisation to allow the citizens to engage in planning and executing development.

The study suggests that the level of community participation and perception of the interventions' relevance and effectiveness is more positive in the treated groups compared to the control groups. This difference indicates a higher level and quality of implementation of the BRACE Programme in the focused Union Councils.

Specific Objective II

The study evaluated the extent to which the BRACE Programme has empowered citizens and communities, enabling them to implement community-driven socio-economic development interventions. The results are determined from the survey and focused group discussions focusing on the interventions led and owned by Community Institutions (CIs) including IGG, CIF, CPI, and other self-help initiatives.

The analysis of the study data provided insights into how the BRACE Programme has potentially empowered citizens and communities in both treated (focused Union Councils, UCs) and control (non-focused UCs) groups:

In the evaluation of the BRACE Programme, distinct contrasts emerged between the treated and control groups across several dimensions. For the treated groups, there was a notable majority of membership in Community Institutions (CIs), with participants viewing the BRACE interventions as "highly relevant." They also reported complementarity with other projects, and there was an optimistic expectation for the sustainability of the BRACE interventions, anticipated to last for at least 5 years or more. The treated groups observed a fair and participatory implementation of

the BRACE Programme activities and found it to be highly effective, leading to positive economic outcomes. Moreover, they reported positive outcomes from the initiatives of the BRACE Programme.

In contrast, the majority of the control groups were not members of Community Institutions. They perceived the BRACE interventions as "irrelevant" and demonstrated a lack of awareness or complementarity with other projects. There was a prevailing distrust about the sustainability of the BRACE interventions within these groups. Furthermore, while they acknowledged the fairness in the implementation of the BRACE Programme activities, they also pointed out unmet needs of their communities being not the part of the BRACE Programme. Although they found the activities effective for the Treated groups, they were marked by minor issues and led to less positive economic outcomes compared to the treated groups. Additionally, the control groups reported fewer positive outcomes from the initiatives of the BRACE Programme.

Interestingly, both treated and control groups recognised the need for the BRACE Programme. They shared a general perception of fairness in the distribution of Income Generation Grants (IGG) and the Community Investment Fund (CIF), although they expressed less confidence in their effectiveness for income generation. Both groups were generally satisfied with the distribution of assistive devices for People with Special Needs (PWSNs) and had a positive perception of the sensitisation of Local Government/Council and District Authorities. At a broader level, the results suggest that the BRACE Programme has had a more pronounced positive impact on community empowerment and socio-economic development in the treated groups compared to the control groups. This is evident from the higher participation in community institutions, perceived relevance of interventions, and expectations of sustainability in the treated groups.

Specific Objective III

The study assessed the effectiveness of the programme in enhancing the voice and capabilities of communities to actively engage with local authorities, thereby influencing public policy decision-making. This has been the ultimate larger goal of the BRACE Programme to enhance voice of the communities and create a conducive socio-political environment where local communities could engage state authorities, ensure accountability, and influence public policy decision-making.

During the literature review, authors came across two very apt reports. An Islamabad-based third-party consultants, Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) had in 2022 evaluated the Joint District Development Committees (JDDCs) against its TORs. The report titled "An Assessment of the Fostering and Strengthening of Citizen - State Engagement under the BRACE Programme: Achievements, Lessons Learnt, and Way Forward" is a wide-ranging and in-depth assessment of citizen-state engagement in the BRACE Programme. It assessed the way the community

institutions (CIs) formed under BRACE, particularly the local support organisations (LSOs), have forged linkages with a variety of state institutions outside the project, the platforms and processes used in this engagement, and the outcomes achieved to the benefit of the stakeholders. It aimed at identifying the potential for expansion and sustainability of citizen-state engagement; provide insights and recommendations for further strengthening rural development and community empowerment; and generate recommendations for the formulation of the Community-led Local Development (CLLD) Policy framework that is being developed through consultation between BRACE and the Government of Balochistan.

The study findings are based on qualitative data collection focused on Quetta City, Pishin, Kech, and Khuzdar Districts. It engaged 140 individuals, including 39 women, from the implementing partners, government departments, and female and male village groups, particularly the LSOs.

Main Study Findings

- JDCs were responsible for any improved service delivery requested by the LSOs. The main reason for the JDC's lack of effectiveness is that it is not the relevant forum for decisions regarding planning, financing, and implementation through the line departments. It is not so authorised by government practices prevailing throughout the country.
- Several line departments and federal organisations worked with community institutions on non-infrastructure activities. This process, called the second pathway in this report, was facilitated by the LSOs and the RSPs. It is one way of improving the responsiveness of government organisations to community needs and priorities. In addition, these organisations find that cooperation with community institutions leads to more efficient service delivery and greater capacity for meeting their objectives. In other words, this is a mutually beneficial arrangement between communities and government organisations.
- The allocation of PSDP resources for infrastructure is done at the provincial level, and top-down planning and resource allocation through the respective provincial administrative departments are carried out under the established system. Depending on citizen-state engagement on local authorities such as the civil administration and district-level heads of the department is of limited value to the citizens as far as UCDP infrastructure priorities are concerned.
- The legislators, evidently, took cognisance of the vote bank represented by organised communities. As such, they took LSO priorities to the highest levels of the provincial political leadership and relevant federal authorities, which included them in relevant departmental PSDPs. This is the third pathway for citizen-state engagement, and it has worked for community infrastructure development as a response to the community's articulation of its priorities.
- The research team calculated an "expectations gap" from survey data. The gap is the percentage difference between the percentage of respondents who consider

the institutions to be important and the percentage who reported that these institutions had done something useful for their households since 2018.

- A large majority of the respondents reported that the social sector departments met their expectations to some extent, and other provincial institutions did not meet expectations considering lack of community involvement other than for political reasons.
- The respondents gave high credit to community institutions for forging linkages with social sector departments and federal organisations. Many more men than women gave credit to community institutions for these linkages.

Recommendations

The assessment suggests that the two most feasible options for enhancing citizen-state engagement are:

- a) The methodology of BRACE should be adopted, and investments should be made in increasing the number and enhancing the capacities of LSO activists, such as those identified in this assessment, who can successfully establish linkages with the administrative departments and political/elected representatives leading to infrastructure development through the PSDP.

The government should operationalize the institutionalised line departments' cooperation with organised communities for all such activities in which community involvement could generate mutually beneficial results for the state and the citizens. The most feasible way of moving ahead with this is through executive orders to implement CLLG Policy formulated on learning from BRACE and other similar initiatives scaled up by the sister provinces including global best practices.

However, contrary to the above secondary data, district-level stakeholders heaped particular praise for this arrangement of Joint District Development Committees. A senior government official at the Social Welfare Department in Kech was particularly expressive of his gratitude. Social Welfare Department had actively engaged local communities to facilitate three (03) programme interventions such as Adult Literacy & Numeracy Skills (ALNS) centres, Technical & Vocational Education and Trainings (TVET) and ultimately provision and distribution of assistive devices amongst the Persons with Special Needs (PWSN) who were identified through careful medical camps. The senior government official at the Social Welfare Department in Kech recognized the crucial role of JDDCs not only in introducing them and other officials to the communities they were supposed to serve but also promoting intra-government cooperation.

On top of these Key Informant Interviews, the comparative finding from Control Group in district Kech was also insightful. One of the control UCs namely UC Ginna had benefitted from PPAF's Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR) which offered many socio-economic interventions like the BRACE Programme. However, the respondents from the Control Group were quick to identify that BRACE Programme's

JDDC forums were more inclusive in that all line departments participated in these quarterly meetings. On the other hand, the state-citizenry engagement under the PPR only included constituents and officials from two departments: health and education.

In line with findings of IPOR 2022, an in-house RSPN study also recognises the huge amount of development work that organised communities were able to realise through enhanced voice and engagement. Although this is mostly top-down, this is based on the demands communities identify and advocate with their elected leaders i.e., MPA and MNAs. The 2021 RSPN study authored by Muhammd Ali Azizi estimated that representatives of Community Institutions were able to show the power of their vote bank and mobilise resources up to PKR 1.34 billion for implementing hard development schemes. In addition, the same communities also mobilised PKR 56 million for soft development initiatives such as vaccination, enrolment etc.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS - TREATED GROUPS

Logic and Theory of Change

Referring to the Inception Report, Question 1 is discussed under the Logic and Theory of Change section and the findings are shared below.

Question No. 1: *Does the BRACE logic allow the achievement of the project's objectives (project log frame/ theory of change)?*

To a large extent district-level government officials as well as community leaders in the FGDs expressed their confidence in the logical framework and the theory of changes that underlies the BRACE Programme.

As far as the level of implementation is concerned, BRSP and NRSP were able to make huge efforts and claim almost 100% completion for each programme intervention. Only the Community Investment Fund (CIF) component remains at 75%, which is due to delays in the registration of the Local Support Organisations (LSO) and opening of their organisational bank accounts. Without these necessary steps, LSOs could not declare official legal entities and for CIF, IGG and CPI they could not be sub-granted too.

Relevancy and Impact

The study focused on the evaluating that the targets of the BRACE Programme were aligned with the needs of the communities, relevancy of the programme, intended impacts and effects, and long-term objectives of BRACE Programme based on the below research questions, which are further discussed based on the insights of the primary and secondary data and the findings are accumulated on target settings, needs reflections, relevancy, intended impacts and effects, and long-term objectives. Referring to the Inception Report, Question 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 are merged under the Relevancy and Impact section and the findings are shared below.

Question No. 2: Were the targets set realistically and reflect the needs of the target groups?

Question No. 3: Did BRACE respond to the needs and priorities of the target groups?

Question No. 5: Are the activities and outputs of BRACE consistent with the overall goal and the attainment of its objectives?

Question No. 6: Are the activities and outputs of BRACE consistent with the intended impacts and effects?

Question No. 7: How well are BRACE's outputs linked to more long-term focused objectives?

Targets Setting

Again, as far as the level of implementation is concerned, BRSP and NRSP were able to make huge efforts and claim almost 100% completion for each programme intervention. Only the Community Investment Fund (CIF) component remains at 75%, which is due to delays in the registration of the Local Support Organisations (LSO) and opening of their organizational bank accounts. Without these necessary steps, LSOs could not be declared official legal entities and for CIF, IGG and CPI they could not be sub-granted to.

The bigger concern was raised by the IPOR 2022 report that questioned if JDDCs were able to realise bottom-up development as envisioned in its TORs. It has been an uphill battle for rural local communities across Balochistan to articulate and make their demands make from their Union Council Development Plan into the Provincial, Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

In the face of ineffective local government and policy wins that had not been achieved as late as March 2023, realization of bottom-up development has been a swim against the river flow since in Pakistan, the prevalent flow of services remains predominantly top-down.

Apart from this, BRSP and NRSP have done a phenomenal job of completing delivery of outputs as agreed in the contract and work plan.

Needs Reflections

The reflection of the needs of treated communities are determined using the results of the survey which are expressed below:

Relevance of Interventions: The Treated group overwhelmingly found the interventions highly relevant, suggesting that the targets likely aligned well with their needs.

Satisfaction with Services: High satisfaction in the Treated group, especially with financial support, literacy programmes and assistive devices distribution, suggests that these needs were addressed and well received.

Engagement with Local Authorities: The Treated group's high satisfaction with the sensitisation of local authorities implies that this target was relevant and met their expectations.

The targets set by the programme reflect the needs of the Treated group, as evidenced by their high relevance and satisfaction ratings.

Relevancy

The BRACE's activities and outputs are consistent with its overall goals and objectives, the study data has indicated the perceived relevance of the programme's interventions to community needs, the degree to which these activities were seen as addressing the programme's stated goals, and the community's reflection on the BRACE Programme was still needed.

Treated groups have more positive views on the relevance of interventions, reflecting a belief that BRACE's activities were aligned with its objectives.

Intended Impacts and Effects

The aspect of identifying the intended impacts and effects involved the evaluation of activities and outputs of BRACE. This was measured by the effectiveness of interventions implemented by BRACE Programme and assessed whether these interventions led to tangible outcomes like improved community collaborations, employment, or literacy skills.

The Treated groups reported a higher effectiveness of the interventions by the BRACE Programme indicating the alignment with the intended impacts.

Long-Term Objectives

To determine the linkage of BRACE's outputs to long-term objectives, the primary data gathered using the survey, focused group discussions, and key informant interviews was examined regarding the sustainability of the programme's interventions and whether community members anticipate the continuation of benefits or activities post-programme.

The Treated groups anticipated to have more optimistic view on the sustainability of interventions for up to 3 - 5 years and their long-term benefits.

Complementing Interventions

The study gathered information on how the BRACE Programme complements other programmes in similar localities during the survey and focused group discussions. The accumulated results reflect whether the communities are aware of other

projects in their communities, and how they perceived the complementarity of other projects by the BRACE Programme using the below research question. Referring to the Inception Report, Question 4 is discussed under Complementing Interventions section and the findings are shared below.

Question No. 4: *Are the BRACE activities complementing and in coordination with the projects/programmes of other development agencies in the targeted sector?*

Awareness of Other Projects

Based on the interviews with the communities during the primary data collection using the survey and focused group discussions methodology, it was identified that the community members are well-aware of other development projects that had been implemented in their communities in conjunction during the period of the BRACE Programme.

Perceived Complementarity

Results indicate that the participants perceived BRACE Programme activities as complementary to other development efforts. High perceived complementarity suggests effective coordination and synergy. It was assessed that the community members believed that other development projects implemented in their localities had a conjunction with the BRACE Programme and complemented each other.

Based on the findings, there are indications that a good level of complementarity and coordination existed, especially as perceived by participants in the Treated group.

Sustainability

The study assessed the level of sustainability of the BRACE Programme by accumulating the results from the survey, focused group discussions, and key informant interviews based on the below research question. Referring to the Inception Report, Question 8 is discussed under the Sustainability section and the findings are shared below.

Question No. 8: *To what extent could the benefits of BRACE continue after donor funding ceased?*

The BRACE Programme has been recently completed and it is early to assess the sustainability of the BRACE Programme, however the responses guided that how sustainability can be triggered through the satisfaction with the programme and impact on the communities.

Satisfaction and Relevance: High satisfaction levels and perceived relevance, especially in the Treated group, suggest that the programme was effective and potentially equipped the community with tools and knowledge for long-term benefit.

Community Involvement: Active community involvement of the Treated group indicates a potential for continued benefits, as community ownership leads to better sustainability.

The results suggest that BRACE has positively impacted communities, particularly in the Treated group, the extent to which these benefits can continue post-funding depends on the factors discussed. The programme's success in building sustainable models, empowering communities, and effectively engaging local stakeholders and authorities are key determinants. Continued monitoring and evaluation post-funding would be crucial to assess the long-term sustainability of the benefits. Additionally, strategies for gradual handover to local institutions, continuous capacity building, and fostering community ownership would be essential for ensuring that the benefits of BRACE continue after donor funding ceases.

Lessons Learned

The lessons learned from the implementation of the BRACE Programme are widely determined using both the primary and secondary data. A thorough review of the literature had been conducted for the secondary data and findings are accumulated from the data of the survey, focused group discussions, and key informant interviews based on the below research questions. Referring to the Inception Report, Question 9 and 10 are merged under the Lessons Learned section and the findings are shared below.

Question No. 9: *What was done or worked well and why?*

Question No. 10: *What are some of the key programmatic and operational lessons learned as a result of BRACE that can be shared and replicated?*

This research exercise involved critical reflection on the BRACE Programme as it was designed and implemented. The objective was to facilitate learning and highlight best practices as well as recommendations for any future Programmes.

The answer to these important questions has been derived from the Key Informant Interviews (KIs) of the district-level stakeholders and especially, the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with community leaders. Here are nine most important lessons that the consultants learned from this exercise.

Poverty Scorecard (PSC)

At the inception phase of the Programme, a Poverty Scorecard (PSC) survey was conducted and poor households with a PSC score band (0-23) and non-poor households in the PSC score band of 24-100 were identified for targeted BRACE interventions. The PSC has played a critical role in the implementation of the Programme in the communities because this census has served as the basis for deciding which households qualify to benefit from which intervention. For instance, the Income Generating Grants (IGGs) are directed to the poorest households with a

PSC score of 0-18 whereas Community Investment Fund (CIF) and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) address the full range of 0-23.

A key learning in this regard is that the PSC is absolutely effective tool to identify and target interventions towards poorest households. However, it must be supplemented with community validation in order to make sure the ranking matches the current income and expenditure of a household. It is concluded that poverty targeting through this World Bank tool must be a part of future programme design. Community validation must be practiced in support of the PSC findings to ensure that the community members agree with identification of deserving households.

Social Mobilisation

The three-tiered social mobilisation structure includes the formation of Community Organisations (COs) formed at the neighbourhood level, Village Organisations (VOs) at the village level and Local Support Organisations (LSOs) at the union council level. A CO is a participatory institution with a membership of 15-25 households. The representatives of COs form a VO, and the representatives of VOs form an LSO. VOs and LSOs are representative structures. Lessons Learnt in social mobilisation are presented below.

The three-tiered social mobilisation approach contributed to the effective implementation of various interventions under the BRACE programme. COs served as an excellent platform for Community Awareness sessions based on the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) to educate community members on cross-cutting issues such as hygiene, protection against disasters, vaccination, nutrition, education, civic rights etc. VOs implemented village-level Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI). LSOs, at the union council level, consolidated MIPs and VDPs into Union Council Development Plans (UCDPs) and advocated for these with government through the Joint District Development Committees (JDDCs).

The Social Mobilisation approach of the RSPs was effective in ensuring the participation of women in social and collective affairs. Without these local community institutions, there would be no window of opportunity for thousands of rural poor women to participate in local development. Under the programme, a total of 26,375 COs were formed which have 43% women membership. Percentage of women members drops to 38% at the village level and it was only 8% at the Union Council level. This is a reflection of women's restricted mobility and the fact that women, in many districts, cannot sit in LSO meetings with men. Due to these 'restrictions' the formation of Women's VO Networks was explored, under which clusters VOs in proximity to each other, form networks. Currently, there are 14 Women VO Networks established by BRSP. Observations on the Women VO Networks are quite encouraging, and this makes an important lesson learned under this Programme. The fostering of Women's VO Networks in BRSP districts is a suitable strategy for women to organise above the VO level. This has future potential for all women's LSOs to form. The formation of women's networks and LSOs with an

allocated budget should be a part of future programme design. This has been a significant learning of BRACE and requires future commitment.

Income Generating Grants (IGGs)

The IGG was a one-time grant, ranging from PKR 34,000-PKR 50,000, for the extremely poor members of COs in the PSC band 0-18. Members identifying enterprises were also provided with a three-day enterprise development training course. The training capacitated IGG beneficiaries to prepare a business plan for utilisation of the grant in a sustainable and profitable manner. The lessons learnt from the IGG component are presented below.

- a) Many community members could not access banks easily and it was difficult for them to encash the IGG cheques. The process was lengthy and difficult due to long distances from the banks. It was recommended that the process of cash granting of IGGs should exclude banks and find alternate options that include:
 - a. Cash transfers via online banking, EasyPaisa or other alternate options instead of cash granting through banks.
- b) There has been a major resource gap in IGG funds with less than 50% of poor members in PSC band 0-18 being covered. The proportion of poor in PSC band 0-18 is much higher than the resources allocated for this component. In this regard, all participants agreed that more resources need to be allocated to IGGs in future programmes.
- c) The average amount of each IGG, i.e. PKR 44,000, was found insufficient to invest in income generating activities that impact poverty graduation. The current economic atmosphere of high inflation requires that the amount be increased to PKR 100,000 for households to engage in profitable income generation activities such as setting up local enterprises and livestock purchase.
- d) Programme documents should focus on the inclusion of transgender persons and other marginalised groups, in future programmes. IGG components should be part of future programme design. The above recommendations on revision of procurement and disbursement procedures under this component should be kept in view. The amount of IGG should also increase to an average of PKR 100,000.

Community Investment Fund (CIF)

This is a revolving fund managed by LSOs. The LSO were trained in CIF management. The LSOs disbursed loans from the CIF to eligible households in the PSC band 0-23, based on needs identified in their household level Micro-Investment Plans. An administrative fee was charged by the LSO on loan disbursement, to sustain the cost of managing CIF. This fee was used to cover the payment of Community Bookkeepers (CBKs), CRPs and the operational cost of CIF.

NRSP and BRSP provided technical and monitoring support to the LSOs during the Programme as well as built capacities of the LSOs to manage the CIF effectively through training. There have been some major challenges pertaining to the CIF, especially in northern programme districts.

CIF is an effective intervention, and it should be a part of future programme design. Prioritising women borrowers should be maintained.

Future programme design should also explore alternate options (i.e. branchless banking, opening accounts with other commercial banks, cash disbursement etc.) and cost-benefit analysis of various options to address the issues of beneficiaries in terms of their accessing banks and transport costs.

A key learning from the BRACE programme is that the design and the roll-out of the IGG and CIF should take place in such a way that they complement each other rather than compete.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Male and female members of households with PSC scores from 0-23 and of the age 18-45 years qualified for TVET training. The purpose of TVET was to design and implement demand driven training that provides communities the access to the labour market, enhance income generating opportunities, diversify its income sources and create self-employment. The training was provided by accredited training institutes resulting in the beneficiaries receiving a certificate/diploma that is recognised nationwide and has value in the marketplace. Lessons learnt from the Technical, Vocational and Education Training (TVET) are presented below:

TVET component has been very effective in pulling households out of poverty and participants proposed that the number of target beneficiaries should be increased from the current 10 beneficiaries in each training to 30-35 beneficiaries per training.

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

CPIs provide access to basic infrastructure and were built and maintained by communities. After the development plans were prepared at the village/VO level (VDPs) and consolidated at the union council/LSO level (UCDPs), prioritised needs for CPI scheme were identified. The engineering team of BRSP provided technical support to the Local Support Organisations in designing and implementing CPIs. Each LSO formed three committees i.e. a Procurement Committee, an Audit Committee, and an Operations and Maintenance Committee for the CPI project. In addition, three percent of the total cost was contributed by the community in the form of labour or in kind (e.g. local raw material) as per a signed agreement between the RSP and the LSO. Participation of the community members not only created a sense of ownership but also helped in building their capacity to implement and maintain the CPI schemes. LSOs and VOs also charge the beneficiary households varying amounts of money every month as Operations and Maintenance fee. This component

ensures sustainable operation of the CPI schemes after the Programme concludes in June 2023. Lessons Learnt from CPIs are presented below:

1. Local communities must be aware of the protection and safe handling of drinking and cooking water in all DWSS schemes.
2. The DWSS schemes have contributed significantly to addressing the issue of non-availability of water.
3. On-the-job training and follow-up with the community institutions is necessary for the successful implementation and maintenance of the CPI schemes and must be ensured by implementing RSPs.
4. Strengthening of LSO O&M committees for regular collection of O&M funds is critical to the sustainability of CPI schemes in and beyond BRACE.
5. The latrines built under the Programme have proved to be an effective solution to the issue of open defecation especially for women in the communities.

Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills (ALNS)

The purpose of ALNS was to provide basic and practical literacy and numeracy skills to women. Priority was given to women in households that fell within PSC score range of 0-23. The final list of selected beneficiaries/learners was prepared at the CO level and consolidated at the village and union council levels by VOs and LSOs. The RSPs then arranged a community facilitator (teacher) training venue and provided teaching material to conduct training.

The BRACE programme worked in close coordination with the provincial government's Education Department and Social Welfare Department which have commissioned the Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission to assess and certify ALNS students at the end of the course. Lessons learnt in ALNS are presented below:

ALNS has been a very effective intervention for women. Participants in the FGDs proposed that women from households with PSC score above 23 should also be accommodated in learning centres. Currently, women in the PSC band 0-23 are targeted by the ALNS.

Women graduating from one level should also be given the option to enrol into a higher level. The levels offered should start from grade 1 and go up to grade 10. In addition, alternate options such as distance learning or virtual education should be explored where possible to ensure continuity of ALNS after the Programme ends.

Persons with Special Needs (PWSN)

The BRACE programme ensured the inclusion of marginalised members of the community i.e. Persons with Special Needs (PWSN). PWSNs were provided assistive devices based on medical screening and the need identified in their MIPs. These assistive devices enabled them to participate in livelihood activities e.g. the provision of rickshaws (Zaranj as local communities call them) has facilitated many

individuals with disabilities to earn for their families. In addition, PWSNs are prioritised for other Programme interventions such as IGGs and CIF Lessons Learnt from this component are presented below:

- a) The initial survey to establish a baseline to include PWSNs should be more inclusive and include more forms of special needs such as mental health issues.
- b) Linking the PWSN component with IGG and CIF for livelihood enhancement proved effective and should continue in future programmes.
- c) Advocacy with and strengthening of government line departments such as Social Welfare Department (SWD) to establish centres for rehabilitation or provision of maintenance services for provided assistive devices at the district level is needed.
- d) The Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) should include a session on disability issues (both physical and mental disabilities) to increase awareness and sensitivity around the issue.

Joint Development Committees (JDDCs)

Joint District Development Committees (JDDCs) have been established at the district and tehsil levels. These inclusive advocacy platforms were established under the BRACE programme where representatives of LSOs met government officials every three months. These meetings were chaired by the Deputy Commissioners, except for district Kech, where the Divisional Director of Local Government and Rural Development Department chaired the JDDC. At the tehsil level, the JDDC has been chaired by Assistant Commissioners. In these meetings, the LSOs shared their Union Council Development Plans with the relevant government authorities to include their needs in government's development plans. The key objective of JDDCs has been to create synergies between the Community Institutions facilitated by the RSPs and local administrations/departments in the programme districts in the planning of BRACE programme interventions, especially the Community Physical Infrastructures (CPIs). Lessons Learnt from the operation of JDDCs are presented below:

- a) Women's need to participate regularly in JDDC meetings.
- b) Community Led Local Governance policy also supports these Joint Development Committees. JDDCs should continue to meet with minimum agenda of sharing work plans, avoiding duplications and seeking complementarity in line with the notification of the government of Balochistan under the GoB CLLG policy which legally arranges JDDCs across the province.

The JDDC is an effective platform for dialogue between the community members and the government line departments as it has decreased the trust deficit between the government and the local communities.

Insights from Primary Data

High Relevance and Effectiveness of Interventions: The Treated group consistently reported high satisfaction and perceived relevance of the BRACE interventions. This suggests that the activities were well-aligned with the community's needs and expectations. This success is likely due to thorough needs assessment, tailor-made interventions, and adaptability to local contexts.

Effective Literacy and Numeracy Programmes: The unanimous positive response from the Treated group regarding the acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills indicates the effectiveness of these programmes. Customised educational content, engaging teaching methods, and relevance to the participants' daily lives and economic opportunities likely contributed to this success.

Successful Distribution of Assistive Devices for PWSNs: The Treated group's high satisfaction with the distribution of assistive devices signifies a successful intervention for People with Disabilities. Focused attention on the needs of vulnerable populations, proper assessment of requirements, and ensuring the appropriateness and quality of devices were key factors.

Positive Engagement with Local Authorities: The Treated group perceived a high level of sensitisation and engagement of local authorities, indicating successful collaboration. Effective communication strategies, alignment of programme objectives with local governance goals, and fostering mutual understanding and support between the programme and local authorities.

Community Engagement and Empowerment: Active community involvement in planning and executing development projects suggests successful engagement strategies. Empowering communities through participatory approaches, encouraging community ownership, and inclusivity in decision-making processes.

Conclusive Lessons

The BRACE programme's success in certain key areas can be attributed to its alignment with the community's needs, effective community engagement, collaboration with local authorities, and focus on empowering vulnerable groups. The high satisfaction and perceived relevance of the interventions, especially in the Treated group, underscore the programme's ability to deliver meaningful and impactful services.

These positive outcomes were facilitated by a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs, effective programme design, and implementation strategies that prioritised inclusivity and local empowerment. The programme's ability to adapt to local contexts and engage effectively with various stakeholders, including local authorities and community members, was crucial in achieving these results.

The results suggest that the BRACE programme's approach in certain areas could serve as a model for similar development initiatives in particular under the GoB CLLG Policy, highlighting the importance of community-centric planning, inclusivity, and collaboration for achieving sustainable and impactful development outcomes.

Future Interventions

Considering the unmet needs of the communities and space for the interventions in the communities, the results suggest some of the possible future interventions within the communities. Based on the below research question, the findings are articulated from the survey and focused group discussions.

Question No. 11: *What are the future opportunities for similar interventions or any other projects in the targeted location?*

Continued Focus on Education and Skill Development

The success of literacy and numeracy programmes suggests a continuing need for educational interventions. Future projects could expand on this by including advanced skill training or continuous education programmes.

Enhanced Support for Vulnerable Populations

The positive response to the distribution of assistive devices for PWSNs highlights the importance of targeted support for vulnerable groups. Future initiatives could focus on expanding such support, including healthcare services, job placement assistance, or social inclusion activities.

Strengthening Community Institutions

Active community involvement in the BRACE programme indicates the potential for strengthening local community institutions. Future interventions could focus on capacity building for these organisations, enabling them to lead local development initiatives.

Sustainable Economic Development

Vocational training and income generation programmes were well received. Future projects could build on this by introducing more diverse economic opportunities, such as entrepreneurship development or market linkage programmes.

Collaboration with Local Authorities

The positive engagement with local authorities in the BRACE programme suggests that future interventions should continue to collaborate closely with local governance structures. This can ensure alignment with local development plans and policies.

Addressing Unmet Needs

Areas where the Control group expressed dissatisfaction or unmet needs could indicate opportunities for future interventions. Understanding and addressing these gaps can lead to more comprehensive community development.

Technology and Innovation

Introducing technology-based solutions or innovative approaches in education, healthcare, or economic development could enhance the effectiveness of future interventions.

Environmental and Sustainability Focus

Considering the increasing importance of environmental sustainability, future projects could incorporate elements of environmental education, conservation, and sustainable practices.

Insights of Study

The targeted location presents several opportunities for future interventions, building on the successes of the BRACE programme and addressing the remaining needs and challenges. Key areas of focus should include continued investment in education and skills training, support for vulnerable populations, economic development, strengthening community institutions, and collaboration with local authorities. Additionally, incorporating innovative approaches and a focus on sustainability can enhance the effectiveness and long-term impact of these interventions.

The insights from the study highlight the community's responsiveness to well-designed and targeted interventions. Future projects should maintain a strong community-centric approach, ensuring that interventions are tailored to the specific needs and contexts of the local population. By building on the existing foundations and learning from the experiences of the BRACE programme, future initiatives have the potential to drive significant and sustainable development in the targeted location.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS - COMPARATIVE EVALUATION

Impact

The study encompassed the impact of the treated group in comparison of the controlled group in the sampled districts and union councils based on the below research question. The results are articulated from the focused group discussions focusing on the improvement of communities considering various aspects including social, financial, and political aspects.

Question No. 1: *What is the impact of BRACE in the focused UCs in comparison with the non-focused UCs?*

Social Aspects

Community Engagement and Cohesion: Initiatives fostering youth engagement, empowering marginalised groups, especially women, and fostering a sense of unity and cooperation indicate a strong focus on community engagement and cohesion.

Health and Well-being: Improved access to healthcare facilities, sanitation, and clean water has positively impacted community health.

Education and Skill Development: Investment in skills training centers, education, and skill development initiatives are pivotal for community development.

Financial Aspects

Income Generation: Introduction of income-generating activities and vocational training have enhanced economic stability.

Financial Inclusion: Initiatives promoting financial literacy and access to financial services have empowered individuals economically.

Community Funds: The introduction of community funds provided financial independence to the communities.

Political Aspects

Increased Participation: Encouraging participation in governance and decision-making processes has empowered community members.

Advocacy and Representation: Support for the rights and representation of marginalised groups indicates an emphasis on political inclusiveness.

Awareness and Empowerment: Communities becoming politically sound to elect members of their community bodies shows increased political awareness.

Specific Observations

The BRACE Programme has significantly impacted the treated communities across social, financial, and political dimensions. These improvements include enhanced community cohesion, increased financial independence, and greater political awareness and participation. In comparison, controlled groups, while not directly impacted by the BRACE Programme, have seen benefits from other initiatives, suggesting a broader context of community development beyond just the BRACE Programme. The programme's comprehensive approach, particularly its focus on marginalised groups and community-driven initiatives, appears to be a key factor in its success.

Variance

The study encompassed the variance between the controlled and treated groups in the sampled districts and union councils based on the below research question. The results are articulated from the survey.

Question No. 2: *To what extent the difference is measured between controlled and treated groups and what real difference has the intervention made to the beneficiaries?*

Impact on Literacy and Numeracy Skills

The treated group reported significantly higher acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills compared to the control group. This suggests a substantial impact of the intervention in enhancing basic educational skills.

Satisfaction with Assistive Devices for PWSNs

There was a notable difference in satisfaction with the distribution of assistive devices between the groups. The treated group showed much higher satisfaction, indicating the intervention effectively addressed the needs of People with Disabilities in this group.

Engagement with Local Authorities

The treated group perceived a higher level of sensitisation and engagement of local authorities compared to the control group. This difference points to the effectiveness of the intervention in fostering better relationships between the community and local governance.

Economic Opportunities and Skill Development

Responses from the treated group suggested a positive impact of vocational training and income generation programmes, which was less pronounced in the control group. This indicates the intervention's role in creating economic opportunities.

Community Engagement and Empowerment

The treated group showed higher levels of community involvement and ownership in development projects, suggesting that the intervention successfully engaged and empowered community members.

Measuring the Difference

Quantitative Analysis: The differences in percentages and response rates between the treated and control groups across various questions provide a quantitative measure of the impact. Higher percentages in positive responses in the treated group across key areas like education, community engagement, and satisfaction with services indicate a significant difference.

Qualitative Assessment: The nature of responses, especially regarding satisfaction and perceived impact, offer qualitative insights into the difference made by the intervention. The narratives of the treated group reflected more positive experiences and outcomes.

The intervention made a substantial difference to the beneficiaries, particularly in the treated group. This is evident in the enhanced literacy and numeracy skills, higher satisfaction with targeted services like assistive devices distribution, improved economic opportunities, and stronger engagement with local authorities. The contrast between the treated and control groups' responses highlights the effectiveness of the intervention in addressing specific needs, enhancing skills, and fostering community empowerment.

The real difference made by the intervention lies in its tangible impact on improving educational outcomes, economic conditions, and community dynamics. It also suggests an effective approach to working with local authorities and institutions. These outcomes not only reflect immediate benefits but also suggest a foundation for sustainable, long-term development, particularly for the treated group. The study underscores the importance of targeted, community-centric interventions in achieving meaningful development outcomes.

Influence

The study encompassed the influence of different factors highlighting the achievements and non-achievements in both controlled and treated groups in the sampled districts and union councils based on the below research question. The results are articulated from the survey, focused group discussions, and key informant interviews.

Question No. 3: *What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives in both groups?*

The achievement of objectives in the treated group can largely be attributed to targeted interventions, effective community engagement, strong collaboration with local governance, and a focus on capacity building and empowerment. These factors collectively contributed to the positive outcomes observed in this group.

For the control group, the non-achievement of similar outcomes was influenced by the lack of direct intervention, limited engagement, perceived irrelevance of the interventions for their specific needs, and less interaction with local authorities. This disparity highlights the importance of direct, relevant, and inclusive interventions in achieving development objectives.

The insights suggest that for future programmes, a greater emphasis on understanding and addressing the specific needs of different community segments, ensuring inclusivity, and fostering strong local partnerships is vital for the overall success of development initiatives.

Factors Influencing Achievement in the Treated Group

Targeted and Relevant Interventions: High satisfaction and positive feedback in areas like literacy, numeracy skills, and assistive devices indicate that interventions were well-targeted and relevant to the needs of this group.

Effective Community Engagement: Active participation and ownership of development projects suggests that engaging the community effectively was a key factor in the success of the programme.

Strong Collaboration with Local Authorities: Positive responses regarding the engagement of local authorities indicate that collaboration with local governance structures was effective, enhancing the programme's impact.

Capacity Building and Empowerment: The focus on capacity building, particularly through educational and vocational training, empowered individuals, contributing to the achievement of programme objectives.

Factors Influencing Non-Achievement in the Control Group

Lack of Direct Intervention: As a control group, the lack of direct exposure to the programme's interventions likely contributed to their non-achievement of similar outcomes.

Limited Awareness and Engagement: Lower levels of awareness or engagement with the programme's activities could have limited the control group's ability to benefit from potential spillover effects.

Perceived Irrelevance of Interventions: Some responses indicated a perception that interventions were not entirely relevant to their needs, suggesting a mismatch between programme offerings and the control group's expectations or requirements.

Less Interaction with Local Authorities: A lower level of reported sensitisation and engagement with local authorities might have affected the perceived and actual benefits of any broader community initiatives.

Change

The study encompassed the positive and negative changes produced by the BRACE Programme highlighting both intended and unintended change in controlled and treated groups in the sampled districts and union councils based on the below research question. The results are articulated from the survey, focused group discussions, and key informant interviews.

Question No. 4: *What were the positive and negative, intended, and unintended, changes produced by BRACE?*

The BRACE programme successfully achieved several of its intended objectives, especially in enhancing literacy and numeracy skills, improving access to assistive

devices, fostering economic empowerment, engaging communities, and strengthening local governance relationships. These positive changes are indicative of the programme's effectiveness in addressing key development challenges.

However, the negative and unintended outcomes, such as the perceived irrelevance of interventions for some groups and limited spillover effects, highlight areas for improvement. Future programmes should aim to ensure broader inclusivity and relevance across different community segments, and work towards building sustainable models that reduce dependency on external support. Recognizing and addressing these aspects can enhance the effectiveness of similar development programmes in the future.

Positive and Intended Changes

Enhanced Literacy and Numeracy Skills: A significant positive change was the improvement in literacy and numeracy skills, particularly in the treated group. This was the intended outcome of the programme.

Increased Access to Assistive Devices for PWSNs: The distribution and satisfaction with assistive devices for People with Special Needs (PWSNs) indicate successful targeting and support for this vulnerable group.

Economic Empowerment: The programme's focus on vocational training and income generation activities led to economic empowerment, an intended and positive change.

Community Engagement and Empowerment: Increased community involvement in planning and development activities indicates successful community engagement, a key objective of the programme.

Strengthened Relationship with Local Authorities: Improved engagement and sensitisation of local authorities towards community needs were observed, reflecting successful collaboration, which was an intended outcome.

Negative and Unintended Changes

Perceived Irrelevance of Interventions in Control Group: The control group's perception of certain interventions as irrelevant suggests a possible mismatch in programme offerings to their needs, an unintended outcome.

Limited Spillover to Control Group: The limited benefits experienced by the control group indicate that the positive impacts of the programme may not have sufficiently extended beyond the directly treated individuals.

Dependency on Programme Support: There might be a potential for developing dependency on external support, especially if capacity-building and sustainable practices were not adequately emphasised.

Indirect Impact

The study encompassed the indirect impact of the treated group on the controlled groups in the sampled districts and union councils based on the below research question. The results are articulated from the survey, focused group discussions, and key informant interviews.

Question No. 5: *Is there any indirect impact of BRACE on non-focused UCs by the population of focused UCs?*

While the available survey data provides insights into the direct impacts of the BRACE programme on the treated group, it is less clear about the indirect impacts on non-focused UCs. Any observed positive trends or awareness in the control group could suggest indirect benefits, but further specific research and data collection would be needed to conclusively determine the extent of such impacts. This would involve a focused analysis on the non-focused UCs to assess changes in their economic conditions, skill levels, community dynamics, and perceptions of governance and development initiatives.

The control group, representing non-focused UCs, shows positive changes or awareness of BRACE interventions, indicating indirect impact. There's a reported change in the perception of local governance and community dynamics in non-focused UCs, and differences in the level of awareness, economic conditions, skill development, and community engagement between the two groups suggested an indirect influence of the programme.

Economic and social interactions between populations of focused and non-focused UCs facilitated indirect benefits, such as knowledge transfer or economic opportunities. The survey data primarily focused on the direct impact of BRACE interventions on the treated group.



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Conclusion

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CONCLUSION

In conclusion, as expressed by the provincial and district-level stakeholders and community leaders, there is unanimous recognition of the social, economic, and political benefits the BRACE Programme has been able to harness amongst the poor rural communities. There is particular agreement between both treated and control group on the relevance of BRACE Programme interventions and hence the design and logical framework of the BRACE Programmes remains valid and supported by community expectations. A major finding is that both treated as well as control group respondents expressed satisfaction with the fairness and transparency in the processes followed to implement socio-economic interventions such as Income Generating Grants, Technical and Vocational Education and Trainings and the Community Investment Fund. Achievement of this level of satisfaction is possible because the Poverty Scorecard Census (PSC) drew clear boundaries between households on the basis of their poverty scores. This objective categorization not only removed possible contentions on who to benefit from certain interventions but also created a certain degree of empathy in that a poor but relatively well-off family was content with allowing the flow of social protection and economic relief packages to still poorer and more deserving families.

The programme is also perceived most effective in the realms of empowering rural women and any future programme that aims to see rural women socially, economically, and politically empowered will have to consult the current implementation strategy realised under the BRACE Programme across ten districts from 2017 to 2023.

Significant diversions are observed on whether the resources allocated for the uplift of the marginalized poor households are perceived sufficient or otherwise. Owing to their new level of ‘awareness’ of poverty as well as the power to articulate and raise demands, treated populations registered dissatisfaction with the scale of relief the BRACE Programme was able to provide to the poor households in these districts.

All stakeholders also agree on the admirable idea of the Joint District Development Committees (JDDCs) which have been able to bridge gaps between communities on the demand side and district authorities on the supply side. Control population as well as general community members who have not have the privilege of participating in these meetings have somewhat contrary views on the effectiveness of the JDDCs, especially in realizing bottom-up development, but it remains beyond any doubt that the JDDCs have been instrumental in avoiding duplication of efforts, restored communities’ confidence in the government as they are heard, and improved coordination between communities and the administration and amongst the various government entities.

The demand for continued support in the form of similar Programmes is overwhelmingly frequent. Community members were quick to point to COVID-19, the floods in 2022 and extremely high rates of inflation to make the case for

continued support to poor households. Control groups were particularly conscious of the opportunity that they had missed and voiced a strong need for their inclusion in future Programmes.

There is evidence several components of the programme such as Community Investment Fund (CIF), Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) etc. continue to benefit communities' months after the programme has ended. Apart from the treated group, government stakeholders and control groups cast doubts on long-term sustainability of these benefits. It is also heartening to see that unintended benefits of the BRACE Programme are spilling over to the neighboring population. This is particularly evident in Kech where a large chunk of internally displaced population has sought refuge and they benefit from the CPI schemes such as rehabilitated health dispensaries and school facilities, employment opportunities created due to CIF, IGG and TVET within the target population.

Local government leaders were keen to mention their recent training on the Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) policy which is now in place. In agreement with majority of the stakeholders and community leaders from treated and control samples in both Kech and Pishin, it seems a huge loss of resources and opportunities if the Government of Balochistan fails to mobilise ample resources for effective and wider implementation of this organic development model under the promulgated GoB CLLG Policy. Hundreds of organised people's own institutions are raising voices for social and economic empowerment, and it would be a sorry tale if the generated demand is not complemented positively.



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Recommendations

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The following eight important recommendations are made as the takeaway from the research exercise titled “*Comparative Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme*” commissioned by the Technical Assistance (TA) team. These recommendations must be considered when any future programme for the social, economic, and political uplift of the rural poor is devised.

SOCIAL MOBILISATION

The three-tiered network of Community Organisations (COs) at the hamlet level, Village Organisations (VOs) at the village level and Local Support Organisations (LSOs) at the Union Council level are very effective since government systems do not have the resources and the capacity to reach the rural poor at the household level.

Owing to the stretch of vast geographic UCs, a smaller cluster of village organisation can be clubbed in to form Local Support Organisation for more effective coverage. Networks of women VOs is also an effective structure to access and engage rural women.

It must be noted that these LSOs are not just any NGO, but participatory, inclusive, and representative community institutions.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Community leaders frequently confided that despite their initial resistance, the equity-based empowerment of women under the BRACE Programme has been the most rewarding aspect. Many interventions solely focused to benefit women and women made more than 60% beneficiaries of all programme interventions. The implementation of GoB CLLG Policy/programme should be centred around women.

POVERTY RANKING

The Poverty Score Card census, despite its shortcomings, proved an important tool to identify levels of poverty at the household level. However, in context of Balochistan PSC may be customised in relation to the population density and other related aspects. Such ranking paves the way for equitable and fair distribution of resources. This not only removes contentions but also promotes empathy. This tool can be supplemented with community validation but overall, not only this tool should form the base for identification of deserving recipients but also exercised every two years so that the data is valid.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Communities, both treated and controlled, in Kech selected Community Investment Fund (CIF) as their most favorite intervention that can ensure sustainability as well

as reduce poverty. This was not the case in Pishin where people preferred Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) as guarantor of sustainability.

PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Inclusion has been the cornerstone of the BRACE Programme. Across all ten districts, 6,283 persons with special needs were identified and provided assistive devices. In collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, this activity was particularly appreciated by the respondents from the Control group. Persons with Special Needs were also prioritized in the distribution of economic relief packages such as IG grants and CIF loans.

JOINT DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

JDDCs have been instrumental in avoiding duplication of efforts, coordination between stakeholders, promotion of understanding of the government systems, and building confidence in the government as community representatives are heard. JDDCs happen to improve coordination between communities and the administration as well as amongst the various government entities. It is recommended that the JDDCs should continue to meet with minimum agenda of sharing work plans, avoiding duplications and seeking complementarity in line with the notification of the government of Balochistan under the GoB CLLG policy which legally arranges JDDCs across the province.

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

CPIs have been an effective intervention as schemes have been collectively identified, advocated for, and eventually constructed in fair, transparent and cost-effective ways. Balochistan remains the most vulnerable region to climate change. Vast geographical stretches and poor infrastructure means huge areas are still off-grid and without electricity. BRACE Programme has been able to address these aspects of climate change by installing 68 solarised water supply schemes, and constructing 29 protection walls against floods. However, at the same time, all FGD participants, especially those in Pishin, demanded for more resources under the Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) component because under the current BRACE Programme, most Union Councils under BRSP had only one CPI schemes per Union Council. The level of public satisfaction and well as climate change mitigation and adaptability seemed better in tehsil Turbat of district Kech where multiple CPI schemes had been implemented in each union council.

Vast demographics in Balochistan struggle from lack of accessible clean drinkable water. In that context, 357 CPIs constructed under the BRACE Programme, of which 201 schemes making 56% of the total focused on Drinkable Water Supply schemes. These schemes have not only improved access to basic services but also served as a tool of inclusion i.e., it benefits everyone regardless of the poverty score. Communities' chipping in their share of construction and taking the role of agency

for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) has promoted sense of ownership and sustainability.

The CPIs have also served as tools of negotiation and coordination with government agencies as the central subject of discussion during the JDDCs. Additionally, they have created goodwill between host communities and internally displaced population who benefit from these inclusive public services such as health dispensaries and renovated schools. Future Programmes should focus on small community-level development schemes.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY DRIVEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The BRACE programme has been able to achieve so much on both the demand and supply sides. 237 vibrant LSOs and their federating VOs stand functional and on the policy front, promulgation of the Community Led Local Governance (CLLG) policy has sparked a new wave of energy amongst the newly elected local council members and community leaders. It is imperative to build on the current achievements of the BRACE Programme and mobilise resources for a province-wide and sector-wide local development plan ensuring continuity of the community driven approach employed by the BRACE Programme.

FUTURE INTERVENTIONS

In the Comparative Assessment Study, it is recommended that future programmes incorporate the Community Investment Fund (CIF), Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT), and Membership in Community Institutions (CIs) as they exemplify effective tools for fostering community participation. Additionally, integrating Community Physical Infrastructures (CPIs) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) could further enhance these programmes, providing a well-rounded approach to community development. This holistic method ensures not only active participation but also sustainable growth and skill development within communities.

EXTENDED ASSESSMENT OF BRACE

The Comparative Study Assessment, while providing valuable insights, was notably constrained in its scope, focusing solely on two sampled districts. It is imperative to recognise that the BRACE Programme, in its entirety, represents a considerably more expansive endeavour. The limited district-centric approach of the current assessment, though informative, does not sufficiently encapsulate the programme's comprehensive impact. To truly gauge the success of the BRACE Programme across its full spectrum, there is an urgent necessity for an extensive study that encompasses the entire breadth of the programme. Such an expanded study would offer a more representative and holistic understanding of the programme's efficacy and areas of impact, thereby guiding future initiatives and policy formulations more effectively.



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Annexures

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ANNEXURES

ANNEX A - IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

N°	Activity	Weeks								
		Oct	November				December			
		1	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1	Initial meeting with the BRACE TA team									
2	Submission of a detailed work plan in consultation with BRACE TA team									
3	Review of BRACE Programme documents as secondary data									
4	Questionnaire development for collection of qualitative and quantitative data									
5	Draft and submit an inception report									
6	Identification and hiring of enumerators in consultation with BRACE TA team									
7	Training of data collectors on questionnaires									
8	Field visits at the selected Eight (08) UCs in the sampled Two (02) districts									
9	Data analysis, interpretation, and visualisation									
10	Prepare and submit draft report									
11	Incorporate comments and submit final report									

N°	Activity	Weeks								
		Oct	November				December			
		1	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
12	Prepare and submit the presentation of findings and key insights of the Comparative Assessment Study									
13	Present the findings and key insights through PowerPoint presentation									
14	Closure of the Assignment and Submission of Assignment Report with any Revisions									

ANNEX B - DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

October and November:

S#	Activity	October			November																								
		27	30	31	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T
1	Initial meetings with the BRACE TA Team																												
1.1	Introductory Meeting with BRACE TA Senior M&E and Comms Specialist																												
1.2	Strategic Overview Meeting with BRACE TA Team Leader																												
1.3	Planning Meeting with the BRACE TA																												
1.4	Meeting with BRACE TA Focal Persons for sharing the plan and feedback																												
1.5	Consultation Meeting with BRACE TA team members for sharing Work Plan and seeking feedback																												
2	Submission of a detailed work plan in consultation with BRACE TA team																												
2.1	Draft and prepare an implementation schedule and detailed implementation plan																												
2.2	Present the detailed implementation plan with BRACE TA team																												
2.3	Incorporate the feedback of BRACE TA team in plan and share the final version																												
3	Review of project documents as secondary data																												
3.1	Intimate BRACE TA team for the available secondary data or relevant reports																												
3.2	Review the secondary data and relevant reports																												
3.3	Review the key study variables and questions of the study																												

COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE GRANT COMPONENT OF THE BRACE PROGRAMME

S#	Activity	October			November																										
		27	30	31	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
		F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T		
4	Questionnaire development of qualitative and quantitative data																														
4.1	Identify the type of respondents																														
4.2	Finalise the questions for each type of respondents																														
4.3	Develop the questionnaires for each type of respondents																														
4.4	Convert the quantitative tools in XLS Forms for data collection through Kobo Toolbox/ODK																														
4.5	Test the tools using ODK Collect / GIC Collect																														
5	Prepare and submit an inception report																														
5.1	Draft the inception report incorporating the study methodology and data collection tools																														
5.2	Submit the draft inception report to BRACE TA team for review and feedback																														
5.3	Incorporate the feedback of BRACE TA team in inception report																														
5.4	Submit the final Inception Report to the BRACE TA team																														
5.5	Present the Inception Report																														
6	Identification and hiring of enumerators in consultation with BRACE TA team																														
6.1	Identify and hire the data collectors in the sampled districts																														
7	Training of data collectors on questionnaires																														
7.1	Travelling to the district																														

COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE GRANT COMPONENT OF THE BRACE PROGRAMME

S#	Activity	October			November																														
		27	30	31	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
		F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T						
7.2	Organise a training on data collection tools																																		
7.3	Conduct training of data collectors using ODK/GIC Collect and Paperback Forms																																		
8	Field visits at the selected UCs in the sampled districts																																		
8.1	Coordination with BRSP and NRSP teams for data collection in the sample UCs																																		
8.2	Coordination with District Coordinators from the BRACE TA teams for interviewing government officials																																		
8.3	Visit the sampled districts to supervise the data collection process and conduct FGDs																																		
8.4	Supervise the data collectors during the key informant interviews																																		
8.5	Conduct the focused group discussions with the communities																																		

December:

S#	Activity	December																											
		1	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29						
		F	M	T	W	T	F	S	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F						
8	Field visits at the selected UCs in the sampled districts																												
8.1	Coordination with BRSP and NRSP teams for data collection in the sample UCs																												
8.2	Coordination with District Coordinators from the BRACE TA teams for interviewing government officials																												
8.3	Visit the sampled districts to supervise the data collection process and conduct FGDs																												

COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE GRANT COMPONENT OF THE BRACE PROGRAMME

S#	Activity	December																											
		1	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29						
		F	M	T	W	T	F	S	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F						
8.4	Supervise the data collectors during the key informant interviews																												
8.5	Conduct the focused group discussions with the communities																												
9	Data analysis, interpretation, and visualisation																												
9.1	Focused group data imported in MaxQDA and analysed for further interpretation of research																												
9.2	Retrieve the survey and key informant data from Kobo Toolbox/ODK and conduct data cleansing																												
9.3	Conduct the t-test in R language and SPSS on the quantitative data after cleaning and initial analysis																												
9.4	Triangulate the results of qualitative and quantitative data for interpretation																												
9.5	Based on the interpretation, visualise the results and findings and final reports																												
10	Prepare and submit draft report																												
10.1	Draft the final report incorporating the interpretations of results and findings																												
10.2	Share the draft final report with the BRACE TA team for review and feedback																												
11	Incorporate comments and submit final report																												
11.1	Incorporate the feedback of the BRACE TA team in final report																												
11.2	Design the print ready version of the final report																												
11.3	Share the final report with the BRACE TA team																												
12	Prepare and submit the presentation of findings and key insights of the Comparative Assessment Study																												
12.1	Prepare the presentation with key findings and insights of the study																												

COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE GRANT COMPONENT OF THE BRACE PROGRAMME

S#	Activity	December																											
		1	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29						
		F	M	T	W	T	F	S	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F						
12.2	Prepare a customised presentation for Government of Balochistan and Dissemination Workshop																												
12.3	Share the presentation with the BRACE TA team																												
13	Present the findings and key insights through PowerPoint presentation																												
13.1	Share the presentation with the BRACE TA team and Government of Balochistan in Dissemination Workshop																												
14	Closure of the Assignment																												
14.1	Submit the Assignment Report to BRACE TA including any revisions																												

ANNEX C - DISTRICT SAMPLING

S#	District	Implementing Partner	Random Formula	Status
1	Kech	NRSP		Pre-Selected as NRSP had only one District
2	Pishin	BRSP	0.980940	Selected
3	Chaman	BRSP	0.927515	Not Selected
4	Zhob	BRSP	0.631496	Not Selected
5	Khuzdar	BRSP	0.560025	Not Selected
6	Killa Abdullah	BRSP	0.483888	Not Selected
7	Duki	BRSP	0.384606	Not Selected
8	Washuk	BRSP	0.323776	Not Selected
9	Jhal Magsi	BRSP	0.238787	Not Selected
10	Loralai	BRSP	0.194265	Not Selected

ANNEX D - UC SAMPLING OF DISTRICT KECH

S#	District	Tehsil	Union Council	Random Formula	Focused	Status
1	Kech	Turbat	Solband	0.995203	BRACE	Selected for Treated Group
2	Kech	Dasht	Kunchiti	0.953271	BRACE	Selected for Treated Group
3	Kech	Tump	Pullabad	0.806264	BRACE	Not Selected
4	Kech	Tump	Balicha	0.798584	BRACE	Not Selected
5	Kech	Turbat	MC Turbat	0.787000	BRACE	Not Selected
6	Kech	Turbat	Hoshab	0.760653	BRACE	Not Selected
7	Kech	Turbat	Dandar	0.669045	BRACE	Not Selected
8	Kech	Tump	Bullo	0.643513	BRACE	Not Selected
9	Kech	Turbat	Nasirabad	0.627381	BRACE	Not Selected
10	Kech	Dasht	Bisholi	0.611904	BRACE	Not Selected
11	Kech	Tump	Soro	0.578807	BRACE	Not Selected
12	Kech	Buleda	MC Buleda	0.560281	BRACE	Not Selected
13	Kech	Tump	Gomazi	0.559528	BRACE	Not Selected
14	Kech	Turbat	Nodiz	0.553028	BRACE	Not Selected
15	Kech	Turbat	Jamak	0.538098	BRACE	Not Selected
16	Kech	Buleda	Gishkor	0.525632	BRACE	Not Selected
17	Kech	Turbat	Tijaban	0.461006	BRACE	Not Selected
18	Kech	Dasht	Drachko	0.460727	BRACE	Not Selected
19	Kech	Dasht	Balnigor	0.441171	BRACE	Not Selected
20	Kech	Turbat	Pidark	0.409541	BRACE	Not Selected
21	Kech	Tump	Redeeg	0.402090	BRACE	Not Selected
22	Kech	Dasht	Sangahi	0.381321	BRACE	Not Selected
23	Kech	Turbat	Shahrak	0.241133	BRACE	Not Selected
24	Kech	Dasht	Kuddan	0.183348	BRACE	Not Selected
25	Kech	Turbat	Khairabad	0.177601	BRACE	Not Selected
26	Kech	Tump	Gayab	0.012359	BRACE	Not Selected
27	Kech	Turbat	Sami	0.010317	BRACE	Not Selected
28	Kech	Tump	MC Tump	0.989350	Non-BRACE	Selected for Controlled Group

S#	District	Tehsil	Union Council	Random Formula	Focused	Status
29	Kech	Turbat	Ginna	0.902821	PPR	Selected for Controlled Group
30	Kech	Buleda	Naag	0.869380	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
31	Kech	Dasht	Kumbail	0.744114	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
32	Kech	Turbat	Kalatuk	0.729013	PPR	Not Selected
33	Kech	Dasht	Zarin bug	0.682317	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
34	Kech	Turbat	Baloor	0.593638	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
35	Kech	Tump	Apsikahan	0.319573	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
36	Kech	Buleda	Darbuli	0.302348	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
37	Kech	Turbat	Gokdan	0.250189	PPR	Not Selected
38	Kech	Tump	Tigran Wakahi	0.218050	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
39	Kech	Buleda	Syagisi	0.132861	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
40	Kech	Buleda	Bonap	0.122180	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
41	Kech	Buleda	Badai	0.119085	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
42	Kech	Buleda	Kochag	0.118812	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
43	Kech	Turbat	Jath	0.080361	Non-BRACE	Not Selected
44	Kech	Dasht	Jan Mohammad Bazar	0.024039	Non-BRACE	Not Selected

ANNEX E - UC SAMPLING OF DISTRICT PISHIN

S#	District	Tehsil	Union Council	Random Formula	Status
1	Pishin	Pishin	Kamalzai	0.991545	Selected for Treated Group
2	Pishin	Karezat	Yaro 2	0.988919	Selected for Treated Group
3	Pishin	Pishin	Malikyar 1	0.956103	Selected for Controlled Group
4	Pishin	Huramzai	Saimzai	0.949384	Selected for Controlled Group
5	Pishin	Barshore	Bela	0.941431	Not Selected
6	Pishin	Karezat	Dilsora/Churmian	0.916709	Not Selected
7	Pishin	Pishin	Karbala 3	0.850158	Not Selected
8	Pishin	Barshore	Toukhai	0.789415	Not Selected
9	Pishin	Huramzai	Hajian Shakarzai	0.750864	Not Selected
10	Pishin	Karezat	Yaro 1	0.713207	Not Selected
11	Pishin	Pishin	Malizai	0.665080	Not Selected
12	Pishin	Barshore	Bagh	0.654379	Not Selected
13	Pishin	Huramzai	Manzari 1	0.627539	Not Selected
14	Pishin	Barshore	Ghaiz	0.598059	Not Selected
15	Pishin	Barshore	Mandozai	0.597691	Not Selected
16	Pishin	Karezat	Faizabad	0.593043	Not Selected
17	Pishin	Barshore	Kach Hassanzai	0.576272	Not Selected
18	Pishin	Barshore	Qilla Haji Khan	0.572899	Not Selected
19	Pishin	Huramzai	Ibrahimzai	0.569752	Not Selected
20	Pishin	Huramzai	Alizai	0.564690	Not Selected
21	Pishin	Karezat	Moughtain	0.563760	Not Selected
22	Pishin	Karezat	Poti Nasran	0.549567	Not Selected
23	Pishin	Huramzai	Badizai	0.521948	Not Selected
24	Pishin	Pishin	Manzaki	0.505516	Not Selected
25	Pishin	Barshore	Injani (Walang Khushdil)	0.452158	Not Selected
26	Pishin	Pishin	Karbala 2	0.427282	Not Selected
27	Pishin	Huramzai	Shinghari	0.412627	Not Selected
28	Pishin	Barshore	Narain	0.391526	Not Selected

S#	District	Tehsil	Union Council	Random Formula	Status
29	Pishin	Barshore	Walma	0.382754	Not Selected
30	Pishin	Karezat	Rodh Mullazai	0.352482	Not Selected
31	Pishin	Huramzai	Manzari 2	0.336906	Not Selected
32	Pishin	Pishin	Sar Khanzai	0.336315	Not Selected
33	Pishin	Karezat	Bostan	0.328538	Not Selected
34	Pishin	Karezat	Gharshinan	0.291841	Not Selected
35	Pishin	Barshore	Kaza Viala	0.289311	Not Selected
36	Pishin	Karezat	Margha Zakryazai	0.264429	Not Selected
37	Pishin	Pishin	Malikyar 2	0.247985	Not Selected
38	Pishin	Huramzai	Gangalzai	0.244751	Not Selected
39	Pishin	Pishin	Nali Yaseenzai	0.239277	Not Selected
40	Pishin	Barshore	Barshore	0.202694	Not Selected
41	Pishin	Pishin	Qila Askan Khan (Shekhalzai)	0.193689	Not Selected
42	Pishin	Barshore	Kut	0.154963	Not Selected
43	Pishin	Barshore	Ziarat	0.151639	Not Selected
44	Pishin	Barshore	Ghaljai	0.144250	Not Selected
45	Pishin	Saranan	Ajram Shadizai	0.140301	Not Selected
46	Pishin	Pishin	Karbala 1	0.130588	Not Selected
47	Pishin	Pishin	Dub Khanzai	0.127573	Not Selected
48	Pishin	Pishin	Surila	0.067516	Not Selected
49	Pishin	Pishin	Batazai	0.064109	Not Selected
50	Pishin	Huramzai	Toor Khail Badezai	0.051393	Not Selected
51	Pishin	Karezat	Khanai (Gowal)	0.034302	Not Selected
52	Pishin	Pishin	Tora Shah	0.031460	Not Selected
53	Pishin	Barshore	Behram Khan (Alizai)	0.011249	Not Selected

ANNEX F - SURVEY TOOL

Questionnaire for Survey Data Collection from the Communities

Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme

Geographical Information			
Name of Interviewer:		Date of Survey:	
District:	<input type="checkbox"/> Kech <input type="checkbox"/> Pishin	Union Council:	
Village/Town:			
Name of Community Organisation (for treatment group only)	<input type="checkbox"/> CO Male <input type="checkbox"/> CO Female <input type="checkbox"/> VO <input type="checkbox"/> LSO		

Informed Consent:

My name is _____. BRACE TA is conducting a Comparative Assessment Study for the BRACE programme that was implemented in your district. To see the effectiveness of the programme and the changes brought by the programme will be assessed during this study. You will be asked a few questions related to the programme and your participation in the programme. This interview will not take more than 15 minutes. The answers you will give will remain strictly confidential. You can refuse to participate or to answer some of the questions. But we hope that you will participate as your answers are very important for this study.

میرا نام _____ ہے۔ BRACE TA اس BRACE پروگرام کے لیے تقابلی تشخیص کا مطالعہ کر رہا ہے جو آپ کے ضلع میں لاگو کیا گیا تھا۔ پروگرام کی تاثیر کو دیکھنے کے لیے اور پروگرام کے ذریعے لائی گئی تبدیلی کا اس مطالعہ کے دوران جائزہ لیا جائے گا۔ آپ سے پروگرام اور پروگرام میں آپ کی شرکت سے متعلق چند سوالات پوچھے جائیں گے۔ یہ انٹرویو 15 منٹ سے زیادہ نہیں لگے گا۔ آپ جو جواب دیں گے وہ سختی سے خفیہ رہیں گے۔ آپ شرکت کرنے یا کچھ سوالات کے جواب دینے سے انکار کر سکتے ہیں۔ لیکن ہم امید کرتے ہیں کہ آپ شرکت کریں گے کیونکہ آپ کے جوابات اس مطالعہ کے لیے بہت اہم ہیں۔

Question	Response
Ask for permission to continue the interview	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
انٹرویو کو جاری رکھنے کے لیے اجازت طلب کریں۔	

If the respondent refuses - inform the respective supervisor and replace the household.

اگر جواب دہندہ انکار کرتا ہے۔ متعلقہ سپروائزر کو مطلع کریں اور گھر والے کو تبدیل کریں۔

Basic Information of the Respondent				
جواب دہندہ کی بنیادی معلومات				
S#	Questions		Response / Instructions	
	English	اردو	English	اردو
A1	Name of the respondent	جواب دہندہ کا نام		
A2	Gender	جنس	1) Male 2) Female 3) Non-Binary	(1) مرد (2) عورت (3) غیر شرابی

A3	Age	عمر		
A4	Size of Household	گھر کے ارکان کی تعداد	Male: Female:	مرد: عورت:
A6	Mobile number of respondents/ heads of household?	جواب دہندہ/گھر کے سربراہ کا موبائل نمبر؟		
A7	Relation of the respondent with the head of household?	جواب دہندہ کا گھر کے سربراہ سے رشتہ؟	1) Self 2) Spouse 3) Sibling 4) Parent 5) Child (Son/Daughter)	(1) خود (2) شریک حیات (3) بہن بھائی (4) والدین (5) بچہ (پوتا/بٹی)
A8	Level of completed education of the respondent.	مدعا علیہ کی مکمل تعلیم کی سطح	1) Illiterate 2) Primary (5th Grade) 3) Middle (8th Grade) 4) Metric (10th Grade) 5) F.Sc / F.A. (12th Grade) 6) Bachelors (14 Years of Education) 7) Masters (16 Years of Education) 8) Madrassa 9) Other (Specify)	(1) ناخواندہ (2) پرائمری (5ویں جماعت) (3) میٹرک (آٹھویں جماعت) (4) میٹرک (دسویں جماعت) (5) F.Sc/F.A. (12ویں جماعت) (6) بیچلرز (تعلیم کے 14 سال) (7) ماسٹرز (تعلیم کے 16 سال) (8) مدرسہ (9) دیگر (وضاحت کریں)
A9	Any disability with the respondent (Physical/ Visual impairment)?	جواب دہندہ کے ساتھ کوئی معذوری (جسمانی/بصری خرابی)؟	1) Yes 2) No	(1) ہاں (2) نہیں
A10	Any disability with any other member of the household (Physical/ Visual impairment)?	گھر کے کسی دوسرے فرد کے ساتھ کوئی معذوری (جسمانی/بصارت کی خرابی)؟	1) Yes 2) No	(1) ہاں (2) نہیں
A11	Occupation of the head of household?	گھر کے سربراہ کا پیشہ؟	1) Household Work 2) Private Job 3) Own Farming 4) Business/Shop 5) Farm Labour 6) Unemployed 7) Skilled Labour 8) Old & not working (above 60 years) 9) Un-Skilled Labour 10) Student (not working) 11) Government Employee	(1) گھریلو کام (2) پرائیویٹ جاب (3) اپنی کاشتکاری (4) کاروبار/دکان (5) فارم لیبر (6) بے روزگار (7) ہنرمند لیبر (8) بوڑھا اور کام نہیں کر رہا (60 سال) (9) غیر ہنرمند مزدور

			12) Disabled (not working) 13) Pension 14) Rent 15) Other	10) طالب علم (کام نہیں کر رہا) 11) سرکاری ملازم 12) معذور (کام نہیں کر رہا) 13) پنشن 14) کرایہ 15) دیگر
A12	Is any member of your household part of any Community Institution (CI) in your area?	کیا آپ کے گھر کا کوئی فرد آپ کے علاقے میں کسی کمیونٹی انسٹی ٹیوشن (CI) کا حصہ ہے؟	1) Yes 2) No	1) ہاں 2) نہیں
A13	If yes to the above question, then what CI are you a member of?	اگر مذکورہ سوال کا جواب ہاں CI میں ہے، تو آپ کس کے رکن ہیں؟	Type of CI (Joint) VO CO LSO	# of Male # of Female
Section B - General Information				
B1	The BRACE Programme encompassed a range of interventions from the formation of CIs, capacity building training, IGG, CIF, TVET, CPI, ALNS, and PWSN to Youth Activities. Please judge if these interventions, as you experience or imagine, were relevant to the needs of your community.	BRACE پروگرام میں CIs کی تشکیل، صلاحیت سازی کی تربیت، CIF، IGG، CPI، TVET، ALNS اور PWSN سے لے کر نوجوانوں کی سرگرمیاں شامل ہیں۔ براہ کرم فیصلہ کریں کہ کیا یہ مداخلتیں، جیسا کہ آپ تجربہ کرتے ہیں یا تصور کرتے ہیں، آپ کی کمیونٹی کی ضروریات سے متعلق تھیں۔	1) All interventions were highly relevant. 2) Some interventions were relevant. 3) Many interventions were irrelevant. 4) All interventions were irrelevant.	1) تمام سرگرمیاں انتہائی متعلقہ تھیں۔ 2) کچھ سرگرمیاں متعلقہ تھیں۔ 3) بہت سی سرگرمیاں غیر متعلقہ تھیں۔ 4) تمام سرگرمیاں غیر متعلقہ تھیں۔
B2	A broader objective of BRACE Programmes was to create a socio-political environment	BRACE پروگراموں کا ایک وسیع تر مقصد مربوط مقامی ترقی کے لیے سازگار سماجی و سیاسی ماحول پیدا کرنا	1) Yes, the BRACE Programme complemented other projects. 2) The BRACE Programme was partially complemented.	1) جی ہاں، BRACE پروگرام نے دوسرے منصوبوں کی حمایت کی۔ 2) BRACE پروگرام نے جزوی طور پر دوسرے منصوبوں کی حمایت کی۔

	conducive to coordinated local development. Are you aware of any other project by any other donor and implementing partner in this duration? If yes, did these activities complement each other?	تھا کیا آپ اس دورانیے میں کسی اور تنظیم کے کسی دوسرے پروجیکٹ سے واقف ہیں؟ اگر ہاں، تو کیا یہ سرگرمیاں ایک دوسرے کی تکمیل کرتی ہیں؟	3) The BRACE Programme did not complement other projects. 4) I am not aware of any other project in this space and time.	3) BRACE پروگرام نے دوسرے منصوبوں کی حمایت نہیں کی۔ 4) میں اس وقت کے دوران کسی دوسرے پروجیکٹ سے واقف نہیں ہوں۔
B3	Can you name some interventions of the BRACE Programmes that you expect to continue now that the project has ended?	کیا آپ BRACE پروگراموں کی کچھ سرگرمیوں کے نام بتا سکتے ہیں جن کی آپ پروجیکٹ کی تکمیل کے بعد بھی جاری رہنے کی توقع رکھتے ہیں؟	1) I can name (at least two interventions) 2) No activity will be sustained	1) میں نام دے سکتا ہوں (کم از کم دو سرگرمیاں) 2) کوئی سرگرمی برقرار نہیں رہے گی۔
B4	How long after the conclusion of the BRACE Programme at least one BRACE intervention will be sustained?	BRACE پروگرام کے اختتام کے بعد کم از کم ایک BRACE سرگرمی کتنی دیر تک برقرار رہے گی؟	1) 5 years after the BRACE Programme 2) 3 years after the BRACE Programme 3) 1 year after the BRACE Programme 4) No activity will be sustained	1) BRACE پروگرام کے 5 سال بعد تک 2) BRACE پروگرام کے 3 سال بعد تک 3) BRACE پروگرام کے 1 سال بعد تک 4) کوئی سرگرمی برقرار نہیں رہے گی۔
B5	What do you think was the most successful/impactful activity under the BRACE Programme?	آپ کے خیال میں BRACE پروگرام کے تحت سب سے زیادہ کامیاب/موثر سرگرمی کون سی تھی؟	1) (respondents can name one activity) 2) There is NO activity that worked well	1) جواب دہندہ ایک سرگرمی کا نام دے سکتا ہے۔ 2) کوئی ایسی سرگرمی نہیں ہے جس نے اچھی طرح کام کیا ہو۔
B6	Do you think the BRACE Programme is still the need of your community?	کیا آپ کو لگتا ہے کہ BRACE پروگرام اب بھی آپ کی کمیونٹی کی ضرورت ہے؟	1) Yes, this Union Council needs the BRACE Programme to continue. 2) No, there is no need for further continuation of the BRACE Programme	1) جی ہاں، اس یونین کونسل کو جاری رکھنے کے لیے BRACE پروگرام کی ضرورت ہے۔ 2) نہیں، BRACE پروگرام کو مزید جاری رکھنے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے۔

B7	Was your Household involved in the following phases of Community Physical Infrastructure implementation under the BRACE Programme?	کیا آپ کا گھرانہ BRACE پروگرام کے تحت کیونٹی فزیکل انفراسٹرکچر پر عمل درآمد کے درج ذیل مراحل میں شامل تھا؟	1) Need Identification 2) Design 3) Implementation/procurement 4) Operation and maintenance	(1) ضرورت کی شناخت کے دوران (2) ڈیزائن کے دوران (3) عمل درآمد/خریداری کے دوران (4) آپریشن اور دیکھ بھال کے دوران
Section C - Interventions Information				
C1	Have you been part of the BRACE Programme in any capacity?	کیا آپ کسی سرگرمی میں BRACE پروگرام کا حصہ رہے ہیں؟	1) Yes 2) No	(1) ہاں (2) نہیں
C2	If yes, please select one or more of the following parliament roles:	اگر ہاں، تو براہ کرم درج ذیل میں سے ایک یا زیادہ سرگرمیاں منتخب کریں۔	1) Community Institution membership 2) Community Awareness Toolkit 3) Youth Engagement 4) Joint District Development Committee 5) Community Physical Infrastructure 6) Income Generation Grant 7) Community Investment Fund 8) Technical and Vocational Education and Training 9) Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills 10) Person With Disability	(1) کمیونٹی انسٹیٹیوشن کی رکنیت (2) کمیونٹی آگاہی ٹول کٹ (3) نوجوانوں کی مصروفیت (4) مشترکہ ضلعی ترقیاتی کمیٹی (5) کمیونٹی فزیکل انفراسٹرکچر (6) انکم جرنیشن گرانٹ (7) کمیونٹی انویسٹمنٹ فنڈ (8) تکنیکی اور پیشہ ورانہ تعلیم اور تربیت (9) بالغ خواندگی اور عددی مہارت (10) معذور شخص
C3	How regularly were the meetings of the CO, VO, and LSO held?	سی او، وی او اور ایل ایس او کی میٹنگز کتنی باقاعدگی سے منعقد ہوتی تھیں؟	1) Once every month 2) Once every quarter 3) Once every year 4) It was non-functional	(1) مہینے میں ایک بار (2) تین ماہ میں ایک بار (3) سال میں ایک بار (4) یہ غیر فعال تھا۔
C4	How satisfied are you with your level of participation in your CO, VO, and LSO?	آپ اپنے CO، VO، اور LSO میں اپنی شرکت کی سطح سے کتنے مطمئن ہیں؟	1) Super satisfied 2) Somehow satisfied 3) Somehow dissatisfied 4) Super dissatisfied	(1) انتہائی مطمئن (2) کچھ مطمئن (3) کچھ غیر مطمئن (4) انتہائی غیر مطمئن
C5	Can you please explain one lesson you	کیا آپ کمیونٹی بیداری کے سیشنز سے سیکھے گئے ایک	1) (the respondent can mention any lesson from CAT)	(1) جواب دہندہ CAT سے کسی بھی سبق کا ذکر کر سکتا ہے

	learned from the Community Awareness Sessions?	سبق کی وضاحت کر سکتے ہیں؟	2) I don't know about CAT	2) میں CAT کے بارے میں نہیں جانتا ہوں۔
C6	In what Youth Engagement Activity were you or youngsters from your family involved?	نوجوانوں کی مصروفیت کی کوئی سرگرمی میں آپ یا آپ کے خاندان کے نوجوان شامل تھے؟	1) (the respondent can recall one event) 2) I don't remember any youth engagement activity	1) جواب دہندہ ایک واقعہ یاد کر سکتا ہے۔ 2) مجھے نوجوانوں کی کوئی مصروفیت یاد نہیں ہے۔
C7	How regularly does the Joint District Development Committee (JDDC) meeting take place with the Deputy Commissioner (Pishin) / LG Divisional Director (Kech)?	ڈپٹی کمشنر (پشین) / ایل جی ڈویژنل ڈائریکٹر (کچ) کے ساتھ جوائنٹ ڈسٹرکٹ ڈویلپمنٹ کمیٹی (جے ڈی ڈی سی) کی میٹنگ کتنی باقاعدگی سے ہوتی ہے؟	1) We met regularly (quarterly) 2) We met only once	1) ہم باقاعدگی سے ملتے تھے (سہ ماہی) 2) ہم صرف ایک بار ملتے تھے۔
C8	Were you able to present and advocate for your needs in the Joint District Development Committee (JDDC) meetings?	کیا آپ جوائنٹ ڈسٹرکٹ ڈویلپمنٹ کمیٹی (جے ڈی ڈی سی) کے اجلاسوں میں اپنی ضروریات پیش کرنے اور ان کی وکالت کرنے کے قابل تھے؟	1) Yes, I was given the space to participate. 2) No, I didn't get a chance to participate	1) ہاں، مجھے شرکت کا موقع دیا گیا۔ 2) نہیں، مجھے شرکت کا موقع نہیں ملا۔
C9	Was the Community Physical Infrastructure finalized, planned, and implemented in a fair and participatory manner?	کیا کمیونٹی فزیکل انفراسٹرکچر کو حتمی شکل دی گئی تھی، منصوبہ بندی کی گئی تھی، اور اسے منصفانہ اور شراکتی انداز میں نافذ کیا گیا تھا؟	1) Yes, the process was fair and participatory. 2) No, the process was not fair. 3) The process was fair but there are still unmet needs	1) ہاں، یہ عمل منصفانہ اور شراکت دار تھا۔ 2) نہیں، یہ عمل منصفانہ نہیں تھا۔ 3) عمل منصفانہ تھا لیکن اب بھی غیر پوری ضروریات ہیں۔
C10	What is one procedural, logistical change that you want in the Community Physical Infrastructure activity?	ایک طریقہ کار، لاجسٹک تبدیلی کیا ہے جو آپ کمیونٹی فزیکل انفراسٹرکچر سرگرمی میں چاہتے ہیں؟	(Please note the respondent's feedback)	(براہ کرم جواب دہندہ کی رائے نوٹ کریں)

C11	The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) you/your family member received was effective?	تکنیکی اور پیشہ ورانہ تعلیم اور تربیت (TVET) جو آپ/آپ کے خاندان کے رکن نے حاصل کی تھی وہ موثر تھی؟	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yes, the training was effective. 2) The training was good but there were minor issues. 3) No, the training had so many shortcomings. 4) The training was irrelevant 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) ہاں، تربیت موثر تھی۔ (2) تربیت اچھی تھی لیکن معمولی مسائل تھے۔ (3) نہیں، تربیت میں بہت سی خامیاں تھیں۔ (4) تربیت غیر متعلقہ تھی۔
C12	Are you earning through the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)?	کیا آپ تکنیکی اور پیشہ ورانہ تعلیم اور تربیت (TVET) کے ذریعہ کماتے ہیں؟	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yes, this is now my source of income. 2) I have got the skill, but I don't exercise to earn. 3) I am practicing and I earn too little. 4) I have changed my mind, and I don't practice the skill 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) ہاں، اب یہ میری آمدنی کا ذریعہ ہے۔ (2) مجھے ہنر مل گیا ہے، لیکن میں اس سے کماتا نہیں ہوں۔ (3) میں اس مہارت پر کام کر رہا ہوں اور میں بہت کم کماتا ہوں۔ (4) میں نے اپنا ذہن بدل لیا ہے، اور میں ہنر پر عمل نہیں کرتا
C13	What is one procedural, logistical change that you want in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) activity?	تکنیکی اور پیشہ ورانہ تعلیم اور تربیت (TVET) کی سرگرمی میں آپ ایک طریقہ کار، لاجسٹک تبدیلی کیا چاہتے ہیں؟	(Please note the respondent's feedback)	(براہ کرم جواب دہندہ کی رائے نوٹ کریں)
C14	Was the process of identification of deserving individuals for awarding Income Generation Grants (IGG) fair and transparent?	کیا انکم جنریشن گرانٹس (آئی جی جی) دینے کے لیے مستحق افراد کی شناخت کا عمل منصفانہ اور شفاف تھا؟	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yes, the process was fair and transparent. 2) No, the process was not fair, and it was manipulated 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) ہاں، یہ عمل منصفانہ اور شفاف تھا۔ (2) نہیں، یہ عمل منصفانہ نہیں تھا، اور اس میں ہیرا پھیری کی گئی تھی۔
C15	Was the Income Generation Grants (IGG) size decent enough to generate/accelerate income?	کیا انکم جنریشن گرانٹس (IGG) کی رقم آمدنی بڑھانے کے لیے کافی تھی؟	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yes, the IGG was decent enough to kickstart income. 2) No, the IGG amount was too little 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) جی ہاں، IGG آمدنی شروع کرنے کے لیے کافی تھا۔ (2) نہیں، IGG کی رقم بہت کم تھی۔
C16	What is one procedural, logistical change that you want in the Income Generation	ایک طریقہ کار، لاجسٹک تبدیلی کیا ہے جو آپ انکم	(Please note the respondent's feedback)	(براہ کرم جواب دہندہ کی رائے نوٹ کریں)

	Grants (IGG) activity?	جزیشن گرانٹس (IGG) سرگرمی میں چاہتے ہیں؟		
C17	Was the process of identification of the deserving individuals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) fair and transparent?	کیا کمیونٹی انویسٹمنٹ فنڈ (CIF) کے لیے مستحق افراد کی شناخت کا عمل منصفانہ اور شفاف تھا؟	1) Yes, the process was fair and transparent. 2) No, the process was not fair, and it was manipulated	(1) ہاں، یہ عمل منصفانہ اور شفاف تھا۔ (2) نہیں، یہ عمل منصفانہ نہیں تھا، اور اس میں ہیرا پھیری کی گئی تھی۔
C18	Was the Community Investment Fund (CIF) loan size decent enough to accelerate income?	کیا کمیونٹی انویسٹمنٹ فنڈ (CIF) قرض کی رقم آمدنی بڑھانے کے لیے کافی تھی؟	1) Yes, the loan size was decent enough to accelerate income. 2) No, the CIF amount was too little	(1) ہاں، قرض کی رقم آمدنی بڑھانے کے لیے کافی تھی۔ (2) نہیں، CIF کی رقم بہت کم تھی۔
C19	What is one procedural, logistical change that you want in the Community Investment Fund (CIF) activity?	کمیونٹی انویسٹمنٹ فنڈ (CIF) کی سرگرمی میں ایک طریقہ کار، لا جنسک تبدیلی کیا ہے جو آپ چاہتے ہیں؟	(Please note the respondent's feedback)	(براہ کرم جواب دہندہ کی رائے نوٹ کریں)
C20	Has the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills (ALNS) center provided you with literacy and numeracy skills?	کیا بالغوں کی خواندگی اور عددی مہارت (ALNS) مرکز نے آپ کو خواندگی اور عددی مہارتیں فراہم کی ہیں؟	1) Yes 2) No, the training was insufficient	(1) ہاں (2) نہیں، تربیت ناکافی تھی۔
C21	What is one procedural, operational change that you want in the implementation of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills (ALNS) activity?	ایک طریقہ کار، آپریشنل تبدیلی کیا ہے جو آپ بالغ خواندگی اور عددی مہارت (ALNS) سرگرمی کے نفاذ میں چاہتے ہیں؟	(Please note the respondent's feedback)	(براہ کرم جواب دہندہ کی رائے نوٹ کریں)
C22	Are you satisfied with the distribution of assistive devices amongst the People with Special Needs (PWSNs)?	کیا آپ معذور افراد (PWSNs) میں معاون آلات کی تقسیم سے مطمئن ہیں؟	1) Yes, it was fair, transparent and the devices are of good quality. 2) No, the assistive devices are of poor quality	(1) ہاں، یہ منصفانہ، شفاف تھا اور آلات اچھے معیار کے تھے۔ (2) نہیں، معاون آلات خراب معیار کے تھے۔

C23	How sensitized are Local Government/Council and District Authorities to allow citizens to engage in planning and executing development?	لوکل گورنمنٹ/کونسل اور ضلعی اتھارٹی/شہریوں کو منصوبہ بندی اور ترقیاتی کاموں میں مشغول ہونے کی اجازت دینے کے لیے کتنے حساس ہیں؟	<p>1) Local Govt and District Authorities are sensitized to community engagement and community-led development.</p> <p>2) Local Govt and District Authorities are not sensitized and don't allow the engagement of citizens in the development planning and execution.</p>	<p>1) مقامی حکومت اور ضلعی حکام کمیونٹی کی شمولیت اور کمیونٹی کی زیر قیادت ترقی کے لیے حساس ہیں۔</p> <p>2) مقامی حکومت اور ضلعی حکام حساس نہیں ہیں اور ترقیاتی منصوبہ بندی اور عملدرآمد میں شہریوں کی شمولیت کی اجازت نہیں دیتے ہیں۔</p>
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ANNEX G - FGD TOOL

Questionnaire for Focused Group Discussions with the Communities

Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme

Geographical Information				
Name of Interviewer:		Date of FGD:		
District:		<input type="checkbox"/> Kech <input type="checkbox"/> Pishin		Union Council:
Village/Town:				
S#	Name	Role in Community	Gender	Age
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Informed Consent:

Question	Response
All the participants of the Focused Group Discussion gave permission for the interview	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

- 1) “Organized communities together with local government can efficiently materialize local development which would result in reduced poverty, social and economic empowerment of women, and improved delivery of grassroots services and state-citizen trust”. Please discuss this in the light of your experience and share if the BRACE Programme’s design helped achieve these objectives.

<p>(1) "منظم کمیونٹی مقامی حکومت کے ساتھ مل کر مؤثر طریقے سے مقامی ترقی کو عملی جامہ پہنا سکتی ہیں جس کے نتیجے میں غربت میں کمی، خواتین کی سماجی اور معاشی بااختیاریت، اور نجلی سطح پر خدمات کی فراہمی اور ریاستی شہریوں کے اعتماد میں بہتری آئے گی۔" براہ کرم اپنے تجربے کی روشنی میں اس پر بات کریں اور اگر BRACE پروگرام کے ڈیزائن نے ان مقاصد کو حاصل کرنے میں مدد کی ہے تو شیئر کریں۔</p>
<p>2) Please explain how the BRACE Programme has improved the communities, socially, financially, and politically.</p>
<p>(2) براہ کرم وضاحت کریں کہ کس طرح BRACE پروگرام نے کمیونٹی کو سماجی، مالی اور سیاسی طور پر بہتر کیا ہے۔</p>
<p>3) A broader objective of BRACE Programmes was to create a socio-political environment conducive to coordinated local development. Are you aware of any other project by any other donor and implementing partner in this duration? If yes, did these activities complement each other?</p>
<p>(3) BRACE پروگرام کا ایک وسیع تر مقصد مربوط مقامی ترقی کے لیے سازگار سماجی و سیاسی ماحول پیدا کرنا تھا۔ کیا آپ اس دورانیے میں کسی اور پروجیکٹ کے بارے میں جانتے ہیں؟ اگر ہاں، تو کیا ان سرگرمیوں نے ایک دوسرے کا ساتھ دیا؟</p>
<p>4) Now that the BRACE Programme has ended and BRSP/NRSP does not have the required funds anymore, how long activities of BRACE will continue?</p>
<p>(4) اب جبکہ BRACE پروگرام ختم ہو چکا ہے اور BRSP/NRSP کے پاس مطلوبہ فنڈز نہیں ہیں، BRACE کی سرگرمیاں کب تک جاری رہیں گی؟</p>
<p>5) In the implementation of the BRACE Programme, what was done or worked well and why? What were the enabling factors? Feel free to share major disabling factors too!</p>
<p>(5) BRACE پروگرام کے نفاذ میں، کیا کیا گیا یا اچھا کام کیا گیا اور کیوں؟ فعال کرنے والے عوامل کیا تھے؟ غیر فعال کرنے والے اہم عوامل کو بھی بلا جھجک شیئر کریں!</p>
<p>6) As you look back, what are three key programmatic and operational lessons learned as a result of BRACE that can be shared and replicated? Feel free to share what should not be included too!</p>
<p>(6) جیسا کہ آپ پیچھے مڑ کر دیکھتے ہیں، BRACE کے نتیجے میں سیکھے گئے تین اہم پروگرامنگ اور آپریشنل سبق کون سے ہیں جن کو شیئر کیا اور نقل کیا جاسکتا ہے؟ بلا جھجک اشتراک کریں کہ کیا شامل نہیں ہونا چاہئے!</p>

7) Do you think the communities still need Programmes like BRACE? Why? Please share examples!
(7) کیا آپ کے خیال میں کمیونٹیز کو اب بھی BRACE جیسے پروگراموں کی ضرورت ہے؟ کیوں؟ براہ کرم مثالیں شیئر کریں!
8) What were the positive and negative, intended, and unintended, changes produced by BRACE?
(8) BRACE کی طرف سے تیار کردہ مثبت اور منفی، مطلوبہ اور غیر ارادی تبدیلیاں کیا تھیں؟
9) Is there any indirect impact of BRACE on the non-focused population by the population of focused UCs?
(9) کیا فوکسڈ UCs کی آبادی سے غیر مرکوز آبادی پر BRACE کا کوئی بالواسطہ اثر ہے؟

ANNEX H - KII TOOL

Questionnaire for Key Informant Interviews with Government Officials,
Partners, and Political Leaders

Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme

Geographical Information			
Name of Interviewer:		Date of KII:	
District:	<input type="checkbox"/> Kech <input type="checkbox"/> Pishin		
Name	Designation	Dept/Org	

Informed Consent:

Question	Response
Ask for permission to continue the interview	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
انٹرویو کو جاری رکھنے کے لیے اجازت طلب کریں۔	

- 1) "Organized communities together with local government can efficiently materialize local development which would result in reduced poverty, social and economic empowerment of women, and improved delivery of grassroots services and state-citizen trust". Please discuss this in the light of your experience and share if the BRACE Programme's design helped achieve these objectives.

(1) "منظم کمیونٹیز مقامی حکومت کے ساتھ مل کر موثر طریقے سے مقامی ترقی کو عملی جامہ پہنا سکتی ہیں جس کے نتیجے میں غربت میں کمی، خواتین کی سماجی اور معاشی بااختیاریت، اور نجی سطح پر خدمات کی فراہمی اور ریاستی شہریوں کے اعتماد میں بہتری آئے گی"۔ براہ کرم اپنے تجربے کی روشنی میں اس پر بات کریں اور اگر BRACE پروگرام کے ڈیزائن نے ان مقاصد کو حاصل کرنے میں مدد کی ہے تو شیئر کریں۔

- 2) Please explain how the BRACE Programme has improved the communities, socially, financially, and politically.

(2) براہ کرم وضاحت کریں کہ کس طرح BRACE پروگرام نے کمیونٹیز کو سماجی، مالی اور سیاسی طور پر بہتر کیا ہے۔

3) A broader objective of BRACE Programmes was to create a socio-political environment conducive to coordinated local development. Are you aware of any other project by any other donor and implementing partner in this duration? If yes, did these activities complement each other?
3) BRACE پروگرام کا ایک وسیع تر مقصد مربوط مقامی ترقی کے لیے سازگار سماجی و سیاسی ماحول پیدا کرنا تھا۔ کیا آپ اس دورانیے میں کسی اور پروجیکٹ کے بارے میں جانتے ہیں؟ اگر ہاں، تو کیا ان سرگرمیوں نے ایک دوسرے کا ساتھ دیا؟
4) Now that the BRACE Programme has ended and BRSP/NRSP does not have the required funds anymore, how long activities of BRACE will continue?
4) اب جبکہ BRACE پروگرام ختم ہو چکا ہے اور BRSP/NRSP کے پاس مطلوبہ فنڈز نہیں ہیں، BRACE کی سرگرمیاں کب تک جاری رہیں گی؟
5) In the implementation of the BRACE Programme, what was done or worked well and why? What were the enabling factors? Feel free to share major disabling factors too!
5) BRACE پروگرام کے نفاذ میں، کیا کیا گیا یا اچھا کام کیا گیا اور کیوں؟ فعال کرنے والے عوامل کیا تھے؟ غیر فعال کرنے والے اہم عوامل کو بھی بلا جھجک شیئر کریں!
6) As you look back, what are three key programmatic and operational lessons learned as a result of BRACE that can be shared and replicated? Feel free to share what should not be included too!
6) جیسا کہ آپ پیچھے مڑ کر دیکھتے ہیں، BRACE کے نتیجے میں سیکھے گئے تین اہم پروگرامیٹک اور آپریشنل سبق کون سے ہیں جن کو شیئر کیا اور نقل کیا جاسکتا ہے؟ بلا جھجک اشتراک کریں کہ کیا شامل نہیں ہونا چاہئے!
7) Do you think the communities still need Programmes like BRACE? Why? Please share examples!
7) کیا آپ کے خیال میں کمیونٹیز کو اب بھی BRACE جیسے پروگراموں کی ضرورت ہے؟ کیوں؟ براہ کرم مثالیں شیئر کریں!
8) What were the positive and negative, intended, and unintended, changes produced by BRACE?
8) BRACE کی طرف سے تیار کردہ مثبت اور منفی، مطلوبہ اور غیر ارادی تبدیلیاں کیا تھیں؟

9) Is there any indirect impact of BRACE on the non-focused population by the population of focused UCs?

(9) کیا فوکسڈ UCs کی آبادی سے غیر مرکوز آبادی پر BRACE کا کوئی بالواسطہ اثر ہے؟

ANNEX I - TECHNOLOGIES USED FOR STUDY

The Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme employed a diverse array of technologies and tools to effectively gather, clean, analyze, and visualize data. This integration of various digital tools facilitated a robust and detailed examination of the programme's grant component, ensuring a thorough analysis and understanding of the collected data. In Figure 42, the phase-wise utilization of the technologies are reflected.

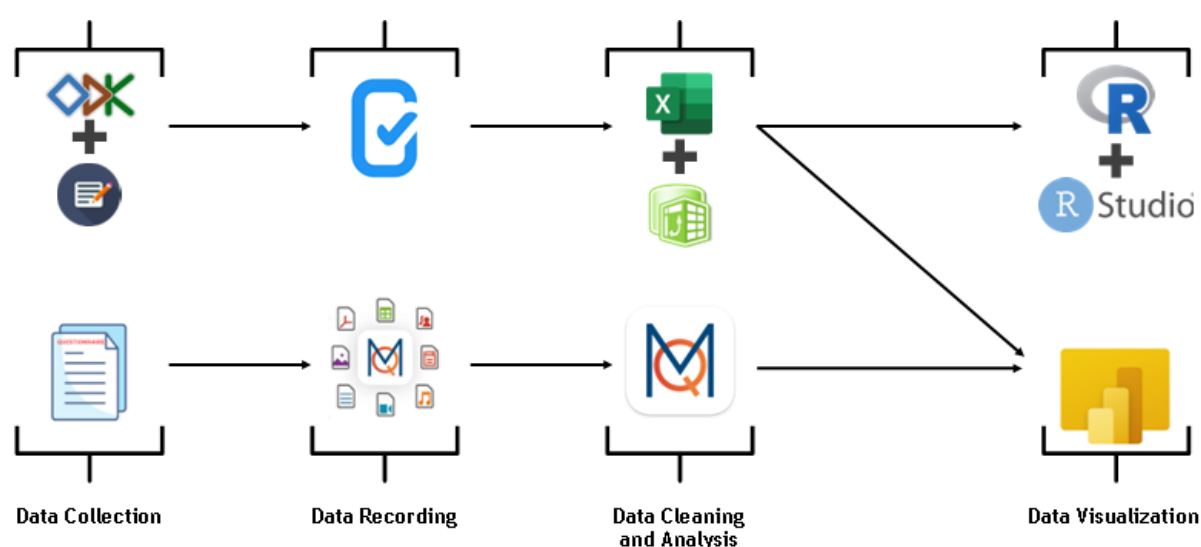


Figure 42 - Technologies Used for Comparative Assessment Study

Below are the details of each technology used:

Kobo Toolbox

Utilization: Developing Questionnaires and Collecting Data Digitally

Kobo Toolbox is a versatile suite used for creating and disseminating digital questionnaires. In the study, it was employed to develop detailed questionnaires tailored to the research needs. These questionnaires were then converted into XLS Forms and uploaded onto the Kobo platform for widespread use. This technology was pivotal in collecting structured and reliable data directly from the field.



ODK/GIC Collect Mobile Applications

Utilization: Data Collection in the Field

The ODK (Open Data Kit)/GIC Collect mobile applications were used for on-ground data collection. These applications, installed on mobile phones, enabled the field teams to gather data efficiently and accurately. Their user-friendly interface and robust design ensured that data collection was streamlined and error-free, even in remote or challenging environments.



Microsoft Excel and Power Tools

Utilization: Data Cleaning and Analysis of Quantitative Data

Microsoft Excel, augmented with Power Tools, was the technology of choice for the initial stages of data cleaning and quantitative analysis. Excel's powerful data manipulation capabilities allowed for the organization, sorting, and preliminary analysis of large datasets. Power Tools enhanced these features, enabling more advanced analysis and ensuring the data was clean, consistent, and ready for further examination.



MaxQDA

Utilization: Qualitative Data Cleaning and Analysis

For the qualitative aspect of our data, MaxQDA software was utilized. This advanced qualitative data analysis tool allowed for the systematic cleaning, organizing, and interpretation of non-numeric data. Its sophisticated coding mechanisms and analytical capabilities were instrumental in uncovering patterns, themes, and insights from the qualitative data collected during the study.



R Language and R Studio

Utilization: Performing t-tests

R Language, accessed through R Studio, was used for its advanced statistical capabilities. Specifically, the t-test function in R was employed to statistically compare the means of two groups. This was crucial for



understanding differences and assessing the impact of the BRACE Programme's grant component, providing a solid statistical foundation for the findings.

Microsoft Power BI

Utilization: Data Visualization

Finally, to visualize our findings effectively, Microsoft Power BI was used. This powerful business analytics tool allowed us to create comprehensive dashboards and interactive reports. The visualizations made complex data understandable at a glance and facilitated an engaging presentation of the results, making the insights accessible to all stakeholders.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the combination of these technologies provided a comprehensive framework for the effective collection, cleaning, analysis, and presentation of both qualitative and quantitative data in the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme. The connectivity between these tools ensured a thorough and nuanced understanding of the programme's impacts and outcomes.

ANNEX J - DATA ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The data analysis methodology for the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme was meticulously designed to ensure a thorough and accurate understanding of both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the data collected. This comprehensive approach combined various technologies and analytical techniques to dissect, interpret, and visualize the data, providing a deep insight into the programme's impacts and effectiveness. Below is the detailed methodology and references for the data analysis:

Quantitative Data Analysis

Data Collection and Initial Cleaning

Using Kobo Toolbox and ODK/GIC Collect mobile applications, quantitative data was systematically gathered from the field. This data underwent initial cleaning and organizing using Microsoft Excel and Power Tools, ensuring the removal of any inconsistencies or errors, and preparing it for in-depth analysis.

Statistical Analysis

With the clean data, we employed R Language within the R Studio environment to perform detailed statistical analyses. This included the use of t-tests to compare the means of two groups, which is crucial for understanding the impact of the BRACE Programme. R's comprehensive statistical packages allowed for various other analyses, including regression, correlation, and variance analysis, providing a multifaceted understanding of the quantitative data.

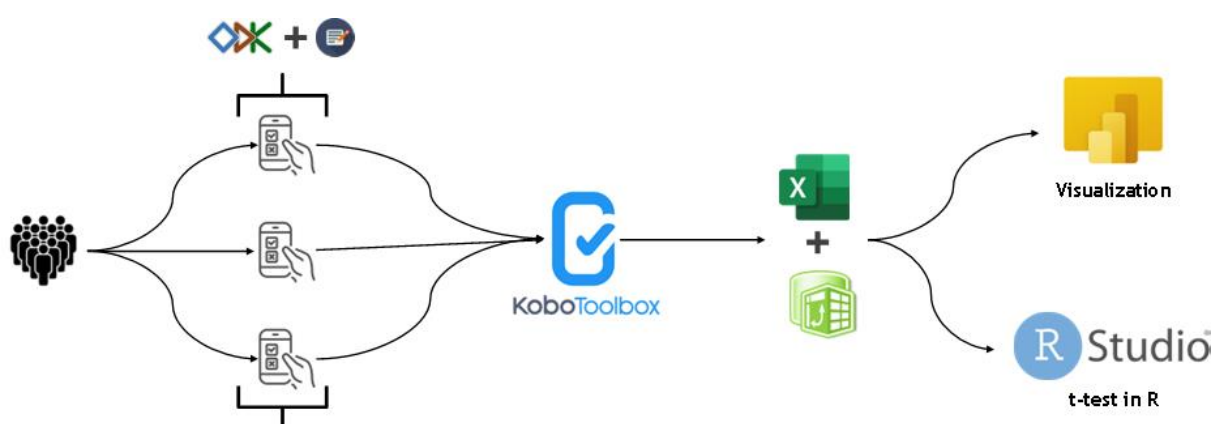


Figure 43 - Data Flow of Quantitative Data Analysis

Qualitative Data Analysis

Data Collection and Organization

Qualitative data was collected through key informant interviews and focus group discussions. This data was then transcribed and organized using MaxQDA, a leading qualitative data analysis software. The software's coding and memo functions were used to systematically categorize and interpret the data.

Thematic Analysis

Through MaxQDA, thematic analysis was conducted to identify patterns, themes, and insights within the qualitative data. This involved a careful and iterative process of coding and theme development, ensuring a deep and nuanced understanding of the qualitative aspects of the study.

Word Clouds and Trends

MaxQDA is not only instrumental in the qualitative data analysis but also plays a vital role in visualizing key textual data. Specifically, MaxQDA was utilized to generate Word Clouds and Word Trends. Word Clouds provides a visual representation of the most frequently occurring words within the qualitative data, highlighting the prominent themes and concepts at a glance. Meanwhile, Word Trends allows us to observe how certain terms' usage and relevance evolved over time or across different data segments. These visual tools were essential in identifying and illustrating overarching patterns and trends within the qualitative data, offering an immediate and impactful understanding of the textual information gathered during the study.

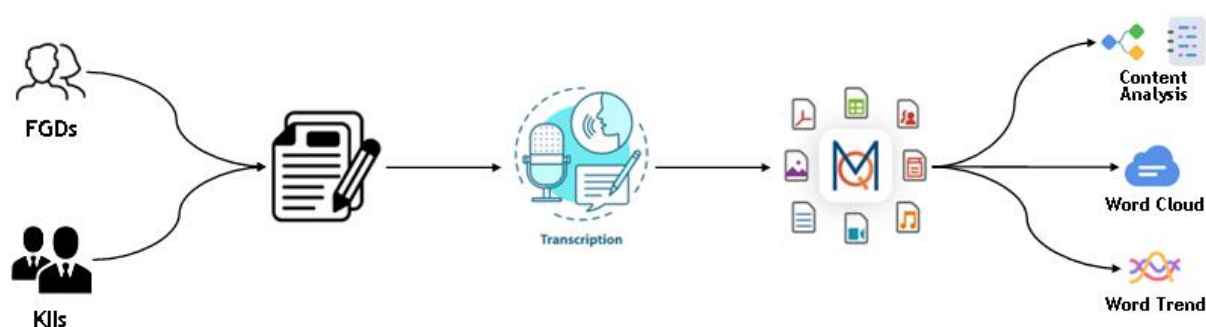


Figure 44 - Data Flow of Qualitative Data Analysis

Integrated Data Analysis

Data Triangulation

To ensure a comprehensive understanding, data triangulation was employed. This involved cross verifying the qualitative and quantitative findings, ensuring consistency and reliability in the results. The integrated approach provided a more nuanced understanding of the BRACE Programme's impact, accounting for both numerical trends and personal experiences.

Visualization and Reporting

Using Microsoft Power BI, the findings from both quantitative and qualitative analyses were visualized in an engaging and informative manner. The interactive dashboards and detailed reports facilitated an easy understanding of the complex data, ensuring that stakeholders could readily grasp the insights and findings.

Ethical Considerations and Data Integrity

Throughout the data analysis process, strict ethical guidelines and data integrity measures were adhered to. This included ensuring the anonymity of participants, securing data storage and transfer, and maintaining transparency and honesty in data reporting and interpretation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the data analysis methodology for the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme was comprehensive, systematic, and adhered to the highest standards of research integrity. By employing a mixed-methods approach and utilizing a range of sophisticated tools and techniques, the study provided deep and actionable insights into the programme's effectiveness and impact. This methodology, coupled with robust references, ensures that the findings are reliable, valid, and valuable to stakeholders and future research endeavors.

ANNEX K - T-TEST METHODOLOGY

The t-test is a fundamental statistical analysis used in the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme to determine if there is a significant difference between the means of two groups. This method is particularly valuable in studies, where comparing the outcomes of different interventions or groups is essential. The methodology and reference provided here ensure a thorough understanding and proper implementation of the t-test in the context of our study.

Overview of the T-Test

The t-test is a type of inferential statistic used to determine if there is a significant difference between the means of two groups, which may be related in certain features. It's commonly used in hypothesis testing to ascertain whether to reject the null hypothesis. The t-test comes in three types: one-sample, independent two-sample, and paired sample.

T-Test Significance Methodology

Assumptions Checking

Before conducting a t-test, certain assumptions must be verified to ensure the validity of the test:

- Independence of Observations: The data collected from the two groups should be independent of each other.
- Normality: The data should follow a normal distribution. If the sample size is large, the Central Limit Theorem usually justifies the normality assumption.
- Equality of Variances: The variances of the two groups should be equal. Tests like Levene's test can be used to verify this assumption.

Choosing the Correct Type of T-Test

Depending on the nature of the data and the design of the study, the appropriate type of t-test chosen for the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme:

- Independent two-sample t-test for comparing two independent groups.

Calculation

The t-test calculates the difference between the sample means and divides this by the standard error of the difference. The formula varies slightly depending on the type of t-test being performed. This calculation results in the t-value, a ratio that compares the difference to the variability in the data.

Determining Significance

The calculated t-value is then compared against a value from the t-distribution, considering the desired level of significance (commonly 0.05) and the degrees of freedom in the data. A p-value is derived, which indicates the probability of observing the results assuming the null hypothesis is true. If the p-value is less than the chosen significance level, the null hypothesis is rejected.

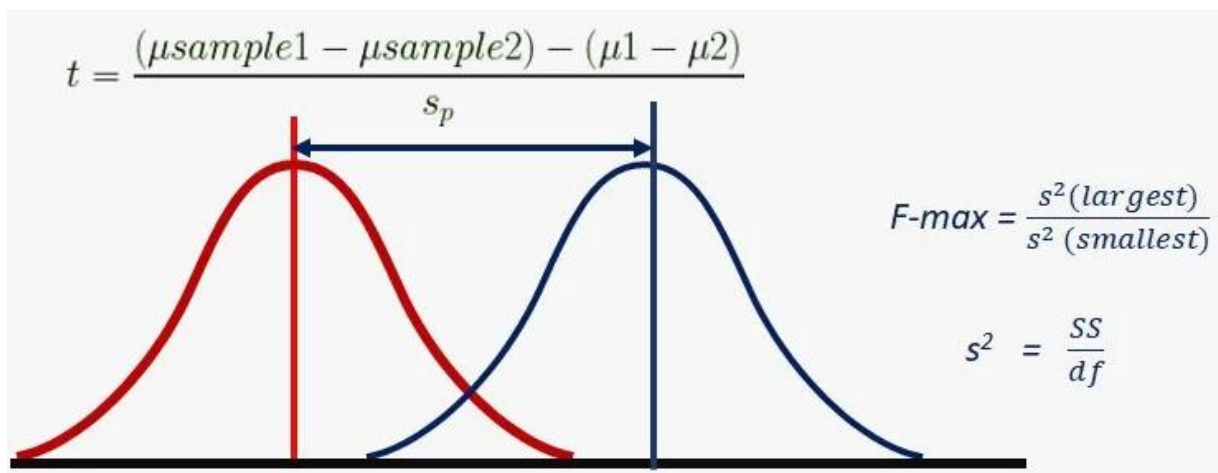


Figure 45 - t-test with Two Independent Samples

Conclusion

The t-test is a powerful statistical tool used in the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme to analyze the differences between two groups. Understanding its assumptions, methodology, and interpretation is crucial for accurately assessing the significance of the results.

ANNEX K - PROFILES OF STUDY TEAM

BRACE TA

Atif Masud - Team Leader BRACE TA / Assessment Supervisor

Atif Masud, a distinguished figure in the field of international development with over 36 years of senior-level advisory and management expertise, has played instrumental roles in large-scale technical assistance programs in Pakistan, collaborating with major donors such as the EU, World Bank, ADB, UNDP, USAID, and DFID/UKAid. Atif Masud's expertise extends to over a decade of leading capacity-building initiatives in decentralisation and community-led development. With more than 10 years of nationwide experience, he has designed and implemented policies for institutional development in Pakistan's local support, demonstrating his ability to lead multidisciplinary teams in challenging environments particularly in Balochistan province. Additionally, Atif Masud holds two international master's degrees in economics and is a certified engineer. Currently serving as the Team Leader for the EU funded BRACE Programme.



Muhammad Asim Hanif - Senior MEC and Programme Management Specialist

Asim Hanif is a Senior Monitoring, Evaluation, Communications, and Programme Management Specialist at DAI Global, where he provides Technical Assistance to the BRACE Programme. With over 18 years of field-based experience in project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and programme management in Pakistan, Asim Hanif brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his role. His professional journey has seen him work with a variety of international and local partners, securing funding and establishing partnerships with entities such as USAID, EC, ECHO, UN agencies, and the Government of Pakistan.



In his current position at DAI Global, Asim Hanif joined the team as a Senior Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication Specialist, focusing on the Improved Local Governance through the development and implementation of the Community-Led Local Governance Policy. His prior role as a Senior Program Manager at Taraqee Foundation involved strategic leadership and institutional support, emphasizing

donor coordination, institutional development, and strategic planning. Asim Hanif is proficient in developing communication and stakeholder engagement strategies, showcasing excellent written and verbal communication skills. His ability to manage and synthesise large amounts of information, combined with his strong information management skills, positions him well to lead both Research and Data Analyst Consultants in the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme.

Asim Hanif's extensive experience in monitoring, evaluation, and programme management, coupled with his expertise in communications, makes him a crucial asset in overseeing complex projects. His leadership in the BRACE Programme involves guiding the research and analysis teams, ensuring quality data collection and interpretation, and effective communication of findings to stakeholders. His comprehensive background and skills in project management, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement enable him to effectively manage the programme's multifaceted aspects and contribute significantly to its success.

Consultants

Sajjad Hussain - Research Consultant

Sajjad Hussain Changezi is a distinguished professional with a multifaceted background in program management, strategic policy analysis, and public advocacy. He holds a Master's degree in Global Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a MSc in Peace & Conflict Studies from the National Defence University, Islamabad, and a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore. His career trajectory includes impactful roles such as the Research Consultant for the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme with DAI Global, Programme Manager at Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), and Communications Consultant for the Malala Fund. In these positions, Sajjad Hussain Changezi has demonstrated exceptional capabilities in managing complex projects, particularly in areas related to development and peacebuilding.



Sajjad Hussain Changezi's expertise extends to areas like program management, policy analysis, and public advocacy. He has successfully managed projects funded

by various international donors, including the European Union, GIZ, and FCDO. His analytical skills are evident in his contributions to policy papers and op-eds on socio-political participation and development issues. A skilled communicator, Sajjad Hussain Changezi is proficient in Urdu-Hindi, Dari-Farsi, and English, and has represented numerous programmes and campaigns in different forums. His technical proficiencies include tools such as Stata, Qualtrics, Salesforce, and MS Office. Sajjad Hussain Changezi's career is marked by his dedication to development and peacebuilding, making him a valuable contributor to research and development projects, especially those in challenging contexts like the BRACE Programme.

Bilal Ahmed - Data Analyst Consultant

Bilal Ahmed is an accomplished Data Analyst Consultant with over a decade of experience in the development sector, specializing in Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL) and Technologies, as well as Project Implementation and Management. His expertise spans various national and international organizations, where he has led monitoring efforts across multiple sectors including Livelihood, Education, Protection, Community Mobilization, and Early Emergency Response. Ahmed is particularly skilled in developing MEAL plans, logical frameworks, data collection and monitoring tools, managing MEAL systems, data systems, and technologies.



Bilal Ahmed's professional journey includes a significant role as a Data Analyst Consultant for DAI Global, where he contributed to the Comparative Assessment Study of the Grant Component of the BRACE Programme. In this role, he analyzed data from treated and control groups, designed methodology and data collection tools, trained field enumerators, and ensured quality data analysis. His proficiency in data management and reporting is evident through his experience with tools such as Microsoft Excel, Pivot, Power BI, MAXQDA, Google AppSheet, ODK Collect, and more. Additionally, he has demonstrated strong analytical skills in various assessments and studies, coordinating with stakeholders and donors to ensure smooth project implementation. Bilal Ahmed's depth of experience in data analysis, combined with his ability to manage complex projects and communicate effectively, makes him a valuable asset in the field of data analytics and development.



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