

*Progress Report of Project on*

**Networking & Experience Sharing  
Among Partners of Misereor Pakistan**

November 2008-April 2009

Phase 1

Number 5

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ADF	Alfalah Development Foundation
CHIP	Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Programme
DRU	District Rehabilitation Unit
ERRA	Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority
LSF	Lok Sanjh Foundation
MALC	Marie-Adelaide Leprosy Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PIU	Programme Implementation Unit
PERRA	Provincial Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority
RDP	Rural Development Project

## 1. Introduction

This is the fifth six monthly progress and financial report of the “Secretariat to Facilitate Networking & Experience Sharing among Partners of Misereor in Pakistan” project which covers the period from November 2008 to April 2009. This report illustrates the progress of activities, achievements, constraints and lessons which were learnt during the reported period.

### 1.1 Key Activities Performed During the Period

The major activities conducted during the six months are as follows:

- 1.1.1 Exposure visit to Narowal Rural Development Programme (NRDP);
- 1.1.2 Training of Network Members on Financial Management;
- 1.1.3 Sharing of Information with Network Members;

## 2. Exposure Visit to Narowal Rural Development Organization

During the reported period Misereor partners made an exposure visit to Narowal Rural Development Programme (NRDP), one of the members of the network. The visit was made on 24-26 March 2009.

The participants of this visit included team members of Civil Human and Institutional Development Programme (CHIP), HAASHAR Association, Alfalah Development Organization (ADO), Baghban Development Organization (BDO) and Lok Sanjh Foundation.

Participants of Exposure Visit	
Name	Organization
Imran Ahmed and Asjad Mehmood	Civil Society Human & Institutional Development Programme (CHIP)
Zaheer-ud-Din Babar	Lok Sanjh Foundation (LSF)
Nasir Khan	Alfalah Development Foundation (ADF)
Nasir Khan and Qasim Sheikh	HAASHAR Association
Noor Muhammad	Baghban Development Organization
Did not participate	Marie-Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC)
Did not participate	Caritas Pakistan

### 2.1 Objectives of Exposure Visit

- To orient and provide exposure to participants about NRDP’s programmes, approaches, experiences and learning.
- To identify the best practices of NRDP for replication and institutionalization by other network member organizations.

### 2.2 Activities

The following activities were conducted during the exposure visit.

- Presentation on CHIP and projects in Sohawa and Sangohi.
- Presentation on NRDP by the Executive Director, NRDP.
- Visit to NRDP Project Area
- Meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) at village level;
- Experience Sharing and Debriefing Meeting at NRDP office

### 2.3 *Process and Proceedings of Exposure Visit*

#### **Assembling and Presentation at CHIP Field Office Sohawa**

On the first day, all the participants arrived at the CHIP head office in Islamabad at about 12:30 PM. After a brief introduction of the participants, the journey commenced at 1:00 PM. On the way to Narowal, the participants took a brief stay at CHIP field office Sohawa, District Jehlum. During their brief stay, Mr. Manzoor Hussain (Field Coordinator) briefed the participants about the history of CHIP field office Sohawa and Sangohi and programmes being implemented by the teams of both the field offices.

#### *2.3.1 Introduction to CHIP Field Office Sohawa and Sangohia:*

CHIP field office in Sohawa was established in 2004. Currently four projects were being implemented in 40 villages of Tehsil Sohawa. Whereas Sangohi field office was established in 2008 and only one project under the title of “Inclusive Development” was being implemented in 15 villages of Sangohi. A brief snapshot of the projects being implemented in both the field offices is as follows:

*Following projects are being implemented by CHIP field offices:*

- **Inclusive Development (Implemented by both Sohawa and Sangohi field office teams)**

This project aims at capacitating persons with disabilities, local communities and other stakeholders for promoting inclusive development that would eventually enable persons with disabilities to be active member of mainstream society. For sensitizing and capacitating local communities different behavioural change communication and capacity building tools are being applied including puppet shows, awareness sessions, thematic IEC material, formal training sessions etc.

- **Local Resource Mobilization (Sohawa Field Office Team)**

This project aims at mobilizing local resources which include human and social capital such as local men, women, community organizations as well developing physical and social infrastructure through active involvement of local community organizations and other primary and secondary stakeholders. Integrated interventions are being undertaken in following sectors.

- Water
- Sanitation
- Health
- Education
- Agriculture
- Livestock
- Vocational skills development.

- **Violence against Women (Sohawa Field Office Team)**

Violence Against Women (VAW) project focuses on strengthening local support mechanism to correspond issues of violence against women. It also aims at empowering women by capacitating them about their rights and service points to seek justice in case they face violence. A total of 10 Women Organizations have been trained in 10 villages under this program. The awareness campaign is practiced in the WO's through theater performance.

The presentations by CHIP lasted till evening and then the participants left for Narowal and reached there at late night where they were able to rest and prepare for the second day.

### 2.3.2 *Arrival at NRDP and Presentation by ED NRDP.*

The participants reached NRDP office on the second day of their travel, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2009. Mirza Muqem Baig, Executive Director NRDP welcomed all the network members in NRDP office. After welcome presented by which was followed by a field visit during which a healthy question and answer session took place.

Mirza Muqem Baig, Executive Director of NRDP welcomed all the participants of the network hailing from different organizations, and after a brief introduction of the participants, he delivered a formal presentation of NRDP the contents of which were as follows;

**Introduction to NRDP.** NRDP is a local NGO working in District Narowal since 1992. NRDP aims at facilitating and empowering low income communities in improving their quality of life on a sustainable basis. Micro enterprise development, health, non-formal education, women empowerment and Livestock & agricultural management are its main areas of interventions.

Program areas/working sectors of NRDP:

- Micro Enterprise Development
- Health
- Non-Formal Education
- Women & Empowerment
- Human and Institutional Development(HID)
- Livestock & Agriculture Development

Respective sector heads of NRDP presented their sectors after which the participants asked following questions which were appropriately responded by he NRDP team.

1. Social mobilization process of NRDP
2. Why is NRDP not working on savings of the community?
3. Is women empowerment not a component of Institutional empowerment?
4. Explain the strategy if a beneficiary refuses to return the loan back to NRDP?
5. If loan recovery of NRDP is 99% then why has NRDP mentioned a 2% contingency fee in its presentation?
6. Detail of activities related to livestock
7. Why has NRDP not elaborated upon the agriculture sector in its presentation although majority of the people are farmers having acres of agricultural land?
8. Briefly explain the strategy/criteria of forming the age group in the health sector?
9. Explain the mortality rate of women and children in District Narowal?
10. Who is managing the community model school?
11. Who is paying the salaries of the teachers?
12. Explain the sustainability plan of the community model schools?
13. Do the line departments assist NRDP in the school projects?
14. How did the education dept. permit NRDP to work in the schools?
15. Briefly explain the problems faced by NRDP while combating the violence against women (VAW)?
16. Explain the violence's against women in District Narowal?

The participants of the exposure visit shared the following expectations from the visit before going into the field;

1. New ideas of micro-enterprises, Dispensary, Agriculture and Development.
2. Micro-finance project learning
3. Learning about violence against women (VAW)
4. Learn strengths of NRDP
5. Mutual learning
6. We are here to observe the project activities and to meet the communities.
7. Learning about NRDP projects.
8. How NRDP is implementing its projects especially in VAW, Education, Health, Constrains and lessons learns
9. Experience sharing
10. Orientation about Misereor network.
11. Different projects sharing with each other.
12. Input in working model
13. Learning about sectoral focuses (project specific approach to thematic focus)
14. Constraints during implementation

### 2.3.2 Visit Of NRDP Project Area

#### *Community Model Primary School Islamabad Narowal:*

The land for the school was purchased by the community and two rooms were also constructed by them. NRDP has constructed the latrines and verandas. 04 teachers are employed and their salaries are being managed by the fee collected from the students.

#### *Conclusion & Recommendation:*

- The school is well maintained/equipped/managed and it is not a matter of concern if NRDP or some other organization withdraws from the area because NRDP has provided a sustainable platform.
- Advance trainings should be conducted for the teachers and there still exists the need to provide some more schools in the area.

#### *Community Health Centre Satoowall U/C Langan.*

Established in 1996, this health centre is benefiting 32 villages. The total staff of the centre is 5 and a total of Rs.50/ is charged as fee per head while Rs.150/- is charged per injection. Rs.1800/- is charged for each delivery case. The building, with two rooms and one washroom has been provided by the community. The fee is collected by the senior LHV in the unit and recorded in the register provided by the NRDP. The fee is deposited in the NRDP office at the end of every month. NRDP Health section manages the medicines and salaries etc from the fee collected, and if the collected resources do not fulfill their target then NRDP provides funding from its own sources.

#### *Conclusion & Recommendation:*

- NRDP has done a tremendous job in this sector, because prior to their intervention, no health facilities existed in the area.
- There should be some more Health units in the area since it is scattered and one unit may not be sufficient to cater to the needs of the entire area.

➤ Visit to Satowan Community Organization:

A meeting was held with the local community organization during which the community members appreciated the efforts of the NRDP. The community members gave a briefing about the walls constructed around the grave yard and land purchased for the school in collaboration with NRDP. NRDP also conducted various trainings i.e. engine repairing and livestock management trainings. The participants of the exposure visit met the trained community members engaged in various trades and interviewed them as to how they were serving the community.

Conclusion: The community is well organized and has the potential to work further.

Suggestion: There is further need to work on savings. The exposure visit participants also suggested that meetings should be held in an adequate space/shelter/community office.

➤ Visit to Government Primary School Satowal:

NRDP has provided some latrines and established a play ground in the school. Prior to this, there was standing water throughout the year and NRDP filled the ground which ultimately resulted in hygiene promotion and a play ground for the children.

Conclusion:

Such activities should be encouraged while talking about the community uplift program.

➤ Visit to Government Girls Elementary School Satowal

NRDP has provided shelters for the school. Because the participants visited the school in working hours, it was unanimously decided not to interrupt the classes.

➤ Visit to Field office NRDP Noor kot U/C Shakar Gargh

Senior credit officer of NRDP briefed the visitors about the field office and their working methodology. The following details were provided;

Total 26 villages of 09 U/C are under consideration.

Total number of staff=06

Total number of beneficiaries=2927

➤ Interview of Enterprise's Beneficiaries U/C Sakhoo chawk

Some of the beneficiaries in sakhoo chawk were interviewed individually. Three beneficiaries were identified and visited in their respective places:

a) Mohammad Rasheed (a beneficiary of micro-credit programme):

Rasheed is a carpenter and told us that he was working for someone in a far-flung area on daily wages. He was a skilled person but due to his family's financial crisis he could not establish his own business. His community told him about the NRDP loan scheme and he availed the opportunity and set a shop of his own. He also purchased a carpenter electric machine which has doubled his work progress. At this point in time he has employed some people in his shop also. He claims that there is a great demand for his products now and he is considered to be the main dealer of furniture in the area.

Conclusion: Mr. Rasheed is a progressive carpenter. His present situation was satisfactory. NRDP has provided him with sustainable means which contribute towards his progress/sustainability.

b) Mukhtiar Ahmad (a beneficiary of micro-credit programme):

Mukhtiar Ahmad is running a hotel in the village. He also availed the loan opportunity from NRDP. He informed us that he bought some off season product at a low cost and sold it in the

local market for a reasonable profit. Mukhtiar Ahmad not only returned the loan to NRDP but also utilized the profit in purchasing some cows thus fulfilling the need for milk at his hotel.

c) Visit to an oil shop entrepreneur (a beneficiary of micro-credit programme):  
Finally, the group visited a man who ran the local business of vehicle fuel. Previously he was running a medicine shop in the village but suddenly his business crashed due to a family crisis. He was upset for years after which he took a loan from NRDP and set up a petrol business in the village. He is currently in a stable position and appreciation goes to NRDP.

**Suggestion for NRDP:** This man does not have an adequate place to run the business. He should be properly guided to set his business in professional manner. These people are also beacons to be followed by others in the community.

➤ Visit to working boundary between Pakistan and Jammu Kashmir:  
All the participants decided to visit the working boundary of Pakistan where they enjoyed lunch. The Pak army gave a briefing about the current situation.  
All the participants of the exposure visit thanked;

1. Misereor for such a pleasant networking strategy of the implementing partners
2. CHIP for arranging/scheduling the tour in a well organized manner
3. NRDP for its hospitality and cooperation

### 2.3.3 Debriefing Meeting at NRDP

At the end of the last day a debriefing meeting was held among the participants in order to elicit their views and impressions about the visit. The group of exposure visitors expressed their feelings before departing back to their organizations.

Mr. Qasim Sheikh from HAASHAR Association appreciated NRDP over all, praising the fact that NRDP has 99% loan returns in micro credit activity, a fact that illustrated the effectiveness of the organization and the interest of the people.

He suggested that in some cases like loan for buffalos, if NRDP provided kind/loan instead of cash it would decrease the ambiguities since at times communities demanded a loan for one cause yet spent it on another, which exploits the sustainability of the person and theme of the project also.

Mr. Nasir Khan from Alfalah Development Foundation showed his interest in micro credit. and explained that the only difference between Alfalah and NRDP in the micro enterprise sector is that Alfalah works with individuals while NRDP works with group. Mr. Nasir further explained that they would try to follow the NRDP strategy in micro enterprises. He suggested that the number of health centers be increased in view of the fact that the area is scattered.

Mr. Asjid Noor from CHIP Sohawa appreciated the livestock trainee from the CDO who is serving free of cost in the area. He also praised the school intervention which was a unique experience for him. He suggested that there should be some vocational centers in the area and CDO's should be efficient and well managed.

Mr. Zaheer-u-din Babar from Lok Sanj paid thanks to both CHIP and NRDP for organizing a very productive exposure. He was impressed by the working of the health centre. He suggested building upon plantation and agriculture related interventions since they have a

great scope in the area. He also suggested having some computer labs in the school for the students and educational trainings for teachers.

Mr. Noor Muhammad from Baghban Development Foundation also added that the health center is the basic need of the people and the NRDP health centre is serving the community in an exemplary way. He suggested that there be more such units in the area and also portrayed a keen interest to practice such an activity in his project area.

Mr. Nasir Khan from Haashar Association appreciated NRDP as a whole and suggested that there are other sectors which have great potential keeping in view the project area and its location. He suggested initiating interventions in the following areas:

1. Bio-Gas
2. Chillers technology
3. Sanitation
4. Drinking water supply schemes
5. Plantations
6. Wind/solar tube wells
7. Hygiene promotion
8. Vegetable gardening and orchards establishments
9. honey bee keeping
10. Backyard poultry farming
11. Handicap
12. Home industries

At the end Mr. Imran, Networking Coordinator extended a vote of thanks on behalf of CHIP to all the participants and especially NRDP team for demonstrating their heartiest hospitality and cooperation. He suggested that proper saving practices be initiated for sustainability of community based organizations. Mr. Imran appreciated NRDP as a whole especially with respect to its Micro enterprise sector and 99% return back.

#### **2.4 Output and Learning from the Exposure Visit**

Following were the outputs and learning from the Exposure visit of NRDP:-

- Helped partners to learn from each others experiences and replicate successful models.
- Helped NRDP to get technical input from other partners to improve processes and effectiveness of its programmes.
- Exchange visits help in increasing institutional effectiveness of network members.
- It exposes organizations to different development models for replication.

### **3. Training of Network Members on Financial Management**

Based upon the requests and recommendations of network member organizations, a four-day training on financial management was organized from 21-24 April 2009 wherein 14 staff members from 4 organizations participated. The training was organized in Islamabad keeping in view the convenience of all the network members. The training design was evolved with the input of all the participants. Proposed objectives and contents of the training were designed by Chip Training and Consulting which was assigned to carry out this training and share with the CHIP team. The CHIP team then shared with all the network members and their expected participants to get their input before finalizing the training.

The training on financial management focused on the following areas:

- Introduction to Programme Framework
- Developing and Applying Internal Controls
- Understanding Direct and Indirect Cost Recovery Rate (ICRR)
- Preparing and Analyzing Budget
- Understanding Different Disbursement Procedures
- Reporting on Project Expenditures.

<b>List of Participants of the Training</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Imran Ahmed, Naeem Younas, Manzoor Hussain, Asma Sarfraz, Ikram and Nadeem	Civil Society Human & Institutional Development Programme (CHIP)
Umar Hayat & Farah	Lok Sanjh Foundation (LSF)
Shah Khalid & Shahzad	Alfalah Development Foundation (ADF)
Qadeer and Shakir	HAASHAR Association
Amir and Shahbaz	NRDP
Did not participate	Marie-Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC)
Did not participate	Caritas Pakistan

The resource person had a very well-blended experience in finance and Programme

management delivered the tedious and dry contents of financial management in a very interactive manner which consisted of involving participants in solving a case, group work, brain storming etc. The training workshop methodologies helped to maintain the interest of the participants throughout the workshop and assisted them in learning about the different aspects of financial management. Both financial and non-financial managers of the network member organizations found it equally interesting and enlightening

### *3.1 Output of the Training*

At the end of the workshop the participants were able to differentiate between direct and indirect costs, understand project log frame relation with project budget, understand internal control mechanisms and effectively report on project expenditures.

## **4. Sharing of Information**

During the reported period following documents/manuals were shared with the network members in order to help them institutionalize latest knowledge and information for designing and reporting their development programmes effectively with more accuracy.

- Pakistan Demographic Health Survey 2006-2007.
- National Sanitation Policy.
- Updated data and statistics on gender issues in Pakistan.

## **5. Lessons Learnt During the Reporting Period**

- Ensuing participation of all network member organizations in every activity was not possible as 2 of the network member organizations did not participate in the network activities during the reported quarter due to pre commitments in their other projects. Hence, it was learnt to continue with the activities if a majority of the network member organizations agree on a specific date.

- The exposure visit to NRDP provided an opportunity for all network members to exchange their ideas and learn lessons from each others experiences. Such visits also enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the network.
- Financial Management Training was appreciated by all the participating organizations and it was recommended that such activities of the network assist in learning from each other's organizational systems and their institutional development.
- Besides e-mail telephonic follow-up helps to keep the partners communicative.
- Networks usually require dynamic and proactive facilitators and demonstrated commitment by all the members.

**6. Planned Activities for the Next Semester (May 09-October 09)**

- 6.1 1 Experience Sharing Meeting;
- 6.2 1 Exposure Visit to LSF ;
- 6.3 Capacity Building Training on Advocacy Tools;
- 6.4 Development of Web page for the network.
- 6.5 Sharing of Information with Network Members
- 6.6 Finalization of Project Completion Report