

Peasant and Worker Groups

**ANNUAL CONSOLIDATED REPORT
(Jan–Dec 2007)**

Writer: Iqbal Haider Butt
Research Coordinator: Anwar Chaudhary
Editor: Mohammed Asif
Sub-Editor: Asad Shakir
Art work: Mehboob Ali
Computer Layout: Tabassum Shahzad Khan
Date: September, 2008
Quantity:
Printer: Jamal Printer
Publisher: South Asia Partnership-Pakistan

Financial Contribution

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Table of Contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS

PREFACE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. National Context

1.2. Strengthening Democratic Governance in Pakistan (SDGP)

1.3. PWGs and Movement of the Rural Poor

1.4. Methodology of the Annual Progress Report

1.5. Organization of the Annual Progress Report

2. PROGRESS OF THE PWGs, 2007

2.1. Output 1

2.2. Output 2

2.3. Output 3

2.4. Output 4

2.5. Output 6

3. BEST PRACTICES OF THE YEAR

3.1. Fighting for Water Rights in Kallat

3.2. PWGs Development affects Local Infrastructure

3.3. Public Delivery through Rights, Loralai

3.4. Fishermen Community Organizes herself, Gwadar

3.5. Disaster Risk Management by the Fishermen Community

3.6. When the Elected Representatives Collaborate!

3.7. Taming the Bloody Canal!

3.8. Enhancing Agricultural Productivity, Charsadda

3.9. Exposure Trip Returns Profit at Home

3.10. Cooperative Entrepreneurship of the Poor

3.11. Transforming Conflict into Cooperation

3.12. Saving the Water Losses

3.13. What the Beneficiaries of PWGs Say?

4. LESSONS LEARNT

4.1. Organization of Peasants and Rural Workers

4.2. Enhancing Responsiveness of the LG System

4.3. Improvement of Social Service Delivery

4.4. Equitable Participation of the Rural Poor in Decision Making

4.5. Building Bridges at the Local Level

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BADP	Barani Area Development Project
CCB	Citizen Community Board
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC	District Council
DCO	District Coordinating Officer
DDO	Deputy District Officer
DFG	District Focal Group
DPO	District Partner Organization
DRC	District Resource Centre
DRP	District Resource Person
DTCE	Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment
EDO	Executive District Officer
ERs	Elected Representatives
GLA	Government Line Agency
GoP	Government of Pakistan
HRD	Human Resource Development
IEC	Information Education Communication
KMM	Kissan Mazdoor Marakiz
KWB	Kissan and Workers Baithak
LG	Local Government
LGRD	Local Government and Rural Development
LGS	Local Government System
MC	Monitoring Committees
MIS	Management Information Systems
NAG	National Advisory Group
NCHD	National Commission for Human Development
NIC	National Identity Card
NO	National Office
NRB	National Reconstruction Bureau
PAG	Provincial Advisory Group
PHED	Public Health Engineering Department
PPO	Provincial Project Office
PSC	Public Safety Commission
PWGs	Peasant and Worker Groups
SDGP	Strengthening Democratic Governance in Pakistan
SMEDA	Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority
SPO	Strengthening Participatory Organization
SSCs	Social Service Committees
TMA	Tehsil Municipal Administration
TMO	Tehsil Municipal Officer
ToT	Training of Trainers
UC	Union Council
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

PREFACE

The SDGP (Strengthening Democratic Governance in Pakistan (SDGP) Project is about social and political strengthening of the marginalized people of Pakistani society, especially peasants, rural workers, women and religious minorities, through a process of education, training, advocacy and networking. To get this purpose served, among the various other components and initiatives, South Asia Partnership-Pakistan (SAP-PK) has also introduced two exclusive structures at local and district levels; one is District Focal Group (DFG) and the other is Peasants and Workers Group (PWG). The former is the local support structure to assist peasants and workers in understanding local issues and developing local models of activism, democratic practices and livelihood options. Each DFG comprises of 15-30 persons who belong to different segments of society. PWG on the other hand is a village level group mainly consisting of landless and/or small peasants and rural workers, who are working to improve their livelihood and governance in its quality and dispensation and to voice for their rights.

This report highlights the achievements of our PWGs especially in areas including mobilization programs, local decision-making and liaison with GLAs and LG representatives. It identifies thematic and sectoral priorities of the PWGs in project districts and assesses their communicative outreach. We hope this report will help SAP-PK in identifying the PWGs' future basic and strategic needs and developing corresponding strategies and activities.

Suggestions of the readers for improvement of our work are cordially welcome.

Mohammad Tahseen
Executive Director

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. National Context

Instability has been, unfortunately, a key mark on the history of Pakistan's political system. Almost always in the shift towards a 'transition to full democracy', the adventures of those in command cannot be easily counted. Consensus on very basics of the democratic system has been any a time challenged by the ruling regimes, often entered through back-door channels of conspiracy rather than elected by a popular vote on the basis of adult franchise. The process of democratization was time and again disrupted and people's trust shaken on their own political choices. This situation has frustrated peoples' enthusiastic entry into collective associations and actions.

The democratic situation in the country can improve with participation of the majority of people. Including the marginalized can ensure ownership of the system.

There has been a need to organize the poor and working communities; for that they will have to first articulate their issues and then rally around them to demand due rights as citizens, which have been neglected for so long now. This will also enter governance into accountable and transparent processes, where the structures are answerable to end users, the citizens, more often the poor.

Such democratic governance in the county ensures basic human rights of all. Be it peasants, workers, labourers, women or the minorities, a good governance can eliminate the root causes of many problems that common people have to face.

Democratic governance is also a site where law of the state rules supreme. Unfortunately, this has not been the case in our example. We have been doubly charged by irresponsible governance structures and the social hierarchies that defy any room for openness of the society and respect of basic human rights.

The situation is acute especially for the rural poor. The public's reach to their basic rights has always been a central issue and it still is.

South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-PK) has been working in Pakistan for the success of democratic governance. It has been an engaged observer of major issues like military government and its policies, rising poverty and its fallout, devolution of power plan and its effects, strengthening civil society: democracy & governance initiatives, unorganized workforce esp. peasants, WTO and corporate globalization and effects on poor and peace situation in the region.

Growing poverty in Pakistan is a key challenge for SAP-PK. According to its analysis¹, ours is a poor country. Incidence of poverty is more prominent in rural and remote areas.

¹ SAP-PK, Presentation on SDGP Programs, 26 October 2005, pp. 35.

Majority of the poor people are marginal farmers, landless tenants and agricultural labours. Women constitute the poorest of the poor. Poverty in Pakistan has caused socio-political tensions, armed insurgencies, gender discrimination and violence, child labour and appalling inequalities.

SAP-PK would describe poverty's multi-faceted dimensions as the following:

- Economic poverty in the form of low income level, low calorie/nutrition intake, unemployment
- Social poverty in the form of low educational level, poor health care, poor drinking water and sanitation facilities, poor infrastructure
- Political poverty in the form of poor governance, ignorance of electorates, low participation of women and marginalized groups in political activities
- Vulnerability is an important factor to be seen along with poverty

This would lead us to identify key problem areas as given below:

- Lack of participation of farmers and workers in governance systems and structures
- Democratic institutions have lost credibility and a dictatorial regimes have been in power
- Lack of participation of the people and their elected representatives in decision-making
- Number of people below poverty line is increasing gradually (both income- and human development-wise)
- The vulnerable sections are the most affected by fiscal and economic policies of the government
- The overall potential of farmers and workers has not been materialized due to lack of opportunities.
- Lack of proper support systems and institutions for poor farmers and workers

1.2. Strengthening Democratic Governance in Pakistan (SDGP)

The above back ground compelled SAP-PK to initiate the Strengthening Democratic Governance in Pakistan (SDGP), which is a four years program started from July 2005 and will end on March 2009. Its focused component on Local Government System (LGS) spans three years. It covers working in 40 districts and 10 UCs each.

SDGP focuses upon building peasants and rural workers (PWs) especially women and minorities movement, and enabling environment for effective citizen's participation especially PWs in governance.

It is an effort to build models to promote pro-poor policies and plans through LG structures and systems, and initiate monitoring and accountability systems & practices in & around LG system.

Overall goal of the SDGP is to contribute to an enabling environment for democratic governance and citizens' participation, especially the vulnerable, in political decision-making and other processes.

Its purpose is capitalization of democratic and political space in & around local government system by the peasants' and rural workers', especially women and minorities, facilitated in target districts.

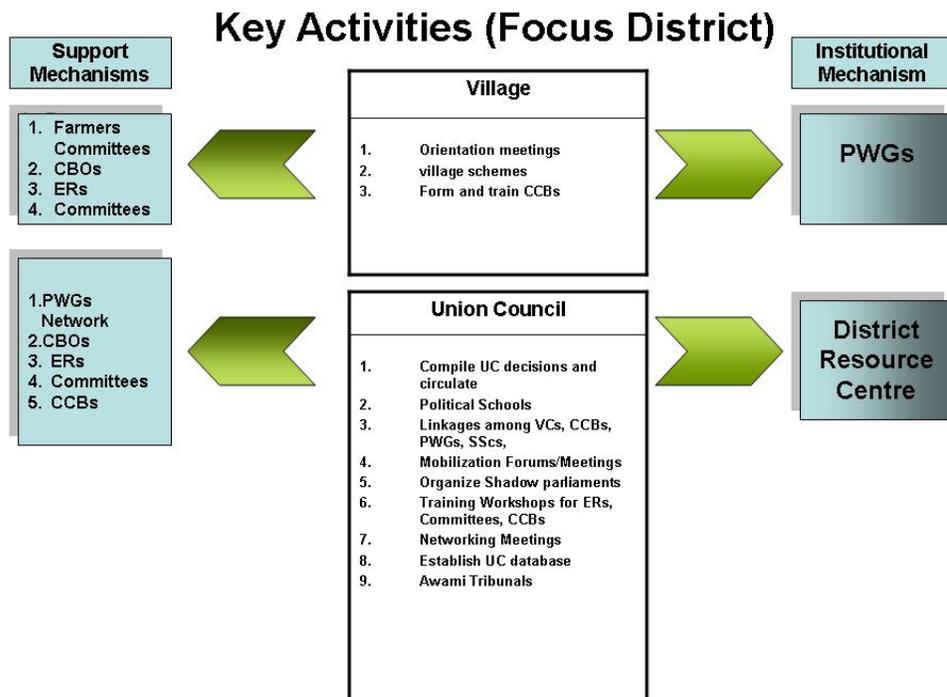
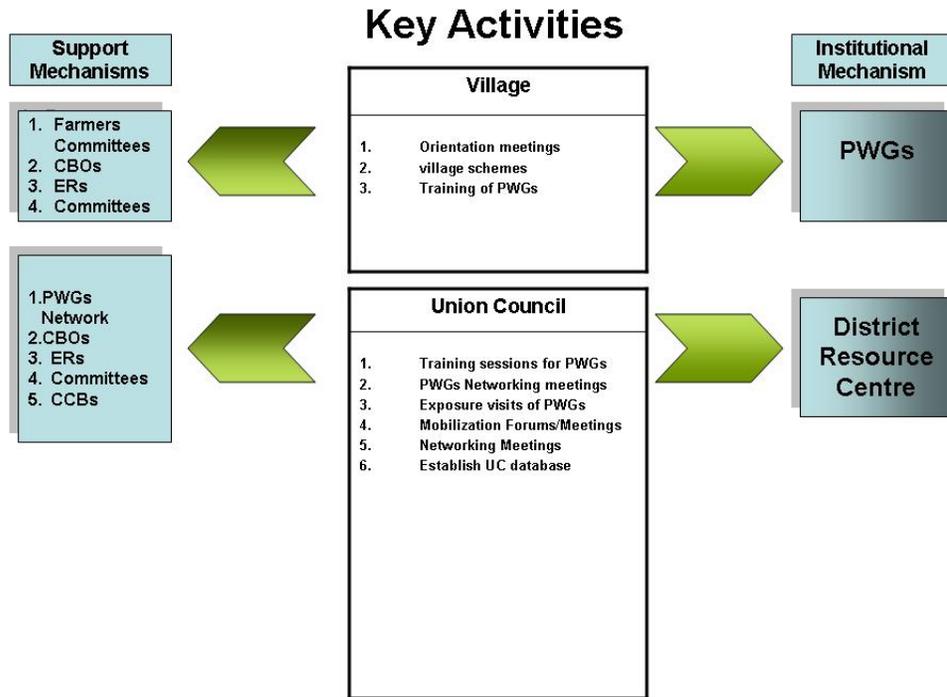
Its output results are:

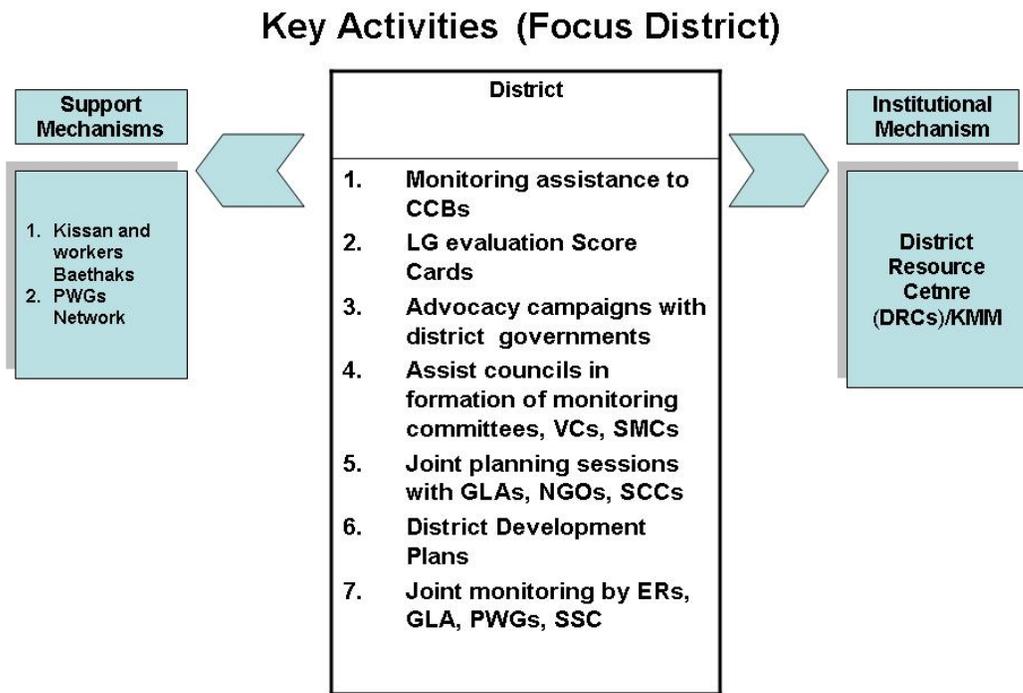
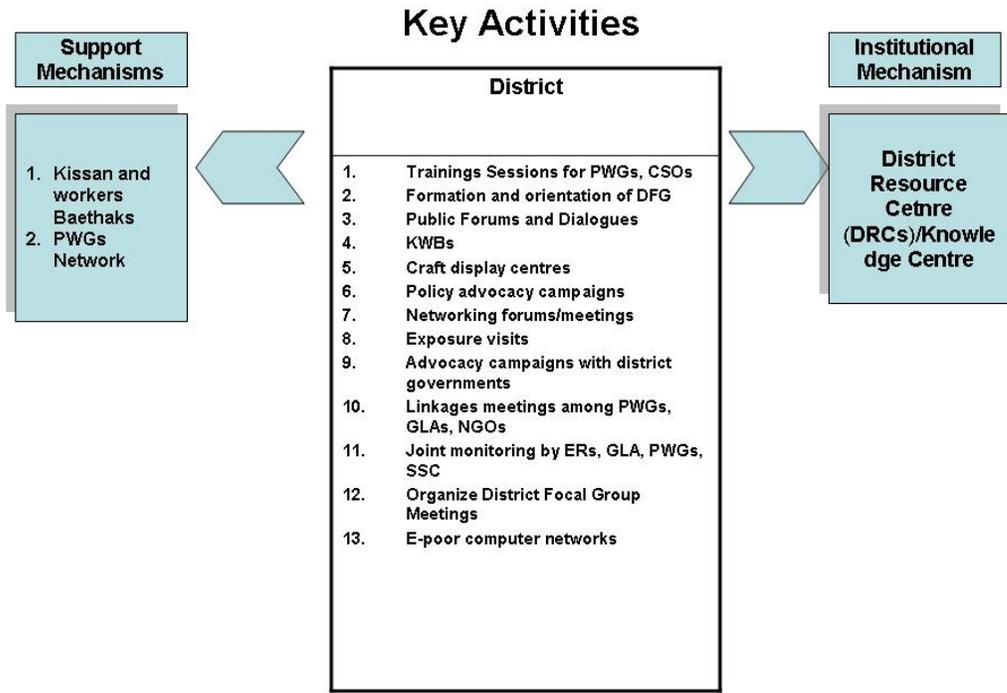
- Result 1: PEASANTS AND RURAL WORKERS, ARE ORGANIZED AND ENABLED TO NEGOTIATE THEIR RIGHTS AND UTILIZE THEIR POTENTIAL.
- Result 2: FUNCTIONING OF ERs AND LG INSTITUTIONS IMPROVED AND ARE MORE RESPONSIVE TO PWGs' INTERESTS. (20 focus districts)
- Result 3: SYSTEMS + MECHANISMS FOR EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT SOCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY OF SELECTED GLAs DEMONSTRATED. (20 focus districts)
- Result 4: ENHANCED & MORE EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION OF PWGs IN LG DECISION-MAKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY SUPPORTED. (20 focus districts)
- Result 5: EXPERIENCES AND ISSUES OF LG SYSTEM ARE DRAWN, DISSEMINATED AND (COLLECTIVELY) ADVOCATED FOR POLICY IMPROVEMENT. (20 focus districts)
- Result 6: EXISTING LOCAL LEVEL CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT AND COOPERATION MECHANISMS STRENGTHENED.
- Result 7: SAP-PK'S TRANSFORMATION TO AN INDEPENDENT FOCAL POINT INSTITUTION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION INITIATED.

You will see that results 5 and 7 are internal to SAP-PK, while all other (1,2,3,4,6) relate to the promise of a movement of the rural poor, which the focus of the present report.

SDGP expects following impact results:

- Peasants, Workers and women's contribution in social development, political and legislative forums increased and accepted.
- Peasants and rural workers are engaged in legal, democratic and political reforms.
- Pro-poor governance promoted in the country





1.3. PWGs and Movement of the Rural Poor

The formation and activation of Peasant and Worker Groups (PWGs) are the nucleus of the movement of rural poor.

The peasant and worker groups (PWGs) proved to fulfill many of its conceived perspectives. The groups raised voice for the deprived sections of the society including farmers, minorities and women. They were able to approach local body government representatives and convince them about their rights and getting help about their issues.

Case studies of peasant and worker groups show that the main objectives of these groups were met to a greater extent. In the year 2007 the trends showed even a better and improved situation.

1.4. Methodology of the Annual Progress Report

This annual report documents and disseminates the functioning and progress of PWGs activities undertaken during the period January – December 2007 in 40 districts and 120 union councils of the project specific districts.

The desired report will highlight achievements of the PWGs, identify thematic and sectoral priorities of peasants and workers in project districts, and present best practices and lessons learnt during the reporting year.

It is envisaged that the report will help in formulating and identifying future advocacy campaign in the interests of rural poor.

The annual progress report is a self-explanatory exercise that was modeled last year within the framework of a progress (activity) report. It would also indicate to evaluative and promotional dimensions based on three basic indicators of (i) organizational efficiency of PWGs, (ii) prioritization and examination of rural poor's needs, and (iii) the learning objectives from PWGs' working in the year 2007. Former two are related with internal organization and planning capabilities and the latter is also the external advocacy capacity to aggregate interests of the rural poor.

This three-pronged report will illustrate the following key questions:

- Have the PWGs been able to mobilize rural poor?
- Are there any best practices and lessons learnt in advocating interests of the rural poor?
- Can we identify and highlight districts where advocacy initiatives have provided best results?
- What are the key priority issues of advocacy in project districts?
- How far the key priority issues specified?
- Have the PWG activities been able to engage line departments, donors and the civil society?

To prepare this report, the author developed a draft plan and data-set with the assistance and guidance of the SAP-PK's research team in Central Office Lahore. Input from SDGP provincial coordinator (Punjab) was also incorporated to help define the report's scope, identify information sources and determine checklists. The draft plan was validated and finalized with the national team.

After the initial design phase and consultation meetings with SDGP provincial coordinators and relevant staff were made to access relevant data and conduct interviews.

The back-end data included district and provincial activity reports, while interviews helped in assessing best practices of the PWGs' working during 2007.

Media coverage of the PWG activities was also collected. Draft of the annual progress report was also furnished with peer-review and comments that have been incorporated in the present publication.

1.5. Organization of the Annual Progress Report

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this chapter is to give an overview of the annual progress report, which includes national context of problems of rural poor in Pakistan, SDGP and how PWGs can contribute to poverty alleviation by organizing the rural poor. This also provides scope of the annual report, its methodology and organization.

PROGRESS OF THE PWGs, 2007

This chapter seeks to document annual activities of the PWGs and those undertaken at the grassroots' level with sporadic cursory mentioning of the provincially and nationally generated initiatives for understanding and flow of writing.

This chapter deals with quantity and scale of the activities and is the real crux of the present report. It will also provide sufficient number of activity charts tables. The working sub-division of the chapter has been made in accordance with output level results of the SDGP. Within this category, province-wise details of activities have been consolidated.

Activities generally narrate scale and tasks, results and themes that were taken up by the PWGs.

BEST PRACTICES OF THE YEAR

This chapter highlights the best practices of PWGs. This is to promote aims of the SDGP in systematic manner. These brief case studies inform about collective action at the village/ UC / PWG level.

The components of these cases include the (i) problem statement, (ii) Action (iii) process methods and tools of the collective action and (iv) Achievement and how this shows organizational capacity of the PWGs (Peasant-Worker Groups)

It highlights problem (issue at hand), action (what was done by the group), process (i.e. group organization, formality of the methods employed, institutional arrangement), and methods and tools (of advocacy i.e. media, meetings, contacts, etc) and what was achieved by the collective action.

The tone of these best practices is factual and aims at promoting similar actions elsewhere in the country.

LESSONS LEARNT

This chapter briefly summarizes expert opinions, staff observations, stakeholder views and practical considerations to enhance efficiency of different activities. It urges on the field advice on what has worked well, in what circumstances and what is needed at what time.

Lessons learnt have been compiled against the respective output level project results for better flow of reading and logical consistency. With these pragmatic recommendations, the chapter and report will conclude.

2. PROGRESS OF THE PWGs, 2007

In its second year of operational period at the ground, in line with democratic participation of the rural poor, the SDGP has set out to dismantle repressive power-relations at the grassroots level through procedural activism of the peasants, workers, women and minorities. The PWGs have been the central moving force behind a massive social movement continued in 40 districts of Pakistan.

Maturely moving ahead, the PWGs in the reporting year have starting using the local governance systems in its favour through rights-based approaches.

A key progress element is that the PWG in this year were specifically able to deliver physical delivery through social activism.

The PWGs are operative to achieve five different output level results in the over-all framework of the SDGP, which are:

- Output-1:** Peasants and rural workers, esp. Women and minorities, are organized and enabled to negotiate their rights and utilize their potential.
- Output-2:** Functioning of elected representatives and local government institutions improved and are more responsive to PWGs' interests.
- Output-3:** Systems + mechanisms for effective and efficient social service delivery of selected GLAs demonstrated.
- Output-4:** Enhanced and more equitable participation of peasants and rural workers in local government decision-making and accountability (re: policies, plans & implementation) supported.
- Output-6:** Existing local level civil society support and cooperation mechanisms strengthened.

Objectively verifiable indicators of all these results have been clearly envisaged to measure success of the progress.

Needless to say, that the legacy of local decision making presents a dismal scene when it comes to articulating and achieving interests of the rural poor in Pakistan. There has been a successive process of social exclusion of the peasants, workers, women and minorities and neglect of this huge majority has been a matter of practical discrimination. Even when the state laws allowed poor to survive, the social hierarchies would shun any possibility of their progress.

Economically the country has been offering less to the social development, which meant pro-poor investment. So the chances of growth for the poor especially in rural environment have been next to impossible.

Politically, the power distribution was rigid and allowed no space for those who could offer no capital or had lesser purchasing power in the transactions of authorities. A few from the middle and lower middle classes would dare to challenge the system but had to resort to radical extremes which would doubly marginalize them in an age of 'ideologies'.

With the demise of so-called ideologies and popular politics, there has now arisen a possibility that the rural poor can construct their own constituencies and try to enhance their social capital with informed choices, awareness of their rights and the power of networking and group cohesion.

The rights based activism would further tend to engage the rural poor with the governance systems for better negotiation rather than out rightly rejecting them and accept exclusion. The PWGs offer avenues of activism for the rural poor, where they are learning the intricacies of decision making at the local level and practically using this knowledge for the betterment of the poor.

In the coming sections, we will see how PWGs are quickly learning sectoral skills and rights-based approaches and how they are able to win investment from the local systems through their collective demands and organized actions.

The key to the PWGs' progress is organization and mobilization of rural poor: once you know what you need and you are able to collectively put pressure on the authorities in an organized and systemic manner you can better negotiate and win rights.

The PWGs' progress ahead has been delineated under the stipulated output-results of the SDGP. Here you will see how the poor has been successful in many instances without depending upon powerful local elite of their respective areas or similar bargaining agents. They are quickly learning the virtue of collective and organized activism.

2.1. Output-1

Peasants and rural workers, esp. Women and minorities, are organized & enabled to negotiate their rights & utilize their potential.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs):

1. 240 UCs PWGs (40% are exclusively women PWGs) established and 60% (New and Old groups) of them regularly meet and take initiatives on their issues.
2. In at-least 40 UCs, 1CCB (33% for women) of PWGs exists and functional (20% secure and implement development schemes)
3. All PWGs have the basic training and 60% maintain records of their activities
4. At-least 40 small livelihood schemes (1/ UC) designed and implemented
5. Knowledge & skills of m/f peasants & workers about LG plans & business improved.

Activity Chart 1: Organization of Peasants and Rural Workers, esp. Women and Minorities									
BALOCHISTAN									
60 PWGs 40+15+5 M+ F+Mixed	8 Training Workshops	8 Rights- based Training Workshops	1 Training on LG system & Gender	40 Networking Meetings	10 Exposure Trips	Formation of 32 CCBs	120 PWGs for Local Mobilization	8 District Level Convention s	IEC Material Dissemination
Members: 1185 (M) 406 (F)	46 got trained	46 got trained	28 got trained		209 Visitors	Total of 55 CCBs work now			
Functioning of Kissan Baitthaks		Small scheme support to 20 PWGs			Small scheme support to 20 PWGs		2 Media Campaign Events and 2 Press conferences		
NWFP									
81 PWGs 57+24 M+ F	1 Training Workshop	8 Rights- based Training Workshops	Networking Meetings	12 Exposure Trips	Formation of 32 CCBs	120 PWGs for Local Mobilization	8 District Level Conventions	IEC Material Dissemination	
Members: 1468 (M) 594 (F)	Trainees: 38 (M) 22 (F)	Trainees: 172 (M) 20 (F)	Trainees: 220 (M) 76 (F)	Visitors: 211 (M) 12 (F)	28 PWGs converted to CCBs	Participants: Male:451 Female:162	Participants: 403 (M) 153 (F)		
3 small schemes implemented, 4 in pipeline.			4 Exposure Trips			Total Participants in media Events: 46			
PUNJAB									
60 PWGs	2 Training Workshops	8 Rights- based Training Workshops	1 Training on LG system & Gender	40 Networking Meetings	36 Exposure Trips	Formation of 40 CCBs	120 PWGs for Local Mobilization	20 District Level Convention s	IEC Material Dissemination
Members 1620 (M) 480 (F)	Trainees: 65 (M) 37 (F)	Trainees: 40 (M) 35 (F)	Trainees: 19 (M) 8 (F)	Trainees: 1246 (M) 385 (F)	Visitors: 364 (M) 112 (F)			Participants : 1400 (M) 140 (F)	
Functioning of Kissan Baitthaks		7 Schemes identified			4 exposure visits		44 events including 2 press conferences		
SINDH									
55 PWGs 6 Women PWGs	2 Training Workshops	2 Rights- based Training Workshops	1 Training on LG system & Gender	18 Networking Meetings	15 Exposure Trips	Formation of 34 CCBs	69 PWGs for Local Mobilization	9 District Level Convention s	IEC Material Dissemination
Members 30-35 Each						16 Projects Submitted			
Functioning of Kissan Baitthaks			4 exposure visits			2 press conferences on Sindh tenancy Act			

IN BALOCHISTAN, 60 PWGs are working which include 40 male, 15 female and 5 mixed groups. All these 60 groups raise voices on their issues and are actively participating in advocacy campaigns. Total number of male members is 1,185 and women are 406. All the groups are well-organized.

10 groups were formed in 8 UCs. After 5 PWGs had been instituted at UC level in 10 districts, the task was given of forming other PW groups was given to DPOs, which conducted meetings with DFGs and already existing PWGs to identify the new UCs and villages.

In district Gwadar the 6 groups were formed in 4 UCs because of the vast lay-out of the area and due to long distances of UC Shadoband & Doria.

1 Training on sectoral skills was conducted at Quetta on "Crops Management" and another was held in Gwadar for Dist Kech's & Gwadar's PWGs on "Advocacy & Lobbying" Because of this 34 male and 12 female PWG members are trained and have started lobbying with donors and GLAs and other networks. Their communication has visible improved and leadership qualities developed.

2 workshops were conducted on rights education at the provincial level resulting in capacity building of PWGs and their members are trained. It is encouraging that they are now politicized enough to articulate and aggregate their interests because of the rights education activities. A total of 34 male and 12 PWGs' members and partners have benefitted from these initiatives and started struggling on their basic human rights. Their knowledge and awareness on human rights have increased and showing up in their collective actions.

Trainings on LG system and gender sensitization was also provided to the PWGs. Basic knowledge of 28 (24 male & 4 female) peasants increased and it is hoped that it would build their trust upon LG system through informed activism They have already started conducting meetings with Nazims and are raising their issues in a friendly atmosphere developed in between ERs and PWGs. They are also approaching concerned departments with open minds and easy access that was unimaginable. There were previously mental barriers between the officials and rural poor but because of perpetual insights into the system the scenario has been changed with the inception of PWGs.

Due to these trainings, number of meetings has also taken place with the concerned government departments and women PWGs. Conversion of these bodies into CCBs has further eased out the process of negotiating rights with the authorities.

A training of networks was conducted on "Advocacy Networking and Strategic Planning" 27 participants attended it. During the sessions, the network's strategy was also framed. At district level, these networks are working on issues like the water crises, Meerani dam's poor planning and sea erosion, etc. Three members from each district are also part of the Provincial Network. It was resolved that the networks would formally assemble on quarterly basis in Quetta and would also hold a rally and press conference regarding survival based issues.

Networking meetings were also held in all districts among CCBs and donors, which brought best results in terms of submitting proposals and getting projects. In focused UCs

the staff members from provincial team held these networking meetings with the stakeholders.

In focused UCs networking meetings took place with PWGs, partners and ERs that was followed by consultation with the members of Committees. After negotiations Nazims of each focused UC took special initiatives to develop and submit schemes not only to the LG & GLAs but with other donors at district level such as BRSP and other government departments. UC Nazim in Mastung got funds from BRSP worth PKR 2,000,000/- and the same Nazim got financial support amounting to PKR 24,000,000/- for computer section of the local Girls' College. In Kallat a village council was sanctioned a transformer for their village by the district Nazim. In Gwadar, CCB Doria and CCB Surbandar was granted funds for public library and primary school's building. For the library in UC Doria the total expenditure incurred was PKR 180,000/, whereas, 80 % (PKR 144,000) of the budget was contributed by the DTCE and rest of 20% (36,000) was pooled by the CCB. The Amount for building in Surbandar was PKR 50,000/, which included a CCB contribution of PKR 10,000/. In Loralai the CCBs got four projects by PIDS.

10 exposure visits took place which hosted 203 PWG male and 6 female members. The list includes:

- From Zhob to Ziarat at agriculture farms
- To a research center (district Mastung)
- Visit to a cattle-pan farm (district Nasirabad)
- Visits to 2 UCs (district Kalat)
- From Satakzai village to Karta village (district Bolan)
- From Kech to Gwadar
- From Killi Dur Muhammad and Gharib abad to village Kurak (district Sibi)
- From Gharib Abad, Killi Dur Muhammad and Karak to Afzaishi Bagh Dahadar (Sibi) From Noshki to UCs Dashti Goran and Killi Malshori (Kalat)
- Visit of "Agriculture Research Farm" (district Loralai), where Mr. Rasheed Khan the agriculturist, briefed the visitors regarding importance of BM technology.

IN NWFP, 57 male and 24 (40%) female PWGs are in place. These groups are busy demanding for their issues and rights/entitlements.

Skill-based training workshops have prompted in these bodies knowledge about basic agriculture practices, advanced agriculture technology, water management and resource generation. Rights-based trainings imparted knowledge regarding basic human rights, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and UN Charter. They learnt about their basic rights and its violations in the framework of international and national legal standards. Participants also learnt how to report human rights violations.

Linkages for PWGs were established with local councils (UC, Tehsil, District), CCBs, support organizations such as Marie Stopes Society (MSS), Literacy For All (LFA), Malakand Rural Development Project (MRDP), National Commission for Human

Development (NCHD), Barani Area Development Project (BADP), Sarhad Rural Support Program (SRSP), Trust for Voluntary Organization (TVO), Strengthening Livestock Support Project (SLSP). All of them agreed on all possible support to PWGs

Knowledge and skills of PWGs were improved regarding cattle breeding, care and treatment of cows, buffaloes, and poultry birds etc and about services of various government departments and institutions.

Exposure trips provided opportunity in sharing of knowledge and experiences among the PWG members and enhanced their mutual interaction for personal and professional development.

Training was also imparted to PWGs on the formation and registration of CCBs and to write project proposals. In the same vein, a total of 28 PWGs were converted into CCBs and were registered with social welfare departments.

Converted PWGs were granted project funding worth PKR 2,670,000 from district government and other local sources for 6 schemes both in general and focused districts for street pavement, link roads, water pools, tube wells, irrigation channel and reforestation.

With enhanced skills, PWGs members have also started taking part in various events such as seminars, rallies, training workshops, press conferences and networking meetings to safeguard interests of the urban poor.

Through public conventions PWGs raised specific issues and problems of the rural poor, such as non-availability of quality seeds & pesticides, water for irrigation, health & hygiene, education and representation in various local forums & district government. As a result of these conventions Agriculture & Irrigation Department in Mardan, Education Departments in District Swabi & Peshawar, Barani Area Development Project (BADP) in District Kohat, Livestock Departments in D. I.Khan & Haripur have started facilitating PWGs member and are trying to resolve their issues.

Linkages with line departments through organized action have brought out exemplary results in some locations. Livestock Department organized its ever first vaccination camp in the history of the area due to efforts made by local PWGs. In the same district Agriculture Department distributed 2450 Kg of wheat seed to PWGs members.

Education Departments in Swabi and Peshawar have agreed to construct schools in selected union councils/villages of PWGs.

Barani Area Development Project (BADP) in District Kohat distributed goats and poultry birds to PWGs members for improvement in their livelihoods.

Strengthening Livestock Support Project (SLSP) & Livestock Departments in D. I. Khan and Haripur distributed poultry birds to PWGs members for income increase.

As a result of the initial meetings with ERs and local people, PWGs members were successful in district Haripur, Dir Lower, D.I.Khan and Mardan to obtain commitment for provision of space for Kisan Bethaks.

In district D.I.Khan PWGs in UC Maddi, UC Ghandi Ashiq and UC Gara Esa Khan have specified local Bethaks for discussions and usually sit there to talk about their issues.

Moreover, 3 small schemes were implemented in 03 union councils of district D. I. Khan. Another 4 other schemes for Lower Dir, Haripur, Charssadda and Mardan are in pipeline and waited for agreements.

Peasants and workers shared and exchanged their problems with each other. They have also enhanced their learning about best agriculture practices and advanced agriculture technology.

Interaction with media have resulted in highlighting issues related to rights of peasants, workers, rural women and minorities alongwith putting themes like representation at decision making forums, water channels, and water supply were put to spotlight and discussed with the media personnel.

Themes of training, dialogue and mobilization events:

- Roles & Responsibilities of PWGs and its Importance for Democratic Governance
- Strengthening PWGs and Promoting their Rights
- Coordination between PWGs, ERs and Support Organizations/local donors
- Problems & Issues of PWGs and Role of PWGs in Democracy & Good Governance
- Introduction of SAP-PK
- Basic Human Rights and its Violation with Special Reference to International and National Instruments
- Local Government
- Women Councilors
- Roles & Responsibilities of GLAs
- Information and Services Delivery to Local Community Members
- Roles & Responsibilities of CCBs in Development at Grassroots' Level
- Registration Process of CCBs
- Schemes Development
- **SECTORAL ISSUES:** Agriculture, Livestock, Soil Conservation, Sanitation & Irrigation, Water Crisis, Water Channel, Seeds, Fertilizers, Lack of Machinery like tractors etc. and fare of electricity, Load-shedding etc, Pesticides, Farming Methods, Govt. Policies for Farmers, Gravity Flow Schemes Haripur, Wapda Cables on Agri Land in Bannu, Small Gates on fluid water flow locations D.I.Khan, Additional Kisan seats in Assemblies demanded in Lower Dir, Electricity/Load-shedding Problem in Peshawar & the rest of districts, Water Channels & Lower Quality Seeds in target districts.

IN PUNJAB, Most of the PWGs are taking initiatives to solve their problems. There has been increased demand for sectoral skill trainings at the grassroots' level. It was observed during the rights-based workshops that most of the participants are aware of their rights but they for the first time learnt about international legal standards, charters or declarations. It is hoped that they can now relate their rights with legal standards and can clearly see right as legal requirement rather than just moral ones. This has also prompted keenness to learn more about basic rights.

Through training, participants also learnt about importance of LGS and improved their skills after learning modern techniques in agriculture.

It can now be safely stated that all PWGs are trained and 50% active. Sectoral Skill training has improved their skills and they are now getting benefits in their everyday agricultural practices.

It is still inspiring that linkages among PWGs, DPOs and other institutions have been set in place. PWGs were also able to get them registered as CCBs and were granted funds. Additionally district-level coalitions of PWGs have been instituted to give a boost to pro-poor action in rural settings of Punjab.

Themes of training sessions through-out the year are as following:

- Livestock, Advocacy and Networking
- Basic Human Rights and Instruments like UDHR, CRC, CEDAW
- Leadership Skills
- Advocacy Tools
- Importance of LG System and Roles and Responsibilities of ERs
- Significance of Networking
- Primacy of Research and Exposure to Institutes
- Soil and Water Testing
- Livestock
- Functions of CCBs
- Project Proposal Writing for CCBs
- Importance of Coalitions and Networks

IN SINDH, 55 mixed PWGs have been formed with membership of 30-35 per group. Out of these 6 are exclusively Women PWGs.

A series of training and dialogue activities have facilitated the PWGs turning into potent force to articulate and work for the interests of the rural poor. Some of these activities are:

- 2 training workshops organized on resource generation and advocacy
- 2 workshops organized on rights education
- 1 workshop organized on LG system: rules, rights and procedures
- 18 meetings held
- 15 exposure visits

- 34 CCBs formed.
- 1 training workshop organized on proposal writing
- 69 PWGs participated in local mobilization
- 9 district level conventions
- 1 Kissan Bethak instituted and is active in Nawabshah
- 2 press conferences for the campaigns on Sindh Tenancy Act
- Needs assessed in 13 UCs

PWGs regularly meet and take initiatives on their issues. The PWG Wali Muhammad Jat, Matyari, has successfully negotiated with the Nazim for construction of a bridge which was destructed due to heavy rains. The bridge has now been constructed.

The members of PWG Bagri Colony, Matyari, met with Taluka and District Nazim for establishing a community center for minorities and construction of street pavements. Both have been built.

PWG Sahib Sama, Matyari, initiated corresponding and met with the district government and officials of line department for linking main road to the village. After efforts of 6 months, link road was approved.

PWG Sabir Bheel, Umerkot contacted with the UC Nazim for school building. After continuous efforts taken by the PWG school building was approved.

PWG Hur Mujahid, Jaccobabad, has coordinated with the District and Union Council for placing CCBs' block in the village. In this regard the PWG has conducted meetings with the UC Nazim and District Nazima for approval of the scheme, which was duly accepted by the authorities.

PWG Dadwah, Nawabshah, initiated its efforts for construction of a link road and primary school. They conducted meetings with the District Nazima for the purpose. The primary school has been established in the village and link road constructed.

The PWG Sachal, Nawabshah, held meeting with District Nazima for provision of electricity in the village. As a result, village has got electricity.

PWG Jalal Noonari, Sanghar organized meetings with the Taluka and UC Nazims and demanded streetlight in village, which they received.

PWG Haji Mhammad Ayoob Khaskheli, Sanghar, held three meetings with the Taluka Nazim and demanded for the safe drinking water. Taluka Nazim approved 5 hand pumps.

PWG Ahamed Khaskheli, Sanghar, made efforts for financial compensation to the 10 peasants whose houses were ablaze. Applications were moved by the PWG to the Taluka Nazim and an amount of Rs. 40,000 was disbursed to ten effected peasants. Besides, Taluka council was also approached by the PWG to support 12 widows and each got a financial help of Rs.3, 000.

PWG of Village Punhal Syal contacted Sindh Rural Support Organization [SRSO] and got scheme of Tube well. PWG requested the UC Nazim to hold public meetings. Through meeting with UC Nazim, 3 Km link road and new electricity transformer were approved. PWG also protected a women who was alleged as Kari and talked with the two families in village and settled the dispute.

PWGs received their basic training on resource generation and advocacy and Networking. After training workshops members of PWG Bilawal Khoso, Matyari, met the officials of WPADA for over-billing of electricity and officials ensured of reduction in bills.

PWG Wali Muhammad Jat, Matyari, protested outside the press club Matyari against excessive electricity billing, which resulted in a commitment by WAPDA for correct billing.

PWGs Mitho Khan Lashari, Dadu, initiated local advocacy action to erect water treatment plant from the BHP multinational company exploring oil and gas in the area. The company decided to withdraw financial assistance. The PWG members held protest rallies against decision of the company, which has now agreed to revert it.

The village Bhrum Khairo, Nawabshah, was suffering by severe water logging since a couple of the years. Water logging had degraded the agricultural land of the area. To resolve the issue, PWG started corresponding with local officials of WAPDA and Irrigation department, however, no positive response was received. Finally, PWG organized the villagers and people of adjacent villages to conduct protest against the WAPDA and irrigation departments.

A series of protests rallies were demonstrated in Nawabshah. The officials of both departments took notice of the problem. After negotiation and meetings, the line departments managed to drain saline water into the outfall drainage system.

PWGs received basic rights education. The training supported to identify and check violation of rights. This greatly supported them to carry on village level mobilization around the issues. In some districts PWGs took initiatives regarding their right to vote by passing on their learning to the peasants and workers.

Knowledge and skills of peasants and rural workers about LG system was also improved. The exposure of PWGs at different levels prompted exchange of experiences, understanding of issues and learning about networking between peasants and workers from different villages and districts.

Moreover, 34 CCBs registered and functional. All of them received basic training on proposal writing. 16 projects were submitted. Rahbar CCB of Village Sahib Sama has implemented scheme to install hand pumps amounting to Rs. 200,000. CCB Costal of village Gul Chang Chak No. 11 completed scheme of earth work boundary. This scheme amounts to Rs. 500,000. The other schemes of 13 CCBs have been submitted to the

district government. The Sujag CCB of village Guhram Panhwar implemented scheme of solid waste management worth PKR 300,000. In Sanghar CCB of Village Easan Chandio has got approval of her scheme to construct a community hall with the funding of Rs. 1,130,000. Meanwhile, Gareebnawaz CCB of village Ghulam Shah Bhutto has got approval of scheme of 40 latrines in the village and Palio Leghari. It amounts to Rs. 719,000.

PWGs also got started local mass mobilization campaigns in rural population around their issues within the framework of the LGS.

District level conventions were also organized in which a great number of peasants and worker participated. Before each convention, mobilization meetings were held in the villages. The conventions have proved to be an important tool in people to people interaction.

Kissan Bethak. District Kissan was another avenue of meaningful collective interaction where PWGs could hold their regular meetings and had conversations to address their issues.

Two press conferences were held in Hyderabad on SAP-PK's campaign for Sindh Tenancy Act. Peasants Day was observed by organizing rallies on land reforms and the Sindh Tenancy Act in 9 districts of Sindh.

2.2. Output-2

Functioning of elected representatives and local government institutions improved and are more responsive to PWGs' interests.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs):

1. Atleast in 12 UCs-3 in each Province, all structure given in LGS are formed and 1-UC/ province functional.
2. In 16 focused UCs (50% of total UCs) all ERs (especially peasants, workers and minorities) received basic training on LG.
3. Atleast in 2UCs/province pro-poor development schemes submitted by ERs in Councils
4. In 16 focused UCs (4UCs/province) peasant and workers representatives effectively take part in council session
5. No of issue based advocacy by ERs conducted in 16 focused UCs
6. Pro-poor budget submitted and discussed by the councils in 16 focused UCs

Activity Chart 2: Enhancing Responsiveness of the LG System to PWGs' interests

BALOCHISTAN					
ERs of 3 new UCs and 3-Councils	Formation of 4UC level monitoring and other councils	32 ERs in 4 focused UC were oriented on LGS	4 Dialogues in Focused UCs	60 ERs, 16 Councils, 40 CCBs of PWGs trained	20 Events of Political Schools Trainees: 300 (M)/ 50 (F)
1 training for Technical support to project holding CCBs		Help establish database in 4 UCs		Follow-ups of 4 ERs, councils and committee to identify gaps and provide need based technical support.	
5 Dialogues focusing PWGs and GOs		Support of 4 ERs/ councils for networking and advocacy		5 forums, discussions and dialogues	
				4 policy seminars on policy issues	
NWFP					
130 TNA forms distributed & Collected in 30 newly selected UCs	178 ERs trained	34 Participants on CCBs	GLAs 09 ERs 07 DRC 10 Total: 26 trained on Transparency & Accountability	Political Schools Trainees: 416 386 (M)/ 30 (F)	
training for Technical support to project holding CCBs: Trainees 34 (Male: 26 Female: 08)		Database gathering from 10 districts		Meetings with 56 ERs in 5 focused districts were conducted to identify gaps and provide need based technical support.	
3 Dialogues focusing linkages of PWGs & GOs /Participants:146		Support of ERs/ councils for networking and advocacy Participants 50 (GLAs 13, ERs 27, DRC 10)		5 forums, discussions and dialogues Participants:347 Male: 295, Female: 52	
				5 policy seminars on policy issues Participants (Dir Lower: 35/ Haripur: 45/ Mardan: 37/ Charssadda:56, D.I.Khan: -)	
PUNJAB					
Capacity Building of 54 (M) and 18 (F) ERs on LGS	15 UCs have completed the process of formation of committees (45 M+ 16 F, ERs)	34 Councilors trained about LGS and their roles and responsibilities	231 Councilors participated in interaction sessions	Political Schools Trainees: 882 including 684 PWG members	
Training for Technical support to project holding CCBs (#: 30)			Information needs were collected from model UCs. Participation: 44		
Dialogues on PWGs & GOs (Participants: 330 (M))/ 48 (F)					
SINDH					
Knowledge-base Assessment in 11 UCs	Formation of 6 UC level monitoring and other councils	1 Training Workshop organized on LGS	6 meetings apart from informal interaction on LGS	1 Training Workshop on Pro-Poor Budgeting	21 Study Circles under the Political Schools
7 Dialogues in focused UCs on linking PWGs and GOs		5 meetings / dialogues for networking and advocacy		9 forums, discussions and dialogues on LG	
				5 Tehsil level seminars on local issues related with Sindh Tenancy Act , Land Reforms and Royalty of natural resources	

IN BALOCHISHTAN, elected local bodies are becoming more responsive to the demands of PWGs. For that, 8 meetings were conducted in all focused UCs. Two trainings took place in Quetta & Gwadar. Four dialogues took place in focus UCs and two training workshops in Quetta in which 59 participants took part. 20 events were organized by the PPO in focused districts and the membership of political school is 300 male and 50 female. A press conference was arranged by ERs and SAP-PK's provincial team which was followed by the ceremony to present awards to the ERs for best performance.

One training workshop as conducted for the project holding CCBs took place. Dialogues were conducted with PWGs networks, ERs & GLAs in Kalat, Kech, Mastung, Gwadar

and Zhob. 4 dialogues were conducted in all focused UCs and dialogues between ERs and the Nazims took place, while 5 seminars were held.

During meetings the coordination gaps between ERS and PWGs were highlighted and their causes were thrashed out. The stakeholders got awareness on LGS and its structure and got knowledge about key reasons of gap between ERs and communities. Similarly, ERs became aware about their role in decision making, their responsibilities and rights and aspirations of the communities.

The systemic interaction of PWGs and elected local bodies showed positive results. The Nazims and ERs agreed to form and functionalize monitoring and other committees. They also ensured due representation of labour councilors, lady councilors and minorities in the committees.

The project stakeholders are increasingly becoming educated about importance of monitoring committees in LGS and it was felt that since these committees are not deemed lucrative they can be fully utilized by the PWGs in its triumph to create a pro-poor politics at the local level.

Training was conducted for the ERs of 4 focused UCs which was attended by 32 participants. They got aware of their role in best way and to utilize their position for the betterment of marginalized classes they represent.

PWGs were sensitized about implemented schemes by UC members and about role of beholding committees in the LGS. Discussion about responsibilities and functioning of beholding committees took place. It was also discussed that how sustainable network and advocacy links amongst ERs and PWGs could be built.

The participant observed in future via this system of thousands of public representatives will be able to lead the nation. It was also hoped that through these bodies, natives of the area will become responsive to development schemes and concept of participatory approach.

The CCBs formed by the PWGs were also able to plan projects and take initiatives to build linkages with other donors.

Two training workshops for representatives of the GLAs and committee members were also held in which 60 participants learnt about importance of transparency and accountability in LGS and their role in promoting it.

Discussions were also held on formation of committees, role of councilors in committees, and grant of schemes for development. Lack of coordination amongst elected representatives was also tackled.

Political representatives and intellectuals provided current information to the PWGs through study circle and lectures.

5 dialogues were also conducted on LGS and discussions revolved around aspects of civic issues like regarding health, worst condition of hospitals and lack of medicine, sanitation, education, water and other necessities related to social, political and economical rights of minorities, farmers, women and fishermen. Follow up mechanism and information sharing between the PWGs and elected bodies were also addressed. It was said during the discussions that with huge unemployment rates, lack of modern technology in the field of agriculture, economical condition of people will not be improved

4 dialogues were conducted in Focus UCs as follow up round table meeting between network members and Irrigation department and ERs. 5 forums were held in focused UCs through which the peasants and workers were mobilized on the issue of Meerani dam, under ground water depletion, water resource management and the effective service delivery. Seminar activities highlighted policy issues, which included the Meerani Dam in Kech, underground water depletion in Mastung and Kallat, sea erosion in Gwadar and unavailability of clean drinking water in Zhob.

IN NWFP, PPO distributed TNA forms to all its district partners to assess training needs of UCs and ERs. They also briefed DRPs on how to collect the required information. The task was amicably done and it is hoped that it would direct an appropriate policy for future action. Now the training needs of UCs & ERs have been clearly marked and PPO prepared and shared a TNA draft.

Training activities during the reporting period have built capacity of monitoring committee members and they are now more equipped with realization of their functions and importance within the LGS.

The need of check and balance and internal monitoring system through monitoring mechanism was also imparted. As a result of this training ERs from SDGP selected UCs, in focused districts learnt about their roles and responsibilities.

The training events have also resulted in relationship of PWG members with the elected representatives. It is envisaged this interaction will go a long way to promote causes of the rural poor.

Elected representatives at three tiers of LG system were also able to link with each other. Training participants were also able to enhance their level of understanding on CCBs, its schemes and planning and budgeting.

In addition PWGs members started making efforts for conversion of PWGs to CCBs. This was done with facilitation from the social welfare & community development departments.

System of transparency and accountability was also introduced to ERs, Councils/ Committee members and representatives from GLAs.

PWGs and active community members got political education and learnt about political parties, democracy, democratic governance, constitutions, LGS, vote importance and human rights".

On the skills' side, the PWG members learnt about Project Cycle Management (PCM), registration of CCBs, proposal writing for CCBs, role of ERs in PCM.

It was still encouraging that the UC database is now in place.

PWGs have analyzed activity performance of ERs, Councils and Committees and identified gaps in their working. They are also clear on pros and cons of LGS. Some of the gaps include lack of coordination between the policy makers at the centre and the implementers at districts, lack of representations of all segments of society in policy making processes & procedures, violation of set rules and incompatibility of policies with desired needs of the public.

The dialogue activities linked PWGs with CCBs, monitoring committees, NGOs, and GLAs. PWGs are now directly interacting with GLAs and district government. Women and minorities' participation in decision making processes have been a hallmark achievement of the PWG work. Functioning of monitoring and other social services committees have been thoroughly discussed and the PWGs have now access to information at UC, Tehsil and district council.

In terms of assessment of the activities, interest on part of Union Nazims and Councilors was noteworthy in the formation of monitoring committees. They are keen to make the system transparent and ensure accountability. However the ERs and committee members lack basic knowledge about LGS. Training sessions have been very fruitful for PWGs, ERs and CCBs/CBOs members to enhance their learning. Locally elected representatives have very low level of understanding of LGS. Coordination between district partners, GLAs and ERs and their interest for the betterment of PWGs have made it possible that results at this output level can be achieved. Moreover, involvement of Nazims & Naib Nazims in networking and other mobilization meetings developed their interest to speed up their efforts for effective implementation of the SDGP.

Themes addressed during the reporting year include:

- Monitoring Committees under LGS, their functions and Importance
- Role and responsibilities of ERs under the LGS
- Planning, pro-poor budgeting and schemes planning
- System of transparency & accountability under the LGS
- Governance, democracy, human rights, peace & security, WTO, capitalism vs. communism
- Project development & proposal writing
- Irrigation, livestock, water management, seeds, pesticides and services delivery role of GLAs
- Issues/problems of elected representative and GLAs

- Local level issues of PWGs including drinking water supply, water channels, seeds bank, quality pesticides, wages, health issues, negligence of remote area on part of GLAs and reforms for betterment
- GLAs' performance
- Budgeting and its hurdles such as political influence and financial resources

IN PUNJAB, Capacity building needs were determined and ERs were orientated about LG system roles and responsibilities and monitoring committees.

Themes of training and dialogue activities revolved around roles and responsibilities of ERs, monitoring committees and proper budgeting. Issues of LGS and farmers were also addressed.

IN SINDH, UC level monitoring committees, village and neighborhood committees and SCCs were formed and PWGs member were included in training activities.

Women Councilor Ms. Sofia Khaskheli of Matyari district got training from the SAP-PK on scheme development, rules and procedure of LG system. She debated women issues in UC session. Her scheme of sewing machine distribution among the poor rural women was approved.

Female members of district council Firdos Abro debated in the budget sessions for allocating the maximum budget for women development schemes in the districts.

Nazim of UC Drigh Bala, Dadu Mr. Sikandar Khan Leghari submitted scheme of water supply amounting to RS 4, 400,000 for village Bazmal Khoso in the district council, which has been approved.

Mr. Ghafar Shah a labor councilor demanded provision of safe drinking water in the villages of the UC # 10. Hand pumps were provided. In Umerkot district peasant councilor discussed and debated peasant and workers' issues in the UC sessions.

Fatima Chang a female counselos from Rahuki, Badin, attended various trainings of SDGP. She discussed the unavailability of waiting rooms for women on the main roads. The UC has constructed 8 waiting rooms on different spots on the main roads.

Naweed Ahmad Mangrio, councilor district council, Jacobabad got approved the scheme of CC Block for village Qadir Bux.

After participating in training on LG system and rules and procedures and pro-poor budgeting, Union Council Bhetoar has initiated to form Village Councils in 10 villages. Education and health committees have been activated in the UC.

A general trend of regular meetings/dialogues between PWGs, ERs and committee, also continued. 6 meetings/dialogues were held in which PWGs discussed local agenda, feedbacks, findings and reflection on development schemes, monitoring etc.

Training workshop was organized on Pro-poor Budgeting. Development schemes submitted and approved in the UC Khariro in Umerkot, UC Matyari in Matyari, UC Bhetur district Ghotki, UC Chanesar I in Nawabshah and UC Moondar and Drigh Bala in district Dadu. UC Rahuki in Badin has passed pro-poor budget package of Rs. 3500000.

Basic education was given on democracy and governance, local government systems, political systems, people's movements and Elections to the ERs, PWGs and activists.

Dialogues were also organized in the focused districts on the issues of peoples' rights, LGS, role of LG in rural development and service delivery at the local level. District level dialogues were arranged on the issues of ERs and LG related issues.

Civil Society, GLAs, ERs, peasants and workers now regularly sit together to discuss existing policies and those needed to support issues like Sindh Tenancy Act, land reforms and royalty of natural resources.

2.3. Output-3

Systems + mechanisms for effective and efficient social service delivery of selected GLAs demonstrated.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

1. Atleast 2 service delivery situation analysis and need assessment of GLAs and SSCs for focused district completed.
2. Profiles and data base of the focused district developed and published.
3. GLAs coordination meeting organized on quarterly basis in 16 focused UCs of focused districts
4. 10 long term district development plan of focused district developed.

Activity Chart 3: Improvement of Social Service Delivery

BALUCHISTAN

2 Training workshops conducted for the GLAs Representatives and SSC staff on planning, monitoring, and record keeping and reporting and support in improving organizational systems. 49 Participants from 3 districts.

2 workshops conducted for guidelines and data support for scheme development, proposal writing and linkages to resource providers/funding sources.

2 long-term district development plans

8 joint planning events organized by GLAs, NGOs, SCCs, projects and other service providers

10 networking meetings among PWGs, GLAs, and NGOs.

5 dialogues and improved coordination (joint planning) among GLAs and with LGs for promotion of reforms agenda in focused districts

10 advocacy meetings with district/provincial governments for adequate resource allocation and for provision of staff and facilities for GLAs' improved service delivery

5 talk-shows on GLAs' performance and service delivery issues in focused districts

NWFP				
1 Training workshops conducted for the GLAs Representatives and SSC staff on planning, monitoring, and record keeping and reporting and support in improving organizational systems. 22 Participants				
2 workshops conducted for guidelines and data support for scheme development, proposal writing and linkages to resource providers/funding sources. # 47.	1 long-term development plan of Model Union Council Derweish, Haripur, initiated	10 NGOs, 7 GLAs, 5 CCBs participated in joint planning events	5 joint planning sessions of PWGs, GLAs, and NGOs in focused districts	10 networking meetings among PWGs, GLAs, and NGOs with 30-35 from each target districts
dialogues and improved coordination (joint planning) among GLAs and with LGs for promotion of reforms agenda in focused districts Participants:57 (21 M+36 Female)		10 advocacy meetings with district/provincial governments for adequate resource allocation and for provision of staff and facilities for GLAs' improved service delivery	5 talk-shows on GLAs' performance and service delivery issues in focused districts Participants: 166 (139M + 27Female)	
PUNJAB				
1 workshop conducted for guidelines and data support for scheme development, proposal writing and linkages to resource providers/funding sources. Participants 30.	UC development plan initiated in 3 districts	Advocacy meeting with district/provincial governments for adequate resource allocation and for provision of staff and facilities for GLAs' improved service delivery	Talk-shows on GLAs' performance and service delivery issues Participants: 80 (65M + 5Female)	
SINDH				
1 Training Workshop on Effective Planning for Development for the GLAs Representatives and SSC staff				
5 joint planning events by GLAs, NGOs, SCCs, projects and other service providers for the purpose of synergy and synchrony	5 joint planning joint meetings – GLA, ER, PWG and SCC monitoring of service delivery.	5 networking meetings among PWGs, GLAs, and NGOs		
4 dialogues and improved coordination (joint planning) among GLAs and with LGs for promotion of reforms agenda	5 advocacy meetings with Meetings held with DCOs as well as District Nazims on lack of staff and material in the schools, BHUs and RHCs	5 talk-shows on GLAs' performance and service delivery issues. Elected and non-elected officials also participated.		

There have been efforts to support system and mechanism for efficient service delivery by the GLAs.

IN BALOCHISTAN, in this regard, representatives of GLAs and SSC staff got together in workshops from three districts except Kech & Gwadar with a total participation of 49 persons.

In Mastung the EDO agriculture committed to provide 4 acre plants for grapes and pistachio in UC Ghulam Parenz. In Iskalku the village committee got transformer from EDO Irrigation. A training programme was also conducted for 10 DRPs on scheme development and proposal writing and the meeting of the same participants was arranged with the donor agencies working in the same districts such as Aahan Project (SMEDA). As a result of this activity the DRC persons' skills were improved and they assisted CCBs for proposal writing. District level donors and DRC persons were linked. Aahan personnel have visited Naseerabad and Sibbi districts. They are taking initiatives in all 10 districts for promoting indigenous art & craft & for the purpose of income generation.

Joint planning events among CSOs, GLAs, and Social Service Committees in all 4 UCs continued through out the year. The result is that GLAs' coordination with ERs and Network members have improved.

This networking is not ideal. But in spite of all constraints at least joint planning sessions on service delivery are being held and relevant issues highlighted at district level. The social service committees are increasingly becoming aware about their importance and role.

Linkages are built among PWGs, GLAs & NGOs. This is an on going activity and due to this activity we have got remarkable changes in some of the districts.

5 networking events took place in focused districts, in which the participants discussed about sustainable livelihood and cooperation of GLAs with PWGs. Key issues were highlighted in the presence of government officials that concerned PWGs, minorities and women. The issue of improper planning in LGS and GLAs for better service delivery system was also raised.

The talk shows took place on the suggestion of networks to hold meetings with GLAs on service delivery issues and performance of GLAs. The networks took active part in these talk shows.

IN NWFP, participants of capacity building events increased their learning regarding budget, type of budget, direct tax, indirect tax, exports/imports, export law, source of income, development and non-development expenditures and gender sensitive budgeting.

As a result PWGs, in consultation with district partners, developed proposals and submitted to SAP PK. These proposals were approved after review.

Basic data was collected from Model UC Darweish (Haripur) for the development of UC Development Plan. Many of the farmers also got membership in farms service center. Farmers can now acquire many services such as getting seeds on affordable prices.

There is also a commitment from GLAs, ERs & NGOs to support PWGs for strengthen PWGs and to address their issues.

Moreover, problems and issues of district government line agencies have been identified in 5 districts and basic information regarding target districts collected and compiled.

PWGs have developed links with GLAs, NGOs and the district government. This has been demonstrated by working in Agriculture, Livestock and Education departments, NCHD, Barani Area Development Project (BADP), Dir Area Support Project (DASP), and Strengthening Livestock Support Project (SLSP). They have facilitated PWGs in Peshawar, Haripur, Kohat, Dir Lower, Charssadda, Mardan, Swabi in terms of livestock vaccination camps, provision of education facilities, distribution of poultry birds, goats, wheat seeds, orchard trees and provision of plants for reforestation.

Meetings conducted with EDOs in focused districts for situational analysis and basic data collection was also useful. Individual meetings with Govt. EDOs were also organized and discussion took place about the role of their departments in service delivery mechanism.

Service delivery problems/issues of GLAs such as financial and human have been thoroughly discussed and highlighted through print & electronic media.

Themes addressed during the reporting period include:

- Issues and gaps in services delivery by GLAs
- Develop synergy between and among the stakeholders of the project
- GLAs performance and issues of services delivery

IN PUNJAB, within this output level issues like role of public safety commissions, brackish water and citizens' problems, and education were the center-point of training, dialogue and other events. Moreover, UC development plans were initiated in 3 districts.

IN SINDH, GLAs, NGOs & SSCs have started sharing objective of SDGP and discussed possible areas of coordination.

Interaction and Linkages among GLAs, NGOs, PWGs & SSCs have shown practical results. The PWG Wali Muhammad Jat met with NADRA official and requested for mobile camps to prepare NICs. NARDA official approved it and camped mobile unit in the village.

PGWs have been converted into CCB and smoothly got registered.

The PWG Rahooki, Badin, held meetings with NADRA officials for arranging mobile camp at the village to facilitate the poor peasants and rural workers for preparation of their NIC. Two mobile units were camped and 600 peasants and rural women received their NICs. PWG Sabir Bheel, Umerkot, also negotiated with NARDA officials for such mobile units. The camp was installed. 200 NICs were made.

PWG Mitho Khan Lashari, Dadu, has initiated a bio-gas plant in village and coordinated with livestock department for vaccination of animals. PWG of village Jalal Noonari, Sanghar, held meetings with the Sui Southern Gas Company officials for placing gas pipeline in the village. Their request was approved and the village was provided with the facility of natural gas. The same PWG also arranged mobile camps of NADRA in the village.

The PWG Ghulam Shah Bhutto, Sanghar, successfully urged NADRA to register NICs. 70 peasants and women got NICs. PWG also arranged meeting with livestock department for vaccination. 1370 animal were vaccinated. PWG Ahamed Khaskheli, Sanghar arranged mobile camp of NADRA and 100 peasants and women got NICs.

PWGs in Dadu, Nawabshah, Matyari, Ghotki, Badin, Larkana and Sanghar coordinated with the GLAs around their issues. Meetings were also held with DCOs as well as the District Nazims in various districts regarding lack of staff and material in the schools,

BHUs and RHCs. District/tehsil Nazims and Naib Nazims, DCOs, EDOs, representatives of CSOs and DPO focal person participated in the talk shows attended by the print media.

2.4. Output-4

Enhanced and more equitable participation of peasants and rural workers in local Government decision-making and accountability (re: policies, plans & implementation) supported.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

1. 40 Sensitization and education session on venues/spaces for peoples participation in decision making and accountability are conducted in focused UCs for PWGs
2. Joint monitoring of development activities by PWGs and ERs conducted in 12 focused UCs
3. Annual report of focused UCs (incl. UC activities/decisions and score-card results) prepared and disseminated
4. 12 dialogues among PWGs, ERs & Nazims organized for feedback on UC activities.
5. Atleast 20% of monitoring committees in 12 focused UCs have members from PWGs (50% of them have women representation)
6. 12 open hearing and peoples assembly sessions organized.
7. Corrective actions taken (incl. policy suggestions) in 50% focused UCs by UC/GLAs on the basis of monitoring reports and citizen feedback (through dialogues, media reports, awami tribunals, etc)

Activity Chart 4: Equitable Participation of the Rural Poor in Decision Making					
BALOCHISTAN					
10 Sensitization events for PWGs on issues & possibilities vis-à-vis LG system & governance.	3 monitoring guidelines and training modules NATIONAL	1 Training for focused UCs on-the-job monitoring of schemes & reporting		4 follow-up events of UCs' and GLAs' decisions/orders by PWGs	
Participation of PWGs' representatives in 16 UC sessions	UCs supported in all districts in publicizing and communication of monitoring outcomes On-going	Technical support to 200 candidates of peasants and rural workers.	Observed elections in UCs	Facilitate PWGs to collectively negotiate with political parties for general elections.	Monitor 2007 elections and strategize for LG elections
40 community based mobilization meetings/ forums in which 548 male and 139 women took part	1 dialogue with leaders of the political parties and workers	Support responsive and equitable decision-making by 4 Meetings	5 UC level "Awami tribunals" (peoples tribunals)	5 district- level talk shows on local electronic / print media	5 UC level "Shadow Awami Parliaments"
NWFP					
Sensitization events for PWGs on issues & possibilities vis-à-vis LG system & governance. Total Participants:192 Male:172 + Female: 20	3 monitoring guidelines and training modules NATIONAL	1 Training for focused UCs on-the-job monitoring of schemes & reporting Total Participants: 28 Male: 20 / Female: 08		4 follow-up events of UCs' and GLAs' decisions/orders by PWGs Total Participants: 437 Male: 355 / Female: 82	
Participation of PWGs'	UCs supported in 10	Technical support	Observed elections in	Citizen Forums	Monitor 2007

Peasant and Worker Groups: Annual Consolidated Report (Jan – Dec 2007)

representatives in all focused districts Total Participants: 277 Male: 269 / Female: 08	districts in publicizing and communication of monitoring outcomes On-going	to 200 candidates of peasants and rural workers.	UCs	during and after elections in which 226 people participated	elections and strategize for LG elections
Community based mobilization meetings/ forums Total Participants: 5590 Male: 1395 Female: 4195	1 dialogue with leaders of the political parties and workers	5 UC level "Awami tribunals" (peoples tribunals) Participants:207 Male: 153 Female: 54		5 district- level talk shows on local electronic/print media Participants:200 163 (M) / 37 (F)	UC level "Shadow Awami Parliaments" Total Participants:205
PUNJAB					
Sensitization events for PWGs on issues & possibilities vis-à-vis LG system & governance. 301 participated.	3 monitoring guidelines and training modules NATIONAL	Training for focused UCs on-the-job monitoring of schemes & reporting Participants: 40		4 follow-up events of UCs' and GLAs' decisions/orders by PWGs Participants: 140	
Participation of PWGs' representatives in UC sessions Participants: 60	UCs supported in all districts in publicizing and communication of monitoring outcomes On-going	Technical support to 200 candidates of peasants and rural workers.	Observed elections in UCs	Citizen Forums during and after elections in which 153 people participated	Monitor 2007 elections and strategize for LG elections
345 community based mobilization meetings/ forums in which 2751 people took part. 2041 were members of Members of PWGs/ DRCs/ DFGs/ or Networks.	1 dialogue with leaders of the political parties and workers	Support responsive and equitable decision-making		5 district- level talk shows on Mast FM 103	UC level "Shadow Awami Parliaments" in which 892 people participated.
SINDH					
4 Sensitization events for PWGs on issues & possibilities vis-à-vis LG system & governance.	3 monitoring guidelines and training modules NATIONAL	1 Training for focused UCs on-the-job monitoring of schemes & reporting		11 follow-up sessions of UCs' and GLAs' decisions/orders by PWGs	
Participation of 9 PWGs' in UC sessions	UCs supported in all districts in publicizing and communication of monitoring outcomes On-going	Technical support to 200 candidates of peasants and rural workers.	Observed elections in 4 districts	11 Citizen forums during and after elections	Monitor 2007 elections and strategize for LG elections
114 community based mobilization meetings/forums on aspects of democracy and good governance	Support responsive and equitable decision-making (3 UC Sessions)		5 UC level "Awami tribunals" (peoples tribunals)	4 UC level peoples' assemblies on rural development and role of elected representatives.	

Integration with local decision making is one of the key objectives of PWGs. Details of intervention to achieve this result is given ahead:

IN BALOCHISTAN. Many training workshops and sessions were part of the effort to achieve this output. PWGs were able to learn about procedures of the LGS and how they can solve problems of the rural poor. Skills in monitoring schemes and reporting for CCBs were also imparted. It was observed that follow ups and analyses of GLAs are hundred percent if sufficient number of general public are aware of their responsibilities

and rights. After Sheets for analyzing, the performance and services of GLAs were also prepared and the members resolved to have regular meetings with government representatives.

PWG members were encouraged to participate in UC sessions and be responsive to the working of LGS. PWGs characterized their problems and recommended for betterment in UC sessions in all four districts and also raised their issues. They submitted demand for the provision of funds for small schemes to CCBs.

Before the LG elections there was training held in all focus district to sensitize the activists about role of media, judiciary, administration and the parliament. They were educated about importance of their votes and concept of democratic governance.

All the PWG members worked as observers. One DFG member in Kallat, Aziz Mughal, contested the elections.

A dialogue was also conducted with political parties before elections in which APDM participated and recorded their concerns at SPO office.

The representatives of GLAs and ERs sat together with the PWGs in networking efforts. Awami tribunals took place on the issues of underground water depletion, Meerani Dam & Sea Erosion. As a result of, water tank in Kili Bashirzai Neghar, district Kallat, was announced by UC Nazim, costing PKR 1,000,000/-

Talk shows on district level issues with the collaboration of networks have also taken place, which were duly covered by media.

Tehsil and district Nazims were also conveyed issues of the rural poor through public assemblies. PWGs were also able to convert into CCBs. Furthermore, meetings with agriculture deptt. were held for better productivity and access of services. In Gwadar the fisher men groups realized that they must put their demands before the fisheries deptt. that they did and advocated to improve poor health facilities in the fishermen's Basti in Gwadar.

They also supported new leadership from their own class and community.

IN NWFP, Local issues of PWGs such as electricity, clean drinking water supply, irrigation and access to markets were brought to the limelight. They also learnt about internal monitoring system/mechanism, and action plan for monitoring in order to measure the performance of organizations as well as of individuals.

Developing monitoring formats and the methods of its reporting were also shared with activists during the training sessions.

It was observed that elected representatives and GLAs are now taking notices of PWGs issues and problems.

PWGs were also successful in getting permission of sitting in the UC meetings in the model union councils. Women participation increased and they are now vocal.

As a result of monthly mobilization meetings, PWGs are now negotiating their rights and issues with GLAs, ERs and other stakeholders. They have also developed effective liaison with NGOs, media, GLAs, UC, Tehsil and District Governments.

In tribunals, PWG and community members presented a charge sheet against UC, Tehsil, District councils and services providers.

Resolutions were passed during the Shadow Parliaments and widely circulated within local media and the district government.

IN PUNJAB, PWGs empowered, motivated and mobilized for common interest for bringing change in static life of the rural poor. Leadership development at the grassroots' level for good governance and democracy has been a key issue of these bodies.

Planning and monitoring of projects was another theme for the PWGs. During the dialogue events PWGs issues and their representation in UCs were also discussed alongwith debates on community infrastructure issues and problems.

It is appealing that the Tehsil nazim and GLAs promised to resolve issues identified by the PWGs.

IN SINDH, activities falling in output 4 contributed to discussions on LGS and governance. The PWGs were sensitized regarding various options that may lead them for their positive role in the proper implementation of LGS. Capacity of PWGs and CCBs developed on monitoring of schemes and reporting. Their knowledge about LG mechanism enhanced. Linkage developed between Councilors & PWGs. In focused UCs, PWGs participated in the UC sessions. Concerned citizens, civil society, peasants and workers, women and ERs came into interaction for the development through LGS. Community based mobilization meetings were held in villages to discuss issues of democracy, leadership and governance. Awami Tribunals were organized on the performance of elected representatives, peace and security and issues related with peasants. People's Assemblies tackled the issues of rural development and role of ERs.

It has been observed that in majority of the districts, UC sessions do not take place. After intervention of PWGs, UC Nazims are more inclined towards holding their sessions.

2.5. Output-6

Existing local level civil society support and cooperation mechanisms strengthened.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

1. District Resource Centers utilized and contributed by ERs, NGOs and GLAs.
2. Number of service requests are placed on DRCs by PWGs, ERs, GLAs.
3. In focused district, thematic networks of CSOs are catering to PWGs support needs.
4. Assessment of capacities, systems and strategies of 20 district partners conducted and training provided.
5. Trainers pool in focused district functional.
6. Thematic and sectoral information on CSOs initiatives in 20 districts maintained and shared.

Activity Chart 5: Building Bridges at the Local Level						
BALUCHISTAN						
2 assessments of capacities, systems, and strategies of partners (CCs, DFGs, small networks, local CBOs).	Customized resource kits and training packages	A training workshop for "Balochistan Union of Journalists"	Rights' education through two training workshops was imparted to 46 participants	2 Gender orientation, training and advocacy events for 46 participants	1 Policy debates and dialogues on gender rights and justice on the Women's Day	20 individuals trainers' pool
Functioning of 40 District Focal Groups and regular monthly meetings	Information management system for peasant's centers and worker institutions (6-KWBs and 40 DRCs)	Regular networking meetings	Promote rapport building measures among stakeholders ON-GOING	District resource centers (DRC)		
NWFP						
A training workshop on how to prepare work plans (15 Participants)	Training on Social, Political, Economic and Civil Rights of Peasant Workers, rural Women and Minorities (21 Participants)	Gender orientation for new staff # PWG :20 Female: 3 CSOs: 7	1 Policy debate and dialogue on gender rights and justice (45 participants)			
Functioning of 40 District Focal Groups Participation in regular meetings: 263 (Male: 223 Female: 40)	Identification/Selection & formation of 10 Peasant and worker coalitions, guidelines provided to district partners	Regular networking meetings TotalParticipants:320 (Male: 251 Female:69)				
PUNJAB						
A training workshop for DPOs ,DRC persons and Data Officers on basic human rights, women rights (30 Participants)	1 Gender orientation for 39 participants	23 partners trained in MIS and reporting formats and methods				
28 DFG meetings and sub committees of DFG members conducted (1092 participants)	Identification/ Selection & formation of Peasant and worker coalitions, guidelines provided to district partners, 910 participants	15 networking meetings in which 738 members participated	Promote rapport building measures among CSOs and with Govt., clergy, politicians, through meetings, dialogues, information sharing. (119 participants)	10 district policy dialogues with CSOs, elected representatives, government officials and other key stakeholders (595 participants)	District resource centers (DRC) as knowledge base - info collection, research and dissemination (95 persons involved)	
SINDH						

A training workshop organized on Sustainable Development		Workshops organized on Globalization	1 training workshop on Gender Equity.	Partners trained in MIS and reporting formats and methods	
28 DFG meetings	Identification/ Selection & formation of Peasants and worker coalitions, guidelines provided to district partners (11 meetings)	Promote rapport building measures among CSOs and with Govt., clergy, politicians, through meetings, dialogues, information sharing. (5 Dialogues)	7 dialogues on Sindh Tenancy Act with CSOs, elected representatives, government officials and other key stakeholders	Facilitated 5 partners in linkage building and in establishing working partnerships with GLAs and other service providers – as well as market and donors	Support to DRCs and promote it's utilization by ERs and others (9 Meetings)
20 networking meetings					

This output level relates with coalition building and outreach of the PWG action. The above chart shows the complete spread-out of such activities.

IN BALOCHISTAN, A training workshop for Balochistan Union of Journalists was organized before elections on monitoring of Elections 2008. 60 journalists through out the province participated in the workshop. The election commissioner Balochistan committed to provide cards to the Journalists, who were given the assignment to monitor the election by making observing committees. They worked with a national collation PACFREL teams at district level and also facilitated the coalition in observing elections. The trainee journalists sent reports from their districts by 25th Feb 2008.

Two training workshops on rights education were held with 46 participants belonging to DPOs, PWGs’ network members and DRCs. They were briefed on basic human rights, and peasants and women and minorities rights. Two training workshops on gender were also conducted for 46 participants belonging to PWGs networks, DPOs and DRCs.

A dialogue was held in Quetta on struggle and status of women in Balochistan and policies of new government regarding Women Issues on Women Day in which the political leaders and civil society organizations participated. One-day dialogue on women’s status in Balochistan was also organized.

DFGs regularly meet and support the PWG action at their level best. The model DFGs’ practices were replicated in other districts as well. It was noticed that where the partner is politically strong their DFG members themselves give technical and intellectual input. For example, it is working ideally in district Kech. The members themselves are doing research for MRC. Female members of DFG belonging to (Gender) Network voluntarily visit female PWGs in the district. Likewise, members of the “Governance Network Kech participate in the meetings held by MRC with LG officials & the GLAs. A DFG member Naseer Baloch has conducted research on Meerani Dam. Another member Nasir Sajjad wrote proposal for MRC after flood which was submitted to OXFAM. This initiative has been a regular practice in districts Kallat, Mastung, Gwadar and Zhob.

District level networks have been formed on thematic areas such as the water crises, Meerani Dam and sea erosion. Unavailability of market channels for peasants was also identified and campaign was launched to resolve the issue. There is a huge gap in terms

of funding and strategic planning of these networks in future. One province-level meeting of Balochistan Workers' Network was conducted in Hyderabad with the Sindh network. One meeting of provincial network took place in Quetta after the training workshop.

In the meeting of Networks the strategy was proposed and issues were discussed.

Three events took place in Noshki, Mastung and Naseerabad on Women Day which built good reputation of SAP-PK among civil society of Balochistan. Another event on Water Day also took place.

Donors have also been approached and linked the PWGs.

IN NWFP, activists through workshop learnt how to prepare work plans. They developed action plans and annual work plan. Another training workshop was implemented on social, political, economic and civil rights of peasants, workers, rural women and minorities. Newly recruited staff members were also imparted training. Other training sessions were related to conceptual clarity on gender, violation of women rights, laws related to gender, human trafficking, awareness on legal and moral know of gender violence against women highlighted and the government's initiatives to promote and protect gender rights, etc.

DFGs are meetings regularly throughout the year and their members frequently provide possible support to PWGs in all the target districts.

10-district and 1-provincial coalition of PWGs are in place. Relations have developed among PWGs, NGOs, Media, DFG and other stakeholders. It is also appealing that level of understanding among the SDGP stakeholders has been achieved. The process of information sharing & dissemination to PWGs and ERs has also been operative.

IN PUNJAB, DPOs, DRC persons and Data Officers were trained on rights education. Trainers also facilitated sessions for the Election Day monitoring. SDGP activities were reviewed at district level and advocacy campaign for PWGs' issues was implemented. Coordination and cooperation among the project stakeholders have been improved. Themes of capacity building events included:

- Basic human rights
- Women rights
- Gender and development
- Local issues and role of PWGs and DFGs in future
- Importance of networking; how to develop linkages with other donors and departments
- Fund allocation for CCBs
- Issues of poor farmers

IN SINDH, a training workshop was organized on sustainable development that was participated by DPOs, CBOs and networks. Partners and networks were given orientation regarding gender equity and other related issues

In the meetings, DFGs discussed implementation of SDGP and issues of PWGs in the districts and gave their in-put to the various advocacy campaign planning. They also extended their supportive role to coordinate with GLAs.

In Matiari district DFG members held a protest demonstration against the abduction of two PWG members of village Nooh Hothyani by the dacoits and held meeting with District Police Officer to take action for their release. As a result, police took action and abducted persons were released without paying ransom.

In Dadu two lawyers Mr. Abdul Majeed Jamali and Mr. Khalid Saeed Saomro, members of DFG, provided free legal assistance to the PWG members on land related legal problem.

DFG in Umerkot has initiated a campaign against adverse effects of BGP oil and gas exploration on the lives of the inhabitants. The DFG has collected data of the effected people and held meetings with the BGP administration. Besides, a media campaign has been launched.

DFG members in Badin struggled against hazardous waste water of Matli Sugar Mills. Inhabitants of 325 villages suffered from the waste. This problem was kept and discussed in the DFG meeting. A rally was organized, in which DFG members, PWGs and media persons participated. The rally was culminated into protest demo in front of the District Nazim's office. District Nazim met with leaders of the rally and made commitment to resolve the problem.

3 DFG members of the district, who are lawyers by profession, have provided free legal assistance to the PWG members.

DFG members also met with the EDO, CDD for the approval of the CCB schemes. In Jacobabad, DFG members held meetings with the District Nazima regarding CCB funds. She promised to grant.

DFG of Sanghar highlighted problem of water logging and salinity in the district. It has managed to collect relevant data. DFG has also taken notice of the increase in deforestation and cutting of trees and has managed to initiate a media campaign. A documentary on vulnerability of forests was developed and telecasted through the TV Channels. The district government has taken notice.

DFG, Ghotki, has planned to launch advocacy campaign on the environmental degradation resulted by the wastage of Ghotki Sugar Mill as well as gas and oil fields. DFG gathered data about adverse impacts on environment and initiated a media campaign. As a result, Environmental Protection Agency – EPA took notice of the issue

and held a public hearing in Ghotki, in which 5 DFG members took part. DFG also played an active role in struggle against the termination of local employees from the Engro Factory and Descon Company. 3 DFG members along with VDO Chairperson met with the gas exploring company Patronas in the context of corporate social responsibility. Company has agreed to work on education and health with the local organizations.

Coalition meetings were held in 10 districts and 1 at provincial level in which PWGs elected their district as well as provincial Sindh Harri Mazdoor Mahaz leaders.

In Badin, Sindh Harri Mazdoor Mahaz the district level coalition of peasants and workers has organized 3 rallies for amendments in Sindh Tenancy act. The Mahaz has also gathered data and planned to launch another advocacy campaign.

In Matiari, Harri Mazdoor Mahaz has visited all PWGs and conducted meetings with them regarding local issues of peasants and workers. In Umerkot Harri Mazdoor Mahaz has debated and highlighted issues of peasants and workers on different socio-political forums.

It has also filed cases of peasant against the local landlords who are getting bonded labor from peasants. In Dadu, the Mahaz has identified advocacy issues of registration of peasant in Khasra farm, water scarcity and adverse impacts of the corporate sector on the local livelihoods of peasants and workers.

In Jacobabad the Mahaz has organized walks and held press conference on the peasant issues. In Ghotki, the Harri Mazdoor Mahaz has conducted press conference on Tenancy Act and demanded from an alternate Sindh Tenancy Act.

All this has been supplemented with networking meetings with like-minded organizations at district and provincial level.

3. BEST PRACTICES OF THE YEAR

Best practices are a learning tool and excellent activities that can be show-cased and replicated by other similar groups engaged in development work.

The utility of these practices lies in the fact that it practically proves as technology transfer devices. In the case of PWGs it would specifically speak of collective and organized action at the local level that have made difference either by success of their actions or by the deployment of advocacy process for the benefit of rural poor.

The cases given ahead would generally begin with identification of a problem. It would inform what actions were taken by rural poor to address that problem and what process was adopted and tool used for the collective action and what was achieved and how this shows organizational capacity of the PWGs.

You will see that during this year the PWGs were operating more within the local governance structures and were implementing advocacy as action. They were involved in hard-core development work that has been generated through organization and mobilization of the peasants and workers and their rights-based advocacy activities. In that sense the link of dialogue advocacy with development action would be well established.

Now the PWGs are more concretely delivering development products i.e. infrastructure development, with a central theme of organization of rural poor. All it takes is to win support of the people; so that they can assert their rights. For them the only capital is their human resource and a belief that development is a right for all not for a few who can purchase services.

PWGs have enhanced confidence level of the rural poor. In the coming pages we have selected a few cases where this confidence and consciousness about rights have been transformed into social and physical development of respective areas and the inhabiting poor people. You will see that in these examples ordinary people are interacting with officials, elected representatives and powerful local elite. They are infused with the idea of collectivity and public good for the marginalized. They are also learning how the system works, and how they can influence decision making.

In many practices, autonomy of the people is being exercised. Without being frustrated by the bureaucratic slowness or authority of the powerful local elite the PWG members are striving for rights of the poor.

The experience of SAP-PK therefore illustrates the struggle that many PWGs have in common to change local power relations in a procedural manner and in the framework of local governance system in favour of the most marginalized strata of society. This was erstwhile an unimaginable scenario, where one had to depend upon the powerful elite and get a favour here or there. This is a triumph of rights, perpetual progress and collective action on behalf of the peasants, workers, women and minorities – all who were left out

in the development enterprise, but now present a resolve to participate in the democratic process at the grassroots level and make it meaningful.

3.1. Fighting for Water Rights in Kallat

District Kallat is prone to climatic extremes; it is pleasant in summer but the winter brings heavy snowfalls and rains and misery. One hazard is however dangerously turning into a disaster – the depletion of water, which can cause droughts in future and collective frustration at present among the local masses. The problem is so severe that people have tended to temporarily discount general issues of the area i.e. illiteracy, joblessness, and lack of educational, basic health and power facilities, etc.

Both clean drinking and under-ground water for irrigation are depleting for people who according to a survey are living mostly below poverty-line and are sustained by livestock and subsistence level agriculture. Many of the ranches have gone barren to feed to the animals and clean water is unavailable for humans.

The Kallat situation is aggravated by poor governance delivery and a historical neglect of the area. The political parties also don't see any political incentives and leverage by taking on an issue like water in Kallat despite the danger is so vivid and immediate.

With formation of PWGs, however, rural working poor in district Kallat now have a hope to fight the rising menace of depleting water. In the first place, this everyday and direct issue has been formally recognized. A survey was also undertaken to assess severity of the problem and PWGs instituted in 6 UCs have come together and formed a network called Khowari Kash. The network pro-actively addresses water crisis on regular basis rather than waiting for an unfortunate emergency to erupt.

The campaign for water by Khowari Kash Network started with a meeting of PWG members from all around the 6 UCs, to mobilize people and highlight the water crisis and to lobby with district line departments to seek attention.

The network also was imparted trainings for successful advocacy and lobbying campaign to control extra-usage of water. After getting trained, further consultation sessions and dialogue event have been organized.

Within three months of its inception, the network showed remarkable service in terms of lobbying on water crises with district and Provincial government. The network also held rallies and dialogues at district level.

The network has also conducted a research study on underground water depletion; so that its final report is submitted to the government and the donors working in Kallat.

Members of the network are also now trained in mitigating drought and present a role model for other networks working on erstwhile neglected locations and issues of the poor.

As part of its campaign for water, the network has met with officials of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), who have consented to build small dams in the UCs. Likewise, Khowri Kash Network arranged meetings with local NGOs, local government representatives, other government departments and various donor agencies to highlight different issues and the possible solution.

All this has been the product of mobilization of the PWGs; inspiring confidence to the rural poor when organized!

Spirit of the Collective

When the channel was completed, it irrigated an additional one hundred and fifty acres. Some of this came under fodder and the livestock scheme caught on in a big way in 150 TDA [name of the village]. But these were poor farmers and not all of them could spare cash enough to purchase ten young animals. Once again the community spirit came into play: families got together to form mini-collectives to reach the requisite number of ten animals. This practice is now widely prevalent in the village and every house has a yearling or two, or even three, tethered in the courtyard. The returns from the sales have been good.

- Case Study of the Village TDA 150, district Layyah, as narrated by Salman Rashid

3.2. PWGs Development Affects Local Infrastructure

Rural poor have been a typical example of neglect and ungrouping in UC Dasht-e-Goran of district Kallat. That's why the idea of PWG quickly gained grounds here. It intended to unite peasants and workers on the basis of their basic rights and to enable them solving their issues by lobbying with line agencies. There was also this incentive that PWGs could win small schemes from local government system and attain basic civic rights through public advocacy.

The PWG of UC Dasht-e-Goran got itself registered as Citizen Community Board (CCBs) under the name BIJAR CCB. It was the first CCB registered in District Kallat. The PWG has built its capacity through trainings workshops and lectures at district level and is busy in conducting meetings and trainings/workshops to empower the marginalized people on their rights.

The work done by the PWG/now CCB has resulted in many pro-people initiatives in the area. For example it started a scheme to redraw furrow irrigation so that the poor peasants were able enough to earn their livelihood by cultivating their own lands. Previously, heavy rain fall and floods would wash away the cultivated lands

Through mobilization, PWG got support from the Tehsil Nazim Hafeez Attaullh Lehri and engaged itself in different infrastructure projects as well. The list of the projects is as following:

1. Installation of Water Supply Boring System
2. Water Supply Scheme
3. Goat and Sheep Farming Project
4. Construction of Primary School Building

The activism of the PWG in Dasht-e-Goran has increased confidence level of the marginalized poor and the peasants, workers and women are becoming conscious about PWG role.

This has also ensured supply of drinking water to 6 UCs. The children of peasants and workers now own a primary school. Moreover, land leveling was done for crop growing after floods and goats and sheep were distributed among the rural poor for boosting up economic activity in the area.

Active members of the PWG also made exposure trips to other UCs and within the district and province. Religious minorities are feeling confident, secured and becoming an active part of the community now.

All in all, people of the area now realize that organized activism would not only result in social development of the area but also enhance personal opportunities within the governance framework.

3.3. Public Delivery through Rights, Loralai

The PWGs in district Loralai are articulating interests of the local people. The PWGs successfully have organized the community and in close coordination with funding agencies, like local Government and NGOs and in collaboration with Participatory Integrated Development Society and LAFAM have delivered the following services for the benefit of peasants and workers:

- a) Installation of Pumping Machinery in Jungle Karoti managed by three committees
- b) Construction of combined Agriculture Reservoir
- c) Sheep and Goat farming Project
- d) Establishment of Community Girls School at Killi Haji Abdul Ghafoor Tareen Jungle
- e) Exposure visit of Agriculture Research at Dukki

The lesson has been clear for the rural poor; in that, when they are organized they can deliver through their democratic participation in governance structures.

3.4. Fishermen Community Organizes herself, Gwadar

According to official data 50,000 fishermen are associated with fishing industry. However they are far from basic facilities like health, education, sanitation, roads, and clean drinking water.

Keeping in view special needs of the fishermen community, counterpart structures like PWGs were formed under the name of Fishermen Workers Groups (FWGs).

After establishment of FWGs and their capacity building sessions they soon converted into CCBs. It was to bridge a sustainable relation of fishermen community with resolving their plight through small projects and to create institutional mechanism for advocacy and lobbying with line agencies. After being registered as CCBs the same groups were given technical support in terms of developing proposal to get small livelihood schemes.

Names of five FWGs that were converted into CCBs are given below;

1. Doria CCB (UC Jonobi Gwadar)
2. Shadoo Band ward CCB (UC Jonobi Gwadar)
3. Kalkashan CCB (UC Sur Bandar Gwadar)
4. Nigori Ward CCB (UC Shamali Gwadar)
5. Senator Mohmmad Esshaq CCB (UC Wasti Gwadar)

A Public Library under Doria CCB was established to counter drug addiction in youth. It is hoped that further action would be undertaken to socially develop Gwadar and uplift of the fishermen community.

3.5. Disaster Risk Management by the Fishermen Community

After severe storm (Tropical Cyclone Yemin and Gonu) lashed the coastal areas of Pakistan, which begun on 23rd June 2007 causing heavy rains and flooding in Balochistan (Pasni, Ormara, and Gwadar area), PWGs contributed to form a Disaster Response Forum (DRF) Gwadar to address the flooding issue. Key aim of the forum is to disseminate information in flood zones.

The DRF has played a pivotal role in the area, particularly during flooding. It has worked on relief and created linkages with GOs/NGOs. It distributed food and non-food items to the flood affected area and assisted the local government in tents distribution.

DRF works and meets on regular basis. Since its inception it has held 12 meetings.

District Resource Center and the DRF collected data during the flooding days i.e. damaged houses, destruction of cultivated lands, number of death animals were surveyed

During the sea cyclone hundreds of thousands boats were crushed and not only economically collapsed the fishing industry but also was caused hunger among thousands of fishermen families. The data of damaged boats were gathered, and the local government compensated the affected fishermen.

PWGs within the framework of DRF have also collaborated with institutions like Pak Army, Frontier Corp, and GOs/NGOs representatives. Aim was to inform and warn people and shift them to a proximate area for protection and security during the moon soon rains and sea hurricane.

PWGs have been part of the disaster risk management activities, planning and implementation. The government is also receptive to resolve the fishermen's problems when it comes to disasters.

Rising of the Poor

The new-found ability to solve their problems through means other than the local politician or a government agency, has given the people of Dallu Khelanwala [district Mianwali] a confidence they had never known. With their road complete and electioneering in full swing, they were no longer prepared to listen to the useless harangues of their candidates. The women being more vocal than the men are reported to have told the candidates, 'We now are capable of addressing our problems. We want you to tell us what legislation and laws you will enact for our collective good!'

Many a worthy politician has had to beat a sorry retreat because legislating is one thing so few of them are prepared for. The importance of the economic benefit can hardly be denied; but in the long term the people of Dallu Khelanwala will thank the 2300-foot soling for the socio-political uplift it precipitated. That will be its farthest reaching consequence.

-As narrated by Salman Rashid

3.6. When the Elected Representatives Collaborate!

Mastung is one of the targeted districts for PWG organization and mobilization. This work has been done in 6 UCs of the district. Ghulam Prenz is the most populated among the rest, and is a focused UC with 1800 house holds. It is consisted of 22 villages with huge distance comparatively to other UCs. Its Nazim Mr. Farooq Shahwani is socially and politically a visionary person. He has received number of training through SDGP and has been a key motivator for the PWG work in the district.

PWGs work has brought positive changes and awareness among the community and local body representatives as well.

PWGs inspired UC Nazim Ghulam Prenz to lobby with the Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP), district nazim and other donors to get project schemes for the PWG's identified issues in Ghulam Prenz. As a result a budget worth Rs. 2 billion was allocated

on developmental projects in the UC. These projects include black top roads, construction of road, bridges, sewerage canals, school walls and upgrading of schools, etc.

Three schools also were awarded grants and the fund was provided to the land growers for construction of water reservoir and canals. For that, PWGs conducted a meeting with Nazim and made him convince to approve schemes for peasants and workers. These included pipelines for ponds.

Seed/fertilizer were also donated by BRSP and SPO. The UNDP supported in establishing Medical Camp by support of UNDP

The PWGs have involved community who are now aware of the importance of organized activism. The conversion of these bodies into CCBs has also accelerated confidence of the local populace. The CCBs are now skilled to implement projects and have successfully demonstrated these skills. The biggest achievement however have been that the PWGs are getting involved in decision making at the local level.

UC Ghulam Parenz is a progressive role model of collaboration among peasants, workers and local representatives.

3.7. Taming the Bloody Canal!

Vayal Chashina canal near Kot Adel, UC Fatima Khel, had taken lives of 15 people and innumerable animals for the last 10 years. Popularly called the bloody canal badly needed a siphon to avoid further deaths. Local people had time and again contacted relevant authorities but to no avail, until they got organized in a PWG under leadership of Haji Rai Baz.

Public moots and meetings compelled the authorities to submit to local demands, which resulted in the construction of siphon. This work started in March 2007.

It is hoped that no more deaths would occur because of the canal. The siphon is a testimony to the struggle of rural people and strengthens belief in successful collective action even when undertaken by the marginalized people.

3.8. Enhancing Agricultural Productivity, Charsadda

Individuals generally avoid interacting with officials. However, the work done by PWG Parang ended this hesitation and linked the group with the agriculture department. This has resulted in acquisition of quality sugarcane seeds in affordable prices for the farmers in district Charsadda. People of the area were ignorant from where they could get quality seed. On the initiative of one PWG member Mr Jehanzeb, it was learnt through contact with the agriculture department that such stuff was available from district Mardan.

The farmers are also benefiting from useful advice of the agriculture department in crop counseling. They have now got courage to contact relevant officials, which they previously did not have.

All this was made possible because of easy and meaningful interaction of PWG members with government officials. PWGs have proved a platform which enhanced confidence and communication levels of the rural poor.

3.9. Exposure Trip Returns Profit at Home

It was just an ordinary exposure trip to the Harichand Dairy Farm in district Charsadda, where the PWG members were briefed about quality breed of animals and how to feed and take care of them. The farm does not sell cattle. However it provides free services of cross-breeding from quality bulls.

This counseling has proved beneficial to the farmers, who now know about the quality animals, feeding standards and cattle forming. It is hoped that this would not only contribute to better care of the animals but would also enhance livelihood opportunities for the poor farmers.

3.10. Cooperative Entrepreneurship of the Poor

Wan Bachran in district Mianwali is just another under-developed area but has emerged as a role model for poor peasants. It has a cooperative vegetable and fruit market that is managed and run not by the middlemen and big traders but the small farmers.

Ghulam Yaseen of Pakka Ghanjera is the key architect of this cooperative market. He is a social and political activist and president of district president of Gharib Kissan Tehrik and Roshan Kissan Group Pakka Ghanjera formed under the SDGP. Nawaz Salar and Malik Abdul Rehman are the other fellows who have led the idea of a cooperative market of farmers from conception to implementation.

Farmers everywhere in the country are manipulated by market mechanism. They work hard to earn their only source of income – agriculture. Absence of alternative income sources of generation, storage facilities, uncertain weather and alarmingly changing climate, limited capacity of the markets in the vicinity and most importantly complete monopoly of the middlemen means that farmers are forced selling their products at market rates. And these rates are not determined keeping in view farmers' interests as the middlemen and the industrialists always join together in maximizing their profits at the cost of poor farmers.

This situation compelled to look for abolishing the middlemen, but the task required organization of poor farmers. Therefore, the local farmers established a Roshan Kissan Group (PWG) in January 2006.

The idea of a vegetable and fruit market was floated before the poor farmers, which quickly gained currency as they always want to get rid of the middlemen.

Now within the compound of this unparalleled market, two shops are being completely managed by farmers groups formed under the SDGP, while remaining six are jointly owned by some members of other groups, small farmers and traders not included in these groups.

Cooperative ownership of the market has encouraged farmers and the cooperative network is expanding progressively. Each shop is rented at Rs.600 per month that is shared by all the members along with other running expenses.

The cooperative market has not only increased profit of the managing entrepreneur, but it has also boosted income of the local farmers whose labour now don't go in pockets of the middlemen. Moreover, around 250 persons are engaged in this market and decently earn their livelihood. The group has also approached EOBI so that these workers could be registered for enjoying the benefits of labor laws.

The successful enterprise has boosted farmers' confidence and morale is high, who have also established a seed bank selling quality seed to farmers at affordable prices. A comparison of seed prices in the mainstream markets and the cooperative market is given below:

#	Seed	Market Rate Per KG (In Rupees)	Seed Bank Rate Per KG (In Rupees)
1.	Tar	100	60
2.	Ladyfinger	120	70
3.	Karaila	700	300
4.	Shaljam	90	350 per 400 Grams

The cooperative market in Wan Bachran is a model for the small farmers around the country to replicate it and abolish middlemen in agriculture enterprise.

This unique market comes from the idea of uniting for farmers' rights and demonstrating rights' advocacy by action.

3.11. Transforming Conflict into Cooperation

Biruli is an idyllic little village lying twenty kilometers due east of Mianwali. Heavily under poverty and lawlessness, its people live on rain-water irrigation. Few would join army and many a youth is engaged in feud, drugs or apathy in the absence of proper education facilities.

In 2005 some good men of Biruli met with the activists of Anjuman Falahe Mu'ashra, a mid-level NGO in Wan Bhachran. Over time, with several meetings behind them, they established Biruli Kissan Committee. Surprisingly, it also consisted of women members.

These poor farmers had a consensus that they needed pipe irrigation system to the rain-fed lands east of the village. It was a remarkable turn of events for a community forever feuding internally. Since they could not afford cost of the project, they resolved to utilize the existing turbine by contributing to the cost of its running and maintenance.

“We had no direction, nor any cohesion as a community. Now we do. But best of all, we have direction. We know which way the future lies,” says Mohammad Sher, the president of Biruli Kissan Committee.

The scheme has now been in operation and irrigating land which has never been cultivated.

But how can they be sure they will actually do it? ‘We know because of the three years of interaction with SAP-PK. Before that we had no direction, nor any cohesion as a community. Now we do. But best of all, we have direction. We know which way the future lies,’ says Mohammad Sher, the president of Biruli Kissan Committee.

3.12. Saving the Water Losses

Sunrise PWG came into being in February 2008 in Qaziwala, district in Lodhran. The local farmers had struggled hard in the past for brick-lining of their irrigation channel to minimize water losses.

A survey was done and the community contributed 30 percent of the cost. Work began in July and by September 2007 two thousand feet of channel was lined and equipped with distribution points. With a good supply of water, it did well and the women of Qaziwala recognizing a new opportunity invested in goats. Earlier most families had at most two goats, now there were up to half a dozen; and in some cases, even more.

The first noticeable change with the lining of the channel was that time taken in irrigating one acre fell from four hours to just two and a half hours. The greatest blessing brought by this collective project is the growing amicability and confidence level of the farmers’ community.

3.13. What the Beneficiaries of PWGs Say?

‘Now we just get on the motorbike and come or go in top gear,’ says Mohammad Bashir the headman speaking for everyone else. And all this from just 3000 feet, a mere 915 meters, of soling.

Village Chak Number 19 MPR, District Lodhran

Qasim says that the even greater sign of being with the times is that they no longer revert to the local bigwig if they need a problem sorted out with a government department. ‘You

went to the landlord for help, and instead of assisting you he put you to work in his fields or his home. And you could not refuse,' says Qasim. In the one year since Natal Kissan Committee came into being, committee members go to government offices as a team. More often than not they come back successful.

Wan Bhachran, District Mianwali

Zia-ur-Rehman is of the view we are working at strategy that is effective in bringing a change in thinking of the society as a whole. We are planning to provide counseling to the victims of the various forms of violence including mental torture also. Religious personalities are also being asked to their role in portraying the real picture of Islam that is unfortunately being used as shield and justification for all such prevailing practices. He says, "We are also coordinating with various civil society organizations and like minded individuals from other districts of the province while media campaign has also been launched". We also organize various activities and programs on important occasions including world women day on 9th of March and children day on 22nd of November each year.

District Mianwali

This creeping prosperity has had an electrifying effect on the women of the village. Shabana, a member of the committee, says that their part in the building of the culverts drove home the awareness that women too could be catalysts in changing their world. They got together and came up with the idea of the Seed Bank. This was the answer to the curse of the middleman. Now, being poor as they are, the farming families of 234-A TDA being unable to buy seed against cash, procure it on loan which comes with a stiff mark-up. When the crop is lifted, the purveyor of the seed becomes the buyer of the harvest. He walks off with the greater chunk of money leaving the poor farmer with little for household budgetary requirements and none to get the next crop going. Over the years this cycle had remained unbroken; now its time was over.

Chak Number 234-A TDA, District Layyah

Zahoor Hussain points out that in case repairs are needed at some point in future, they will not have to call for a mason from outside. Once again, their five percent contribution will be recycled back into their kitties.

Chah Jeendaywala, District Bhakkar

The women are more outspoken and the men no longer treat them as useless spare parts as Dost Mohammad once thought they were. The two years of interaction with SAP-PK and the several training sessions that both men and women from the village have attended show the change when they sit together and confer. Chah Khokhranwala is no longer a hick town in the outback of Punjab. The difference this project has made can truly be measured by what Dost Mohammad has to say, 'In the past two years, we have come a very long way. We cannot go back now. The only way we now know is forward.'

Chah Khokhranwala, District Bhakkar

4. LESSONS LEARNT

4.1. Organization of Peasants and Rural Workers

Exposure visits established strong coordination among PWGs. They greatly help in improving level of knowledge/skills of PWGs. Their number and scale must be extended. These must be organized to visit all agriculture departments and to other departments such as education, health, community development. PWGs in NWFP need to learn from the experiences and observations of PWGs in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab and vice versa.

Press conference and rallies proved effective to pressurize the government through Disaster Response Forum Balochistan. It would establish that the events that may contain nuance value can be best implemented by public visibility and advocacy with a right sense of timing.

Large gatherings of PWGs are essential for highlighting issues and development of consensus among PWGs solutions.

In many cases in NWFP meetings for PWGs' formation took place in the evening. It was because the potential members (farmers) could hardly spare time in daylight to attend the meetings due to their involvement in farms and other tasks. Timing of meetings to form PWGs must be fixed in the evening.

Even basic level of awareness can help community member resolve their problem/issues. Female councilors & female members of PWGs were mostly uneducated or undereducated. They lack basic understanding of their social roles and responsibilities. For maximum participation of female representatives trainings need to be organized at the UC level.

Communication gaps were identified during the networking process with Support Organizations (SOs) which need to be overcome for integrated development initiatives.

Greater motivation, coordination and cooperation are essential for effective working of CCBs.

Small livelihoods schemes are in great demand at all the target districts in NWFP

For PWGs the trainings should be at district level and in local language. It should be conducted on quarterly bases for new CCBs. Seasonal calendar is also important for effective delivery of trainings with PWGs.

In many areas, male-female joint groups were socially impossible. Therefore, groups were split into two wings - male & female.

PAG members are keen to address issues of PWGs in an integrated manner. They consider peace essential for human development and are therefore more concerned with law and order situation particularly in NWFP and in general in the rest of the country.

DRCs can be very effective tools in promoting rights of PWGs and highlighting their issues if they are well sustained.

4.2. Enhancing Responsiveness of the LG System

Composite Training Program is essential for ERs. Most of the committee members are not well aware of their respective roles in LGS. There is a dire need of continuous training sessions and refresher courses for locally elected representatives. It should be need-based and undertaken at the district level.

Dialogues between GLAs and ERs are more productive to address issues/problems of PWGs. There is low level of coordination between the both groups. Frequent and close coordination among them is essential.

Non-development expenditures at district level are more than development allocations. Apart from funds provided by provincial government districts need to explore and seek other sources of funding to carry out development activities.

Text-bound manuals do not work well as compared with the pictorial and illustrated with sketches. SDGP targeted ERs and PWG members are rarely formal literates. It is suggested that the modules/manuals should comprise or include pictures/sketches or audio-visual segments [particularly for the peasants, workers and rural women as well as their ERs.]

Informal meetings occur more than the formal ones in almost all districts. They play a vital role in making the formal meetings/dialogues successful.

Lack of availability of research work and policy documents has been a problem. It was decided that a pool of policy documents would be generated.

4.3. Improvement of Social Service Delivery

It was suggested that in Gwadar only members of National and Provincial assembly can stop illegal fishing in deep sea with help of the Fisheries department.

In Mastung & Kallat the proposed suggestions were to provide fund for the rehabilitation of Karezaat to mitigate drought. In Kech, strong suggestions were given to review the planning of Meerani Dam and to honestly hold rehabilitation process.

Capacity building of GLAs is essential for promoting good governance. There is lack of financial as well as human resources with GLAs.

Networking is a key component for avoiding duplication in services delivery to PWGs by CSOs and GLAs

Talk shows are an effective tool to address the issues of accountability. They have brought various issues of SDGP stakeholders from grass root level to national level.

4.4. Equitable Participation of the Rural Poor in Decision Making

The LGO if implemented in its true and real sense it will ease the life of marginalized sections such as peasants, workers, rural women and minorities.

Awami Tribunals effectively sensitized PWGs to strive for the solutions of their issues.

4.5. Building Bridges at the Local Level

There is a huge gap in terms of funding and strategic planning of the networks. Provincial level network is illogical at this stage. PPO Balochistan suggests to only focusing on district level networks; so that their capacity may be built and the advocacy campaigns can give serious results.

To bring people (who are from different walks of life) together to a common platform and develop consensus among them is a hard task

The utility of DRCs will further increase if data resources are available there. Such a data may include available research documents and secondary data regarding various aspects of the district: Voter lists, maps of various dehs of the district, data by statistics departments, classified data by LGIs, and SDGP specified GLAs, census volume of the district, copies of district government sessions, district gazetteer, and local historical accounts, etc. DRC personnel should also be assigned tasks to develop village profile/ resource mapping through PRA tools of the PWG villages; so that necessary data is available for scheme development for utilization of the peasants and workers as well as GLAs, LGIs, ERs and CSOs.