



SOUTH ASIA PARTNERSHIP PAKISTAN

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Foreword

Citizens of Pakistan, especially of rural areas, find themselves deprived of their fundamental rights and quite pushed against the wall. They are unheard in political circles of the elite and therefore unseen in policies. They are caught between incompetence of the state in delivering and the unwillingness of governments to work on pro-people agenda. And as the consequence of this, poverty, intolerance, gender-based violence, political alienation, unaccountable governance, state-arbitration, human insecurity and loss of livelihood are few of the nightmares that have become a reality for majority of the people in this country.

While working with people for so many years now SAP-PK and its partner organizations realized that the modus operandi of civil society needed more profoundness and new assertions in view of the scale of deprivations. The most deserving 'continent' within Pakistan could be no else than the rural areas where about 68 % population of Pakistan is fending itself with less than half a dollar daily income, illiteracy, disease and complete ignorance and total disregard of their being. So, in order to make this larger population the harbinger of change, SAP-PK and its partners decided to proceed with a direct and visible presence in the rural areas. The organization believed that broader regional agenda of civil society of peace, gender justice, economic development and democratic values also gets fulfilled if road of activism and partnerships is taken through the countryside.

This exposure to the countryside is neither short-lived nor a single-handed. It is of course long one and well thought of. There are communities' partners, peasants groups, NGOs and CBOs, donors and the staff whose support is just priceless in making it a reality. And it's not a small load to handle anyway. We stand greatly indebted therefore to those who contributed their time, financial, material and technical resources, and moral and technical support in reaching out to the peasants, workers, women and religious minorities. Basically there is an endless list of those supporters for shifting the paradigm from urban to rural character of activism. However our sincere thanks to CIDA, SDC and other donors for their optimum support. We are also thankful to staff and partners for their valuable contribution in accomplishment of our objectives. We strongly expect to have similar support from our friends in the future also.

This report introduces you to some of the very visible achievements of SAP-PK in the year 2006 that we put together to affect change in the favor of the marginalized rural communities of Pakistan. We welcome any comments and suggestions from our readers and supporters, for the improvement of our work and its presentation.

Mohammad Tahseen
Executive Director

1 Introduction of South Asia Partnership-Pakistan

South Asia Partnership (SAP) is a volunteer network of participatory development-support organizations operating under the same name and for the same purposes in Canada and four South Asian countries, i.e., Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It has some presence in India as well, through a collective form of three different organizations. All these organizations and Sri Lanka Center for Development Facilitation form SAP-International. SAP-International has its office in Colombo. SAP-Canada is a consortium of Canadian voluntary organizations and the South Asian components are national NGOs that work for the uplift of the marginalized populations in their countries.

The Organization: South Asia Partnership-Pakistan (SAP-Pk) is a non-sectarian, non-denominational and non-profit NGO. It was founded by a group of leading Pakistani development and social activists in 1987. The organization's proper functioning started after the establishment of its Secretariat in 1989.

Vision: Having a firm belief that all citizens, groups/organizations and networks of such groups/organizations are the most effective instruments to address problems of their communities, SAP-Pk envisages socio-economic and political transformation of the society through peoples' participation in all issues and processes concerning their lives. The organization strives for the creation of a society based on the principles of equality, peaceful coexistence, democracy, good governance and justice so that everyone has equal opportunities to realize his or her potentials.

Mission: Enabling the most marginalized and vulnerable communities of Pakistan and South Asia (particularly women, minorities, peasants and rural workers) to get organized, building their capacities and linkages for collective well being, and investing in promoting regional cooperation, sustainable livelihood, peace, gender equality, democracy and good governance.

Goals:

- Create enabling environment for democratic governance and effective citizens' participation through informed and effective voice of the poor, especially workers and

peasants

- Facilitate pro-people civil society initiatives at national, regional and global levels promoting collective actions for peace, justice, human security and livelihood
- Increase sensitivity and harmony among people; actions against structural violence in our society through peaceful means and movements
- Contribute to pro-people collaborations between and among international organizations on important international concerns

Strategic Thrusts: SAP-Pk's initiatives are based on its development philosophy that people are at the center. This understanding helps SAP-Pk design its programs around the basic and strategic needs and fundamental rights of the people, especially who are disadvantaged and unheard.

SAP-Pk undertakes strategic-planning exercise regularly. It helps the organization define its programmatic ambit, and analyze its strengths and experiences. It also helps the organization revisit its mission and objectives in the light of the existing socio-politico-economic conditions in Pakistan as well as the South Asian region. In the 3-years' strategic planning held in 2005, SAP-Pk found some of its fundamental programs still very relevant. However generally, following thrusts are the basis of SAP-Pk's national and regional programs:

1. Democratic Governance;
2. Poverty and Sustainable Livelihood;
3. Human Security and Safe Environment;
4. Peace and Regional Cooperation;
5. Gender and Development;

Interventions: SAP-Pk is running different programs and projects, with peasants, rural workers, elected-representatives, especially women and religious minorities, civil society organizations and networks, based on its five main thrust as enumerated above. Following is a brief note on interventions that have been built on these thrusts.

- 1) **Strengthening Democratic Governance Program (SDGP):** SDGP is four years' capacity building, research, advocacy and partnership program. This program aims at good governance, poverty eradication and sustainable livelihood, human security and safe environment, peace and regional cooperation, and gender and development. It started in 2006, in 40 districts of Pakistan, with peasants, workers (especially women and religious minorities) and their networks, civil society organizations, elected representatives and state officials who are working at various levels of the local, provincial and national governments.
- 2) **Farmers' Development Program (FDP):** FDP was launched in 1998 in Punjab and Sindh province. It is currently being implemented in 6 districts of Punjab province. It is based on two projects, i.e.:
 - i) **Capacity Building Program (CBP):** a skills' training program for farmers, pertaining to agriculture, livestock, water management, organizational management, cooperatives, etc., for their economic development
 - ii) **Community Physical Infrastructure Program (CPI):** financial assistance for development schemes of the groups of the farmers, for improved economic conditions of the communities
- 3) **South Asia Small Arms Network (SASA Net):** SASA Net is a network of civil society organizations to advocate elimination of illegal small arms from South Asia. It was formed in 2001.
- 4) **Regional Initiative for the Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and Enabling Environment for Social and Political Participation:** This regional project was started in 2004 subsequent to a regional consultation of the offices of SAP. That consultation was held for developing strategies to pursue the South Asian states to achieve objectives of the SAARC Social Charter. In Pakistan, SAP-Pk is implementing this project in 10 districts of Punjab and 8 districts of Sindh provinces.
- 5) **South Asia Peace Alliance (SAPA):** To expand the struggle for making South Asian

countries socio-politically tolerant, South Asian Peace Alliance (SAPA) came into existence on April 2006. It is working on five themes. Each partner of this network is entitled to handle one theme, namely, Non-Violence, Peace, Regional Identity, Media and Networking/Membership. SAPA is operational with the support of common individuals and organizations such as NGOs, media, etc.

- 6) Ending Violence against Women (EVAW):** EVAW is a research based advocacy and legal support program, to end violence against women. It has been funded by OXFAM in 2004. SAP-Pk launched it at Bahawalpur, Multan and Rajanpur districts.

Organizational Structure and Staff: SAP-Pk is programmatically operational, with the valuable assistance of:

- National Council, presently having 11 members,
- General Body, presently having 24 members,
- National Secretariat (Lahore)
- Four Provincial Offices (Quetta, Peshawar, Hyderabad and Lahore)
- Liaison Office (Islamabad)
- District Resource Centers (40 districts; 10 from each province)

There are 183 staff members in SAP-Pk's system presently. A total of six Field Engineers, six Social Mobilizers and 40 Data Officers (placed in more than 40 partner organizations) are also included in the team. Liaison Office in Islamabad is headed by a Coordinator. He is responsible for meeting with donors on programs of SAP-Pk's interest and organizing programs of national significance.

There are following personnel in the National Secretariat:

- Executive Director
- Deputy Director
- Program Managers for:
 1. Capacity Building
 2. Policy Advocacy
 3. Research & Documentation
 4. Program Partnership
 5. Human Resource Development

- 6. Finance and Management
 - Program Coordinators for:
 - 1. Capacity Building
 - 2. Policy Advocacy
 - 3. Research & Publications
 - 4. Program Partnership
 - 5. Human Resource Development
 - 6. Finance and Management, and
 - 7. Management Information System
 - Program Officers
 - Field Engineer
 - Support Staff

Following staff members are working in the provincial offices, DRCs, Partner Organizations and the field:

- Provincial Coordinators
- Program Officers
- Admin and Finance Officers
- DRCs Social Mobilizers
- Data Officers (Partner Organizations)
- Social Mobilizers (for project on livelihood)
- Support Staff

2 Development Context

Trends of human rights conditions in South Asia did not improve in the past decade contrary to what was being expected in 1985 when SAARC Social Charter appeared and other UN conventions, agreements and protocols on the rights of women, children, religious minorities and farmers came under new discussions in view of the economic recession in developing countries, further cuts on development expenditures and rise in poverty, hunger, unemployment and human rights violations. At that time, the South Asian states expressed their desire to cooperate. But that intended cooperation did not realize fully because of the larger-than-life disputes, lack of political will and more focus on trade than the consideration for solidarity and peace. This is why the social, political and cultural commitment enshrined in the SAARC gained very little recognition with respect to domestic policies of each member state and their relationship with each other.

If we analyze South Asia in the context of human respect, dignity and respecting peoples' views under the paradigm of states-prescribed development, all member states of South Asia share almost equal amount of deficit. For example, there is a persistent political backlash in Bangladesh, resulting in oppression of the state towards political dissent, with regards to governance, role of election commission, electoral process, land rights of minorities of the Chittagong hill tracts and other poor secluded groups, etc. This dissent mostly takes the form of public rallies, and depicts the level of dissatisfaction among masses. There is poverty, poor health and corruption too. Though, there is increase in investment in education, health, and other public service sectors, and civil society organizations and institutions are functional, but generally, no major pro-people shift took place over the past few years in Bangladesh.

Colombo, Sri Lanka is a slightly different case of political incompetence. It still continues to echo with bomb blasts despite the fact it is on a track of democracy and it stands at a better position as far as international human development index is concerned. On the borderline of negotiations for truce, being hosted by the west, the casualties taking place at Colombo-controlled and Tamils'-controlled territories demonstrate shortfall of a political realization among the key players that only peace is the way forward and policy of extermination will sap away their national potential. It is obviously sad to know that hardly any day passes without

cases of deaths, cross-firing, exchange of small and medium scale arms, and induction of youth in militant outfits. Peace is therefore an elusive entity here.

Nepal, back in the yard, is apparently standing contended to an extent, safely saying. Nepalese have marked the victory of democracy in 2006 as a reward to their long standing struggle. The eventual handshake between the driving political forces and the Maoists in the North now marks a seal of hope on the political milieu there. This shift however comes after a lot of political and military - in many ways, a deadly - confrontation that fermented in 2005. No one can tell as to how long it may take for “peoples' democracy” to take roots and eradicate existing illiteracy, poverty, injustice and human trafficking. But generally, Nepal comes up with better examples of making rulers accountable of their actions. Political forces there have to be more cooperative with each other now, especially to tackle the issues of poverty and absolute economic dependence.

Pakistan presents the worst of all cases from the South Asian region, indeed. The uniformed democracy in practice for the last eight years, human insecurity, violence against women, inefficient governance system, poverty and poor health and infrastructure conditions are some of the very prominent challenges pushing citizens further against the wall. It is no better than the previous experiences of connivance between militancy, feudalism and Talibanized Islam which rendered a large population of citizens the victims of oppression. For the past eight years, energies of Pakistani leadership have been rather focused on elimination of the politically or ideologically “different” and defying human development reports and views of the Amnesty International, Transparency International, Human Rights Watch, world financial institutions, Commonwealth, European Union, etc., regarding key areas of citizens' concerns, especially governance, human security, religious intolerance, black laws against women and minorities, education, health, and above all., democracy.

For South Asia, problems are too many. But where there are problems, there are rays of hope too. The civil society in South Asia for example has become mature enough to put right finger at the right place. This is why issues such as bad governance, poverty, hunger, unemployment, human rights violations and insecurity are becoming source of added concern and voices are uniting. There are many civil society organizations now, as compared to the ones working ten years ago. These organizations are shaping opinions of the masses through various means, to

create pressure on their respective states so that they draft pro-poor policies. They have grown enough to assert their position across regional and international platforms that poverty and hunger are growing because of the incompetence of the states, unjust drive of the globalization and the very fact that majority of the people, who are based in rural communities, don't have any representation in policy making. These organizations also feel that the need for economic cooperation has never been as much pressing as it is now and the space for peace movements to grow is available. This is why they are using contemporary conditions of economic cooperation as a platform and exchanging peace missions for dispelling doubts. They are involved in attempts to creating an environment where peace becomes a value, and not a condition. Regional network South Asia Partnership is one of the efforts, which is being put together by many civil society organizations in South Asia.

As part of SAP-network, SAP-Pakistan also has various programs and strategies in its folder. SAP-Pk develops its programs individually, in view of its local realities, and as part of SAP Network to pursue the regional policymakers to honor the SAARC Social Charter. The issues featuring central in its programs are peace, regional cooperation, livelihood, human security, violence against women, rights of peasants, workers, especially women and religious minorities, and participation of the citizens in political process as well as governance.

For the past few years, an important aspect of SAP-Pk's planning has been its pronounced presence in rural communities across Pakistan. SAP-Pk's presence in rural areas and its working with rural communities is based on its belief that poverty is related to livelihood and poor governance and both these elements are rooted more firmly in rural areas. Now logically, the war against poverty, and hence for social justice, tolerance and democracy, can only be won in rural areas. The farmers' communities - which are 68 % of Pakistan's population and are sizeable in all respects - cannot be ignored. Therefore, it is every body's guess that for the broader objectives of human development to be effectively pursued in Pakistan and South Asia, the democracy, rights, poverty, governance, political participation, human rights, peace and cooperation should situate with rural folks, especially women and religious minorities.

SAP-Pk has used various means, especially capacity development, advocacy, research, community-based development partnerships and networking, based on the principle of human rights, while working with the rural communities, especially peasants, workers, women and

religious minorities. The organization has designed many programs on the basis of its 5-years' strategic planning. These programs give opportunity to the organization to consult the population of rural areas about issues of governance, human rights, peace and livelihood and facilitate them in nurturing economic and cultural development models. On the other hand, these programs enable the poor communities to push the local government system and the state-run institutions to appreciate accountability and effectiveness. These programs also evolve various support mechanisms to further facilitate community groups of farmers, women, workers and religious minorities in the process of affecting change and developing a movement that fulfills their aspirations. These support mechanisms include partner organizations, social mobilizers, trainers, district resource centers, Kissan Baethaks, provincial and national advisory groups, etc.

SAP-Pk five-years' strategic planning has in fact served it more vigor and a new outlook. Prior to that, SAP-Pk was a capacity development organization and primarily a funding source to different human-development projects of CBOs/NGO for more than two decades. Many NGOs and CBOs received financial support from SAP-Pk after having received a yearlong training on human rights issues and organizational management skills. That program was known as Resource Development Program (RDP). Other than running RDP and funding project, SAP-Pk was also involved in national and regional advocacy, networking and research initiatives on more or less the same areas. However, the unfolding challenges in South Asia and increasing poverty, insecurity, hunger and unemployment in Pakistan drew SAP-Pk to realize that no effort can become fruitful unless it is undertaken directly *with* those who matter the most.

The report in your hands gives insight into the prominent trends of SAP-Pk for the year 2006.

3 Governance

Democratic Governance stands as one of the main themes for SAP-Pk in view of the deprivations of Pakistani citizens and its significance in their lives from every aspect. Governance in Pakistan is largely centralized in pattern and practice, and - on account of this attribute - it is oppressive and unresponsive towards the varied and complex social, political, economic and cultural needs of the citizens. It demonstrates many shades while dwindling between virtually-presidential and the parliamentary form; with military establishment either on the back or up-front; with lesser willingness to deliver always. In 1999, it again became domain of the Pakistani military. General Pervaiz Musharraf took the office as Chief Executive and introduced a system of local government in 2000 on non-party basis, for introducing political, economic and administrative reforms in Pakistan.

The system of local governance in Pakistan casts far reaching impacts. These impacts are both positive and negative as we take a detached view of its performance and possibilities that it entails. For instance, despite its being widely criticized for administrative implications it rendered, it generally welcomes the participation of religious minorities and nearly 80,000 local representatives, including 33 % women, in showing political interface as well as acquiring some control on resources. Similarly, it creates some space for general people to form their groups and participate in matters affecting their lives and, through forming Citizens' Community Boards (CCBs), implement need-based local development projects. Undeniably, this scenario draws people into a new frame of governance. They are now dealing with general councilors and councilors who represent religious minorities, women, peasants/workers, nazims and naib Nazims; all of whom spread across the union, tehsil, district councils; various committees and sub-committees. They are now forming CCBs and trying to implement development schemes.

But there are various challenges for everyone in this system, too. For instance, the system of local government itself has been quite fluid so far. The Local Government Ordinance which appeared in 2001 remains under a constant review, and it is becoming no better with changes taking place ever since on the behest of power groups. At this point of time, the tussle of power between local governments and the provincial governments seems to halt as Chief Minister of a province acquires authority of sending a Nazim back home on the charge of 'poor

performance'. Now giving direct power the Chief Minister to replace head of the local government flouts the very idea of the 'devolution of power'. The article 35, 36 and 37 of the Local Government Ordinance draw our attention to yet other incompetencies of the authors and the implementers of the system that the institution of the Ombudsmen and system of transparency and access to information, all at the district level, are still the denied fruits. Similarly, another challenge with this system has been that despite its being in place for seven years now, the elected officials are still unclear about their roles as prescribed under it. Many of them continue to ignore aspirations of the people while setting the development priorities and then go unnoticed because people are unaware about the role of the local government and there is no system in place to educate them about it. It is therefore very interesting to note that every thing is taking place around people without their knowledge. Therefore, to build governance on a democratic paradigm certainly involves challenges galore. It involves education of the people about their legal and constitutional rights in the first place; rekindling of the will of the people so they become politically alive and heard in the second place, and, last but not least, enabling of the political representatives and state officials so that they deliver and be accountable.

SAP-Pk as a civil society organization accepted its share of responsibility of making governance in Pakistan responsive and participatory. The organization is assisting general masses, elected officials, administration and line departments to realize the agenda of peoples' reform with a critical input. In 2006, SAP-Pk undertook many activities. It employed different strategies, including education, advocacy, research and networking. In the sector of governance, SAP-Pk is working with ultimate objectives that:

- i) Peasants, workers, women and religious minorities should:
 - Organize themselves into groups, at the village, union, tehsil and district levels, in and around their issues of governance
 - Gain in-depth knowledge, information and skills about governance and its benevolent characteristics, and functions of different tiers of the government, especially local government
 - Have knowledge about all forms of resources available in communities and constituencies of the elected representatives

- Gain access to available resources and use those resources productively and efficiently in the best interest of the poorer
 - Effectively engage local elected representatives in and around issues of local development planning
 - Be part of the local development initiatives of the local government, by evolving community-based monitoring systems
 - Liaise with local government-line-agencies, including the ones related to water management, education, health, livestock, etc. and make them responsive to their needs
 - Gain understanding about the existing successful development models of other communities (through exposures) and create linkages with other civil society groups to effectively pursue the agenda of pro-poor governance
 - Develop their own political leadership in order to set the tone of change in favor of the socially, politically and economically deprived
- ii) Elected representatives and line departments should:
- Engage community groups in planning, implementation and monitoring of the development activities
 - Demonstrate gender sensitivity in planning, resource allocation and resource utilization (both in the context of women and religious minorities)
 - Perform duties efficiently and effectively and be open to accountability and public scrutiny

Capacity Building:

Capacity building, in SAP-Pk's system, is an approach founded on experiencing the information and skills concerning social, political and economic needs and engaging stakeholders both before and after every learning experience takes place. There are various processes such as assessments, evaluations and follow-ups involved in every training design. The trainings and the processes collectively aim at grooming the social and political capital on inherent potentials of the people so that they play pro-active role in improving conditions of social justice, peace, human rights, livelihood options and democratic governance in areas where there is abject poverty and human rights violations are acutely embedded.

With regards to the issue of Governance, in 2006, the organization:

- 1 Organized about 3250 peasants, workers, women and religious minorities in 120 Peasants Workers' Groups (PWGs);** These groups were constituted to play an active role in different matters, including governance, development, human rights and livelihood. They were created in view of social and economic criteria of membership. Of these, 30 groups were women-headed and 15 women specific, for giving added recognition to women in Pakistan.
- 2 Provided training to 650 male and 350 female members of the PWGs;** PWGs from all 40 districts were trained to run their community-based organizations; keep financial record; keep account of the performance of the union, tehsil and district councils; mobilize resources; plan, implement, monitor and report development plans; know how to get registered as CCB and submit the development schemes; liaise with various government line agencies and social service committees including the ones concerned with women's development, community development, arbitration, etc. They have also been provided training on pro-poor budgeting
- 3 Provided training to 142 staff and members of partner organizations;** trained them about local government system and opportunities available in it, and thereby created a resource pool of experts for further community-based trainings.
- 4 Provided training to 150 male and 65 female elected councilors of the union, tehsil and district councils;** enhanced their knowledge base about governance, engendered planning and budgeting, participatory democracy, role and functions of the local government etc.
- 5 Provided training to 54 male and 13 female members of partner organizations, DRCs and DFGs,** in four provincial events; one in each province, on Financial Management

In 2006, SAP-Pk conducted trainings mostly at the level of orientation, with peasants, workers groups, staff members, partners and elected representatives. Every training was of one to two days' duration, with the exception of the TOTs; 5-Day event each. Generally, all trainings were

designed in view of the findings of the need-assessments carried out randomly, on quarterly basis, and materials developed by the staff. SAP-Pk put more emphasis on relevance and simplicity of the delivery of information in these trainings. The organization delivered them on participatory basis and, where possible, in local language. Participants of these training workshops used the following techniques in their learning process:

- Discussions
- Group Works
- Presentations
- Simulations

The sessions of training events were designed by combining formal and informal presentations together. Handbooks/Handouts were also duly provided in most of these trainings. Printed content was deliberately kept easy because many participants had marginal literacy skills and very little exposure to learning opportunities such as trainings. The organization also used material developed by the research and document section and of various other organizations,

Strengthening Democratic Governance Program

Program (SDGP) was a four-years' program partnership between South Asia Partnership-Pakistan (SAP-PK), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). This program seeks to organize and strengthen rural communities' voices and enhance their active presence in the decision making processes. The program specifically seeks to:

- **Organize and train groups of rural farmers, women, workers and religious minorities around issues of social, political and economic concerns, in 40 districts of Pakistan (120 Union Councils; 360 villages/360 Peasant Workers Groups)**
- **Enable the said groups i) express their demands through community organization and campaigning, ii) demonstrate their ability to play the role of watchdog in regards to the local, provincial and national level policy formulation and iii) participate in the local decision making processes**
- **Enable the said groups develop their own linkages and ensure liaison of the service-**

providing departments with the groups

- **Develop E-networking** among the 40 districts of the country and encourage the groups to make use of the information about local, provincial and national market of handicrafts and different seasonal crops
- **Provide technical and financial support** to selected groups for implementation of small but innovative and participatory development schemes
- **Advocate** on issues at the provincial and national level through seminars, forums and media
- **Lobby** with local, provincial and national level political parties and elected representatives for pro-human policy formulation
- **Enable and Pursue** the local government representatives and the officials from government line agencies, to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor their activities by demonstrating sensitivity to gender and the needs of socially, politically and economically weaker sections, especially religious minorities

SAP-PK the implementing partner of SDGP launched the program in 2005. The program witnessed revision in 2006 after SDC joined it with its valuable financial resource pool. Before that, only CIDA was providing financial resources for its execution.

SAP-PK is undertaking SDGP through the following four programmatic thrusts:

1. Capacity Building
2. Advocacy & Networking
3. Research and Documentation
4. Program Partnership: Technical Support

These programmatic thrusts are being operated through:

1) Central Office: Being at the SAP-Office; each program thrust has a separate team that handles it.

2) Provincial Offices: One in each province: Punjab Office is at SAP-PK; Provincial Offices are to facilitate, monitor and regulate the activities.

3) District Resource Centers: DRCs: Partner organizations are running District Resource Centers as center for dissemination of information.

4) District Focal Groups: There is one DFP in each district to coordinate the activities between the concerned Provincial Office, DRCs and the Union Councils.

In addition to the program support system above stated, SDGP has developed a resource pool of willing, energetic and capable resource persons across Pakistan, who are entitled with the task to deliver various issue-based and skill-based trainings to the expected 360 PWGs in the course of 3 years. 40 % of these PWGs are those of women.

In July 2006, SAP-Pk's provincial offices also conducted four five-days' TOT. A total of 123 members from district partner organizations, DRCs and DFGs, in four provinces, were trained in these exercises. These trainings were helpful in developing a resource pool of trainers which later assisted SAP-Pk in implementing field-level trainings with PWGs. Of the total participants who attended these trainings, 49 were females. Purposes of these TOTs were to:

1. Acquaint the participants with goals, objectives, activities and expected outputs of the SDGP and the roles of different teams and tiers involved in its implementation
2. Familiarize them with the roles and responsibilities of different government line departments and the local body institutions
3. Enable them to develop manuals of training for the women, religious minorities, peasants and workers on making of organization (and registration), financial and progress reporting, engendering the activities and information sharing on the role of different local body institutions
4. Enable them to charter follow-up activities and understand formats of quarterly and six-monthly progress reports

A pool of trainers was selected from each province from 123 participants subsequent to holding of the TOTs. This selection was made on the basis of their skills, knowledge, attitude, seriousness and willingness. These groups are currently undertaking educational and motivational sessions with PWGs in the target communities to compliment their functioning.

They are also planning to organize training sessions for members of PWGs on roles and functions of the local governments.

In this year, SAP-Pk's partners also conducted a Training Need Assessment of the local elected representatives about their roles and capacities. This assessment was carried out in four provinces, in which 220 representatives, including general councilors, nazims, naib nazims and councilors representing peasants, religious minorities and women, were interviewed. The purpose of this exercise was to evaluate the level of understanding of the elected representatives about various governance related issues and identify suitable trainings for them. This assessment reinforced the hypothesis of SAP-Pk that women representatives are lesser knowledgeable than their male counterparts about issues of governance and that elected representatives need training on engendered and improved planning, accountability and transparency. Some of the topics prioritized by the representatives themselves in this assessment have been presented in an aggregate form, in following table:

#	Skills	Priority
1	Roles & Responsibilities of elected representatives in local bodies	6
2	Role of monitoring committees	7
3	Planning of development schemes	7
4	Process of approval of funds & distribution of resources	3
5	Setting the agenda of the house	4
6	Preparation & tabling of resolutions	1
7	Engendering planning	4
8	Pro-poor budgeting	8
9	Financial management	2
10	Role and formation of citizens' community boards	9
11	Transparency & accountability	5

SAP-Pk also involved general masses in discussions on and around local governance, in 2006, through 'political schools'. Each DRC - a district-level center for collection and dissemination of information and holding of public meetings - organized community-based political gatherings. These gatherings are known as political schools. These were organized at least once every month. SAP-Pk inherited this idea of organizing political schools from traditional community-

based 'get-togethers' that were well in practice in the sub-continent in the past. In so doing SAP-Pk revitalized a moribund practice and offered opportunity to the peasants, workers, women, religious minorities and elected representatives to share their knowledge and experience. The beneficiaries of these forums tried to find ways for improvement in local politics, administration, development and service delivery.

Technically, year 2006 was a time for spadework for SAP-Pk. It was a time to form groups and teams and train them for implementation of SDGP and to develop introductory linkages with and among elected representative and state line departments. Now the organization has planned to go beyond and introduce advanced level of trainings in 2007. It is planning to engage elected and state representatives more and train them how to plan, implement and monitor development plans and improve upon service delivery, especially with respect to gender.

Research and Documentation:

Research and Documentation - another thrust of SAP-Pk among its efforts - aim to protect, support and promote human rights, democratic governance, peace, security and livelihood, by bringing out thematic papers, researches and booklets.

The fundamental purpose of research and documentation is to:

- Critically evaluate the local, provincial and national status about governance, justice, human rights, livelihood and human security in Pakistan, and reflect for larger constituencies and stakeholders
- Present prevalent discourses about the given themes
- Suggest pro-people framework for action to the masses, institutions, organizations, networks and elected political bodies, based on research findings and learnings from local as well as regional and international contexts
- Provide content for development planning, help design training of the concerned stakeholders, feed the local and national advocacy campaigns with relevant statistical and analytical information and identify areas for vertical and horizontal partnerships and networking

Concerning the realm of governance, SAP-Pk came up with a number of thematic papers, booklets and studies in 2006. Major researches and documents of the year, which are available in print form also, are as following:

Type	Title	Results and Achievements
Thematic Study (1)	Effective Participation of Women in Local Government System	Analyzed the existing status of and suggested how to improve “women's participation in local government system, as voters, elected representatives and members of various committees”
Research Study (1)	Local Governments' Performance Evaluation: Scorecard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluated the performance of the local governments in concerned constituencies vis-à-vis departments ● Enabled the stakeholders, especially masses,
		do future evaluations, based on the pattern of the scorecard by providing information how to do performance evaluations
Research Study (1)	CCBs' Performance Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluated the performance of CCBs' as organizations, implementers of the development schemes and community groups for protection of the interests of the poor, especially peasants, workers, women, religious minorities and children ● Through critique, suggested pro-poor/ engendered planning, implementation and monitoring of the development initiatives
Booklet (1)	People and Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presented historical conspectus of the local government system and engagement of the citizens of Pakistan in the system ● Presented opportunities and weaknesses associated with the local government system in Pakistan
Thematic Paper (1)	Local Government's Discourse in Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyzed the local government system as a tool for dispensation of political, administrative and financial powers to the people at the grassroots

In 2006, SAP-Pk also brought out some publications including posters, handbill and fliers on peasants and rural workers' rights, democracy and local government, with special focus on women and religious minorities, through Research and Documentation. Also, the organization developed video documentaries to mobilize and educate communities and to present its work and that of the peasants to those who were interested to know more about the community-based mobilization and support level involvement. One of these documentaries was on Sumaira Sattar's rape case and involvement of the ERAW coalition that was formed by SAP-Pk. Other documentaries were on Ittehad Kissan Committee, Awaz Kissan Committee and Sanjh Kissan Committee to reflect the achievements of the groups of the peasants.

Monthly newsletter, *Channan*, also deserves to be given a due credit for its qualitative and regular monthly appearance under the Research and Documentation in 2006. *Channan* (Light in Punjabi language) is 8-page black-&-white newsletter. It started in July 2006 regularly and expanded its circulation to 10,000 copies very rapidly. It covers voices, views and performance of the PWG members, district partners, elected representatives and general masses, concerning local government particularly and governance generally. It is published in Urdu language.

SAP-Pk also produced annual consolidated report of 2006 under its documentation segment. This report was based on the performance, experiences and achievements of the Union Councils, DFGs and PWGs.

Policy Advocacy:

Technically, SAP-Pk is all about advocacy when it comes to the restoration of the rights of people. All other efforts such as capacity development, research and program support extend support in terms of volunteers, trained social workers and information. In so believing, policy advocacy features at the center of SAP-Pk's struggle. It is premised on the key elements that:

- i) People should be empowered, organized, vigilant and responsive so they remain in the mainstream;
- ii) State institutions and government should be sensitive and participatory with respect to the social, political, cultural and economic aspects of citizens' life so that people are satisfied and governance is improved;

- iii) Civil society organizations should collaborate on issues of peoples' interests and collectively push for pro-poor change at the level of policies; and
- iv) GLAs and government bodies should perform sensitively, fully and effectively.

SAP-Pk works around this concept of policy advocacy, through using several tools, including dialogues, seminars, discussions, press conferences, rallies, Awami Tribunals/Public Courts and Shadow Awami Parliament/Peoples' Assemblies, etc.

Awami Tribunals refer to the concept of holding peoples' representatives and service-delivery institutions accountable, through advocacy-based trials conducted at the level of communities. There is jury - comprising of active and experienced people both from communities and civil society - , peoples' representatives and/or state officials and general masses who participate in the tribunals. People present their concerns and public and/or state officials satisfy jury regarding their performance.

Shadow Awami Parliament is a peoples' forum created by SAP-Pk. People debate and discuss on this forum issues of social, political and economic concern, legislate in view of their interests and therefore present a parallel framework for perusal of the elected representatives in formulation of the national policies, legislation and enactment of statutory codes.

SAP-Pk undertook many activities in the year 2006, with respect to policy advocacy vis-à-vis governance. These activities were held in almost all the 40 districts or the selected provinces in view of plan-matrix and resources available.

The following table describes the nature and purpose of the activities held in 2006:

Type of Activity	Number	Accomplishments	Participants
Community Mobilization Meetings		Sensitized masses and new leadership of elected representatives about issues of democracy and good governance in Pakistan	17642
Community Dialogue		Discussed roles of local government and GLAs	2070

Community Meetings	65	Discussed with the elected representatives different ways to improve the performance of the local government	1281
Tehsil Seminars	29	Sensitized people about policy issues including	1159
District and Provincial Advocacy Meetings	21	Pushed the elected representatives for adequate resource allocation for local development	460
District Talk Shows	17	Discussed GLAs' performance and general service delivery issues, and surfaced communities' Recommendations	346
District Shadow Awami Parliament	15	Discussed pros and cons of the devolution of power plan, suggested to local bodies different development plans and push, through advocacy, for adequate resource allocation, on the basis of resolutions that they passed.	980
Public Rallies and Press Conferences	22	Mobilized peoples' voice against WTO conditionalities, anti-poor policies, poor law and order situation in Balochistan and local issues pertaining to local government	882

Awami Tribunals	7	Brought to the fore areas which local governments of the concerned districts were ignoring (in five districts of Sindh and two of Balochistan) and sought guarantee of the local representatives for getting the issues and problems resolved	286
Networking Meetings	48	Improved coordination between GLAs, PWGs and local NGOs	1649
NGOs' Networking Meetings	3	Developed system of data and general information sharing on issues concerning governance and liaised in advocacy initiatives	139

In 2006, SAP-Pk focused extensively on peoples' mobilization for its being at the beginning of its new relationship directly with peasants, workers, women and religious minorities . But there were some very good results that SAP-Pk achieved in a very short while. For instance:

- In district Layyah, Punjab, the PWG of village Khaera Wali has been successful in pursuing the local government in allocation of resources for the construction of a much coveted primary school for 200 girls of the community, soling of the streets of the village and provision of electricity on urgent basis. The District Nazim himself started looking into the matter when Awami Tribunal was organized in the village and the community criticized the local government for its criminal negligence towards education, transportation and supply of electricity.
- DFG of District Lodhran, Punjab, mobilized the local press and people, raised the issues of water management and demanded development of safety valve against pilferage of water. As the result of the local mobilization, nazims, naib nazims and councilors from 22 villages had no option but to join the voters of their constituencies in the rally and a daylong sit-in. The member of provincial assembly, local police and irrigation department then had to intervene and initiate action there and then. The department also repaired the concerned distributory in no time.

- SAP-Pk organized 40 networking forums with ERs, media, political parties, CSOs, GoP and social movements of peasants, to present issues of peasants and women's concerns at the national level and develop liaison to improve services and performance. As the result of these initiatives, 40 volunteer bodies were structured, which comprised of the mentioned stakeholders. These bodies developed local systems for accountability and were in the process of implementing those systems on experimental basis.

From Behind the Bars!!!

Dear Madam,

“....In the afternoon of August 13, a young girl came to visit us. She was distributing newspapers among prisoners. We were too eager to catch a copy because, you know, we are not lucky enough to get any thing of the sort in our jails. She delivered a few copies to our cell, as well.”

“When we started to read this newspaper we learnt that it was about injustice of world trade, movements of peasants against globalization, budget of 2006-7 and its impact on poor farmers, and human rights, peace and human security. Well...this was something different than a routine newspaper. It was eye opening in many ways because none of us knew about such things before. We, the prisoners, mostly remain unaware of issues. We even don't know what is going on beyond the insurmountable boundary wall standing ahead.”

“To tell you about something, we prisoners want peace and justice in our lives. But the reality is that people are pushed into crimes. Things are in a very bad shape in Pakistan, especially in jails. We even don't have water to drink and to take bath with. In summer, it gets worse because of heat, shortage of water, sweating, flies and filth. Is this what we call human security and justice?”

“Today is September 13. We were thinking to receive another copy of newspaper, *Chaanan*, as it says on the title of the copy that we have. But we did not receive the new copy. That's why we are writing to you this letter. Now see if it reaches you or not. If *Chaanan* is already dispatched to us, we will write to you about more things that are happening in this jail. *Chaanan* is good and informative newspaper. It will spread some light in jail too.”

(Many Prisoners from Toba Tek Singh Jail)

Program Partnership:

Under Farmers' Development Program, the Program Partnership has a different interface (briefed in the next chapter). Under SDGP, the role of Program Partnership is to provide technical as well as material support to the stakeholders so that they collectively address their issues. Under SDGP, it:

- Creates opportunities for PWGs, DFGs, GLAs and civil society organizations to collect information about issues such as governance, rights, livelihood, peace, gender, local resources, etc. for making its use in development planning. **DRCs** provide this type of support. The facility of DRC is a subject of Program Partnership.
- Provides technical support to **Kissan Baethaks**. Baethak is a traditional word for community-based consultation in a drawing room or an open space, and *Kissan* stands for farmer in Urdu language. Kissan Baethaks enable the farmers, both men and women to moot together and develop and implement programs on agriculture, infrastructure and economic development, and governance.
- Monitors activities undertaken under SDGP. It has a monitoring mechanism based on indicators of time-bound outputs and outcomes of the program.

In the year 2006, Program Partnership facilitated the process of formation of two Kissan Baethaks, at Toba Tek Singh and Layyah. The most notable achievements in this regard were that the land and the 60 % cost required for construction of these Baethaks were contributed by the communities as the result of the mobilization campaign of SAP-Pk. SAP-Pk shared 40 % cost that was accrued on construction in order to encourage the community-based initiatives. The organization and its partners are now trying to boost the same wavelength of voluntarism in other communities, too. All these Baethaks will be interlinked with each other and the network of DRCs at one point of time.

DRCs also remained very active in all districts this year. They have already started developing their identity as centers for information sharing, dissemination and consultation on a number of subjects. In 2006, DRCs received many hits by various stakeholders. Following table tells more about it:

Stakeholders	Information Delivered from DRCs
PWG	Alternative farming techniques; Financial/technical resources of line department/government/donors for development/livelihood schemes; Farmers' networks; models; Organizational management; Handicrafts.
DFG	Local government system; Sustainability of community-based groups; Advocacy campaigns and networks; Functioning of political schools
GLAs	Accessing village-based groups; local data on health, education, agriculture, livestock, etc.
NGOs/CBOs	Strategic Planning; Communication skills; Functions of and linkages with GLAs; Replicable models; Financial/technical resources available with different line departments/government/donors, etc., for development and livelihood schemes; Networks
Community	Roles of Local Bodies; Transparency and accountability of ERs, GLAs and district councils; Handicrafts and Crops
Media	Case-studies; local data on health, education, livestock, agriculture, etc.

4 Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Livelihood

The estimated 68 % of Pakistan's 155.8 million population - which is living in rural areas and rendering 21 % of the GDP - is a reflection of a sad tale of unavailability or poor quality of education, high military spending, and the criminal silence of the successive Pakistani governments towards land reforms. These problems collectively count for landlessness of the tenants, absent landlordism, bonded labor, rural urban migration and unemployment. The excessive use of fertilizers, insecticides, shortage of water, rising costs of agricultural inputs, poor infrastructure in terms of roads, culverts, farmer-friendly market, etc. add to the miseries of those who show any signs of resistance.

Facts and Figures about Livelihood

- Changes in the patterns of land tenure between 1972 and 2000 show a dramatic decline in tenancy and a corresponding increase in owner-cultivation.
- In Punjab, farm area managed by landless tenants declined from 26 % to 11% whereas it increased in the case of owner-cultivation from 39% to 69% till 2000.
- From 1974 to 2004, agriculture's proportion of GDP has declined from 35 to 21 percent, whereas the proportion created by services increased from 43% to 52%, and
- Industry and manufacturing in Pakistan has increased only slightly from 22% to 25%.

The kind of treatment that policymakers in Pakistan have been giving to the farmers is certainly matchless. It is unheard in countries where the role of peasants and workers is greatly honored for their contribution in ensuring food security. The support mechanisms of those countries for their peasants may include building of schools, colleges, health centers, community-centers, metalled roads, transportation system and subsidized agro-electric inputs, etc. So, the situation for peasants there is different from what their brethren and sisters are facing where they make cuts on their basic as well as developmental needs for meeting their living and agricultural costs; take loans or sell their lands to feudals cheaply; or migrate for selling their incompatible labor to the urban informal and fragile industrial sector. Of course, the cultural bonds and traditional ways of living, working, participating and rejoicing are also facing irreparable loss.

As a matter of fact, every government in Pakistan has already tried its myopic bit to eradicate poverty from Pakistan. Their efforts however did not succeed because of multiple reasons, including lack of their commitment and flaws in programming. In November 2000, for instance, the government of President Musharaf made a commitment to reduce poverty and restore economic stability. His strategy was articulated in the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (I-PRSP). Later, Pakistan adopted the final PRSP on December 31, 2003. The IMF and the World Bank reviewed and approved Pakistan's PRSP through a joint assessment. Thereafter, the World Bank released US\$ 300 million poverty reduction strategy credit in September 2004, which was the first phase of the three-year program to extend support for implementation of the PRSP. Despite the fact that assessments indicate that poor governance lies at the centre of the causes of poverty and its offshoots in Pakistan, interestingly, there were no monitoring targets set for governance in the PRSP document. The table related to monitoring targets was left blank. So, it speaks volumes about the lack of conceptualization in terms of governance in the minds of the authors of the PRSP, and the present government. Similar has been the fate of the other poverty reduction programs, with a difference that poverty has increased unprecedentedly this time. The government of President Musharaf claims that it reduced poverty from 40 % to 23 % due to its planning. But this claim invited lots of criticism from the national as well as international media, research organizations and planners. Many of them ask the government to explain the mathematical methods that it used to arrive at such a conclusion in a situation when it did virtually nothing with regards to development of rural infrastructure, agriculture and industry.

The issue of poverty is directly linked with livelihood and employment. And poor conditions with regards to livelihood ultimately becomes a domain for civil society organizations in Pakistan, including SAP-Pk, to educate and train people, advocate their rights and strike partnerships for their economic development.

The affective way of dealing poverty is that peasants are respected, their voices are heard and their abilities are trusted in planning, designing, implementing and monitoring of all agricultural, livestock and economic development plans. This recipe can do wonders. The civil society has to press this approach forward. They should continue to act as watchdog with regards to the

national and international policies and as hub of information dissemination. It should engage peasants, especially women and religious minorities, who are far less privileged, around small models of economic and infrastructure development. This kind of support will remove the burden of poverty from the shoulders of the peasants as well as organize them to take control of their lives.

Capacity Building:

The concept of capacity building with regards to poverty-eradication and enhancement of livelihood options is to provide trainings of the needed skills to the farmer communities so that they make use of those skills in ameliorating their economic status in the first place, and then gradually they improve upon their social and political standing through other auxiliary interventions of SAP-Pk in areas related to governance.

The contents on which SAP-Pk provided on-the-job skills' trainings and exposures to the peasants during 2006 were generally distributed among the following:

- Organic Farming
- Livestock Management
- Water Management
- Financial Management

SAP-Pk also organized workshops and field exercises for staff members from DRCs, members of DFG, elected representatives and members of CCBs. Themes for their trainings were:

1. Development Planning
2. Participatory Rapid Appraisal
3. Resource Mobilization
4. CCBs Proposal Writing
5. Role of Elected Representatives in Planning Against Poverty and Improvement of Livelihood
6. Monitoring of the Projects of CCBs

Following table demonstrates nature of the trainings, their venues, types of beneficiaries and number of beneficiaries, both male and female, who benefited from the trainings held in 2006:

Training/Exercise	Provinces	Beneficiaries' Type	Participants	
			Male	Female
Eight Sectoral Trainings	Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and NWFP	PWGs and DRCs	171	65
Two Trainings on Development Planning	NWFP and Sindh	PWGs, CCBs and Partner Organizations	43	10
One PRA exercise	Sindh	DRC	10	1
One Training on Resource Mobilization	Punjab	PWGs and DRCs	13	5
Four Trainings on CCBs' Proposal Development	Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Balochistan	PWGs, CCBs and DRCs	77	31
Five Trainings on Role of Elected Representatives in Planning Against Poverty	Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Balochistan	Elected Representatives and DRCs	57	17
Three Trainings on Monitoring of CCBs	Punjab, Sindh and NWFP		77	31
One Training with Women Councilors on Women's Livelihood vis-à-vis Local Government	Punjab	Women councilors, PWGs and CCBs	41	15

The district partners of SAP-Pk also organized exposure visits of the PWGs members for more learning. These visits aimed at acquainting peasants with functions of and services available with water and soil testing laboratories and livestock department. A total of 36 exposure visits were organized, during 2006.

Research and Documentation:

The primary thrust of research and documentation related to poverty and livelihood is on analyzing local and national issues of agriculture, food security, land rights, rights of peasants/workers, and water, suggesting alternatives, highlighting successful experiences of addressing poverty and documenting opportunities for economic development through developing profiles of the districts.

All documents, researches and data bases, produced under research and documentation during 2006, served as a knowledge-input to multiple users. Following is the detail of major works of the year 2006:

Type	Title	Results
Thematic Paper (1)	Agriculture and Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzed situation of food security and agriculture and suggested alternative framework for improvement in these sectors
Thematic Paper (1)	Livelihood Rights of Peasants and Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically evaluated how livelihood rights of peasants and workers are challenged in Pakistan and presented framework for local and national actions
Land Rights and Peasants Economic Justice (1)	Policy Dossier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented critique on national policies/actions on land rights and economic justice, and recommendations for formulation of pro-farmer/worker policy
Water Distribution and Politics (1)	Policy Dossier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed water politics in Pakistan and recommended policy changes in the interest of farmers' communities
District Profiles (8)	Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fed planners and researchers from state and civil society organizations, and general communities, with information about the districts, on natural resources, population and housing patterns, infrastructure and basic services, education, health, workforce, agricultural and industrial activities, governance, development projects, etc.

Sustainable Agriculture (1)	Booklet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awared peasants and farm workers about the concept and dimensions of sustainable agriculture
Anjuman-e-Imdaad -e-Bahmi Brai Kashtkaaran (1)	Booklet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educated peasants and farm workers how to form small organizations around the concept of cooperatives
Zari Ajnaas Ki Kharid-o-Frokht (1)	Booklet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awared farmers and farm workers about successful marketing strategies of the agricultural products
Land Reforms (1)	Translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educated farmers, members of civil society organizations and other stakeholders about land reforms in Pakistan and their impact

These documents were made available to all partners, PWG members, DRCs, DFGs, trainers' resource pool, provincial offices and general civil society organizations, in print form.

It will be pertinent to note that monthly newsletter of SAP-Pk, *Chaanan*, also contributed articles and news items on livelihood programs and cultural events and fairs that SAP-Pk has been part of. These events and fairs were organized to celebrate the unity of rural fraternity, richness of local language and poetry and to share stories from the valuable stock of traditions. Such events come from the past tradition of SAP-Pk as evidences of its hearty support and therefore not as phenomena which developed with any specific program.

Policy Advocacy:

Policy Advocacy on Poverty Eradication and Livelihood appeared as one of the most important parts of the programs that SAP-Pk undertook during 2006. For instance, this year, SAP-Pk:

1. Reviewed issues *of* and policies *on* livelihood and poverty concerning farmers, peasants, women and religious minorities of rural communities in Pakistan
2. Developed linkages among farmer groups and created exposure opportunities for them so that they learn from each others' experiences and strive collectively for economic development of rural communities; a development which is based on safe environment and healthy practices

3. Exposed farmers' groups to academic knowledge and field activism concerning livelihood rights, land rights, water, corporate farming, TRIP, TRIM, WTO, poverty eradication, pricing, etc.
4. Created opportunities for farmers' groups, elected representatives, GLAs and media to interact, and hammer out cohesive strategies to address issues of livelihood and poverty, at the level of communities, policies and programs

Activity	Number	Estimated Participants
Exposure Visits of PWGs	50	500
Press Conferences and Rallies on land rights, peasants and farmers rights, pricing of their produce, unavailability of farm machinery and impact of WTO	100	5000

The experience of exposure visits proved to be very enriching for the groups of peasants. They were taken to meet leaders of farmers' movements. They visited seed research and water management research centers, university of agriculture, experiment-fields of drip-irrigation, bed planters and research center of bio-technology.

The activities of national and international networks have also been a source of great attraction to SAP-Pk during the year 2006. These networks surfaced mostly the concerns of the farmers in the form of activism and presentation of alternative policies. Some prominent engagements of SAP-Pk were with the following networks:

Sustainable Agriculture Action Group (SAAG): SAAG is a national network comprising of NGOs and farmers' movements. SAP-Pk is on its steering committee. The network held several press conferences, rallies, seminars and meetings for lobbying with the elected representatives on national policy of pricing of wheat, TRIP and TRIM. SAP-Pk was involved in planning and mobilization for participation in SAAG's activities during 2006.

“More and Better”: More and Better is a campaign led by Europe. SAP-Pk is its active member. In 2006, SAP-Pk contributed deliberations on issues of hunger, food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture in the context of Pakistan for alternative policy formulation. “More and Better” works with FAO.

Peasants Workers' Network: It is a national network working on socio-political and economic rights of farmers and workers. It also formulates alternative policies and acts as a pressure group on policy formulation institutions. SAP-Pk encouraged its PWGs to be member of this network. Similarly, many representatives of farmers, women and religious minorities from across Pakistan became members of this movement, as the result of the mobilization of SAP-Pk. The network organized many rallies and press conferences on the issue of corporate farming, this year.

Program Partnership:

Program Partnership, under Poverty Eradication and Livelihood, extended significant contributions in 2006 and reinforced capacity building, research and documentation and policy advocacy, in their attempts to indent the status quo.

Training is generally a subject of the Capacity Building in the SAP-Pk's system. However, the theme of poverty eradication and livelihood brings Program Partnership into play, as well. Under this theme, Program Partnership builds capacities of the farmers as well as provides technical and, where possible, financial support to them for implementing small-scale infrastructure development projects to help boost their economic conditions and improve their social and political status.

Under SDGP, Capacity Building provides trainings to PWGs on Organic Farming, Livestock Management and Water Management. SDGP is being funded by CIDA and SDC.

Objectives of Farmers' Development Program (FDP)

- Capacity of PWGs and Kissan Committees in developing and implementation of community physical infrastructure schemes - for farmers' economic development - is enhanced
- Kissan Committees are capacitated to mobilize local human, financial and material resources for their development initiatives
- Skills of the Kissan Committees are developed in organizational management, project's financial management, monitoring and networking with different civil society groups and line departments
- Members of Kissan Committees are orientated with the concept of village-based Cooperatives

Farmers Development Program (FDP) is the one for which Program Partnership plays its dual role of capacity building of farmers groups, which are known as Kissan Committees, and funding the selected groups. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) is providing financial support to both training and funding. *Capacity Building Program* (CBP) is component for training and *Community Physical Infrastructure* (CPI) is a component for providing financial assistance.

Under **Capacity Building Program** this year, the Program Partnership developed Kissan Committees in 6 districts, i.e., Lodhran Layyah, Khanewal, Bhakkar, Toba Tek Singh and Mianwali, and provided training to their 366 male and female members on various issues, especially gender and development, monitoring tools and techniques, resource mobilization and formation of cooperatives. There are 90 Kissan Committees now. And as the result of the trainings provided this year:

- Kissan Committees effectively used monitoring tools for implementation and maintenance of infrastructure schemes. During the reported period, no scheme failed, from conception till its completion and maintenance. It is therefore a testimony to the fact that peasants understand and fulfill their roles, and commitment and social responsibility is marking its presence.
- Female members of the communities were equally involved in planning, implementation and monitoring processes. Other than physical presence of women in all meetings, committees' records reflected changes in the attitudes of male members, too. For instance, they started accepting suggestions and recommendations of the female members.
- Kissan Committee members effectively mobilized and managed both human and financial resources. They generated Rs. 3,584,100 for implementation of development schemes and expanded their membership to nearly 3,000 individuals. They had their organizational structures in place.
- Members of Kissan Committees developed knowledge-base about cooperatives. They were educated about gender needs. They wanted to develop gender responsive cooperatives.
- Kissan Committee members became aware of the role and systems of various concerned line departments. Committees' relationship with line departments improved.

Line departments visited the concerned areas regularly and addressed problems of the communities.

It is relevant to note that the SAP-Pk designed the CBP component subsequent to having conducted a Training Need Assessment of the Kissan Committees. Also, based on the learnings from other countries, specially India, and findings about the then existing knowledge and the required knowledge/skills of the peasants, these contents for the trainings were trimmed and a calendar of various skill-based trainings was developed. Seasonal engagements of peasants were also kept in view. SAP-Pk kept four key elements in focus. These elements were as following:

Financial Input for Infrastructure Schemes (in Rupees)	
Total Cost of CPI Projects	
PPAF Share	
Communities' Share	
Amount Disbursed	
Balance	

1. Relevant and Graspable Content; contents were on the theme or subject. They were delivered in a participatory manner; participants had the liberty to comment on and change the contents if required
2. Training Review; changes in the content were based on the feedback of the participants and the analysis of monthly progress reports of Kissan Committees and monitoring reports of the social organizers.
3. Method of Delivery of Information; it was very simple, informal and it was delivered without electrical gadgets, especially in view of the fact that the most of the peasants were barely literate. The trainings were conducted in an unconventional environment unlike typical of NGOs and CBOs.
4. Follow-up Plan; participants had multiple tasks to handle and liberty to make choices and decisions after training programs. Female members were encouraged to volunteer for taking responsibilities and make informed decisions. Male members were encouraged to be flexible and appreciate the collective capacities of the group. They were appreciated for their support to the female counterparts.

Like the capacity Building, Program Partnership also successfully provided technical and financial support to Kissan Committees, in 2006, under the CPI component of FDP. The CPI made possible for 90 Kissan Committees to receive Rs. 14,011,277 from SAP-Pk for their 77 physical infrastructure schemes, since April 2005.

Kissan Committees' Training Events January-December 2006

Training	Venue	Date	Days	Participants	
				M	F
Monitoring Tools/Techniques	Khanewal	Mar 16-17, 06	2	19	8
Concepts & Formation of Cooperatives	Khanewal	Mar 8-10, 06	3	23	5
Local Resource Mobilization	Layyah	Mar 18-20, 06	3	36	11
Monitoring Tools/Techniques	Layyah	Jun 12-13, 06	2	38	7
Local Resource Mobilization	Khanewal	Jun 28-30, 06	3	22	3
Concepts & Formation of Cooperatives	Lodhran	Jun 20-22, 06	3	23	2
Concepts & Formation of Cooperatives	Layyah	Sep 28-20, 06	3	26	4
Monitoring Tools/Techniques	Lodhran	Aug 26-27, 06	2	20	0
Local Resource Mobilization	Layyah	Aug 28-30, 06	3	43	5
Monitoring Tools/Techniques	Lodhran	Dec 26-27, 06	2	30	1
Local Resource Mobilization	Layyah	Dec 23-25, 06	3	36	4
				316	50

Community Physical Infrastructure Projects Completed

District	Link Roads/Culverts	Tube Well	Soling / Sanitation	Water Course / Lining	Total
Khanewal	4	6	9	7	26
Layyah	5	5	0	16	26
Lodhran	4	4	7	1	16
Pakpattan	0	4	2	3	9
Total	13	19	18	27	77

Administratively, SAP-Pk is implementing CBP and CPI with the collaboration of its partner organizations which are working with farmers. And it was through the channel of this very partnership that farmers groups were formed, their training needs were assessed, they were provided trainings and results of those trainings were evaluated and financial resources were finally disbursed to the selected schemes. SAP-Pk provided training to the staff of the partner organizations too during the process. These trainings were aimed at enhancing the capacities of the staff for affective handling of the tasks.

Partner CBOs' Training Events January-December 2006

CBOs Training	Venue	Date	Days	Participants	
				M	F
Social Communication	SAP-PK	Aug 22-24, 06	3	22	15
Project Designing	Multan	Sep 8-11, 06	4	28	10
Networking	Lodhran	Sep 26-27, 06	2	27	12
				77	37

Eligibility for Receiving Small Scheme Funding

1. Kissan Committee should have at least 25 landless poor farmers, with 10 being females at least, or in case it is not possible to have male members, it has to have all female members
2. Kissan Committee should develop community physical infrastructure scheme on participatory grounds. The scheme should contribute towards sustainable livelihood of the target families (gender and culture sensitive and viewed through principles of Human Rights)
3. It should have a bank account, managed by any two general members and not by the office bearers
4. It should have three effective sub-committees; Project Committee (proposal development and implementation), Audit Committee (for audit) and Maintenance Committee (to maintain the scheme once it is complete)

Farmers' Voice

1

“...We tried to approach the water management authorities for lining of the watercourses of our village, but the process of acquiring their assistance was so complicated that we decided not to try it. Meanwhile, we luckily heard from FDP. The team of FDP came and organized us. Then they trained us in running our Committee and generating resources. They provided us some financial resources. We contributed our share as well. And now, let me say that lining of the watercourses is not enough for us. We want to work more...on many other problems of our village. It is just the beginning of good things for us.” (Mohammed Amjad, Kissan Committee Allah Wali, District Layyah)...

2

“Before FDP came, we did not have the realization and opportunity of working together. Now we work together. As we were in the process of becoming members of our Committee, some of us considered a few individuals as low-caste. They did not want such individuals to be part of our committee. But we declined their views. We told everybody that we didn't believe in discrimination. Now everybody is fine and we respect each other equally. We are together. We have already completed a culvert. Before that, the canal of our village did not have a bridge and we had to make a long detour to get to the road in order to transport ourselves, our cattle and crops. Now as the culvert is complete, it takes little time for us to take our crops and goods to the market now. This development has reduced the cost of transportation to one-fourth. “One fourth” is very significant figure in the lives of us farmers... Now we want our committee to be registered as CCB. We want to utilize resources available with the local government, for various similar projects. And it is because of our united voice that a member of Punjab assembly has already agreed to get approval for the construction of girls' high school and a dispensary in our village.” (Mohammed Akraam, Awaz Kissan Committee, District Layyah)

3

“FDP was the very first initiative which thought about us! We have recently completed lining of the very long watercourse. Before we initiated it, FDP gave us training on how to collect and manage resources. We find many things worth doing now. There is another success

story of our committee. A very small water channel, *Mosa Minor* irrigates lands of our village. There are 24 openings at this channel. However, it did not carry enough water. Sometimes, people used to break it on the way and stole our share of water. So, our committee mobilized farmers from all the 24 villages and chalked out a time-plan for water allocation so that every farmer should get equal amount of water. We also gave a sit-in at the water-head to pressurize the XEN and DCO for getting the issue of the shortfall of water allocation and its pilferage resolved. Our campaign was very successful. In late 2006, we desalinated the channel through local contribution. We also have regular visits of the Livestock Department as well as Lady Health Visitors now. Recently, we organized a youth sports festival in our village.” (Mohammed Iftikhar, Ahbab Kissan Committee, District Layyah)

One Little Effort...

Kishwar Kissan Committee (Punjab Province)

Chak 47/M is located at Rawani, which is a union council of Tehsil Lodhran at the far end. It is situated at Sujahabad road, 30 kilometers left to Lodhran and three kilometers away from Galawal in the East. This chak is comprised of about thirty families and its population is estimated around 295 individuals.

People of Chak 47/M are very poor. They cultivate wheat and cotton. They used to irrigate their lands with scarcely available tube-well and/or canal water generally. People who owned diesel engine for irrigation used to sell water for rupee 350 per hour pumping. Due to abject poverty, shortage of irrigation facilities and high cost water input, people of the village were suffering. Their crops failed or produced less.

Sensing the gravity of situation and having assistance of a social organizer from adjacent Basti, Doulatpur, a group of local residents met SAP-Pk and inquired about Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) program. CPI officials arranged a meeting in their *Chak* for their orientation. Considering the program in line with their needs, the local residents informed the CPI officials in the meeting that they wanted to run a tube-well scheme in their village.

As a first step, CPI officials assisted the farmers in forming a committee, namely “Kishwar Kissan Committee”. The officials also assisted its members in forming three sub-committees, each of which consisted of two individuals, and orientated them on how to work. The peasants then took responsibilities according to their capacities and they started out with resource generation plan. In a short while, the members of the committee collected Rs.158,000 from the community. They then received grant from CPI. It took no time to get a tube well installed after the members worked out its details in the light of the training and on-the-job assistance. One committee supervised the project implementation, the other looked into financial matters and third committee took the responsibility of maintenance.

The project of tube well is accomplished and it is functional. Two members are jointly monitoring its functioning presently. This project has reduced the cost of irrigation from Rs. 400 to a mere Rs.110 per hour of pumping and has enabled the members to work out a full irrigation plan for the community members. Water is available around the clock to everyone now. The significant reduction in charges of irrigation has understandably enabled the stakeholders to save money and be saved them from exploitation. This tube well is a very small model at this point... The Kishwar Kissan Committee has bigger plans. It wants to develop a large Cooperative in near future.

5 Human Security and Safe Environment

Different societies attribute different meanings to human security and safe environment. For many developing countries, human security and safe environment means invincible defense. This is why they accumulate lethal weapons. They compromise major portion of their budgets on weapons by cutting development budgets short. When their citizens argue and demand employment, security, health, education, and transparency and participation in governance, these countries subdue their voices and label them as 'miscreants'.

Pakistan is one of such examples where security implies large military spending, and not the social, political and economic well being of citizens. And when it comes to "defense", it is essentially India which, according to the military establishment, is a reason for Pakistan's mammoth military expenditures. For Pakistani establishment, India is larger-than-life and an 'unscrupulous enemy' to fail which Pakistan needs lots of conventional and nuclear weapons (and vice versa). This perception has been dominant. It has militarized our society specially by fermenting *Mujahideen*. It has carved more foes than friends in this world, like "villainous" India, then "traitor" Bangladesh, "strategically important" Afghanistan, "Un-Islamic" Russia, "infidel" Hindus, "untouchable" Christians, and then "good" Sunni Muslims and "*Kaffir*" Shia Muslims. Perhaps the worst of all is that it has narrowed the roles of males and females in our society and legitimized violence against them in the name of honor, custom and religion. It created the impression of males as if they are divine and of women as temptresses, who - if unguarded and unchecked by their men in matters related to freedom of choice - will spread sexual promiscuity, blemish honor and therefore undermine faith of the collective society.

While the dearly policies of the Pakistani establishment that it adopted to suppress people and infect them with prejudice and hatred have already started showing their logical results, the incident of September 11 puts Pakistan in a few frame of global priorities. Now it wants to curtail the extremism to a manageable extent, but to no avail. The general law and order situation and the suicide bombings blatantly now mock at the shallow wisdom of our policy makers. Now one incident of September 11 gives a twist-in-the-arm to the declared and undeclared policies of Pakistan. Had Pakistani establishment not complied with the order of the day by extending unconditional support to war against terror and frown at extremism, Pakistan could have become a very soft target because it already had a charge sheet of hatching and exporting

'terrorists', and proliferating the nuclear capability to the 'rogue states' of the world. Therefore, to avoid any possible attack and showcase soft image, Pakistani establishment leashed onto the militant extremists, gave 33 % representation to women in assemblies, closed training camps of *Mujahideen* and gave some breathing space to media. Meanwhile, it also installed local government system as a broader agenda of political, social and economic reforms and introduced joint-electorate system of elections to satisfy the religious minorities. Later, towards the end of 2006, it also amended the *Zina* section of Haddood Ordinance and thus reduced the level of the institutionalized form of violence against women in Pakistan to some extent. Previously, a raped woman had to produce four witnesses in the court (essentially pious males) to prove sexual assault on her; or she had to go to jail for testifying the fact that a crime took place in which she was a party.

Despite the fact that Pakistani establishment took unlikely steps after September 11 it actually could have done better by compromising its control on many fronts that undeniably belonged to the people. For instance, what it did that it should not have done is that it gripped the democratic institutions more firmly, strangled political voice in the name of emergency, twisted local government system to glean political support and installed religious parties' alliance as provincial government in NWFP to bargain with the west that either it chooses 'enlightened military as ruler' or the obscurantist and prejudiced extremists. It attacked its once-beloved in Balochistan and NWFP and Balochistan to curb their 'terrorist activities' and thus fanned more conflicts to give an excuse of its prolonged rule. But, as we know, this scheme of the establishment did not bother the west and the US apparently, because Pakistan had already accepted to become their front-line partner in war against terror. And it still continues to be a partner that has pyrrhic victories in its account.

The new arrangement of governance and politics in Pakistan is based on a very strange ideological dichotomy, in fact. It is oppressive on the one hand and "enlightened" on the other hand. This is why we find good as well as very bad examples in this arrangement. The challenges for the civil society in this unique case are certainly many. In the first place, for example, to vivify the dormant interest of the people in the political process is perhaps the tallest of all big challenges. To meet this target is only possible when the civil society builds on the strengths by enabling people to benefit from whatever little or big is available for them in the system; the system of local governance to start with. Then it involves enabling of the people to gradually organize themselves and take full control of the decision-making from village level to the provincial and federal level. Only such an engagement will ultimately lead to make louder

SAP-Pk, being part of the civil society movement, firmly believes in the engagement of people on their potentials rather than a false hope of revolution without political direction. The organization is organizing people by working *with* them on issues of controlling their own lives. It is working with elected representatives, media and government line agencies, too, with a view to make them participatory and sensitive to the needs of the poor. It is developing linkages among people, government and state departments around issues of democracy, governance, livelihood, human security, social justice, violence, peace and economic development. Its struggle is hinged on opportunities available in constitutional guarantees, system of governance and the universal ideology of human respect, equality and dignity. It treats the issue of human security and safe environment from the perspective of equal human rights and materialization of the safety and security in Pakistan as a pre-condition to development of peace and achievement of human rights in the region.

Rights of Women, Religious Minorities, Children and Peasants, and Human Security and Safe Environment

Province	Workshops	Participants	
		M	F
Punjab	4	66	29
NWFP	2	49	3
Balochistan	2	28	7
Sindh	4	70	53
Total	12	213	92

Capacity Building:

In SAP-Pk's struggle, Capacity Building on Human Security and Safe Environment is about delivering knowledge to the people - including groups of peasants, elected representatives and state officials - on the rights of women, children, religious minorities and peasants, and channels of support available to them. It is about enabling all the stakeholders to *perform sensitively* in their individual and collective domains of social, political and/or administrative responsibilities.

Under the capacity building in 2006, SAP-Pk conducted 12 workshops on human rights. The content of human rights essentially covered women, children, religious minorities and peasants' rights, and various national movements. In so doing, the training workshops did a spadework for potential activism in coming days when SAP-Pk intends to involve more elected representatives and state officials in its programs and extend its campaign "ending violence against women" beyond Multan, Bahawalpur and Rajanpur districts. Details of this campaign have been presented in the following chapter, i.e., Policy Advocacy.

During 2006, SAP-Pk provided training to 213 male and 92 female participants on different sets of rights. The participants of these trainings were from DRCs, CCBs, PWGs and partner organizations. The workshops were daylong, and were simple in their content and delivery. The contents were delivered through contextualization of social, political and economic realities. The participants learnt in these workshops about *their* rights by picking examples from the eclectic range of their basic to strategic needs. The trainers put them in different situations, especially of majority, religious and ethnic minorities, opposite sex, expatriates, rural and urban populations, in order to enable them to relate with the content and the niche. This guided exploration through examples assisted the participants to seek answers to many of their questions which communities generally put. In a very subtle manner, therefore, many critical questions, especially about polygamy, same-sex marriage, defending human rights of religious minorities, domestic violence, also came under discussion that otherwise remain taboos in the existing social set-up. The participants maintained at the end that human security and well being was as much a requirement of *others* as it was for them and their families, and is a fairly broader term. They noted in their workshop-evaluation exercises that harmonized co-existence, peace and democratic governance could not be achieved without social, political, legal and constitutional acceptance of those who differ ideologically, conditionally or physically, and only those nations survive the test of time which have 'developed' people on their backs.

SAP-Pk threw light on the relationship between rights and governance in the trainings workshops, as well. At the end of every training, trainers informed the participants about different international commitments concerning women, religious minorities, children and peasants, without using any technical terms. Resource kits of translated excerpts from the following documents were also made available for further assistance and clarity of the participants:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and
- Convention on the Rights of the Child

Research on 'Violence Against Women in Politics:

Research on Human Security and Safe Environment reinforced information-base on the issue of violence against women in Pakistan. A research, titled “**Violence Against Women in Politics**” was conducted under this theme this year. OXFAM and Novib funded this research. In 2006, the research was conducted. The publication is expected to roll out in 2007. For this research, a total of 240 samples and 20 case-studies were collected. There were lady councilors, general councilors and representatives of farmers, workers and religious minorities among the respondents. SAP-Pk had valuable support of its SDGP and non-SDGP partners, in 22 districts, in conducting the field survey.

“Violence Against Women in Politics” basically is part of a five-years' regional program on good governance and democracy in South Asia. This program is titled “**South Asia Regional Governance with People Program (SARGPP)**”. SAP-International developed it in consultation with all wings of SAP, and now implementing it in the region. To start with it, each SAP member conducted research at its national level with an understanding that synthesis of all such national researches will feed the advocacy initiatives and campaigns of SARGPP.

Principally, SARGPP is based on two central threads as far as both human rights and South Asia are concerned. One of these threads is that democracy in South Asia needs major reforms in policies, institutions and political cultures partially because their being non-transparent, centralized and oppressive, and partially because of their inability to translate aspirations of the people in line with the SAARC Social Charter. The second thread is

Issues of Violence against Women in Politics, in South Asia

1. Character assassination, slander and violence discourage women entering into the politics
2. Lack of political awareness and women's rights to the women
3. The social and cultural norms of patriarchal system resulting in domination of males over women in decision making in social, political and economic areas
4. Inferior economic status and unequal access to education creates stumpy access to independent financial resources to women
5. Misperceptions about politics; politics is a dirty game of bribery, leg-pulling and deceit, and therefore it is not fit for women

that violence against women is pervasive across multiple spheres, including politics, and that unless policies and practices are engendered, governance will remain jaundiced, oppressive and ineffective. These very two threads form the basis of the SARGPP. Herein the national researches provide for the intellectual base of the alliances' building and advocacy campaign.

“Violence Against Women in Politics” is a detailed research. It takes several social, political, and administrative aspects into account. It has been designed to present a synthesis of the existing trends of violence and surface coping strategies to discourage violence against women in politics.

There were about 22 questions in the survey conducted for the research. Some of those questions are:

- How did you enter politics?
- Who supported you the most when you decided to enter politics?
- Who opposed you the most when you planned to enter politics?
- What types of hurdles did you face while entering politics?
- Now when you are a member of district/tehsil/union council, how are you treated?
- What types of fears, dangers or difficulties do women in politics face?
- Why women become the victim of danger, injustice and sexual abuse?
- What kind of women easily become victim of sexual abuse, in your view?
- Who is responsible for injustices/sexual abuses of women in politics?
- How do you deal injustice/sexual abuse in your case?
- Do any institutions help when women become victims of sexual abuse?
- What types of domestic problems/violence are you facing after you entered politics?
- How can environment be made suitable for women in politics?

Survey Team					
#	District	Surveyor	#	District	Surveyor
1	Bhakkar	DRC person	12	Swabi	DRC
2	Sahiwal	Anjuman Falah-e-Niswan	13	Haripur	DRC
3	Sialkot	DRC	14	Swat	DRC
4	Rajanpur	DRC	15	Kohat	DRC
5	Bahawalpur	DRC	16	Bolan	DRC
6	Mirpur Khas	DRC	17	Loralai	DRC
7	Ghotki	DRC	18	Zhob	DRC
8	Jacobabad	DRC	19	Sibbi	DRC
9	Matiari	DRC	20	Noshki	DRC
10	Umar Kot	DRC	21	Multan	Women's Rights Association
11	Peshawar	DRC	22	Lahore	SAP-PK

6 Peace and Regional Cooperation

Peace and regional cooperation are the most central demands of the civil society in South Asia in view of the prevalent human rights abuses taking place under the pretexts of security, and the fact that war mongering and social and political intolerance is keeping the vulnerable sections at the lowest ebb and diminishing all forms of inherent potentials which otherwise could have been employed for the collective wellbeing of little less than one and a half billion people of the region. For many, peace is the absence of war and a condition. To some, it is a value and state of being fully able to enjoy security, equality and justice.

Dialectically peace has two sides in our global context, i.e., internal and external. The internal context of peace for a country is its domestic political, economic and administrative stratification evolved either on equality or inequality, justice or injustice and respect or disrespect for human rights, especially those of women and religious and ethnic minorities. So far as South Asia is concerned, unfortunately, it does not present any good examples. For instance, Pakistan, the second largest country of the geographic block, has till now only deepened conflicts *among* and subdued voices *of* different social, ethnic or political groups of its citizens. The establishment of this country has deliberately turned the collective wisdom and strengths of its people into ora of endless insecurity and mistrust. This insecurity and mistrust eventually has sidelined people from the mainstream politics, armed them and enabled the establishment to exploit the national resources without any moral compunction. Similarly, the other South Asian countries also follow this trend. One may find lot of examples of their political incompetencies.

The second side of peace is external, which also denotes cooperation or non-cooperation of a state with others. In South Asia, peace vis-à-vis cooperation has broadly been a reflection of each country's own national priorities. For instance, if it is military, bureaucracy and religious zealots who have been controlling Pakistan, the relationship of Pakistan with other countries understandably would mark its preference for weapons, politics of elimination and a slow-moving, good-for-nothing and complex type of foreign policy that discourages peoples' liberty and their interaction at the regional level. We have seen that this hawkish policy moved Pakistan to partner with the US in fighting against Russia and then be the first, and the last, country in the world to acknowledge Taliban as rulers of Afghanistan while the partner - the US - was still clueless in finding any single legitimate reason of acknowledging Taliban as

government by any of the modern or obsolete standards. Similarly, this policy granted buffer zone to the tribal lords and militants in the Northwest wherein they freely manufactured small and medium range weapons for their consumption in Afghanistan and Pakistan, giving Pakistan a hope that it will earn it a 'strategic depth' in the region and bring about long lasting 'peace'. And after some years, the twist in the international scenario advised Pakistan to form another policy of the sort. This time the new policy advised Pakistan to hit the same militants, warlords and Taliban to usher a new form of peace. The new relationship of Pakistan with India has also been marked by the new policy. The marriage of convenience among the global political milieu after September 11 and the rising poverty is now forcing the establishment of Pakistan to emanate soft tunes.

Events make history such as the 9/11 has brought Pakistan into a strange political order when it has acquired a new role of killing its own darling. Now this is a point where people are openly criticizing military for its playing as stooge to the US, the establishment is awed with increasing insecurity within Pakistan and things slipping out of the dexterous hands, the world community is pushing Pakistan harder with a rhetoric of "do more" on the front of war against terror and inflation is making an unprecedented history as WTO unfolded in 2005. The establishment is obviously caught between fire and the frying pan, in this scenario. It cannot fool the world any longer and the situation makes it yearn for a little break from the diehard type of militant outfits. There are now dozens of them launching offensives inside and outside Pakistan. They are under no body's control. They carry out attacks and suicide-bombings in every part of the country. They are hitting common citizens and mosques, churches, public gatherings, religious congregations, bazaars and even military exercise fields, the Prime Minister and the President. Unluckily, they have some support from the illiterate and inactive fundamentalists. It is not that easy for the establishment to cap them, especially those who are diehard. It is also not easy for the state to fold back the naked use of arms - the proliferation of which it once benevolently overlooked - without changing national priorities as people wish and accepting regional cooperation as the only resort. To get support of the masses, it has to save the poor from the onslaught of the west-friendly form of globalization. Peace and tolerance are obviously the pre-requisite values in this crunch time. And this is the critical juncture when civil society should join hands and benefit from the lucky by-product of the pressure of the neo-capitalists for economic cooperation. This pressure is already forcing South Asian countries to revisit their positions with regards to their disputes since politics of elimination has backfired exactly as it was being apprehended by the civil society once. So, the civil society must capitalize on the trade-bound truce among countries of South Asia.

SAP-Pk is one of the oldest organizations in Pakistan which had been up front in denouncing war mongering and extending support to individuals and groups vying for peace even in those days when the Pakistani establishment used to treat discussions about peace and regional cooperation, especially in the context of India, as treacherous. It made its understanding known that treating peace as an end rather than a path does not fulfill the dreams of the masses and that prosperity, democracy and dignity are a juxtaposition of the aspirations of millions of peasants, workers, women, and ethnic and religious minorities, spirit of the SAARC Social Charter and a sense of global fraternity, without which future of the individual countries, region and the world remains bleak. The organization has been conducted various awareness activities. It facilitated regional level consultations meant for gleaning support of more members from civil society, acting as precursor to the SAARC Summits and drafting people-centered demands. It became part of many regional level advocacy and research, capacity development initiatives that shared their vision about peace, ending violence against women, human security, human rights and livelihood rights, with SAP-Pk.

South Asia Small Arms Network (SASA Net):

SASA Net is an initiative for promotion of peace and tolerance in the South Asian region. It resulted of a regional meeting of notable civil society organizations from South Asia, at New Delhi in 2001. The participants of that meeting shared their concern about the spread of small arms and the fact that it was posing serious threats to the lives of the people and shaping their mindsets to disrespect the sanctity of life, narrow the space of dialogue, speak the language of smoking barrels and degenerate the common trust of the citizens into absolute non-cooperation. The participants shared their experiences of the conflicts in which small arms led people to face more volatile conflicts and adversely impact women, religious and ethnic minorities, children and other weaker groups because of their vulnerability in social, political and economic terms. These discussions about the impact of small arms vis-à-vis security, peace and human rights led the participants of that Delhi meeting to form a very vibrant regional advocacy network against small arms, called SASA Net.

The SASA Net since it kicked off five years ago has been actively pursuing South Asian societies and states to expunge small arms industry, control illicit trade of guns, promote regional and global cooperation and change social, political and economic policies in the interest of the people. It continues to register the concerns of the common citizens and the civil

society towards conventional and nuclear weapons, pressurize the member states to dismantle their nuclear-bomb facilities and use the resources saved thus for the wellbeing of their citizens.

The SASA Net has conducted various activities in the form of public awareness campaigns, research, forums and capacity building since its establishment. SAP-Pk became its member in the third of a series of meetings organized at Delhi, Dhaka and Colombo.

There are 57 and 18 individuals in the general body and steering committee respectively in the Pakistan chapter of SASA Net. The secretariat of the SASA Net Pakistan is currently with SAP-PK. In fact, the national steering committee asked SAP-Pk in its second meeting, held at Islamabad, to accept the responsibility of running the secretariat.

Year 2006 was a very busy time for the SASA Net in Pakistan. Following were a few achievements of the year:

Activity	Results
Three Meetings of the Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decided about secretariat of SASA Net Pakistan to be with SAP-PK ● Defined outlines of the plans for SASA Net Pakistan ● Developed and approved Constitution of SASA Net Pakistan (A committee comprising of 3 male and female senior academicians and development professional developed the constitution) ● Extended campaign to different organizations and institutions, especially of education
Participation in Two Regional Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outlined Regional Strategic Plan ● Reviewed past activities ● Presented Pakistan's work for Annual Report of the SASA Net (Regional)
Four Position Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enabled national partners to define their position with regards to advocacy and lobbying on peace and regional cooperation

Linkages with Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sensitized universities' youth, through theatre, about peace vis-à-vis small arms, and mobilized them to actively protect and support peace initiatives (Chancellor of Bahawalpur University was also interested to host a exhibition of posters and invite victims of violence)
Theatre Shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educated students and general audiences of Pakistan Social Forum (Lahore), educational institutions and World Social Forum (Karachi) about peace, regional cooperation and use of small arms
Internet Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exchanged information (Internet group of SASA Net partners have been set up)

SASA Net Regional Secretariat is set up in South Asia Partnership International (SAP-I). SAP-I receives reports from national chapters on six monthly basis for review. Meetings are also held at the regional level as need arises and resources allow. Discussions in such meetings assist the national chapters in assessing progress of their members and developing their future direction and strategies.

South Asia Peace Alliance (SAPA):

To expand the struggle for making South Asian countries socio-politically tolerant, South Asian Peace Alliance (SAPA) came into existence on April 2006. Before it was formed, many consultations among civil society organizations took place, following up on a regional level workshop "Peace is The Way - Conflict Transformation in South Asia", in which they had participated in 2003. There were 14 national level civil society organizations, from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka which attended that workshop. Later, until the SAPA was formed, 6 more workshops were held in India on the fringes of the same consultations. And finally it was upon the call of dedicated individuals from Ekta Preshad and Gandhi Peace Foundation (both from India) who were ahead in conducting trainings and inviting people to India for

SAPA Members

1. Quaker Peace and Social Witness, UK (Donor)
2. South Asia Partnership - Pakistan
3. Gandhi Peace Foundation, India
4. Ekta Preshad, India
5. Institute of Human Rights Commission, Nepal
6. Gono Unnayan Prochesta, Bangladesh
7. Peace & Community Action, Sri Lanka
8. American Friends Service Committee, Afghanistan

exposures that more than 20 enthusiastic peace activists of South Asian countries finally got together in April 2006 in Nepal and launched SAPA. Quaker Peace and Social Witness, UK, provided financial assistance for that event.

SAPA is commissioned to work on five thematic thrusts. As far as its programmatic structure is concerned, there is one organization mainly responsible for one thematic thrust. Each member organization however also has to extend its support to other members for complementing their efforts and giving SAPA a wholistic shape. SAPA is therefore a distinguished body because of its ability to allow its members to act independently as well as interdependently. Its themes or areas of intervention vis-à-vis responsibilities of the members are hereunder:

- **Building Support for Non-Violence:** This theme is about involving common citizens in the course of activism. Ekta Preshad and Gandhi Peace Foundation from India jointly organize foot marches to promote *Ahinsa*. Ahinsa, meaning non-violence, is a political orientation that Mahatma Gandhi also adopted as his doctrine.
- **Peace Education:** Peace and Community Action, Sri Lanka, is responsible for organizing training workshops for youth and social workers to sensitize them about peace and mobilize them to participate in the struggle. This theme is therefore expanding the resource pool of peace activists.
- **Advocacy on South Asian Regional Identity:** SAPA, as a struggle for peace in South Asia, essentially demands for promotion of South Asian identity and thus serving the larger objectives of SAARC Social Charter. SAP-Pk is responsible for holding seminars, developing and disseminating thematic papers, and consulting media to promote sensitive reporting culture.
- **Media Mobilization and Education:** Civil society of South Asia greatly appreciates the significance of media in transforming peoples' social construction. But there is no denying the fact that if guns are disastrous for peace, safety and development, so can be the language of the literature-in-haste, the journalism. Media is one of the most powerful ideological apparatus used by South Asian countries in furthering hatred on the basis of identity, including of class, creed, color, gender, religion and language. Institute of Human Rights Commission, Nepal, is responsible for developing media strategies with the involvement of media, to promote peace and tolerance.
- **Expansion of SAPA's Membership:** SAPA has been envisioned to be a broad-based movement. For this to happen, Gono Unnayan Procheta, Bangladesh, is responsible for inviting like-minded organizations of civil society.

SAPA has been the freshest effort among all advocacy, capacity building, research and networking engagements of SAP-Pk, in 2006. It is presently developing its credibility as its activities are scaling up and donors are showing their eagerness to support it. In less than 9 months SAP-Pk has already undertaken four initiatives. Following is a brief on these activities:

- 1 **Media Core Group Meeting:** SAP-Pk organized a meeting with representatives of both Urdu and English newspapers and news-agencies, on 19 September 2006, at Lahore. In this meeting, a group of eight journalists were orientated about SAPA. This group formed a core group in this meeting to support peace and regional identity in their writings. This group, now known as Pakistan Core Group, also agreed to develop media strategy and capacity development programs for media representatives in forthcoming meetings.
- 2 **SAPA's Core Group Meeting:** Another very important activity that SAP-Pk held for SAPA this year was SAPA's Core Group Meeting. This meeting was organized in Nepal, on November 16-19. The Group reviewed SAPA's performance of the past years, outlined three-years' strategic plan and thrashed out details of the action plan 2007. The Action Plan 2007 expects from SAP-Pk to organize two training workshops with Ekta Preshad and Gandhi Peace Foundation, liaise with media and Institute of Human Rights Commission and develop and disseminate material on regional identity.
- 3 **Thematic Paper "Regional Identity":** In 2006, SAP-Pk developed and presented a thematic paper "**Regional Identity**". This paper was presented to the SAPA's Core Group for their approval, in its meeting on November 16-19. It took stock of the discourses on the issue of identity, identity of South Asian countries vis-à-vis conflicting identities besides underpinning the significance of the identity of united and culturally diverse and rich South Asia with respect to peace, dignity, political stability and economic prosperity. This paper was greatly appreciated by the members of the network.
- 4 **Non-violence and Conflict Transformation Workshop (TOT):** SAP-Pk organized workshop on Non-violence and Conflict Transformation in support with SAP-Nepal, in Nepal, for two to three representatives of each SAPA member, in 2006. There were 11 females and seven males who attended that workshop. It was a 12 days' event, held on November 20 - December 1, 2006. It drew financial assistance from Commonwealth

and Quaker, UK.

The said workshop was very detailed, covering several topics, including:

- Democratic Space in South Asia
- Non-violent Language
- Mass Mobilization
- Experiences of Civil Society in South Asia
- Conflict Transformation
- Approaches to Conflict
- Reconciliation
- Art of Facilitation
- Visioning/Dreaming
- SWOT
- Campaigning

Experts from SAPA also contributed in planning and holding of the sessions of the workshop. The contents were delivered through mini-lectures, discussions, brainstorming, group-works, presentations, role-plays, simulations, etc. The participants also organized a rally during the event to condemn violence against women. They also met with a woman who was survivor of a violent conflict. Towards the end of that workshop, they also visited women farmers' community to further gain insight into the issues of safety, security, livelihood and gender.

Regional Initiative for the Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and Enabling Environment for Social and Political Participation:

“Regional Initiative for the Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and Enabling Environment for Social and Political Participation” has been yet another matter of deep interest to SAP-Pk. This project is a regional initiative of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA). The Consortium was formed in 1997, aiming to advocate and assist in materializing SAARC Social Charter. It is therefore another significant opportunity for SAP-Pk to be part of the process of synergies' development on issues of human rights, particularly of women, peasants and workers, not only at the national but also the regional level.

CHA is working exclusively on livelihood, violence against women, human rights, child labor

and issue of mainstreaming of the physically challenged out of an exhaustive list of areas as enshrined in the SAARC Social Charter. The areas of CHA's interest technically cut across three main categories and each country partner follows essentially the same pattern. Following is the brief on these three categories:

1) Stocktaking and Resources Allocation: This category is for creating databank of the profiles of like-minded organizations of SAARC countries, developing national policy-critique for sensitization of the stakeholders and undertaking regional policy reviews on the basis of the feedback, reports and critiques.

2) Empowerment and Support for Vulnerability Protection: Its purpose is to form *Community Protection Networks (CPNs)* of the social workers and community members, capacitate those groups to undertake advocacy and mobilize people, conduct review and create a national body for providing policy guidance.

3) Transfer of Customized Knowledge for Civic Administration: This category of the programs is mandated to design training kits for delivering rights-based knowledge to the communities, disseminating SAARC social charter among masses for their education, providing small grants to community-based groups for their advocacy initiatives, equipping them with knowledge of stocktaking/mapping, human rights, social education and communication, etc., developing linkages among them and providing advisory services to them.

OXFAM Novib provides financial resources to the CHA for undertaking the said project. The CHA then shares its resources through country partners with different community-based initiatives. SAP-Pk is one of CHA's country partners since 2004.

Community Protection Networks (CPNs)

CPNs are networks of local organizations and individuals to advocate the protection of basic human rights and improvement in hardscrabble livelihoods of the peasantry, to support emancipation of women from all forms of oppression, and to act as watchdog with regards to the local development initiatives.

Presently, there are 20 CPNs working in 20 districts of Punjab and Sindh province in Pakistan. These networks draw their strength from about 250 male and 100 female members from

different fields of life. Essentially, these are advocacy networks which receive trainings from SAP-Pk and articulate their position on the mentioned issues, assist women who are victims of violence and trigger peoples' participation for social, political and economic change.

National Protection Working Group (NPWG)

NPWG is a body of development professionals, academicians, lawyers, journalists and technical experts to provide policy guidelines to CPNs as well as country partners on matters related to advocacy. SAP-Pk has 20 male and female members in its NPWG, from the same walks of life. NPWG meets at least one a year.

In 2006, CPNs in Pakistan undertook many activities. For instance, they:

- Organized 216 monthly sensitization-meetings on human rights, livelihood rights, violence against women, in their respective communities in which about 6,000 people were sensitized;
- Assisted at least 10 female victims in receiving legal support and social protection
- Held 40 meetings with service delivery departments for improved services in their areas

Similarly, SAP-Pk also undertook many activities in the reported year. For instance, SAP-Pk:

- 1 Created 14 new CPNs in Punjab and Sindh province
- 2 Conducted two training workshops, i.e.,:
 - Water Resource Management (Punjab; eight male and four female participants; March 15)
 - CPNs and Their Role in (Punjab; 36 male and 11 female participants; April 29-30, 06)
- 3 Developed a toolkit for six-days' training on rights, justice and development, for the development workers from South Asia (to be finalized after CHA comments on it)
- 4 Organized Review Visits to CPNs (Punjab in April 06, Sindh in May 06)
- 5 Assisted in organizing NPWG meeting (December 21)
- 6 Computerized 360 profiles of local and national level organizations that are working with similar objectives
- 7 Distributed translated version of SAARC Social Charter among 5000 individuals and

organizations, to provide them insight into the official undertaking of the South Asian states and suggest them to take actions accordingly

Ending Violence Against Women:

Violence against women in Pakistan is indeed a widespread norm. It has many forms and shades and is present across all strata. For example, in 1980s, multi-wicked kerosene stoves were the most popular weapons to kill brides. Law of *Diyat* was another license to kill. This law is still there with a slight change regarding honor killings. Until recently, this law permitted brothers and fathers to escape punishment of killing their sisters and daughters in the name of honor: an uncalled-for and unjustifiable act often undertaken against the crime of sexual promiscuity allegedly committed by the victims. Mothers of poor lots used to pardon their culprit sons often (and wives pardoned their husbands) because they could not afford to lose them in the existing form of economic dependence. Similarly, there are many other forms of violence against women prevailing in our society. These include acid burns, cutting body organs, rape, gang rape, public humiliation such as parading women of rival groups naked in streets, selling women, etc. And as part of a sordid reality, these heinous crimes continue to escape social, political, or even legal response because of predominant patriarchal values and the unawareness among women about the available social and/or legal cushions and mechanisms for handling the confounding forensic procedures.

Reports in the Urdu press also promote violence against and humiliation of women in Pakistan. News items on rape or elopements are often laced with innuendos and insinuations. Police is also there to spoil the matters further. While any Station House Officer (SHO) is more than happy to raid a private premises allegedly operating either as a brothel or a gambling den, he will hardly prevent a man beating his wife because the patriarchal culture, Pakistan Penal Code and the state machinery collectively treat any attempt to prevent occurrence of wife's beating as a breach of the sanctity of the home.

This prevalence of violence against women and other state-sponsored human rights violations taking place across Pakistan warranted SAP-Pk's active response. The organization responded to all calls made for training, research, advocacy and practical support especially of the victims. It also launched an advocacy campaign, Ending Violence against Women (EVAW).

SAP-Pk initiated EVAW in view of the findings of a survey on violence against women, which it conducted in nine districts of the Punjab province. The organization realized as the result of that survey that for a campaign to be successful, it has to be based on voluntary and pro-active support network of human rights organizations, human rights defenders, lawyers, police personnel, local governments, like-minded journalists, and socio-politically influential people of

the communities.

SAP-Pk launched ERAW at Bahawalpur, Multan and Rajanpur districts. Each of these districts has its own face of violence against women. Rape is very common in Bahawalpur; Rajanpur is notable for the instances of *kara-kari* and so-called honor killing, while Multan also has a high figure of honor killings.

Before details of the activities of SAP-Pk, held in 2006, are presented here, it would be pertinent to view the operational structure of the ERAW. ERAW is based on:

1 Madadgaar Committees: *Madadgaar Committees*, or Help Committees, function at the level of Union Councils or grassroots precisely. There are ten union councils in each of the three districts; each union council has its Maddadgar Committees (total 30). There are about 15 to 20, or more, community members and paralegal workers in each committee. These committees intervene to resolve cases at the communities' level, or refer cases of violence to the District Focal Group in view of the complexity and the level of offense.

2 District Focal Groups: District Focal Groups is a broad-based and specialized body of human rights organizations, human rights defenders, lawyers, police personnel, local governments, like-minded journalists, theatre groups and socio-politically influential people. Each district has its DFG. Each DFG is responsible for:

- Providing legal assistance to the victims
- Referring the case to media
- Undertaking campaign around the case, if needed
- Sensitizing masses through various means and tools, especially theatre
- Training more workers after receiving TOT

DFGs hold monthly review meeting, namely *District Coordination Forum*, in which District Partner of SAP-Pk also participates. Sometimes, common citizens, especially females, also participate in these forums to seek information and legal assistance.

3 District Partner: District Partner is responsible for meeting *with* and training and monitoring *of* the *Madadgaar* Committees every month. It consults SAP-Pk in matters of interest to the campaign.

ERAW received financial assistance from OXFAM and European Union, for training, advocacy, legal support and publishing of advocacy material. One of the prominent works that SAP-Pk rolled out in 2006, under the ERAW campaign, was *Bus Bohat Ho Chuka*, or "Enough is Enough!" This booklet was based on case-studies of violence vis-à-vis ERAW's modus

operandi. It encouraged, through guidelines, the common citizens, parents, government, local governments, social organizations, shelter-homes, lawyers, police department, courts and writers, to fulfill their responsibilities respectively. Other than the booklet, SAP-Pk also produced and disseminated issue-based stickers, leaflets and posters to a wider spectrum of audience to educate them about the issue of violence against women and seek their support in the struggle for change. Each material reached about 5000 individuals, organizations and institutions.

SAP-Pk has been very active in the field during 2006, with regards to EVAW. This year, SAP-Pk undertook several activities of training and legal support. All these activities made little or big contribution in denting the conditions of violence against women and wielded further support of communities, police, journalists and writers. Following are important highlights:

1. Legal Support: Six Cases

Inputs/Results:

1. Saadia Shafi; Dist. Multan; Charged under Haddood Ordinance because of choice-marriage; Case has been won and the couple has been freed from jail.
2. Ghulam Fatima; Dist. Bahawalpur; Charged for marrying a man without getting divorce from the first husband; case has been won and the couple is free from jail.
3. Sumaera Sattar; Dist. Bahawalpur; Case of gang-rape and kidnap; One of the culprits forced Sumaera to marry him so that he escapes punishment; Sumaera is recovered and case has been won; Sumaera and her family have been rehabilitated.
4. Amina Mai; Case referred to Dist. Dera Ghazi Khan; In-laws of Amina cut her nose and lips because she was fighting a case for seeking divorce from her vindictive husband. The coalition of EVAW got her hospitalized where her surgery has been successfully done; Culprits are still at large; SP and DCO referred this case to the anti-terrorism court
5. Meem Mai; Dist. Rajan Pur; Father and brothers of Meem Mai were found to be her murderers. Case was lost because Meem Mai's mother pardoned her sons and husband. Yet another story of black laws!
6. Zohra Khalil; Dist. Rajan Pur; Zohra's step-mother turned her out in the absence of her husband. Zohra went to her aunt's house where she married her son. Zohra's father

wanted her to be divorced when he returned after some months. The case has been won in favor of Zohra. She is living with her husband.

Beneficiaries: 5 women survivors and their families

2. Police Training: One Training

Inputs/Results: Police sensitized on gender and women issues and role of the department identified from the perspective of gender-based violence.

3. Meetings with Police: Three Meetings

Inputs/Results: District police officers orientated about EAW and its functioning and collaboration developed on the ongoing cases particularly and case of violence against women generally

Beneficiaries: 34 Police Personnel and CSOs' representatives, in 3 districts

4. Meetings with Elected Representatives: Four Meetings

Inputs/Results:

1. LG representatives in EAW were orientated about their role of local Insaaf Committees, inclusion of women in these committees and method of preparation and presentation of resolutions in the district assembly
2. Lobbied with woman parliamentarian for repeal of Hudood Ordinances

Inputs/Results:

1. LG representatives in EAW were orientated about their role of local Insaaf Committees, inclusion of women in these committees and method of preparation and presentation of resolutions in the district assembly
2. Lobbied with woman parliamentarian for repeal of Hudood Ordinances
3. Meetings with women councilors on developing schemes for women, in union councils, and assist in developing favorable environment for women to participate in politics

Beneficiaries: 27 Councilors, Naib Nazims and Members Provincial Assembly

SAP-Pk and EVAW partners also conducted several other supporting activities, mostly from the perspective of reviewing, planning, outreaching and building public pressure. Notable among such activities are as following:

1. Planning/Strategy Meeting of Partners' Staff:

During the reported period, EVAW district partners held 15 internal meetings for detailing out plans for workshops, seminars, press conference, rallies, etc.

2. Madadgaar Committees' Meetings:

During the reported period, all 30 Madadgaar Committees held 199 UC level meetings in which:

- A total of 2081 people were educated and sensitized
- Issue of sexual harassment was discussed and community actions to combat it were identified
- Issue based theatre performances and discussions on the themes of violence were held
- Discussions on women's crises held and strategies to deal with them during Action Week were developed
- Practices of communication skills were shared
- Broader discussions on the rights of women ,children and minorities rights were held
- State-sponsored violence and its effects on the Women and Society were discussed

3. District Coordination Forums:

In 2006, District Focal Groups organized 10 District Coordination Forums in which:

- Experts spoke on violence and human rights to enhance knowledge-base of the activists and shared with them different skills of mobilizing communities
- A number of women learnt about EVAW and contacted the organizers for knowing more about it and seeking legal assistance in case of torture
- Ideas of community-based “women assemblies” were discussed so that women from communities could have alternative forums for seeking justice and holding state institutions accountable of their actions
- Action strategies around the cases of violence were laid and members chose their tasks. Members included lawyers, journalists, political workers, community activists and the district coordinators

Nearly 350 men and women participated in DCFs, including the victims and survivors of violence.

4. Meetings of SAP-Pk and District Partners for Planning and Review:

SAP-Pk and its partners held two meetings during 2006, for reviewing the past activities, planning for the future activities, orientating partners how to advocate VAW issue in World Social Forum, and developing effective reporting systems. Among the 20 participants, members of selected Madadgaar Committees were also present in these meetings.

5. Action Week: March 8 and International Women's Day Celebrations:

A full week of activities in 30 union council and 3 districts was organized in connection with International Women's Day. Rallies, press conferences, theatre shows, women assemblies (at district and UC level), seminars and media consultation forums were held where messages were displayed and demands concerning policies and practices about women were announced in print and electronic media. Estimated 2400 people participated in these activities.

6. Orientation Meetings with Lawyers and Journalists:

DFGs organized ten orientations meetings with journalists and lawyers, both male and female, during the reported period. The sole purpose of these meetings was to enhance quality of the coordination between journalists and lawyers based on the on-going cases and philosophy of the campaign. There were 141 lawyers and journalists who participated in these meetings.

7. Theatre Performances

The theatre groups, which are working under EVAW in the three selected districts, gave 18 performances this year. These performances reinforced the contents of the seminars which were held before or after the shows. Following themes were identified as common in these performances:

- Honour killings
- Hudood Ordinances
- Effects of dowry, early marriages and exchange marriages on women's lives

EVAW is presently planning to extend the base of activism to the educational institutions also. As a starter, the theatre wing in Multan district gave a performance in **Multan Degree College**. The show was a great success. The Administration of the college requested the district coordinator EVAW to organize such shows in the college in future also.

8. Regional Exposure Visits:

Two regional exposures took place during 2006. In one of these visits, ERAW Coordinator, from Multan District partner, participated. Pakistan Institute of Labor Education and Research (PILER) sponsored this exposure to Nepal. It was organized for regional sharing on gender based violence. The civil society organizations of South Asia formed South Asian Peace Alliance (SAPA) at this occasion. This exposure was organized in July 2006.

Similarly, ERAW Coordinator from Bahawalpur district partner visited Sri Lanka, on August 12, 2006. He participated there in a regional consultation on “violence against women in politics” research component of “South Asia Regional Governance with People Program (SARGPP)”. This exposure provided opportunity to share experiences, on the basis of which a comprehensive strategy for national researches was hammered out.

Management Information System (MIS) of SAP-PK

MIS is responsible for:

- Developing Database Solutions
- Conducting Need Assessment
- Training on using reporting systems (Central Office to DRCs)
- Maintaining SAP-Pk's Website
- Managing Emails
- Holding National & Regional Consultations on Information & Communication Telecommunication
- Providing technical assistance in publishing documents

7 Gender and Development

The word “gender” has been attractively in use in the circles of ruling junta of Pakistan for the past few years. However, its use actually does very little with the desire of striking any social, political and economic equilibrium between women and men. It does more with the image of Pakistan in the international community and presenting Pakistani military as indispensable organ to promote secular values. Allowing greater representation to women (33 %) in assemblies, opening of media debates on the rights of women, repeal of Zina section of the Haddood Ordinances and declaring honor killing a murder are some measures that Pakistani establishment undertook through its political wing to quantify its claim about the restoration of women's rights. Similarly, Gender Reform Action Plan 2006 has been one major step of the Ministry of Women Development (Pakistan) to ensure in letters the gender mainstreaming in social, political and economic policies, structures and opportunities with qualitative and quantitative benchmarks.

Principally, SAP-Pk welcomes every step - however much little or big - that seeks to end exploitation of women. However, the organization is deeply concerned about the ability of the state of Pakistan in fully comprehending the gender disparity with regards to its psycho-physical, socio-cultural and politico-economic implications. SAP-Pk also doubts intentions of the state whether it is serious in developing any efficient and engendered mechanisms for filling in the voids that exist between legislation and implementation as well as letters of the CEDAW and the spirit of our society, laws and administration. SAP-Pk is also concerned about the general and widely accepted connotation of the term “development” as construction of mega dams, highways, skyscrapers, etc., and the vocational education of the youth. For the state of Pakistan, development is not a participatory course to meet the basic and the strategic needs of the diverse groups of citizens, including those of peasants, workers, women, children and religious and ethnic minorities!

Gender and Development Desk:

Technically, SAP-Pk is working for improvement in social, political and economic conditions of the marginalized sections, especially peasants, workers, women, children and religious minorities, while naming the end product as “development” broadly. To make its efforts gender sensitive during this process, SAP-Pk has visionary support of its in-house Gender and

Development Desk (GAD Desk). This Desk mainstreams the concepts of gender and development in SAP-Pk's every program. It capacitates staff and partners in making their development programs and management structures gender-sensitive. It also publishes position papers, researches and brochures for creating awareness among the masses.

GAD Desk was created in SAP-Pk nearly 17 years ago. Since then it has refined itself both in system and approach. Every program and policy goes to this Desk for its comments and suggestions first. In 2006, the Gender and Development Desk:

- Developed policy guidelines for SDGP before the program was operationalized; the Desk defined qualitative parameters at each level and sub-level of activities of the SDGP
- Conducted five-days' workshop on Gender and Sexual Harassment, with 12 male and 10 female staff members of SAP-Pk
- Reviewed program reports, training and advocacy designs of SAP-Pk's and identified areas of improvement from a combined perspective of gender and development

GAD Desk has also conducted a research, called **“Effective Participation of Women (Farmers/ Workers/Religious Minorities) in Local Government”**, in 20 districts; five from each province. This research was intended to present social and political trends about:

- The level of participation of women councilors in local governments
- Deterrent factors behind inefficient working of women councilors
- Changes in women councilors' social status subsequent to their being part of the local government system

There were a total of 200 women councilor respondents of this research. These respondents were from 20 districts (five union councils from each district; two urban and three rural union councils). It was conducted through focus groups discussions and field research. The focus group discussions were aimed to ascertain views of teachers, lawyers, trade unionists, journalists and male and female councilors from general as well as reserved seats, about political and social experiences of the women councilors.

The field survey was based on a questionnaire developed in Urdu. This questionnaire was divided in four parts. Its first part focused on basic information about the women councilors. Its second part aimed to solicit information about their background and political reasons of their coming into politics. Its third part was designed to derive information about the level of their

participation in the local government vis-à-vis the deterrent factors. Similarly, fourth part of the questionnaire aimed to gauge the improvement in their social and political status after their participation in the local government system.

The research “Effective Participation of Women (Farmers/ Workers/Religious Minorities) in Local Government” is presently in the final process of editing. It is also important to mention here that a 3-day workshop was organized for the field surveyors on the tools and techniques of field research before the research was launched. The Research and Publication segment of SDGP conducted this training for the GAD Desk.

Capacity Building:

A quick run-through of this document presents nature and scale of engagements of SAP-Pk in 2006. Of all of these engagements, the SDGP claims to have a maximum share of the staff. These staff members are working with dozens of groups, especially PWGs, and elected representatives, across 40 districts of Pakistan. Whereas they already have some experience and even more opportunities of receiving orientations on the given concepts, through discussions, readings, participation in workshops and facilitation of the Gender Desk, the members of PWGs and the groups of elected representatives however need comparatively detailed training and orientation because they are very new in the conscious struggle for restoration of human rights. Therefore, to set the tone of the SDGP program from the perspective of gender, the Capacity Building segment of SAP-Pk organized the following workshops during 2006:

Workshops	Title	Participants	Division	
			M	F
4	1 Day: Gender Orientation	DRCs, PWGs & Partners	42	17
5	1 Day: Gender Responsive Budgeting	ERs, DRCs & PWGs	61	21
Total			103	38

Human Resource Development (HRD):

Human Resource Development section, like GAD Desk, has been a permanent wing in SAP-Pk to recruit, train and designate the staff their responsibilities, keeping in view the gender policy framework. It is also responsible to develop or, if required, amend MOUs and Contracts with the newly appointed staff and the consultants.

In 2006, HRD conducted three-days' workshop on gender for a group of newly recruited staff. There were twelve male and five female staff members in this training, which was held on August 7, 2006.

The purpose of this training was to acquaint the staff members with:

- Concepts of Gender and Harassment
- Policies and practices of SAP-Pk about recruitment and field operations

HRD in 2006

- Developed Human Resource Development Manual, on policies and procedures of SAP-PK
- Conducted detailed Training Need Assessment of SAP-PK staff through questionnaire and field visits
- Designed and operationalized Staff Hiring and Training Systems and Tools
- Designed and conducted sessions on Introduction of SAP-PK with the newly appointed staff

8 Conclusion

Year 2006 has been very much packed for SAP-Pk. It was beginning of the realization of new approaches and practices. It was the year of spadework and expansion. As readers have fingered through this report and are now able to measure the extent of our involvement, it will be certainly relevant to put the efforts of our dedicated staff and board members on record of appreciation without whom we would have been simply unable to take on such a huge task.

Dozens of success stories and many hiccups ornament the road as we look back at 2006. Counting on our successes first, it is indeed a great pleasure for us that:

- i) We were able to go to hundreds of communities and meet thousands of people who shared their sorrows and pleasures with us;
- ii) We convinced the peasants, religious minorities and women of this country, and organized them into groups;
- iii) We shared with them our understanding as to why they are deprived and how they can cut the vicious circle of their social, political and economic exploitation;
- iv) By providing knowledge and skills, we enabled them to positively access their representatives, service-delivery departments and legal systems and demand from them for what they were elected or being paid;
- v) We initiated the process of transformation with the elected representatives and state officials and infused them, to an extent, with the spirit to act differently from traditional ways; and
- vi) We partnered with many organizations and networks such as Pakistan Social Forum, Sustainable Agriculture Action Group (SSAG), More and Better, Peasants Workers Network, Pakistan NGO Forum (PNF), Joint Action Committee (JAC) to be a part of the national and global stance on civil society, democracy, justice, peasants rights and violence against women

Indeed, only one year, more than 120 communities and thousands of stakeholders, is a good equation. However, there have been many hiccups too.

On the top of the hiccups that SAP-Pk beset has been the enormous deprivation among peasants, women and religious minorities. The enormity of their deprivation, added with

illiteracy and discrimination against women, stands slap in the process of mobilization and social organization.

Similarly, the exercise pattern of the reform agenda of the President General Musharraf's government has not very helpful. This agenda is eclipsed because the elected representatives and the bureaucracy are on bad terms with each other, and systems and mechanisms of the local government have yet to unfold or start to deliver at many places. The service delivery departments and elected representatives pose a hurdle when they behave differently from their legal script. The ages-old practices of non-participation, non-transparency and unaccountability bear impressions which cannot be removed so easily.

The Waziristan and Balochistan fiasco have also been creating impasse for SAP-Pk in many ways. The law and order situation is so worse in these areas, and sometimes in the entire provinces, that the organization had to halt its operations.

The unavailability of experienced staff has been another hurdle for SAP-Pk which made the progress slower than expected. To make people realize of their strengths, infuse them with the spirit so that they become proactive and to capacitate them to improve social, political and economic construction of their communities, requires both dedication and professional expertise. Whereas a trained human resource is already scarce, the earthquake disaster of October 2005 took the major chunk of the remaining trained people of the country away into the relief or relief-related operations.

But, where there are problems there are ways, as we all understand. Therefore, SAP-Pk also did not bank on a single and simple cut-and-dried method. For instance, the organization used combined strategy of providing livelihood and management skills as well as knowledge to mobilize people and to prepare them for participation in the political process. In some communities, the organization started off with dialogues or theatre shows. Moreover, the organization kept the content and the method of delivering information simple and informal to make the mobilization campaigns and educational processes meaningful and relevant.

SAP-Pk to obtain cooperation from the state organs mainly tried a strategy of appreciation, critique and assistance. On the other hand, the organization mobilized communities to approach the concerned departments to see if they were fulfilling their jobs efficiently. Similarly, SAP-Pk worked with elected representatives while showing them the collective strength of the

people in various community based programs.

As far as the inadequacy of the trained social mobilizers and trainers was concerned, SAP-Pk started developing its own resource pool of mobilizers and trainers. The process has been slower though.

As we come to the end of this report, we must say that all solutions that SAP-Pk selected from its knapsack of experience have been basically up against Herculean problems and it is of course not an overnight business to rectify things in a country which is rapidly growing to be irrelevant for millions of us. Governance, peace, violence against women, livelihood and peoples' representation in politics, are some of the major issues of this country. So, we are conscious of this reality that we need work more and more and revamp our systems accordingly at every step. It is of course a long journey.