



**Government of Sindh
and
Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO)**



Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme

Districts Kashmore-Kandhkot and Shikarpur



Progress Report – September 2009

***Monitoring and Evaluation
Project Implementation Unit***

Sindh Rural Support Organisation

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Executive Summary

The Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) is a pioneering initiative of the Government of Sindh (GoS), for reducing poverty by tapping into the potential of the people. The UCBPRP, being implemented by the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), was initiated on February 1, 2009 in two districts of Sindh, namely Kashmore-Kandhkot and Shikarpur, with a total outlay of Rs. 2.9 billion, for a period of 30 months (FYs 2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11). In July 2009 the PC-1 has revised its cost from Rs.2.9 million to Rs. 3.36 million, with additional new programme packages.

1. The UCBPRP aims at improving the quality of life of the rural communities specifically that of the poorest of the poor, through the conceptual package of social mobilisation of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). This entails organising rural communities into “organisations of the poor” at the community, village and union council level. At the heart of the social mobilisation approach is the belief that there is an innate ability in each individual to improve his / her quality of life. However, what sets the poorest apart is the fact that they are not able to tap into their inherent potential. Social mobilisation is the first step in eradicating some of the barriers that the poorest face. In the case of UCBPRP, it caters towards removing common hurdles such as lack of assets, capital and technical skills which ultimately prevent the poorest from climbing up the poverty ladder.

2. The characteristics of the UCBPRP are:

- **Targeting of the Poorest:** The fundamental basis of the UCBPRP is to alleviate poverty. Therefore, success of the project lies in its ability to target and include the poorest into the main fray. To this end, SRSO has used the Poverty Scorecard (PSC), developed by the World Bank and adopted by Planning Commission of Pakistan. The PSC uses 13 easily verifiable questions to evaluate the poverty levels of a household. PSC has the ability to categorise entire union councils and districts into different poverty bands [Bands are: 0-11 Extremely Poor / Destitute, 12-18 Chronically Poor, 19-23 Transitory Poor, 24-100 Non Poor] making it easier to distinguish products for each band. In the UCBPRP, the PSC has been used to identify those poor households which are ordinarily excluded from social welfare initiatives. The purpose is to provide them the products included in the project.
- **Identification of the Poor:** One of the first activities in the UCBPRP, the PSC Survey identified and categorised a total of 257,988 households in both districts in February 2009. In District Kashmore-Kandhkot, 54,871 of those households fell into the three lowest bands of the poor (0-11 Extremely Poor / Destitute, 12-18 Chronically Poor, 19-23 Transitory Poor). Likewise in District Shikarpur, 49,468 of the total households fell into the three bands of the poor. Therefore, on the whole both districts have 104,339 poor households in the three lowest bands (0-23); around 40% of the total population. Further bifurcating these households into the three lowest poverty bands separately; 17,220 households are extremely poor (0-11), 39,321 are chronically poor (12-18) and 47,798 households are Transitory poor (19-23).

During the PSC survey, some villages were not able to be covered due to two fundamental reasons; prevalence of a poor law and order situation and the lack of interest/doubts of some households. For this reason, since June 2009, SRSO decided to conduct the PSC survey of the missing households.

Along with other activities the survey for missing households is also being conducted. For this purpose, UCBPRP MIS Team with the support of SMU Team verifying is the poverty scores card data because both districts of program area are lying on the border of Baluchistan and shifting and migration of households is regular phenomenon which have caused demographic changes. Since teams are busy in social mobilization process and household data is also being verified yet results are awaited and will be shared in next report.

As of September 2009, an extra 21,668 missing households have been surveyed included the data base of both the districts. Out of 21,668 households, 14,971 households are falling in the lowest three poverty bands.

- **Social Mobilisation:** In the UCBPRP, community in both the target districts are being organised at Para / Molalla level into Community Organisations (CO) and at the village level into Village Organisations (VOs). By having their own organisations, the communities (especially the poorest) will be able to present themselves in a unified manner and will have the ability to voice their developmental concerns to the relevant authorities / bodies, such as Provincial and District Governments, Taluka and Union Administrations and SRSO, etc. Eventually, it is envisaged that all the VOs will be able to develop their relationship with external agencies in order to cater for their needs. On the other hand the VOs will be managing their own organisations, which will enhance the confidence and skills of the community. SRSO envisages that in these two districts, 180,592 households will be organised into 12,039 COs federating in to 4,200 VOs.

As of the September 09, a total of 71,449 household have been organised into 3922 COs and 1,204 VOs. All 71,449 households' members are women and fall in lowest three bands of the poverty as per pre-assessed PSC data. The VO formation is initiated only when 70% households are organised in a village.

- **Products:** UCBPRP includes the following products for the poorest households:
 - ***Income Generating Grants (In Kind / Non-Cash):*** According to the PSC results there are number of households who do not have capacity to pay back even the interest free credit (loan), but have the potential to perform and desire to come out of the poverty trap and needs one time financial and skill support. The income Generating grants have been designed for those households who cannot afford to pay back the loan. Therefore, the grant focuses on extremely poor women, for the purpose of increasing their incomes. Each eligible household receives a grant (in-kind) of up to Rs. 20,000 for purchasing income-generating assets / livestock such as goats, cows, buffaloes, etc.

As of September, a total of Rs.12.4319 millions grants amount has been disbursed in both the districts. Total 1,380 women (having PSC ranging from 0-11) have received the grants and majority of the grants have been used on the purchase of animals.

Small Loans from the Community Investment Fund (CIF): Community investment fund is aimed at to empower women through institution building and capacity building of extremely poor and chronically poor women of the area. Identification is made on the Poverty score card.

CIF enables above two bands to get rid of poverty through small scale loan. On the other hand the ultimate goal of CIF is to establish institutions at Village level for the betterment of rural women. It goes without saying that institutions not for community but institutions of community.

Each VO will be given a revolving fund for providing small / flexible loans to poor women only. The amount of the fund that each VO receives depends on the number of chronically poor households with a maximum of Rs. 25,000 allocated per household. The distinguishing aspect of the CIF is that the fund will be managed by the village women themselves, as they will be the ones who decide which poor woman should receive a loan and at what flexible terms.

As of September, 2009, VOs received a total of Rs.103.7871 millions CIF funds. A number of 8,296 poorest women have been given CIF loans for various purposes, such as for livestock, enterprise and for agriculture.

- **Scholarships for Vocational Training:** The UCBPRP includes a component whereby youth from extremely poor and chronically poor households will be identified and provided scholarships for receiving vocational training. The type of training provided will depend on assessments conducted during consultations between the individuals, their household and the VO.

As of September 2009, 4,126 participants have been trained in 14 trades. They have acquired their trainings at additional locations as new training centres in Ghari Yaseen, Chak of District Shikarpur and Kajli, Kamdhkot, District Kashmore-Kandhkot were opened and in operation in the month of September.

- **Unskilled Labour Opportunities through Community Physical Infrastructures (CPIs):** In the project, 50% of the villages having VO will be given one scheme of CPI, which may include sanitation and drinking water. The labour skill and unskilled required for the construction of the CPI will be brought or invited from extremely poor and chronically poor households of the VO and will be paid market-based wages.

As of September 2009, 332 CPIs and 55 low cost village improvement schemes have been initiated with the cost of 23.94 million and almost 50 % of initiated schemes are completed. A Total amount Rs.1, 532,200 have been paid to 7661 Un-skilled man days and Rs.1, 074,800 amount paid to 2687 skilled days.

- **Low cost housing scheme:** during the process of PSC survey and Social Mobilisation, the project team found that there is substantial number of shelter less households in the villages, who require shelter support. Realising the pressing need, GOS realised this and added in the revised PC1 as one of the important activity to provide the shelter support of a room to 5000 households in the project districts. The total provisions of Rs 60,000 support to a deserving household have been kept. The villages having 80% poor shelter less households are being focused for the project implementation. During the month of September 2009, such villages have been identified. Whereas the constructions work on 26 houses have started. Also, an amount of Rs 1.08 million have been disbursed during the month of September.

S. No	Activity	District	Project Target	As of August 2009			September,2009			Cumulative as of September, 2009		
				Target	Achieved	% Achieved	Target	Achieved	% Achieved	Target	Achieved	% Achieved
1.1	Poverty Score Card	Shikarpur	50	50	50	100	0	0	0	50	50	100
1.2		Kashmore	37	37	37	100	0	0	0	37	37	100
	Sub – Total		87	87	87	100	0	0	0	87	87	100
2.1	U.C Covered	Shikarpur	50	26	26	100	7	7	100	33	33	100
2.2		Kashmore	37	14	14	100	8	9	113	22	23	105
	Sub – Total		87	40	40	100	15	16	107	55	56	102
3.1	Households Organised	Shikarpur	48,000	17027	37889	223	3,123	3,266	105	20,150	41,155	204
3.2		Kashmore	36,000	12600	17874	142	2,311	12,420	537	14,911	30,294	203
	Sub – Total		84,000	29,627	55,763	188	5,434	15,686	289	35,061	71,449	204
4.1	Village Organisations Formed	Shikarpur	2,400	851	751	88	156	10	6	1007	761	76
4.2		Kashmore	1,800	631	440	70	116	3	3	747	443	59
	Sub – Total		4,200	1,482	1,191	80	272	13	5	1754	1204	69
5.1	Households to be Given Income Generating Grants	Shikarpur	3,775	1785	851	48	574	67	12	2359	918	39
5.2		Kashmore	2,765	940	254	27	425	208	49	1365	462	34
	Sub – Total		6,540	2,725	1,105	41	999	275	28	3724	1380	37
6.1	Households to be Given Community Investment Fund	Shikarpur	17,241	3689	4281	116	766	1098	143	4455	5379	121
6.2		Kashmore	12,759	2730	1378	50	567	1539	271	3297	2917	88
	Sub – Total		30,000	6,419	5,659	88	1333	2637	198	7752	8296	107
7.1	Households to be Given Scholarship for Vocational Training	Shikarpur	12,050	3652	1769	48	478	650	136	4130	2419	59
7.2		Kashmore	8,950	2703	1173	43	354	534	151	3057	1707	56
	Sub – Total		21,000	6,355	2,942	46	832	1184	142	7,187	4126	57
8.1	Villages to be Give Drinking Water Supply Schemes as CPI	Shikarpur	1,207	354	120	34	67	80	119	421	200	48
8.2		Kashmore	893	262	85	32	50	47	94	312	132	42
	Sub – Total		2,100	616	205	33	117	127	109	733	332	45
9.1	Locations to improved under Low Cost Village Improvement Scheme	Shikarpur	80	39	43	110	8	0	0	47	43	91
9.2		Kashmore	60	29	12	41	6	0	0	35	12	34
	Sub – Total		140	68	55	81	14	0	0	82	55	67
10.1	No. of Participants Trained in VO Management & Planning Training	Shikarpur	4,828	1702	1956	115	312	156	50	2014	2112	105
10.2		Kashmore	3,572	1260	1202	95	231	215	93	1491	1417	95
	Sub – Total		8,400	2,962	3,158	107	543	371	68	3,505	3529	101
11.1	No. of Participants Trained in VO CIF Training	Shikarpur	8,577	2051	698	34	482	409	85	2533	1107	44
11.2		Kashmore	6347	1509	591	39	354	23	6	1863	614	33
	Sub – Total		14,924	3,560	1,289	36	836	432	52	4,396	1721	39
12.1	VO Book Keeping Training (No of Pax)	Shikarpur	4,828	1702	826	49	312	70	22	2014	896	44
12.2		Kashmore	3,572	1260	454	36	231	100	43	1491	554	37
	Sub – Total		8,400	2962	1280	43	543	170	31	3505	1450	41

Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)
 Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP)
 U.C Wise Progress Report As of September 2009

S#	Union Council	No. of HHs Organized					No. of CO Formed	No. of VO formed	No. of House holds given IGG	No. of House holds given CIF		No. of Households given VTP Trainings		No. of DWSS - CPI		No. of village Model Schemes		No of LCHS		VO Trainings				No. of pax attended Activist Workshop
		0-11	12-18'	19-23	24-100	Total				0-11	12-18'	0-11	12-18'	Initiated	Completed	Initiated	Completed	Initiated	Completed	Managerial Skills, Book Keeping and Planning	Book Keeping	CIF Appraisal and Usage Monitoring		
District Kashmir @Kandhot																								
Taluka Kandhot																								
1	Akhero	135	142	140	489	906	48	28	42	91	88	73	74	7	3	1						69	20	35
2	Dari	207	179	127	891	1,404	70	30	49	152	176	168	70	5	2	1						84	32	36
3	Daulatpur	135	416	710	728	1,989	85	25	65	65	55	43	31	9	8	3						92	36	41
4	Ghouspur	237	215	178	901	1,531	73	34	59	178	98	157	82	10	8	1						68	60	37
5	Halbat	159	199	369	465	1,192	58	25	39	113	108	29	27	7	3	1						64	20	38
6	Kaji	199	280	342	1,146	1,967	105	55	72	122	172	145	5	18	10	1						96	47	49
7	Khandkot-I										36	22												
8	Khandkot-II																							
9	Khandkot-III																							
10	Khandkot-IV																							
11	Maiheer	175	192	180	492	1,039	62	34	63	106	188	157	36	10	6	1	1				117	46	41	131
	Sub Total	1,247	1,623	2,046	5,112	10,028	501	231	389	827	885	808	347	66	40	9	1	-	-		590	261	277	131
Taluka Kashmir																								
12	Badani					-																		
13	Buxapur	93	275	396	842	1,606	94	-				22	23									129	41	43
14	Geehalpur	70	80	44	282	476	28	9				18	13	3								48		18
15	Gublo					-																		
16	Guddu					-																		
17	Gullanpur	185	238	301	607	1,331	85	34	35	143	231	81	47	5								108	44	40
18	K.S. Al Bilawal					-																		
19	Kashmore Colony	121	179	247	326	873	60	7		65	15											20		
20	Kashmore-1					-																		
21	Kashmore-2					-																		
22	Khewali	103	76	30	295	504	30	-																
23	Kumb	122	382	738	776	2,018	101	-					27	23								21		
24	Rasool Bux	70	195	460	525	1,250	53	34	1	4	-	16	8	8		1						56	21	36
25	Sodhi	216	234	137	360	947	61	25	-	103	75	17	15	8								88	32	38
26	Zoregarh	58	128	105	758	1,049	67	41	7	21	123	12	15	12								96	42	34
	Sub Total	1,038	1,787	2,458	4,771	10,054	579	150	43	336	444	193	144	36	-	1	0	-	-		566	180	209	-
Taluka Tangwani																								
27	Cheel	73	136	110	1,778	2,097	120	-				15	38									33	18	20
28	Duniapur	44	211	239	1,166	1,660	96																	
29	Gulwali	82	261	114	344	801	46	18	12	184	42	24	10	18		1						85	33	41
30	Jamal	210	317	506	1,289	2,322	120						5	2										
31	Karampur	202	326	400	508	1,436	84					4	1									19		20
32	Lalao	119	167	175	511	972	51					6	9											
33	Lashari					-																		
34	Rassaldar					-																		
35	Saffan					-																		
36	Suhilani					-																		
37	Tangwani-I	138	274	101	411	924	47	44	18	114	85	11	90	12		1						124	62	47
	Sub Total	868	1,692	1,645	6,007	10,212	564	62	30	298	127	65	150	30	-	2	0	-	-		261	113	128	-
	District Sub Total	3,153	5,102	6,149	15,890	30,294	1,644	443	462	1,461	1,456	1,066	641	132	40	12	1	-	-		1,417	554	614	131

District Shikarpur																								
Takka Ghari Yaseen																								
38	Amrot	250	370	576	706	1,902	90	23	46	183	305	55	23	15	8	4	4			98	58	47		
39	Banbhar	289	478	435	551	1,753	111	37	146	143	248	56	47	12	10	4	4			74	34	49	162	
40	Chango Rahoga	125	128	132	238	623	34	14	21	41	52	9	2	8	3	0				44	22	28		
41	Chatto Mangi	130	310	357	979	1,776	70	26	10	13	142	93	23	10	3	0				148	44	49		
42	Dakhan	160	320	288	774	1,542	80	37	19	48	156	23	12	10	5	8	8			106	51	65		
43	Gaheja	77	130	469	744	1,420	62	23	8	9	17	9	3							102	37	46		
44	Garhi Yaseen	35	185	281	1,569	2,070	114	25	21	9	91	176	65	11	8	2	1			103	51	53		
45	Jindo Dero	180	260	135	460	1,035	54	15	12	55	155	99	45	8	2	1	1	1		60	30	30		
46	Madeji	170	355	334	720	1,579	78	35	19	84	176	177	99							128	57	49		
47	Mirzapur	220	305	473	602	1,600	102	43	81	83	207	111	9							122	43	54	161	
48	Muhd. Panah Odho	178	297	348	791	1,614	99	41	62	82	214	89	10	10	9	6	5			48	30	51		
49	Naushera Abro	336	190	324	1,003	1,853	109	33	69	260	135	29	80							90	-	-	-	
50	Nim	332	585	771	420	2,108	133	49	100	62	361	34	99	10	9	2	1			92	41	64		
51	Waryaso	187	232	523	738	1,680	80	48	48	11	107	45	35	13	9	0				87	55	61		
	Sub Total	2,669	4,145	5,446	10,295	22,555	1,216	449	662	1,083	2,366	1,005	552	107	66	27	24	1	-	1,302	553	646	323	
Takka Khatpud																								
52	Garhi Dakho	95	165	439	585	1,284	71	27	13	69	133	15	8							96	34	61	134	
53	Garhi Tago					-																		
54	Kharpur					-							6	4										
55	Mehmooda Bagh					-																		
56	Mian Sahib	152	173	148	369	842	64	30	22	82	129	17	47	11		3				96	33	47		
57	Pir Bux Shujrah					-																		
58	Rahimabad	82	137	144	509	872	55	9					22	33										
59	Shabbirabad					-																		
60	Thahrio					-																		
61	Zarkhi	56	248	194	234	732	43	22		5	47			9		1				20	19	30	159	
	Sub Total	385	723	925	1,697	3,730	233	88	35	156	309	60	92	20	-	4	0	-	-	212	86	138	293	
Takka Lakh																								
62	Abdoo	72	208	184	730	1,194	75	32		4	16	47	34	8		0				50	41	47		
63	Bhrikan	71	165	159	586	981	65	22	9	36	41	44	31	9		2				22	25	42		
64	Chak	169	192	161	453	975	67	29	55	112	179	109	152	11		2		15		104	71	46		
65	Habib Kot @ Ruk					-																		
66	Lakhi	111	115	74	157	457	29						22	7										
67	Mungirani At	164	212	194	456	1,026	61																	
68	Rustam					-																		
69	Sehwani	242	274	227	347	1,090	65	8																
70	Sher Kot	57	124	109	204	494	30						10	20										
71	Taib	105	158	300	1,152	1,715	61	5																
72	Wazirabad	54	106	81	280	521	32						13	19										
	Sub Total	1,045	1,554	1,489	4,365	8,453	485	96	64	152	236	245	263	28	-	4	0	15	-	176	137	135		
Takka Shikarpur																								
73	Hamayoon	111	211	109	397	828	34	16	3	8	38	14	10	9		1				42	-	20	146	
74	Jagan	26	62	92	349	529	32	5																
75	Jahan Wah					-																		
76	Janoo	134	165	148	326	773	50	20	12	6	36									106	20	21	189	
77	Karan	160	315	269	305	1,049	60	20	31	31	167			9		2				105	36	60		
78	Lodra	224	314	299	626	1,463	74	28	47	37	203	43	31	12		2		8	2	92	31	46		
79	Shikarpur-1					-						10	-	-										
80	Shikarpur-2					-																		
81	Shikarpur-3					-																		
82	Shikarpur-4					-																		
83	Shikarpur-5					-																		
84	Shikarpur-6					-																		
85	Shikarpur-7					-																		
86	Shikarpur-8					-																		
87	Sultan Kot	315	423	339	698	1,775	94	39	64	245	306	68	26	15	3	3		2		77	33	41	150	
	Sub Total	970	1,490	1,256	2,701	6,417	344	128	157	327	750	135	67	45	3	8	0	10	2	422	120	188	485	
	District Sub Tot	5,069	7,912	9,116	19,058	41,155	2,278	761	918	1,718	3,661	1,445	974	200	69	43	24	26	2	2,112	896	1,107	1,101	
	Grand Total	8,222	13,014	15,265	34,948	71,449	3,922	1,204	1,380	3,179	5,117	2,511	1,615	332	109	55	25	26	2	3,529	1,450	1,721	1,232	

1. Features of the UCBPRP

The foundation of the UCBPRP lies in its ability to identify and target the poorest for provision of vital products for improving their quality of life. These are products such as income-generating grants, flexible community-based micro credit, vocational trainings and micro-insurance. The task of identifying, targeting the poorest and providing them with this whole range of products has been taken up by SRSO through its cadre of specialised staff.

1.1 Poverty Scorecard

Being the unique programme that it is, the UCBPRP rests its entire rationale on being able to identify the poorest; thereby directing its products exclusively for this overwhelmingly neglected group. In order to undertake this survey, SRSO has taken the initiative of using the Poverty Scorecard (PSC) to identify its target group.

The PSC is a tool for measuring levels of household poverty, which originally was developed by the Grameen Foundation USA and by Dr. Mark Schreiner, a Senior Scholar at the Centre for Social Development at the Washington University in St. Louis, America. The need for the PSC arose when it was increasingly felt, especially from the field, that the poorest of households were being left out. Questions such as: who are the poor, how many poor households are there, where they live started to emerge; thus leading to the development of the PSC. The PSC has now been adopted by the World Bank, after some minor modifications (to include urban households as well). This modified version of the PSC is now being used by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan for its various development programmes in Pakistan. SRSO also used the modified PSC for its survey in the UDBPRP.

As shown in Table 1, in the UCBPRP, the PSC scores have been split into 4 poverty bands¹:

PSC Poverty Bands	PSC Score Range
Extremely poor/destitute	0-11
Chronically poor	12-18
Transitory poor	19-23
Non-poor	24-100

Table 1: PSC Poverty Band

Results of New PSC Survey

In September MIS team with the support of Social Mobilisation team surveyed 2959 households among them 1748 belongs to the three lowest bands.

1.2 Social Mobilisation

Social mobilisation has been used extensively as a way to achieve sustainable development for the masses. It does this by bringing communities together in order to better achieve their common-goals and to meet their needs. At the heart of social mobilisation lies the belief that every individual, be they poor or rich, man or woman, has the capability and potential to carry out activities for their benefit and that of their families.

¹ These poverty bands have been divided according to the World Bank as well as SRSO's experience of conducting the PSC survey in more than 10 districts.

Household Organized

Sr.	District Name	Targets as of September 2009	Achievement as of September 2009	% Achieved
1	Shikarpur	20150	41155	204%
2	Kashmore @Kandhkot	14911	30294	203%
	Total	35061	71449	204%

SRSO has implemented the UCBPRP using the social mobilisation approach to organise rural communities in order to provide the poorest with essential products, while at the same time building their capacities to plan and work as a whole.

VO Formed

Sr.	District Name	Targets as of September 2009	Achievement as of September 2009	% Achieved
1	Shikarpur	1007	761	76%
2	Kashmore @Kandhkot	747	443	59%
	Total	1754	1204	69%

As an unparalleled step, SRSO has decided to focus only on women in the households and to organise them into women's VOs. Therefore as an added precaution, SRSO has ensured that the primary beneficiaries of the UCBPRP are truly the most deserving in each of the targeted poor households, i.e. the women.

2. Products of the UCBPRP

The UCBPRP has an entire range of specialised products in order to ensure that *effective* development takes place for the poorest of the poor. The following are the products being provided in the programme:

2.1 Non-Cash Income Generating Grants

A product for the poorest of the poor households in the 2 districts, the non-cash income generating grant is the first step in helping households to stand on their own feet. Exclusively for women, the grants provided are for the purpose of income generating assets such as livestock and productive tools and inputs (such as a sewing machine, seeds, etc). The grant amount for the UCBPRP has been calculated at a maximum of Rs. 20,000 per household, for the duration of the programme.

Progress

As of September, a total of Rs.12.4319 millions grants amount has been distributed in both districts. A number of 1,380 women (with PSC ranging from 0-11) have received grants in the 2 districts. Most of the grants have been used to purchase livestock.

2.2 Community Investment Fund

In order to effectively and efficiently reach out to women and the poorest segments of the rural community, the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and SRSO began a programme called the Community Investment Fund (CIF). The CIF is a programme which increases the confidence and empowerment of the poorest of rural women by providing them access to flexible micro loans.

As of September, 2009, VOs received a total of Rs.103.7871 millions CIF funds. A number of 8,296 poorest women have been given CIF loans for various purposes, such as for livestock, enterprise and for agriculture.

2.3 Human Resource Development

This project is having two major training components;

- 1) Vocational and Technical Training
- 2) VO Capacity Building

NRSP-IRM is facilitating SRSO and Sindh Government by taking responsibility of building the capacity of both the vocational training and VO Capacity building components.

The Vocational training component of this project would provide 25% of the households that are identified as being under the poverty line (poverty rank 0 - 18) with Vocational Training that leads to either self or external employment of both men & women. Vocational training is offered at various locations that includes NRSP's Vocational, Technical & Educational Center (VTEC) Rawalpindi, VTEC Sukkur (men and women), and outreach field training centers established to provide the training at the doorstep of rural poor women.



A strong and well informed village organization (VO) can play an effective role in poverty reduction, for this purpose NRSP-IRM is assigned a task to enhance the skills of VO office bearers.

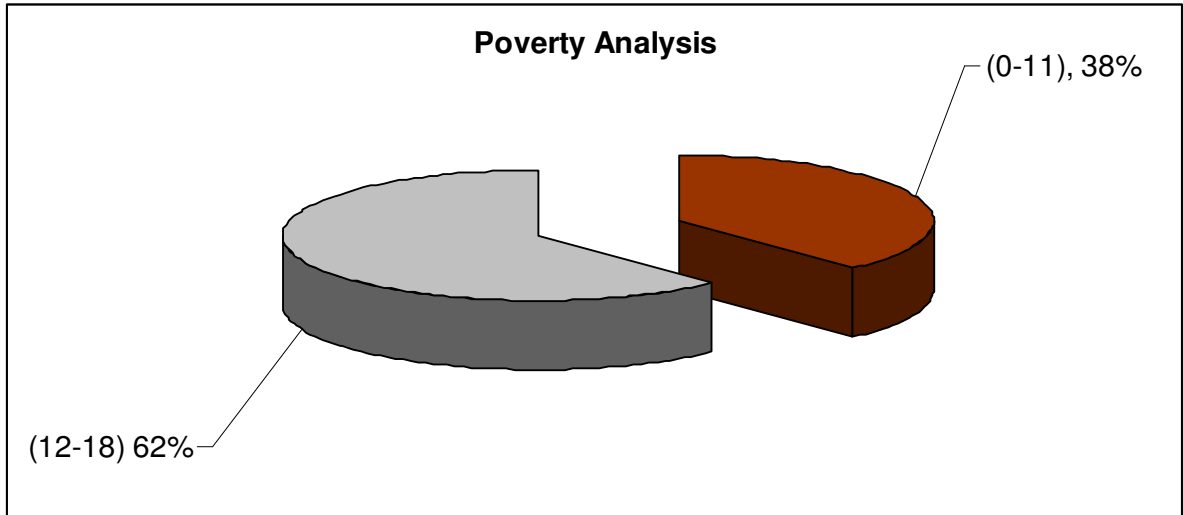
This is being achieved through capacity building and strengthening of Village Organizations in each village in the designated 87 UCs so as to enable them to assess their needs and become capable of independently managing, planning, mobilizing resources and implementing the household and village level activities/needs on self help basis. The methodology adapted is holding dialogues, meetings and workshops with the VOs.

Vocational Training Programme:

In September, 2009, the training component has imparted employable vocational skills training to 1,141 trainee from 38 Union Councils of districts Kashmore@Kandhkot and Shikarpur. Majority of the trainees lie in the second lowest poverty band (0-18) of RSPs introduced Poverty Score Card ranking. Out of a total of 1,184, 44% trainees were women and remaining 56% were men.

Poverty Analysis

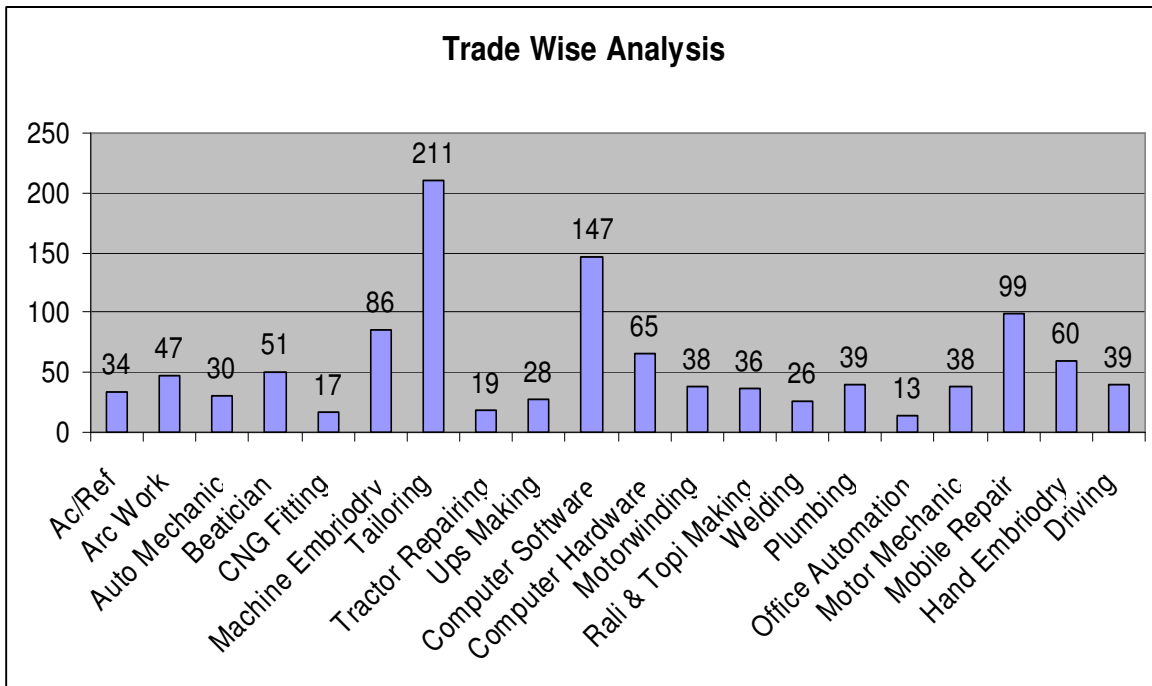
District	PSC (0 to 11)	PSC (12 to 18)
Khandhkot	203	331
Shikarpur	247	403
Total	450	734



The above graph shows that majority of the trainees who have participated in the vocational training events belong to the most marginalized segments of the society as out of a total of 1,184 selected pax, 450 (38%) fall in the band 0-11 of the poverty scorecard.

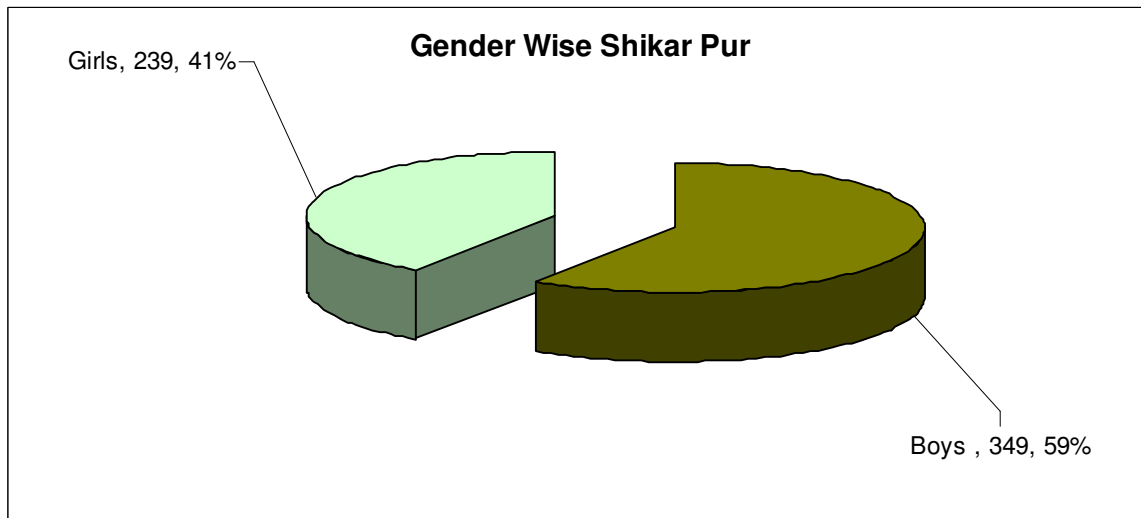
Trade Wise Analysis

The graph below presents the trade wise analysis of the participants from both the district Shikarpur and Kashmore@Khandkot. It depicts the trend that the favorite trade for girls is tailoring and for boys computer software. These are followed by tendency of boys towards mobile repairing and computer hardware.

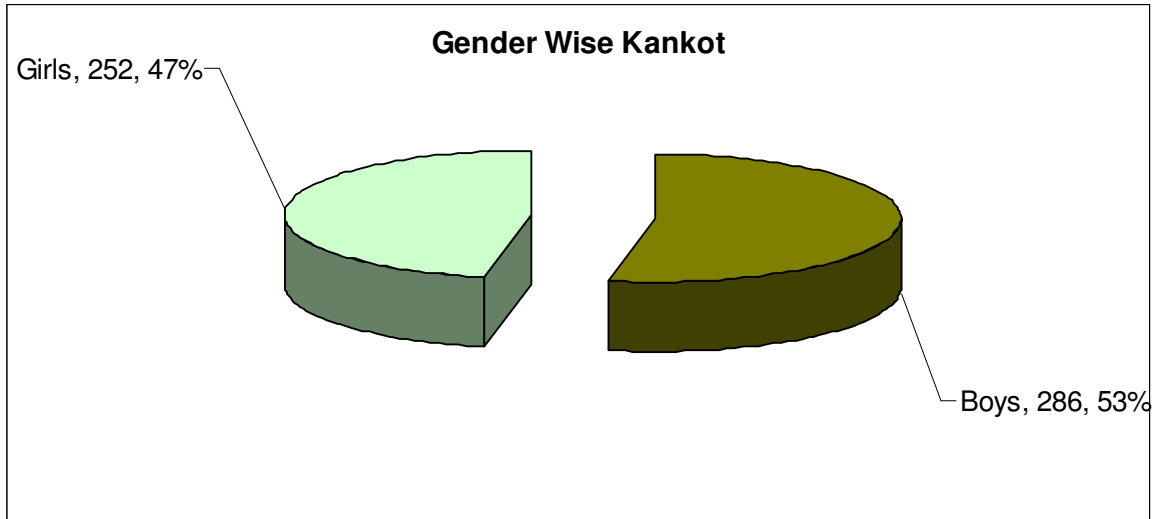


Gender Wise Analysis

The below pie chart below (Shikarpur) depicts the gender wise participation of the trainees. It shows that a healthy 41% (239) of the participants in the vocational training events were women which is encouraging keeping in view the traditional set up of Shikarpur.

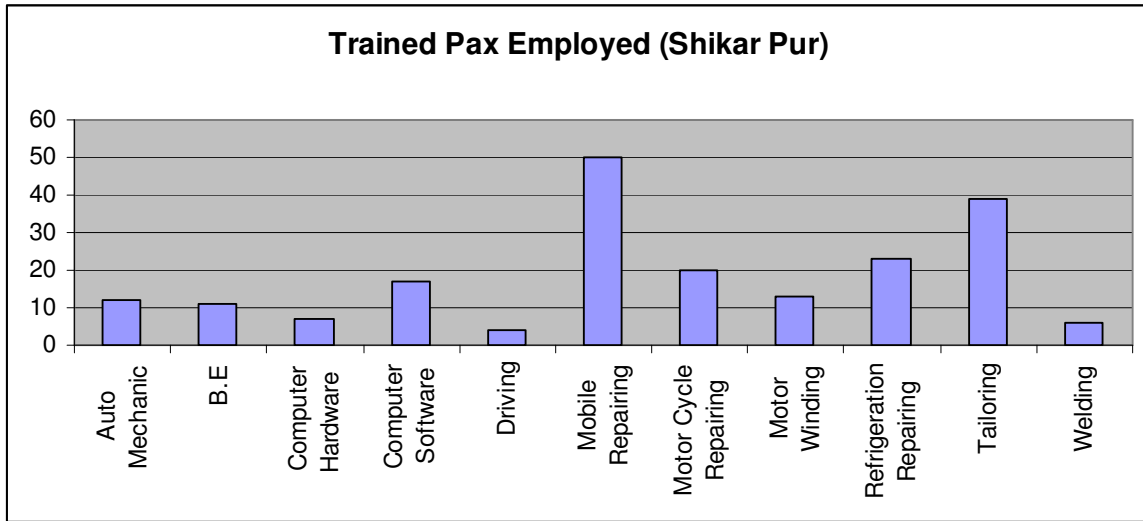


In the district Khandkot as only 47 percent women folk participated from the district which is only 6 percent higher than the neighboring Shikarpur. It is an encouraging sign owing to the Kandkot traditional conformities.



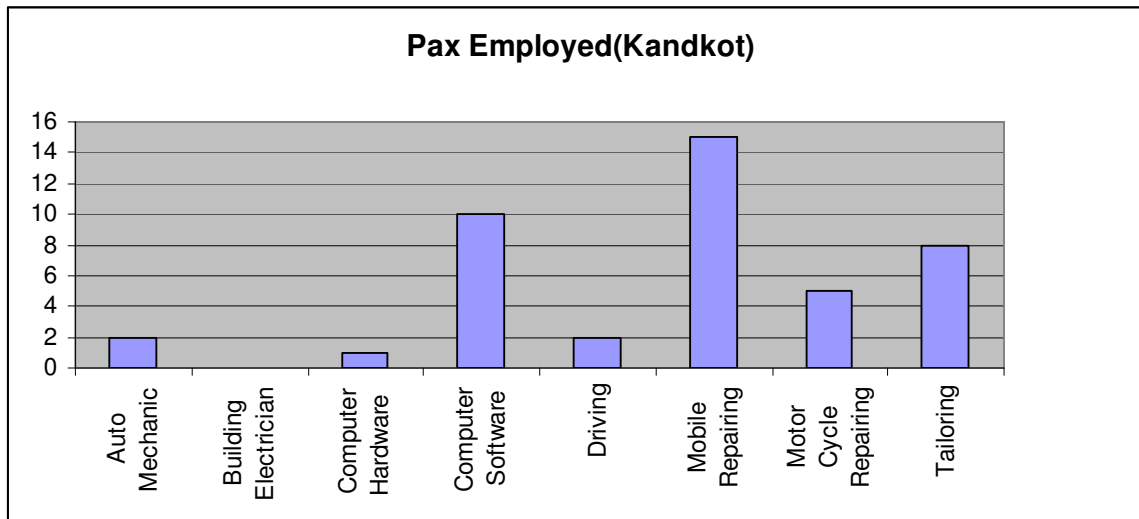
Placement on employment of trained Participants from Shikarpur

<i>Trade</i>	<i>Employed</i>
Auto Mechanic	12
Building Electrician	11
Computer Hardware	7
Computer Software	17
Driving	4
Mobile Repairing	50
Motor Cycle Repairing	20
Motor Winding	13
Refrigeration Repairing	23
Tailoring	39
Welding	6
Total	202



Placement on employment of trained Participants from Kandkot

<i>Trade</i>	<i>Employed</i>
Auto Mechanic	2
Building Electrician	2
Computer Hardware	1
Computer Software	10
Driving	2
Mobile Repairing	15
Motor Cycle Repairing	5
Tailoring	8
Total	45



Village Organizations' Capacity Building:

In the VO capacity building component, trainings have been conducted at various locations of both the above-mentioned districts. So far we have been able to train only 6700 office bearers of different Village Organizations; the progress shows that the target would be achieved well in time, as below cited graph indicates.

2.4 Community Physical Infrastructures

Community Physical Infrastructures (CPIs) are development infrastructure projects which are carried out with the help of organised communities. These are projects such as installation of hand-pumps, maintenance of small local roads, etc. The Organised Community identifies a CPI to carry out in their neighbourhood or village.

Progress

As of September 2009, 332 CPIs and 55 low cost village improvement schemes have been initiated with the total amount of Rs. 23.94 million and almost 50 % of initiated schemes are completed. A Total amount Rs.1, 532,200 is received by 0-18 PSC holders 7661 Un-skilled man days and Rs.1, 074,800 amount received by 2687 skilled days.

Low cost housing scheme

This scheme is designed to Undertake low cost home improvement by providing required technical and material support to Rs. 60,000/= to 5000 rural HHs i-e 25000 houses in each district. The HHs are:

- Falling in the 0-11 Poverty Score card category,
- Only to women CO member
- Have no house (shelter less)

The specification of home will be:

- One room of size 14*18 ft
- One veranda,



- One small kitchen
- One small toilet and washroom.

Progress

As of September 2009, 26 low cost housing schemes have been initiated with the amount of Rs.1.56 million of in which amount of Rs 1.08 million have been disbursed during the month of September.

Productivity Enhancement

In September UCBPRP has started a research and development program in order to effectively and efficiently reach out to women and the poorest segments of rural community, which increases the confidence and empower the poorest of rural women by providing them technical support and skill development. R&D sector works on AGRICULTURE and LIVESTOCK. This sector has launched its activities as pilot project in selected UCs of Shikarpur District. The different villages of UC Chak & Madeji were visited by professionals. In livestock it was observed that the farmers are practicing non preventive measures such as no proper vaccinations and medications provides, uncomfortable bedding, availability of improper shades and hygienic milking procedure. The farmers are not aware from modern technologies by which then can increase their land productivity.

Whereas in agriculture, the Kacho (Flood area or edge of river Indus) face water shortage due to lack of irrigation canal system. As a result of water shortage a large part of land remains uncultivated. The poor farmers in these areas mainly survive on their land harvest. However, due to lack of water, and other financial resource constraint- these framers, find it hard and are sometimes unable to cultivate their lands. Apart from this the farmers are unaware of modern agricultural methods and uses of fertilizers, which would increase their crop yield. Furthermore, they are financially weak to adopt alternatives, such as tube wells, to overcome water shortage problem. All these factors ultimately contribute in further worsening the present depriving condition of the farmers. .

UCBPRP in order to uplift the present condition of the poor community is going to initiate a Family Nutritional Kit (FNK) and **small drip system on the trial bases through providing the Productivity Enhancement Trainings (PET). Similarly, the trainings on technical support will be imparted in clusters under the theme of the Productivity Enhancement Training (PET) in livestock.**



Education Component

Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh is implementing UC Based Poverty Reduction Project with the support of RSPs, the main objective of this project is "to improve the quality of life of the poor and marginalized communities that lack basic facilities. In order to achieve this objective of UCBPRP includes number of interventions, investments related to health, skill training, infrastructure development, Microfinance, community investment fund and agriculture and livestock sectors. The government of Sindh has also committed to improve the situation in education

sector as well but this component was not the part of the said project. Government has requested to RSPs for conduction of a detailed situation analysis censuses in the two Union councils of the Project Area to analyze the existing situation of education especially functional and non function schools, details of missing facilities, enrolment and literacy ratio. RSPs has conducted education situation analysis and the findings were astonishing and startling, a significant number of schools were not functional; literacy rations and enrolment of schools going age children were on very low side. In the light of situation analysis' Government of Sindh has recognized that education can be a powerful tool for empowerment and building capacity and capability to challenge inequalities and poerety so PC-1 of UC based poverty Reduction Project has revised and a comprehensive methodology chalked out in the light of suggestions made by NRSP/RSPs, and resources allocated toi improve the education sector in project area. This shows that Government priorities regarding fixing education related problems. There are three main sub objectives of project as mentioned under:

- Improving Primary School System for increasing enrolment by making non functional schools functional,
- Establishing second shift primary schools for girls and
- School feeding Programme for two UCs.

In this regard an agreement has been signed between NRSP and SRSO-UCBPRP NRSP team & UCBPRP District Manager, Shikarpur, held an orientation meeting with DCO and EDO-Education Shikarpur. The Government Officials appreciated the efforts and assured their co-operation. . NRSP team also held an Orientation meeting with team of SMU Khanpur.

Health Insurance

Provide micro health insurance as a social safety net to 56,541 households that are in 0-18 category according to the poverty score card survey for 24the months/2years to pre-empt the beneficiaries falling back into the poverty trap because of a health related accident. The family composition was irrespective of the number of family members and also includes parents and unmarried sisters. Payment of claims to the micro health insurance beneficiaries for treatment in hospitals/facilities outside the programme area will be ensured as per SOPs.

With Reference to the meeting regarding health insurance dated 17th September, 2009 at PMU Karachi. It was decided, for RSP Consortium to float "Expression of Interest" to invite professional organisations to come and present their competitive products. A committee for HI was also formed and will be headed by Dr. Shereen Narejo. In this regard advertisement for expression of interest was published in daily kawish newspaper. Regarding Micro-Health Insurance component, CEO NRSP shared their intended design with the participants. He shared that at the core of the health initiative, good Hospitals in the districts would be brought in loop, where treatment would be provided without charge. Secondly, the patient may visit any hospital (government or private, subject to ceiling) of choice anywhere in the province for treatment; however, he has to pay for treatment upfront, which would be reimbursed subsequently. Thirdly, PPHI's existing services can be utilized. Modalities of the model are being further designed. Finally Ms Naheed Shah emphasized to fine-tune the model and suggested that a panel of hospitals be formed so that cashless treatment is extended to the poor patients.

Staff Development

For the staff development, PIU team held orientation session on 1st September, 2009 at HRD-SRSO Training Hall Sukkur at 12:00pm to 10:00pm.

Objective: To orient the field staff on the Conceptual package of the Social Mobilization and UCBPRP.

Methodology:

PIU management team held one day orientation workshop at HRD-SRSO Training Hall.

- The session on the conceptual package of social mobilization conducted by Dr Sono Khangharani CEO SRSO
- Dr. Ghulam Rasool Samejo Team Leader UCBPRP conducted session on PSC and targeting the poor.
- Mr. Abdul Samad for CIF/IGG,
- Mr. Salam Memon for CPI
- Mr. Zulfiqar and Benazir held sessions on Record Keeping to orient the UCBPRP selected staff. (detailed staff development plan of next QTR attached in Annexure)



Events and Visits

1. Eid Bachat Bazar

“Eid Batchat Bazar” was scheduled on September 17-18, 2009 at Government Girls High School near Hazari gate district Shikarpur, where more than 500 females participated from different villages of district Shikarpur. Besides that our VTEC trained participants also took part in advertising activity of the tailoring and embroidery stuff being made by trained female pax from VTEC.



DCO Shikarpur is cutting the ribbon in inauguration ceremony.

2. Visit of Mr. Bilal Ahmed Memon, Director SGRRP

On 2nd and 3rd September Mr. Bilal Ahmed Memon Director SGRRP visited Shikarpur and Kashmore@Kandhkot, 2009, of Project Area. The purpose of visit was to monitor and coordinate implementation of this programme titled “Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP)”. In order to witness performance of the program and to contact the community directly, the visit was kept random, each Taluka of both the districts i.e. 4 Talukas of Shikarpur and 3 Talukas of Kashmore @ Kandhkot were visited. In every Taluka, One UC each, a Community / Village Organisation, a Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) Project, and Vocational Training Center (VTC) were visited. GoS / Local Government’s social infrastructure was also visited. (Detailed Report shared by Mr. Bilal Sahib with different stake holders)

3. SDPI Team for process monitoring of the program

In each Union Council of Taluka Garhi Yaseen, SDPI randomly selected 25 VOs for process monitoring. Within each randomly selected VO, and in all the Community Organisations within this randomly selected VO, the following strategies were adopted: :

1. Poverty score card verification of all member/organised households (i.e. 100% PSC verification of member/organised households in the randomly selected village)
2. Process monitoring of adoption of SRSO standard operating procedures for:
 - Fostering of Community Organisations (process monitoring of 100% of Community Organisations fostered in the randomly selected village)
 - Fostering of Village Organisation
 - Vocational training (process monitoring of 100% trainees in the randomly selected village)
 - Community investment fund (process monitoring of 100% clients in the randomly selected village)
 - Income generating grants (process monitoring of 100% beneficiaries in the randomly selected village)
 - Community book keepers (process monitoring of 100% trained in the randomly selected village)
 - Community Physical infrastructure schemes (process monitoring of 100% CPIs implemented in the randomly selected village)

We hope that this first round of process monitoring exercise would be completed during the month of September and will yield valuable lessons for all stakeholders. Based on the lessons drawn, further methodological fine-tuning will then be undertaken.

4. Meeting with DCO Kashmore @Kandhkot & DCO Shikarpur:

As per monthly work plan meetings held with both DCOs at their offices. In the meeting, monthly progress of UCBPRP was reviewed and next month work plan was shared. In meeting of district Shikarpur one of political stakeholder Mr. Moosi Khan Brother of Provisional Minister Mr. Agha Siraj Durani participated and submitted his some reservations in regard of project. In response a detailed briefing was made by DM UCBPRP Shikarpur. After getting concept clarification of project he appreciated and extended his hand to monitor project activities.

Planning for the 2nd Qtr 2009-10, Oct to Dec 2009

Sl.No	Activity	Planning for 2nd Qtr Oct - Dec			
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	Poverty Score card Survey Union Councils	-	-	-	-
2a	Households Organized (0-11)	1,840	1,840	1,840	5,520
2b	Households Organized (12-18)	5,223	5,223	5,223	15,669
2c	Households Organized (19-23)	6,472	6,472	6,472	19,416
2d	Households Organized (24-100)	7,205	7,205	7,205	21,615
	Total Household to be Organized	20,741	20,741	20,741	62,223
3a	Community Organizations Formed	1,635	1,635	1,635	4,905
3b	Village Organizations Formed	637	637	637	1,911
4	Households to be Given Income Generating Grants @ Rs.20,000/- per Household	460	460	460	1,380
5a	Households to be Given Community Investment Fund @ Rs.20,000/- per Household (0-11)through Village Organizations	940	940	940	2,820
5b	Households to be Given Community Investment Fund @ Rs.25,000/- per Household (12-18) through Village Organizations	2,735	2,735	2,735	8,205
6a	Households to be Given Scholarship for Vocational Training @ Rs.17,500/- per Household (0-11) - 30% females	163	163	163	489
6b	Households to be Given Scholarship for Vocational Training @ Rs.17,500/- per Household (12-18) - 30 % females	894	894	894	2,682
7	Villages to be Give Drinking Water Supply Schemes as CPI @ Rs.250,000/- per scheme	133	133	133	399
8a	Locations to be improved under Village Improvement Plan Scheme as Model Villages i.e 2 Villages per rural UC	-	-	-	-
8b	Roof material for low cost housing support provided to 15% OF 0-11 Hhds @ Rs. 30,000/- per hhd	658	658	658	1,974
9a	Improving Primary School System for Increasing Enrollment by making non functional schools Functional @ Rs.650,000/- per school	67	67	66	200
9b	Establishing second shift primary schools for girl child primary/middle education @ of Rs.240,000/- per school	133	133	134	400
9c	Schoold feeding programme for 2 Ucs	2,667	2,667	2,667	8,001
10a	R&D schemes to be undertaken for developing new products for increasing productivity i.e. 5 per Taluka UC @ Rs.300,000/- per R&D	-	-	1	1
11	Households provided Micro Health Insurance family package as a social safety net @ Rs.600/- per household	13,727	13,727	13,727	41,181
12	Building capacity of Village Health worker for preventive primary health care i.e 1 per VO @ Rs.25,000/- per VO member	467	467	467	1,401
13a	Community Organization members trained in Management skills and Book Keeping 2 per CO i.e 2 per CO @ Rs.1,000/- per Pax (3 days duration)	3,745	3,745	3,744	11,234
13b	Community Organization members trained in CIF Need Identification and Book-Keeping i.e. 2 per CO @ Rs. 1,000/- per Pax (3 days duration)	2,934	2,934	2,934	8,802
13c	Village Organization members trained in Managerial skills, Book Keeping and Planning i.e. 2 per VO @ Rs.1,250/- per Pax (3 days duration)	900	900	900	2,700
13d	Village Organization members trained in Book Keeping i.e. 2 per VO Rs.900/- per Pax (2 days duration)	1,593	1,593	1,594	4,780
13e	Village Organization members trained in CIF Appraisal and Usage Monitoring i.e. 2 per VO @ Rs.1,500/- per Pax (3 days duration)	1,503	1,503	1,503	4,509
13f	CO/VO Managers - Activist Experience Sharing Workshops i.e one per qtr to be held attended by 2 pax from each VO and CO @ Rs.75/- per pax (1 day duration)	6,119	6,119	6,118	18,356
13g	Village Organization members to be sent on Exposure Visits @ Rs.3,500/- per Pax (4 days duration)	-	-	-	-
13g	Productivity Enhancement Training	115	115	115	345

List of Abbreviations

- AKRSP – Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
- ACS – Additional Chief Secretary
- ADB - Asian Development Bank
- BISP – Benazir Income Support Programme
- BoD – Board of Directors
- BYDP – Benazir Youth Development Programme
- CPI – Community Physical Infrastructure
- CO – Community Organisation
- CEO – Chief Executive Officer
- CIF – Community Investment Fund
- CRP – Community Resource Person
- GoS – Government of Sindh
- HHs – Households
- HRD - Human Resource Development
- IRM – Institute of Rural Management
- IGG - Income Generating Grant
- K.Kot – Kandhkot
- MPR – Monthly Progress Report
- MIS – Management Information System
- MIP- Micro Investment Plan
- NRSP – National Rural Support Programme
- PC – Project Coordinator
- PSC – Poverty Score Card
- PIU – Project Implementation Unit
- RSP – Rural Support Programme
- SMT – Social Mobilisation Team
- SRSO – Sindh Rural Support Organisation
- SERP – Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty
- TNI – Training Need Identification
- TNA – Training Need Assessment
- UCBPRP – Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme
- UDPS – Union Council Development Plans
- VO – Village Organisation
- VST – Vocational Skill Training
- VDPs – Village Development Plans
- VOB – Village Organisation Bank
- WB – World Bank

Sindh Rural Support Organisation

*Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme
Districts Kashmore-Kandhkot and Shikarpur*

Project Implementation Unit

B-34, Hamdard Housing Society,
Airport Road, Sukkur

Ph: 071-5633516 / 5633657 / 5631625 Fax: 071-5631791 Web: www.srso.com.pk