

Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme District Khairpur



Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)

Table of Contents

Preface.....	2
Programme Area.....	3
Programme Summary	4
Progress Update	5
Poverty Scorecard Survey.....	8
Social Mobilization.....	9
Capacity Building	10
Vocational / Technical Skills Training.....	11
Community Investment Fund (CIF)	12
Plan for the month of Jan 2010.....	13

Preface

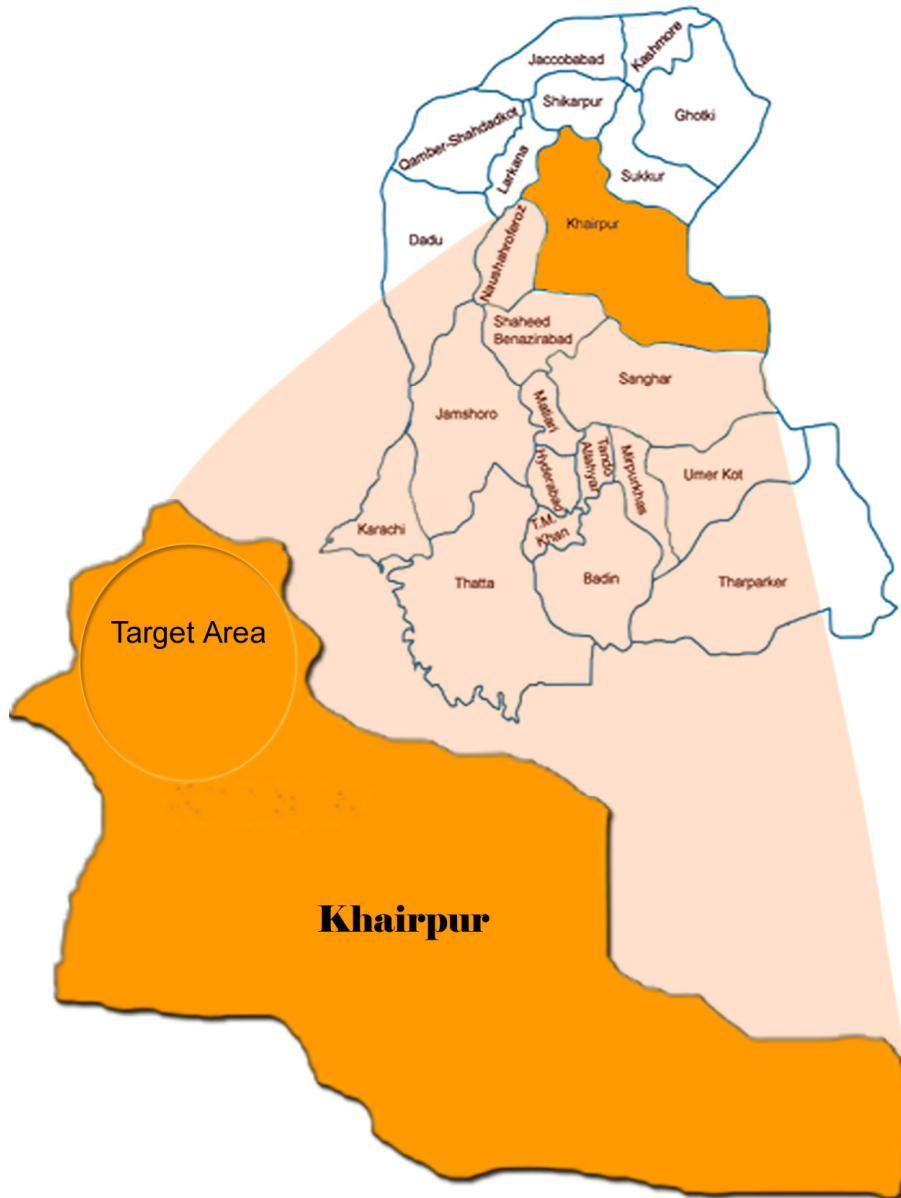
The Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) is a pioneering and challenging initiative of the Government of Sindh, for reducing poverty by tapping into the potential of the people. The UCBPRP, being implemented by the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), was initiated on February 1, 2009 in two districts of Sindh; Kashmore-Kandhkot and Shikarpur for a period of 30 months (FYs 2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11).

Subsequent to the success and effectiveness of the programme, as accredited both by the Government and Board of Directors, the management took an initiative to replicate the same programme at district Khairpur from its core-funding. Therefore, upon approval from the Board of Directors, the management commenced the programme in 19 Union Councils of Khairpur's two taluka; Khairpur and Sobhodero for the period of 36 months (FY 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12). The programme is intended to cover almost 70 percent of the entire population, which constitutes 51 percent of those categorized in the lower three bands according to the Poverty Scorecard Survey.

Many women in the area desire to work but do not always have the education and required skills. Therefore they are confined to their homes with limited opportunity to find employment and earn income. The programme is specifically designed to target the rural women (including their siblings) and thus attaining its objective of improving the quality of life of communities living in rural areas that lack basic facilities, while the specific objective is to build up the capacity through social mobilization to empower the communities both socially and economically and equip them with skills in various vocational and technical trades so that they are able to improve their livelihoods and increase their incomes. The programme will also cater their social protection through Micro-health Insurance.

SRSO's approach is to organize only women from the households at Parra/Mohalla into Community Organization (CO) which are later converged into Village Organization or Village Development Organization at village level to become a self-sustaining institution (or "grassroots institution").

Programme Area



Programme Summary

The Union Council Based Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) in 19 UCs of district Khairpur commenced on 1st July 2009 and would be completed in 36 months. The prime objective of this programme is to improve the living standard of communities in the said area, while the specific objective is to build up the capacity of the underserved population, based upon the social mobilization approach, supplemented by a number of interventions. In addition to social mobilization, the programme will address the social indicators relating to health, education, environment and physical infrastructure. Health insurance cover for the poor (0-18) would be provided as a social safety-net, as well as it will also prepare the communities to make use of microfinance for their livelihoods and creation of assets, which are the main reasons behind poverty in rural areas.

The team is progressing in identification of the beneficiary households through the Poverty Scorecard (PSC) survey covering each household within jurisdiction boundary of the targeted area. So far, results of 10 Union Councils have been generated through the Poverty Scorecard-MIS classifying the households in 4 poverty bands i.e. 0-11, 12-18, 19-23 and 24-100. The MIS reports have been given away to the social mobilization teams, in order to organize the households based on the poverty scorecard result.

The programme had intervened in 08 Union Councils out of 19 UCs, of two taluka of the district Khairpur, through social mobilization process. The teams had organized 6,144 households into 288 Community Organizations (COs) which constitutes 164 Village Organizations (VOs) / Village Development Organizations (VDOs), wherein 223 villages were covered. All 6,144 households' members are women. The organized households had saved Rs. 333,337/- during the reporting period.

Supporting, capacity building and strengthening of COs, VOs and VDOs in each village in the designated 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 reliance basis. Therefore, 39 events were organized to enhance the capacity of 760 COs/VOs/VDOs members. In addition, 01 community/activists/members conference and an exposure visit were arranged to assemble them at a single platform for the purpose of sharing experiences to achieve their common goals. Wherein, 102 members of organized communities participated.

In the course of Training Need Assessment (TNA), organized households are identified so as to equip them with Vocational/Technical Skills that leads to either self or external employment of both Men and Women. During the reporting period 287 persons (male/female) had trained in different trades.

In order to effectively and efficiently reach out to women and the poorest segments of the rural community, the Community Investment Fund (CIF) is an intervention through which the beneficiaries were provided access to flexible and interest free revolving loan/fund aimed at creating opportunities for development, growth, and poverty reduction. A disbursement of Rs. 1,300,000 was reported for the period benefitting 134 female members falling in 0-18 category.

Progress Update

i. Taluka wise achievement as of 31st December 2009

Activity	Project Target	Taluka wise Progress		Cumulative Achievement as of 31 Dec 2009
		Khairpur	Sobhodoro	
Social Mobilization				
Union Councils Coverage	19	5	3	8
Villages Coverage		147	76	223
Households Coverage	35,910	3,776	2,368	6,144
	0-11	1,623	520	2,143
	12-18	596	559	1,155
	19-23	376	420	796
	24-100	1,181	869	2,050
COs Formation	2,394	164	124	288
VOs / VDOs Formation	798	119	45	164
Households given Community Investment Fund - CIF (0-18)	15,903	134	-	134
Micro-Health Insurance - MHI (@ Rs. 550)	15,903	-	-	-
Capacity Building / Training				
Vocational / Skills Training (Events)	-	-	-	-
Vocational / Skills Training (Pax)	5,387	230	57	287
CO Management & Record Keeping Training (Events)	-	10	9	19
CO Management & Record Keeping Training (2 pax per CO)	4,788	198	160	358
VO / VDO Management & Planning Training (Events)	23	6	2	8
VO / VDO Management & Planning Training (4 pax per VO / VDO)	3,192	134	48	182
VO / VDO Record Keeping Training (Events)	-	2	2	4
VO / VDO Record Keeping Training (1 member per VO / VDO)	798	26	12	38
CIF Management & Record / Book Keeping Training (Events)	-	6	2	8
CIF Management & Record / Book Keeping Training (4 members per VO / VDO)	3,192	134	48	182
Credit Book Keeping Training (Events)	-	-	-	-
Credit Book Keeping Training (1 Member per CO)	2,394	-	-	-
CRPs / Activists Training (Events)	-	-	-	-
CRPs / Activists Training (Pax)	798	-	-	-
Community / Activists Conference (Events)	-	-	1	1
Community / Activists Conference (1 participant per CO)	2,394	-	63	63
Exposure Visit (Events)	-	-	1	1
Exposure Visit (Pax)	798	-	39	39

ii. UC wise achievement as of 31st December 2009 (Taluka Khairpur)

Activity	UC wise Achievement (Taluka Khairpur)					Total	
Social Mobilization							
Taluka	Khairpur					1	
Union Councils Coverage	Shadi Shaheed	Wada Machiyon	Khanpur	Therhi	Meher Ali	5	
Villages Coverage	68	39	36	1	3	147	
Households Coverage	1,838	878	980	15	65	3,776	
	0-11	731	492	364	6	30	1,623
	12-18	258	123	194	4	17	596
	19-23	171	67	126	3	9	376
	24-100	678	196	296	2	9	1,181
COs Formation	73	39	48	1	3	164	
VOs / VDOs Formation	52	32	34	-	1	119	
Households given Community Investment Fund - CIF (0-18)	134	-	-	-	-	134	
Micro-Health Insurance - MHI (@ Rs. 550)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Training							
Vocational / Skills Training (Events)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Vocational / Skills Training (Pax)	172	47	-	4	7	230	
Beautician Training	22	-	-	4	3	29	
Machine Embroidery	40	11	-	-	1	52	
Driving	25	-	-	-	-	25	
Hand Embroidery	23	4	-	-	-	27	
Computer Hardware	-	1	-	-	2	3	
Computer Software	4	-	-	-	-	4	
Electric Motor Winding	2	8	-	-	-	10	
Motor Cycle Mechanic	6	1	-	-	1	8	
Sindhi/Urdu Typist	1	4	-	-	-	5	
Generator Repairing	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tailoring Training	43	15	-	-	-	58	
Building Electrician	6	2	-	-	-	8	
Sewing Machine Repairing	-	1	-	-	-	1	
CO Management & Record Keeping Training (Events)	6	2	2	-	-	10	
CO Management & Record Keeping Training (2 pax per CO)	120	36	42	-	-	198	
VO / VDO Management & Planning Training (Events)	4	2	-	-	-	6	
VO / VDO Management & Planning Training (4 pax per VO / VDO)	89	45	-	-	-	134	
VO / VDO Record Keeping Training (Events)	2	-	-	-	-	2	
VO / VDO Record Keeping Training (1 member per VO/VDO)	26	-	-	-	-	26	
CIF Management & Record/Book Keeping Training (Events)	4	2	-	-	-	6	
CIF Management & Record / Book Keeping Training (4 members per VO / VDO)	89	45	-	-	-	134	
Credit Book Keeping Training (Events)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Credit Book Keeping Training (1 Member per CO)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CRPs / Activists Training (Events)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CRPs / Activists Training (Pax)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Community / Activists Conference (Events)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Community / Activists Conference (1 participant per CO)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Exposure Visit (Events)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Exposure Visit (Pax)	-	-	-	-	-	-	

iii. UC wise achievement as of 31st December 2009 (Taluka Sobhodero)

Activity	UC wise Achievement (Taluka Sobhodero)			Total	
	Mud	Sobhodero	Pir Hayyat Shah		
Social Mobilization					
Taluka	Sobhodero			1	
Union Councils Coverage				3	
Villages Coverage	49	25	2	76	
Households Coverage	1,679	575	114	2,368	
	0-11	424	72	24	520
	12-18	305	209	45	559
	19-23	201	181	38	420
	24-100	749	113	7	869
COs Formation	89	30	5	124	
VOs / VDOs Formation	32	11	2	45	
Households given Community Investment Fund - CIF (0-18)	-	-	-	-	
Micro-Health Insurance - MHI (@ Rs. 550)	-	-	-	-	
Training					
Vocational / Skills Training (Events)	-	-	-	-	
Vocational / Skills Training (Pax)	57	-	-	57	
Beautician Training	7	-	-	7	
Machine Embroidery	-	-	-	-	
Driving	20	-	-	20	
Hand Embroidery	7	-	-	7	
Computer Hardware	7	-	-	7	
Computer Software	3	-	-	3	
Electric Motor Winding	-	-	-	-	
Motor Cycle Mechanic	1	-	-	1	
Sindhi/Urdu Typist	6	-	-	6	
Generator Repairing	3	-	-	3	
Tailoring Training	-	-	-	-	
Building Electrician	3	-	-	3	
Sewing Machine Repairing	-	-	-	-	
CO Management & Record Keeping Training (Events)	9	-	-	9	
CO Management & Record Keeping Training (2 pax per CO)	160	-	-	160	
VO / VDO Management & Planning Training (Events)	2	-	-	2	
VO / VDO Management & Planning Training (4 pax per VO/VDO)	48	-	-	48	
VO / VDO Record Keeping Training (Events)	2	-	-	2	
VO / VDO Record Keeping Training (1 member per VO/VDO)	12	-	-	12	
CIF Management & Record / Book Keeping Training (Events)	2	-	-	2	
CIF Management & Record / Book Keeping Training (4 members per VO / VDO)	48	-	-	48	
Credit Book Keeping Training (Events)	-	-	-	-	
Credit Book Keeping Training (1 Member per CO)	-	-	-	-	
CRPs / Activists Training (Events)	-	-	-	-	
CRPs / Activists Training (Pax)	-	-	-	-	
Community / Activists Conference (Events)	1	-	-	1	
Community / Activists Conference (1 participant per CO)	63	-	-	63	
Exposure Visit (Events)	1	-	-	1	
Exposure Visit (Pax)	39	-	-	39	

Poverty Scorecard Survey

The Poverty Scorecard survey is being conducted to collect and analyze the required information in selected Union Councils in Districts Khairpur. However, in order to target particular groups for specific intervention, it is important to decide a cut-off and label the potential households with score falling in their respective categories. Based on World Bank guidelines and SRSO's experience of testing the scorecard in other districts, SRSO decided following cut-offs to identify people in different categories.

Poverty Bands:

As shown in table, the Poverty Scorecard has been split into 4 poverty bands:

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

During the reporting period, reports of following data of targeted Union Councils have been generated through Poverty Scorecard-MIS:

Sr.	Taluka	Union Council	0-11	12-18	19-23	24-100	Total Hhds
1	Sobhodero	Ranipur	63	164	147	543	917
2		Mudd	698	373	224	1,329	2,624
3		Gadejji	142	479	523	1,750	2,894
4		Pir Hayyat Shah	260	563	503	1,599	2,925
5		Sobhodero	181	384	353	802	1,720
6	Khairpur	Mehar Ali	267	509	463	1,431	2,670
7		Nizamani	413	576	491	1,243	2,723
8		Shadi Shaheed	1,098	429	336	1,724	3,587
9		Wada Machyoon	733	266	166	1,364	2,529
10		Khanpur	866	346	250	1,220	2,682
11		Therhi	257	405	397	1,579	2,638
	Total Hhds		4,978	4,494	3,853	14,584	27,909

Social Mobilization

The Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) has been using the social mobilization approach to organize 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. Following table depicts taluka wise achievement of social mobilization for the period of July - December 2009:

Activity	Project Target	Taluka wise Achievement		Cumulative Achievement as of 31 Dec 2009
		Khairpur	Sobhodoro	
Taluka	2	1	1	2
Union Councils Coverage	19	5	3	8
Villages Coverage	-	147	76	223
Households Coverage	35,910	3,776	2,368	6,144
0-11		1,623	520	2,143
12-18		596	559	1,155
19-23		376	420	796
24-100		1,181	869	2,050
COs Formation	2,394	164	124	288
VOs / VDOs Formation	798	119	45	164

Capacity Building

Investment in human capacities for harnessing the competence of local people is the primary objective of the programme and believes in the potential and strength of community, therefore, it does focus on the capacity building of the targeted communities. Keeping in view, the programme has drawn socially and culturally accepted training modules through which other intervention packages offered by the programme would help the communities in creating sustainable solution to their problems and equip them with management skills and better understanding of the programme so that they could build-up and efficiently run their institution at their own and obtain utmost advantage out of it. Moreover, for the sake of experience sharing, conferences and exposure visits would also be arranged for the members.

The under mentioned table shows progress as of 31st December 2009:

Activity	Project Target	Taluka wise Achievement		Cumulative Achievement as of 31 Dec 2009
		Khairpur	Sobhodoro	
CO Management & Record Keeping Training				
Events	-	10	9	19
Pax (2 pax per CO)	4,788	198	160	358
VO / VDO Management & Planning Training				
Events	-	6	2	8
Pax (4 pax per VO / VDO)	3,192	134	48	182
VO / VDO Record Keeping Training				
Events	-	2	2	4
Pax (1 member per VO / VDO)	798	26	12	38
CIF Management & Record / Book Keeping Training				
Events	-	6	2	8
Pax (4 members per VO / VDO)	3,192	134	48	182
Credit Book Keeping Training				
Pax (Events)	-	-	-	-
Pax (1 Member per CO)	2,394	-	-	-
CRPs / Activists Training				
Events	-	-	-	-
Pax	798	-	-	-
Community / Activists Conference				
Events	-	-	1	1
Pax (1 participant per CO)	2,394	-	63	63
Exposure Visit				
Events	-	-	1	1
Pax	798	-	39	39

Vocational / Technical Skills Training

The programme includes free of cost technical/vocational training in the form of employable skills to its organized households including their siblings (both male and female) so that their social and economic condition could be improved which ultimately helps in alleviating the poverty. The trades have been designed, keeping in view, the current market situation, acceptability and opportunity, so that the youths could be absorbed after the graduation.

The SRSO has established its systems for the purpose and therefore, Training Need Identification (TNI) and Training Need Assessment (TNA) are being conducted. It had also set-up two(02) vocational training facilities/centers each at taluka Khairpur and Sobhodoro, exclusively for female and trained a number of participants in the trades of Tailoring, Hand Embroidery, Machine Embroidery and Kundi Work and Beautician. Other trades such as Motor Driving, Motor Mechanic, Computer Software, Computer Hardware, Building Electrician, Generator Repairing, Urdu/Sindhi Typist etc. are being out-sourced to NRSP-IRM at Sukkur as well as other locations. The participants, who had completed the course, are earning a handsome amount and thus helping their family to drive out of the poverty cycle.

The data placed in the table below, shows update progress:

Activity	Project Target	Taluka wise Achievement		Cumulative Achievement as of 31 Dec 2009
		Khairpur	Sobhodoro	
Vocational / Skills Training (Events)	-	-	-	-
Vocational / Skills Training (Pax)	5,387	230	57	287
Beautician Training		29	7	36
Machine Embroidery		52	-	52
Driving		25	20	45
Hand Embroidery		27	7	34
Computer Hardware		3	7	10
Computer Software		4	3	7
Electric Motor Winding		10	-	10
Motor Cycle Mechanic		8	1	9
Sindhi/Urdu Typist		5	6	11
Generator Repairing		-	3	3
Tailoring Training		58	-	58
Building Electrician		8	3	11
Sewing Machine Repairing		1	-	1

Community Investment Fund (CIF)

The SRSO through this programme decided to focus and organize only on women. 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.

In order to effectively and efficiently reach out to women and the poorest segments of the rural community, the Community Investment Fund (CIF) is an intervention through which the beneficiaries were provided access to flexible and interest free revolving loan/fund aimed at creating opportunities for self employment, small enterprise development, growth, and ultimately poverty reduction.

The approach is designed to strengthen the local institutions at community/village level and build their own sustainable financial institutions that effectively reach the underserved poor. It is also expected that the initiative will create opportunities for the poorest clients, without collateral, to access small loans at lower cost and with fewer delinquencies.

In addition to the economic benefits, the initiative will form an ideal context for learning and mutual support among members. As they are being trained to resolve and take action against social problems in their community. The impact of this Initiative is on a broader scale and would be unlocking the possibilities for many other economic empowerment programs.

As of 31st December 2009, Rs. 1,300,000/- have been disbursed benefitting 134 organized members.

Activity	Project Target	Taluka wise Achievement		Cumulative Achievement as of 31 Dec 2009
		Khairpur	Sobhodero	
Households given Community Investment Fund - CIF (0-18)	15,903	134	-	134
Amount Disbursed	-	1,300,000	-	1,300,000

Plan for the month of Jan 2010

Activity	Project Target	Target - Jan 2010
Social Mobilization		
Taluka	2	-
Union Councils Coverage	19	-
Villages Coverage	-	-
Households Coverage	35,910	2,479
COs Formation	2,394	175
VOs / VDOs Formation	798	54
Micro-Investment Plan (MIP)	35,910	
Households given Community Investment Fund - CIF (0-18)	15,903	526
Micro-Health Insurance - MHI (@ Rs. 550)	15,903	250
Training		
Vocational / Skills Training (Pax)	5,387	167
CO Management & Record Keeping Training (2 pax per CO)	4,788	145
VO / VDO Management & Planning Training (4 pax per VO / VDO)	3,192	101
VO / VDO Record Keeping Training (1 member per VO / VDO)	798	25
CIF Management & Record / Book Keeping Training (4 members per VO / VDO)	3,192	101
Credit Book Keeping Training (1 Member per CO)	2,394	-
CRPs / Activists Training (Pax)	798	27
Community / Activists Conference (1 Member per CO)	2,394	78
Exposure Visit (1 Member per VO/VDO)	798	25

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