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Newsletter

Introduction

Poverty refers to the inability of a person to fulfill his basic needs such as food, shelter, health-care or any others due to lack of financial stability. This may be due to low or no income generation, illiteracy, lack of opportunities or facilities, political instability and natural catastrophes.

People living in the rural communities have a harsh way of living. To help create sustainability within the susceptible households; OSDI offers a three pronged approach. Livelihood Assistance Program (LAP), Community Development Program (CDP) and Food Security Program (FSP) are the three core areas which serve as a protective shield helping the people living in rural communities to move out from the inter-generational debt traps and economic shocks. Each program of OSDI, has a variety of sub-categories that provides sustainable remedies for poverty alleviation.



Pic 2: ADP Farmer in his Wheat Field

Disaster Relief Assistance (DRA)

During these testing times of Covid 19, OSDI received a generous donation of 65 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suits from Asim Jofa. These PPEs were given to OSDI to help protect the lives of the health workers and doctors working within the focused districts.



Pic 1: Distribution of Ration Bags in Mardan

Robinhood Army, another ally of OSDI donated 686 ration bags for the under-privileged families of district Mardan, Thatta and Lasbela; to help save these families from hunger and starvation caused due to lockdown. Majority of the houses were headed by daily wage laborers who had no source of income during

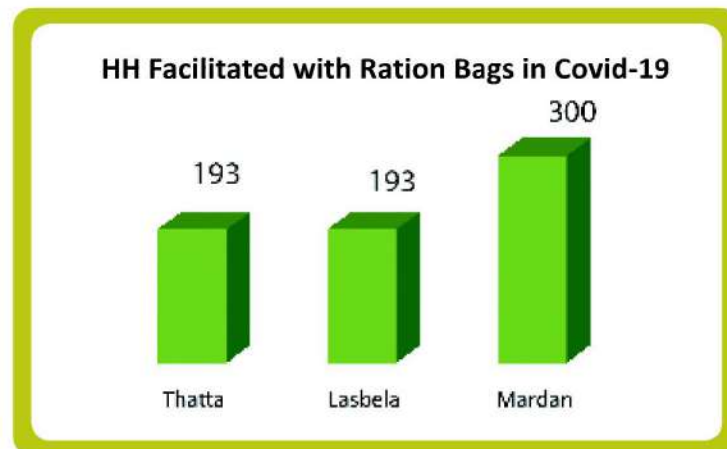


Figure 1 : HH Facilitated with Ration Bags in Covid-19

this pandemic situation. Later on, 24,000 milk packs of 250ml each and 40,896 half roll biscuits were also donated by Robinhood Army for these communities.

Livelihood Assistance Program (LAP) Agriculture Development Project (ADP)

OSDI initiated the first phase of ADP in the newly intervened focused community of Yaqoob Jokhio in district Thatta (Sindh); where 12 farmers have been selected to participate. 22 acres of farmland has been cultivated during this phase. The farmers chose to grow two different types of chillies i.e. HiFly or Hybrid Hot Pepper F1 from Protech vegetable seed and Rossy F1 chillies from Rachna Agri Business also known as Kari Shehzadi.

The average monthly income per farmer was PKR 11,758 and average monthly expenditure per beneficiary was PKR 13,739 prior to OSDI's intervention.

In the second phase of ADP in district Lasbela (Baluchistan), OSDI's facilitated farmers who grew wheat on their land have managed to earn an average profit of PKR 46,960 per beneficiary. Crop yields of farmers have also shown a significant growth as compared to the production generated before OSDI's intervention in their communities.

10

Before Intervention

Average Production
in Maunds
of Wheat
in District
Lasbela - Phase II

26

After Intervention

Small Rural Enterprise Project (SREP)

OSDI has facilitated 4 beneficiaries from district Lasbela (Baluchistan) and 4 from district Thatta (Sindh) to initiate their small businesses under SREP. Per beneficiary has received a grant of PKR 48,037 on an average to purchase goods to run their business.

In district Lasbela, the beneficiaries were chosen from Sajjan Goth, Shero Goth, Pini Ladhoo and Azam Goth whereas, all the beneficiaries of district Thatta belonged to the community of Yaqoob Jokhio.

Financial Literacy Trainings (FLT) have been conducted in both the districts to train the beneficiaries about basic book-keeping method, record profit and loss, handling of financial management, etc.

Details of Small Businesses Initiated in SREP

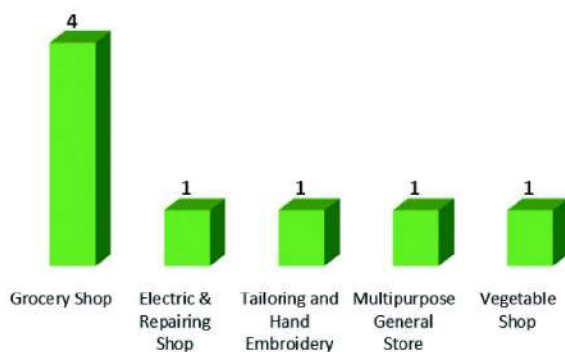


Figure 2 : Details of Small Businesses Initiated in SREP



Pic 3: LDP Vaccination in Thatta

Livestock Development Project (LDP)

Livestock rearing is the second most preferred source of income for the people living in the rural communities. Under this project, landless people are supported to earn a respectable livelihood. Besides income generation, this project also contributes in asset creation, food security and capacity building of the beneficiaries.

In this tenure, OSDI has facilitated 60 beneficiaries with 139 goats, altogether. Amongst these 120 are does and 19 bucks. Since the does were pregnant at the time of distribution they have now started giving birth. As of now there are 93 kids born. To ensure the health of all these animals, OSDI frequently organizes vaccination campaigns and de-worming sessions.

District	Phase	Total Beneficiaries	Livestock Provided
Lasbela	3	20	50
Thatta	1	20	45
Mardan	7	20	44

Table 1 : Livestock Distributed in all the districts



Pic 4: Grocery Shop in Thatta

Community Development Program (CDP)

Education

Due to the raise in students enrollment in the Temporary Learning Center (TLC) of Yaqoob Jokhio in district Thatta (Sindh), OSDI has constructed a third classroom of 30*16ft. OSDI's appointed teachers are not only focusing on the formal but also the informal modes of learning by engaging the students in physical activities; to promote resilience and sportsmanship within the students.

As a self-initiative the community females have plastered up to 4ft of the classroom walls from the ground using the local method. This has been done to protect the classrooms from being damaged due to floods, strong winds, etc.

In district Lasbela (Baluchistan), students of OSDI's built TLCs in Pini Ladhoo, Sayarani and Chamasara were assessed for the first time in mid-term exams. The total student's turnout was 99% which indicates the level of motivation the students have for acquiring education. OSDI facilitated the students of TLC Chamasara and Pini Ladhoo with school bags and stationary



Pic 5: Distribution of School Bags and Stationery items in TLC Chamasara

of Thatta (Sindh) and Mardan (KPK). On the other hand 3 GMCs were held in the focused communities of district Lasbela (Baluchistan).

The doctors and paramedical staff appointed by OSDI provided medical treatment to 1,412 patients, altogether. It was diagnosed that majority of the patients suffered from Respiratory Tract Infection (RTI), Gastro Intestinal Tract Infections (GIT), Fever and general body weakness issues. This is mainly due to the unhygienic living conditions, malnutrition, survival hardships and lack of resources for comfortable living.

Upon the request of the district government, OSDI donated medicines to the District Health Officer (DHO) – Dr. Ali Ahmad Baloch in Lasbela. The medicines donated were utilized in the medical camp set-up by the district government in the union council of Kehnwari; to treat the patients suffering from malaria and dengue fever.

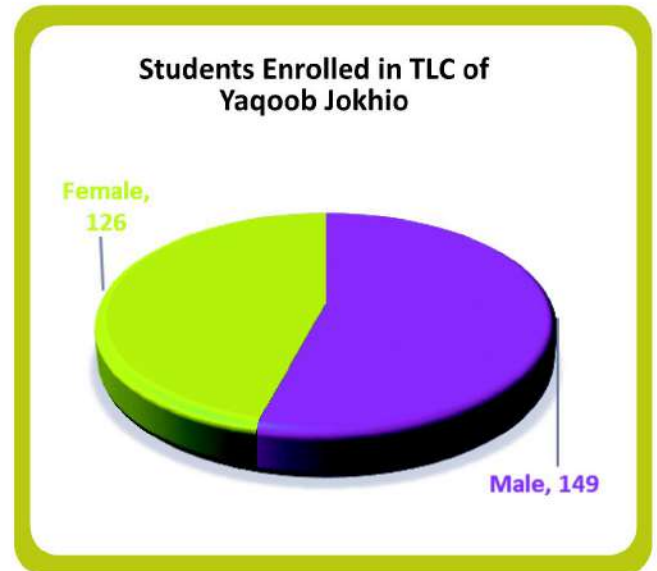


Figure 3: Students Enrolled in TLC of Yaqoob Jokhio items. NRSP donated sports items for the students studying in the TLC of Chamasara.

4 teachers and a Social Mobilizer of OSDI attended a 3 days training session on Adult Literacy in district Lasbela. Later on, an informal learning session was conducted by OSDI's Education Officer – Ms. Saira Rashid with the OSDI's appointed teachers in TLC of Sayarani Goth. TLCs of Pini Ladhoo and Chamasara were officially handed over to the Deputy Director of NCHD – Mr. Zahid Baloch. As per commitment OSDI built 3 NCHD Feeder Schools in Qadirdad, Chaman Hotel and Ishaq Goth vicinities. All these schools including 2 more in ImamBux Goth and Allah Becha Goth were facilitated with classroom furniture by OSDI.

Health-care

OSDI organized 5 General Medical Camps (GMCs) within all of its three focused districts in which 1 camp each was held in the districts

Gender Wise Break-up of Patients Treated in GMCs

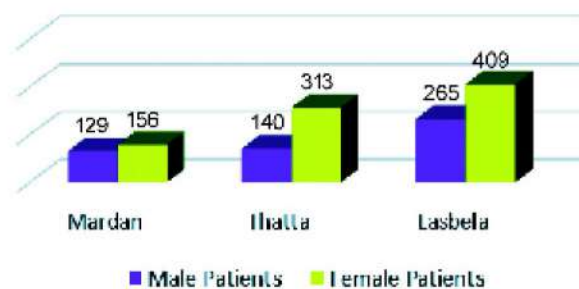


Figure 4: Gender Wise Break up of Patients Treated in GMCs

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Project (WASH)

Water Nearby Homes (WNH)

OSDI has drilled a bore and installed solar panels in the TLC of Yaqoob Jokhio. Upto 280 people including students, teachers and villagers are able to consume fresh water from this water facility. The water extracted is also used to support the plants sowed under the Natural Resource Management (NRM) project. 2 more bores have been being drilled by OSDI to facilitate the farmers of Agriculture Development

Details of Water Being Extracted

Name	Bore Depth	Water Expelled
Bore 1	37ft	400 Liters Per Minute
Bore 2	32ft	

Table 2 : Details of Water Being Extracted

Project (ADP) in the same community. In the newly built one classroom based NCHD Feeder Schools in Qadirdad, Chaman Hotel and Ishaq Goth OSDI distributed 4 Life-Saver Jerry Cans to facilitate the students with safe drinking water within their classroom.

Health & Hygiene (H&H)

975 people living in the focused communities of district Thatta, Mardan and Lasbela have been sensitized about the importance of hygiene to live a healthy life. OSDI's Team travelled from village after village to educate beneficiaries about ensuring their personal and environmental hygiene.

Awareness raising sessions were aggressively delivered in the OSDI built Temporary Learning Centers and supported educational facilities to motivate the students to act as change agents. These training

Beneficiaries Trained in H&H

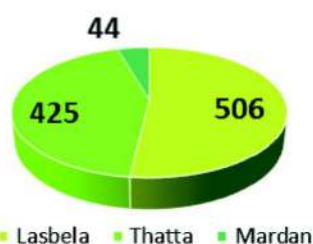


Figure 5 : Beneficiaries Trained in H&H

sessions immensely contributed in creating awareness about Covid 19 pandemic.

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

The second phase of Natural Resource Management (NRM) began in the district of Thatta (Sindh) during this tenure. OSDI implanted 350 trees in the Temporary Learning Center (TLC) of Yaqoob Jokhio community. A formal MoU was signed with owner of a local nursery who managed the entire plantation process. 100 conocarpus trees, 100 sofeda (zuklis), 30 dam dam, 100 mangli and 20 moringa plants were sowed. A garden has also been created in the TLC to provide a healthy and natural environment to the students.



Pic 6: Plantation Activity in TLC of Yaqoob Jokhio

Future Interventions

New areas for interventions are being explored across all the three districts i.e. Mardan, Thatta and Lasbela as the projects intervened have fully matured now. In the upcoming days, new villages shall be selected based on their high vulnerability, dependency and low income generation levels.

OSDI shall systematically penetrate within the dilapidated communities to help them uplift from the vicious cycle of poverty, illiteracy and economic shocks which act as hurdles for these people to improve their lives.

Upon conducting baseline surveys susceptible areas for sustainability creation shall be finalized along with the support and co-ordination of the district government authorities.

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