

Introduction

Organization for Social Development Initiatives (OSDI) has a participatory and community driven approach, with a key focus on building effective partnership with the local stakeholders. Since inception, OSDI has progressively influenced the lives of more than 69,000 vulnerable people living within the focused rural communities of Pakistan.

OSDI has proactively created income generation opportunities, focused on capacity building and empowered the beneficiaries to create assets with ownership and commitment. Provision of primary healthcare and education for all, is another strong mandate of OSDI along with ensuring food security to alleviate poverty. Overall, OSDI is committed to empower the dilapidated communities through social development and capacity building to improve their lives.



Newsletter

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

The 19 vulnerable farmers supported to grow wheat crop during this quarter, have successfully managed to grow high yields in this phase. Before OSDI's intervention, these farmers barely managed to grow 8 maunds per acre on their farms. After becoming a participant in OSDI's Agriculture Development Project (ADP) - Phase 6, these farmers regularly attended the capacity building sessions by the OSDI's appointed agrarian expert. Another positive step was the shift of these farmers from using old traditional farming methods to practicing modern agrarian techniques. OSDI's efforts to empower the farmers through skill development and providing them with suitable necessary resources that can help in enhancing their crop produce has resulted in an optimal way. The recent crop produce has been estimated at 17.09 maunds per acre. In the upcoming phase of ADP, the farmers shall grow cotton crop. OSDI's team has conducted initial assessments with 28 individuals from the focused communities of Hamarkani, Golani, Hashim Burfat, Jangi Khan, Faqeer Muhammad and Baraad. The new phase shall begin soon after finalization of vulnerable farmers.

Pic 1: Monitoring visit of Agro Expert in the Wheat fields of district Lasbela (Baluchistan)

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Horticulture Project

To keep a close look at the growth and development of the OSDI's first time initiated pilot project of growing fruit farms in district Mardan (KPK), the field team has initiated to make independent monitoring visits to each of these farms on monthly basis. Besides this, OSDI's appointed horticulture expert ensures his visit alongside OSDI's field team after a gap of at least 10 - 15 days after the first monthly visit by the field staff. It is during this quarter, that a few plants in Akhundara village were observed to have termite attacks on them. To safeguard the plant growth nitrophos, zinc, hemic acid fertilizer and insecticide spray was sprinkled. In Biroch, circles were dug around each plant for edging and mulching purpose. Later on, the same fertilizer and insecticides spray was applied on the plants, too. The farmers also had MoU signed in this quarter according to which the farmers shall now take the responsibility of fertilizer application and timely spraying of weedicides & pesticide on their plants. In this way, the farmers shall now become independent caretakers of their fruit plants. Earlier, OSDI was bearing all the finances of agro inputs on behalf of the farmers. During these 2 years of project implementation, the plants have grown up to 3-4 feet tall.



Pic 2: Inspection of Orange Fruit Plants by Horticulturist in district Mardan (KPK)



Training **01**
Session

51
Participants
Trained

Pic 3: Distribution of Goats in District Lasbela (Baluchistan)

The training was conducted by Senior Veterinary Officer (Lasbela) - Dr. Kareem. Besides this, OSDI also sends a vet every month to ensure health-check of all animals distributed. In district Lasbela, OSDI's appointed vet has done health-check of 241 goats in this quarter. Nearly, 32 goats have been inoculated with a dose of Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) vaccination. Deworming of 34 goats has been done to protect them from internal parasites.

Prior to animal distribution, OSDI conducted a training session with 51 participants in the community hall of Moosa Goth in Chib Sheikh.

Livestock Development Project (LDP)

Overall, it is the 14th Phase of Livestock Development Project (LDP). However, in district Lasbela (Baluchistan) it is the 5th Phase which has been initiated in this quarter. Altogether, a total number of 44 beneficiaries from the newly selected focused communities have been selected to participate in this project. Majority of the beneficiaries selected belong to the focused vulnerable community of Hussain Goth whereas, 1 each has been chosen from the communities of Faqeer Muhammad, Gao, Hashim Burfat and Hindu Muhallah. OSDI has distributed 132 goats amongst all the beneficiaries in which 44 are bucks and 88 are prenatal does. The breed selected in this phase is mix Kamori. This kind of breed is famous for its high milk production and physical structure.

Village Name	Total Beneficiaries
Hussain Goth	17
Moosa Goth	7
Hamarkani	6
Baraad Ali	2
Golani	2
Jangi Khan	2
Muraad Ali	2
Jamot Colony	2
Faqeer Muhammad	1
Gao	1
Hashim Burfat	1
Hindo Muhallah	1

Table 1: Village Wise Break-up of Beneficiaries Facilitated in LDP - Phase 5

Community Development Program (CDP) Education

In district Lasbela (Baluchistan), OSDI's field team conducts regular surprise visits to the OSDI's built Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs). During the floods last year, the TLC built in the community of Chamasara was washed-away. As an independent initiative, the School Management Community (SMC) members arranged for a tent on emergency basis to continue the learning process. OSDI's Field Team along with the Assistant Director at National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) - Ms. Khair-un-Nissa visited this camp school for monitoring purpose. The same team also visited the TLCs built in Pini Ladhoo and Sayarani as well. In the month of February 2023, OSDI reconstructed the TLCs of both Chamasara and Pini Ladhoo communities. To elevate the student's motivation and inspire them to learn, OSDI organized the Annual Prize distribution ceremony in the TLC located in Qambrani village. The TLC has been upgraded to class 3. This year, Pakistan Day was enthusiastically celebrated by the students of TLC Qambrani in which they drew and colored Pakistani flags. OSDI formally handed over its 5 TLCs to the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) upon its exit from the focused communities of Pini Ladhoo, Chamasara, Danok, Chib Sheikh and Sayarani. As per the notification issued, the Education Department of Baluchistan will formally adopt all these learning facilities. To expand the access of primary education to out-of-school children (OOSC), Senior Education Officer conducted Broad Based Community Meetings (BBCMs) in the newly intervened communities of Faqeer Muhammad, Jangi Khan and Mutkani. During the BBCM, the issue of student enrollment was mainly discussed. OSDI received 80 course books from the District Education Department for the students of kindergarten to grade 3 for the next upcoming academic session.

In district Mardan (KPK), the senior management of Elementary & Secondary Education Foundation (ESEF) visited the OSDI built TLCs of Arab Seray and Akhundara. Both these educational facilities have been handed over to ESEF after OSDI's successful exit from these communities. During this visit, the senior management was pleased with the ongoing progress of TLC Akhundara and recommended to shift the school children of TLC Arab Seray to Government Primary School (GPS) as soon as possible. In the next few days, all 103 enrolled students were shifted to GPS in this community.

Pic 4: Students of TLC in Qambrani village

Health-Care

General Medical Camp (GMC)

In this quarter, OSDI has conducted 6 General Medical Camps (GMCs) in each of the two focused districts of Mardan (KPK) and Lasbela (Baluchistan). It is during these GMCs that a total number of 1392 patients have been checked and treated by OSDI's appointed doctors and paramedical staff. Amongst the patients checked, 563 are males whereas the remaining 829 are female patients. Besides availing primary consultation and treatment, free medication was distributed as per the doctor's prescription amongst each patient by OSDI.

In district Mardan (KPK), the number of GMCs organized in Biroch, Prrang Dara and Akhundara communities off

Rustum sub-division have treated 579 patients in total during this quarter. The patients availed the primary health-care services like examination, diagnosis and treatment. It has been observed that periodic GMCs have caused a significant impact in lowering the common health issues within these communities like in Biroch and Akhundara villages prevalence of Respiratory Tract Infections (RTIs) have been reported lower than the previous status. Similarly, Gastro Intestinal Tract Infection (GIT) and UTI (Urinary Tract Infection) cases have also reduced.

School Based De-worming Project (SBDW)

OSDI's Health-care team has continued with the ongoing 12th Phase of School Based De-worming Project (SBDW) in the OSDI's built Temporary Learning Center (TLC) of Qambrani community. In this time-period, 75 students have been inoculated with a single dose of deworming syrup. Each student has also received a 250ml milk pack for energy intake. In the previous quarter, 144 students from the OSDI's built Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) in Arab Seray and Akhundara communities were dewormed. The Government of Pakistan is very keen on having students from the age group of 5 - 14 years dewormed in all educational institutions across the country. In line with the set national goal to protect the children from being infected with Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH),

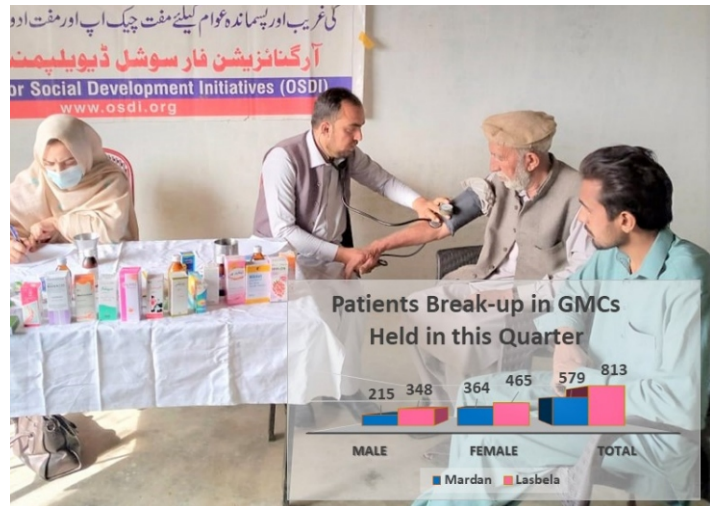


Figure 1: Patients Break-up in GMCs Held in this Quarter

OSDI organizes deworming sessions in all its schools. As a positive outcome of this activity, not only the student absenteeism ratio minimizes but, students are able to attend school with more focus and their overall performance improves.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Health & Hygiene Awareness (H&H)

A total number of 15 health & hygiene (H&H) awareness raising sessions were held in this quarter. Out of these, 12 took place in the focused district of Lasbela (Baluchistan) and 3 were organized in district Mardan (KPK). Altogether, 404 beneficiaries from both the focused districts were trained for safe health & hygiene (H&H) practices by OSDI's Health-care and Field staff teams. The beneficiaries were educated about basic hygiene practices like regular hand-wash especially before and after every meal, brushing of teeth twice a day, daily bathing and hair comb, wearing clean clothes, utilizing clean utensils in kitchen and ensuring proper discarding of litter to avoid damage to overall environment.



Figure 2: District wise Break-up of Students De-wormed in Phase 12



Figure 3: District wise Break-up of Beneficiaries Sensitized in this Quarter



Pic 5: Distribution of vegetables in K.G - Phase 4

Food Security Program (FSP) Kitchen Garden Project (K.G.)

The provision of sufficient quantity of food is a challenge for the people living in vulnerable communities. To overcome this shortfall, a food safety net is created through empowering the beneficiaries to grow their own food under the Kitchen Garden (K.G.) Project. Recently, the 15th Phase of Kitchen Garden Project has successfully been initiated in district Lasbela (Baluchistan). Overall, it's the 4th phase in this district. During this phase, 29 beneficiaries have been chosen to grow ladyfinger, apple gourd and ridge gourd vegetables on a total number of 7250 sq. ft. of land. The land area size per beneficiary is calculated at 250 sq. ft.

Future Interventions

In district Mardan (KPK), the focused vulnerable areas for suitable interventions have been selected and soon projects shall be initiated. Moving on towards, district Lasbela (Baluchistan), reverification process of farmers for the upcoming phase of Agriculture Development Project (ADP) is ongoing. The farmers shall grow cotton crop in this phase. Besides this, selection of beneficiaries for Small Rural Enterprise Project (SREP) is under process. As for the remaining projects, they shall keep commencing with the regular pace.

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