



Greetings from the OSDI team

Since the start of OSDI in 2009, our highly motivated team has implemented various projects in our focus villages. During the past year, the number of projects has significantly increased especially in education, health, and food security. We have adopted two non-functional government schools, started a temporary learning center for girls, screened and vaccinated thousands for hepatitis, cooperated with UNICEF and WHO for inoculating thousands of children for polio, started primary healthcare centers to bring basic health services to rural areas, and initiated a kitchen garden project to provide food security to the most vulnerable families.

The highlights graph below shows the development of our projects from July 2011 until June 2012. This newsletter focuses on our recent achievements and gives updates on our currently running projects to give a clearer idea of our activities and to share valuable lessons. We at OSDI look forward to any feedback from our readers.

PROJECTS	HIGHLIGHTS	2011	2012
AGRO	Acres Financed in Total	205	1493.5
LIVESTOCK	Animals Financed in Total	121	314
EDUCATION	Temporary Learning Centres	2	3
	Students in TLCs	86	247
	Adopted Schools	0	2
	Students in Adopted Schools	0	85
HEALTH CARE	Screened for Hep B & C in Total	2,650	6,315
	Vaccinated for Hep B & C in Total	2,399	6,158
	Children Vaccinated for Polio	0	11,453
	Primary Healthcare Centers	1	2
	Beneficiaries of PHCs in Total	270	1,041
	Beneficiaries of Weekly Health Camps in Total	195	1,141

Organization for Social Development Initiatives is a social - policy think tank dedicated to improving living conditions for the poorest communities in the rural areas of Pakistan through sustainable poverty reduction strategies and economic development. In its unique approach, OSDI's each initiative is done in consultation with community members to ensure ownership of the project in the four focus districts in Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Our current outreach extends to 1600 households in 15 villages impacting over 20,000 lives. Building the support and trust of the communities we work in has been a critical ingredient in our success story. Persistent mobilization and continued presence has resulted in significantly multiplying the impact we have in these communities.

Livelihood Assistance Program

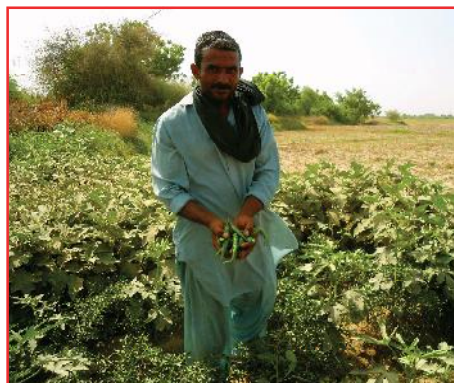
The purpose of LAP is to alleviate poverty through increasing the income and asset creation of rural households through a process that integrates best agriculture farming and livestock rearing practices in the field with micro-credit. OSDI provides farmers with affordable loans along with thorough guidance on how to improve crop yields, better care of their animals and invest in asset creation to enhance savings for the future.

Community Development Program

This program aims to reduce poverty by providing access to services and resources such as improved education, health, drinking water and community infrastructure. Recurring expenditures in each of these tend to exacerbate inter-generational poverty. OSDI has made community contribution a part of each project in order to ensure ownership and sustainability.

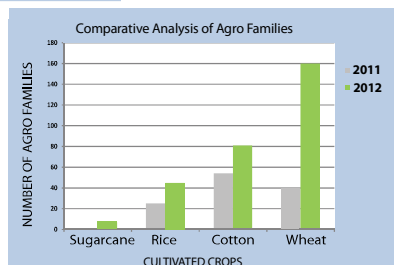
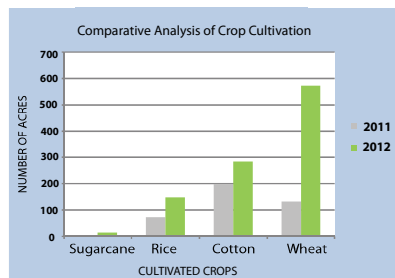
Food Security Program

Rural households that are susceptible to socio-economic shocks are facilitated with means and resources that enable them to grow their own food at home. This ensures that extremely poor and vulnerable families are provided with food security in times of crisis as well as improved quality of nutrition intake during normal circumstances.



LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Since the start of the Livelihood Assistance Program in 2009, OSDI has reached the sixth phase in agriculture and fourth phase in livestock development which aim at alleviating poverty by increasing the income and saving potential of rural households through a process that integrates best agriculture farming and livestock rearing practices. In livestock project which started with only 3 families has expanded to cover 22 families. In agriculture project, the initial 19 families in phase I have increased to 160 in phase V. In the past year, OSDI has experienced immense growth in the number of families financed in our agriculture project with a 400% increase for wheat in 2012. Cotton has seen 150% and rice 180% growth in the number of families respectively. Sugarcane has been introduced as a pilot project this year.



Agriculture Project – Phase V (finished)

OSDI financed 160 families for wheat crop during last winter covering 574 acres in all focus districts in Sindh, i.e. Matiari, Shikarpur, and Khairpur. This year the wheat crop has seen a tremendous growth in output especially in Matiari district. During the fifth phase of financing agriculture for small - holder farmers, OSDI introduced improvements in the inputs such as seeds, bio fertilizer, humic acid and weedcides after soil testing and consultation with an agricultural scientist.

In Matiari farmers earned an average Rs. 50,040 per acre. On shared land the lowest income was Rs. 5,560 and highest Rs. 9,267 per month. This bumper crop enables farmers to pay off their loans and accumulate savings.

Agriculture Project – Phase VI (on-going)

OSDI has financed 41 families in Matiari on 175 acres and 43 families on 126 acres in Khairpur respectively to cultivate cotton this summer. 45 families in Shikarpur district focus on cultivating rice. The cotton fields have been prepared and seeds sown in May and preparing rice fields has taken place in June. Again, soil testing has been done and OSDI's agricultural specialist has calculated the best inputs to ensure maximum results for small holder farmers financed by OSDI.



Livestock Project – Phase IV (on-going)

OSDI arranged training sessions in collaboration with the Sindh Government Livestock Department for our livestock members in Matiari and Khairpur districts where 22 families have been purchased 110 goats with the help of a loan by OSDI. The training on best animal husbandry practices included valuable information on nutrition and fattening, medical care and health of the animal, shelter, vaccination and veterinary services. Each family has been provided with four male goats for fattening and income generation and one female goat for milk production and breeding to create assets and food security for families.

Small Rural Enterprises Project

After the extensive data collection and interviews with candidates, applicants have been shortlisted and first loans have been disbursed in Matiari and Khairpur districts. The first small business has started in Sukhio Mirjat village in Matiari at the end of May. A young woman has started tailoring services in her village to put her skills in good use, boost her income and improve her future prospects. OSDI initiated a Small Rural Enterprises Project to create more sources of income and higher levels of income in rural areas and promote the importance of education through widened opportunities.



CASE STUDY 1: TAILORING TO STABILITY

19 year-old Fareeda from Sukhio Mirjat village in Matiari district is the first member to partake in the Small Rural Enterprises Project. Fareeda initially learned tailoring and hand embroidery from her sister at a very young age. Highly talented and hard working, she only lacked the finance to start up her own business. OSDI provided Fareeda with a micro-loan, financial know-how and business sense to start up a tailoring business from home.

In the second phase of the project, OSDI staff assisted Fareeda in buying a sewing machine and other necessary materials to start her business. OSDI does not provide cash but purchases the equipment which belongs to OSDI until the loan has been fully paid. OSDI also trained Fareeda in basic business know-how such as bookkeeping, savings, and planning for future investments. Through the subsequent orders she has saved up Rs. 500 by the end of the first month and has even managed to get orders from outside the village. In addition to this, she has been practicing embroidery in order to compete with the other tailors in the area. She has also documented all her expenditures and the income that she's earned during the month in a register in order to keep track of all the financial transactions she has made during the business endeavor.

By starting up this business, Fareeda hopes to contribute to the family's income, as well as to save up for her wedding. 'I plan to take more orders next month when the season gets busier. In the meantime I'm learning as many designs as I can and will hopefully get even better'. This independence has given her a lot of confidence and a better quality of life. OSDI has made this dream of hers possible and she is now on her way to becoming a successful businesswoman.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

School Adoption

School adoption is a system where non-operational government schools are renovated and made to function. Currently, two schools have been adopted in Shikarpur and Matiari districts. Resources like text books, stationary, and full time teaching staff have been provided by OSDI in order to ensure that children are motivated and excited about attending classes.

OSDI has adopted a previously non-functional government primary school for boys in Sukhio Mirjat village in Matiari district. After door-to-door mobilization by the OSDI team there are 55 students, 20 girls and 35 boys. They are taught subjects like mathematics, Sindhi, Urdu and islamiyat as well as other subjects such as health and hygiene to make them more self aware. On the first day of school at the beginning of May each student was given a school bag with a slate, chalk, pencils, copies, and books to make sure their first experience with education is positive and enjoyable one.

There are currently 30 students, 14 girls and 16 boys, enrolled in Godho Shar school in Shikarpur. This school was fully renovated with the help of the community and has been operating since March 2012. Teachers enrolled students in Godho Shar after many years of the school being closed due to inter-community clashes. Many positive changes, such as full attendance and mixed classes, can be seen and students are enthusiastic about learning. It is very encouraging that for the first time girls from Godho Shar village are given the opportunity for education.



Temporary Learning Centers

TLCs are specifically designed for children who have never attended school, either due to financial constraints, absence of government schools, or issues of proximity. In Kamal Khan Lashari village 97 girls between the ages of 5 to 10 years that have never had access to education have been enrolled since March 2012, up from initial 70 girls. Two classrooms with two teachers have been provided by OSDI.

The TLCs in Malhee village in Shikarpur are being converted into a school building with 5 classrooms which is currently under construction. The number of children officially enrolled is presently 151 with an additional 30 attending the classes who will be enrolled after a few months of regular attendance. The students have taken their annual exams in May.

On Pakistan Day special celebrations were organized in both TLCs to commemorate the day and make education fun. The program included parades, national songs, a presentation on the life of Quaid-e-Azam, speeches, and an award ceremony for the winners of the day. To make the day memorable sweets and leaflets were given to every child and the winners of the competition received big trophies.

CASE STUDY 2: A BRIGHTER TOMORROW FOR STUDENTS IN GODHO SHAR

Residents of Godho Shar village can now happily send their children to a school within their locality, something that was unthinkable for them since the shutting down of the nearby government school years ago.

Now with the adoption of the Godho Shar government school, 30 eager children attend regular classes of English, maths and Sindhi. The community is highly supportive of this initiative and has been immensely cooperative with OSDI. The Baloch community especially has been very helpful and willingly sends both their sons and daughters to the OSDI sponsored school.

Since its inauguration in March, there has been a marked improvement in the health and lifestyle of the children. Emphasis has been put on reinforcing hygiene and cleanliness and as a result the children have incorporated a lot of what they have learnt into their own lifestyles. Wearing clean clothes, cutting nails and washing of hands before meals are some of the habits that have been instilled in the students over time. This has resulted in healthier and happier kids with fewer illnesses.

The students are enthusiastic with a thirst for knowledge and are often present in the classroom even before their teacher arrives. *'I love coming to school and studying here with my friends. We all sit together and I love that the teacher comes on time everyday'* says 8 year-old Liaquat Ali.

The provision of education by OSDI has altered their lives significantly and has enhanced their sense of purpose. *'We have a lot of fun together and I'm so glad I can study with all the other girls from the village. I would love to become a teacher one day when I grow up'* says 7 year-old Hamida.



Water

A thorough assessment on the water quality was conducted in all focus villages last year and different solutions were drawn up after the water was found unsafe for drinking. OSDI is currently focusing on providing families with aquatabs, which dissolve in water, ridding it of its impurities such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Water purifying tablets are distributed on a household level in our focus villages together with demonstration on how to use them.

In addition, OSDI has also provided jerrycans to 60 families and 13 schools in our focus villages in Shikarpur and Khairpur districts. OSDI staff conducts routine visits to monitor the usage of jerrycans and to ensure their proper maintenance. These are water filtration systems in the shape of 20 liter plastic containers that have the capacity to filter up to 20,000 liters of water. OSDI field staff is constantly holding awareness campaigns and even going door to door educating people on the use of aquatabs, jerrycans, and the importance of safe drinking water.

FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

Kitchen Gardening – Phase II

OSDI is continuing its efforts in Matiari, Shikarpur, and Khairpur districts in Sindh to help vulnerable rural households achieve a balanced nutritional intake and a healthy diet by providing seeds, fertilizer and training to grow seasonable vegetables on unutilized spaces inside their homes. Each phase of the project ensures that for a 3-4 month period cycle nutritional intake of the individuals improves and they manage to reduce expenses.

In the second phase, which started in March, the number of families was increased to 122 from the original 110 in phase I with seeds of sponge gourd, okra, bitter melon, bean and bottle gourd being provided. Especially okra, and bottle gourd were successful but all vegetables grew well in general. The second phase continued the success story with 70 % families securing a steady supply of vegetables from their kitchen gardens.

Kitchen gardening will start its third phase in July. The OSDI field staff is currently identifying families for the next phase.



Financial Literacy Training

OSDI's bi-annual training focused this time on certifying our field staff on becoming financially literate. The Training of Trainers workshop took place from 25th to 27th June, 2012 in Karachi. Nationwide Financial Literacy Program trained our staff to become experts on financial education in order for them to become trainers on the topic in our focus villages to spread the desperately needed knowledge in budgeting, savings, investing, debt management, and financial products and services. During the interactive sessions the future financial literacy trainers of OSDI already practised planning and giving sessions on the topic. All participants received a certificate in the end to mark their achievement.



Partner with us

OSDI provides many possibilities to potential organizations and individuals for partnership. These can be in the form of:

1. Donor
2. Research support
3. Volunteer
4. Knowledge-sharing

Donate to OSDI

Title of Account: Organization for Social Development Initiatives
Address: United Bank Limited. City Branch I.I.
Chundrigar Road, Karachi.
Branch Code No: 0605
PLS A/C No: 0605-1200048-4
Swift Code No: UNILP-KKA

Contact OSDI

9th Floor, Business Center, Mumtaz Hasan Road,
74000 Karachi, Pakistan.
Tel: +92 21 3244 6208-9
Fax: +92 213 2410723
Email: contact@osdi.org
Website: www.osdi.org
[@OSDI_pk](https://www.facebook.com/organizationforsocialdevelopmentinitiatives)

CASE STUDY 3: SAVING MOTHERS AND BABIES WITH MATERNAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Maternal health has been long neglected in the rural areas of Pakistan. Poor access to healthcare services makes women and children the most susceptible segments of society in terms of health. As a result, the infant mortality rate is a shocking 86/1,000 live births and the maternal mortality rate is 340/100,000 live births in Pakistan today. Most of these deaths can be avoided if there is a provision of properly trained birth attendants along with medical and transportation facilities at the time of birth.

OSDI aims to tackle this problem with an initiative on maternal health. Over the past year, we have trained 24 traditional birth attendants in Matiari and Khairpur districts who can aid expecting mothers at the time of birth. We have also started the provision of necessary medicines in Matiari district as well as health and hygiene sessions in order to educate women about possible risks, how to avoid them and the importance of pre natal and post natal visits to the doctor. These sessions have made women more aware of health factors that can possibly affect them and their babies. Traditional birth attendants as well as lady health workers all are made to attend these sessions so they can help in case complications arise.

Emphasis has also been put on ultrasounds and inoculations from certain diseases. 53 women from Matiari were given Tetanus injections in their 2nd and 3rd trimesters. Between the months of March and June, 24 births have occurred out of which 18 have resulted in healthy infants. 16 of these women had professional doctors and 8 women have attended the post natal sessions at the clinic.

This awareness campaign by OSDI has affected personal hygiene and dietary habits of the mothers too. Frequent washing of hands supplemented with healthy, nutritious diets have resulted in healthier mothers and infants with fewer illnesses. The post natal referrals have also significantly benefited the women, especially those in danger of suffering from anemia. With this combination of awareness and availability OSDI now aims to take further steps to improve the condition of maternal health in all its focus villages.

