



### "FROM AASIM SIDDIQUI'S DESK"

Being in our fourth year of existence, OSDI has now further diversified into areas affecting health and well being of its focus communities. Our health and hygiene programs targeting school-going children have started resulting in better attendance as well as better attentiveness. Our kitchen garden project has is influencing the communities to produce sufficient vegetables in their own backyards. Our Small Rural Enterprises, meant to encourage entrepreneurship in educated youth to find alternate sustainable income, have also started yielding good results.

While we increase funding provided for micro-finance for Agriculture and Livestock, we are now looking towards developing extension services through our Small Enterprise schemes to further employ educated youth by adding value in the whole supply chain.

A lot of existing and new challenges are awaiting us as we look down the road towards our exit from these communities. With the support and active participation of Village Committees made up of Community Representatives, OSDI is creating the capacity within the community to undertake and continue these poverty alleviation programs benefitting their community.



### Organization for Social Development Initiatives

Organization for Social Development Initiatives is a social policy think tank working on poverty alleviation through sustainable development. To eradicate poverty on a grass root level, OSDI is focusing on a three pronged approach that aims to empower rural communities through increased economic activities and greater access to services.

The flagship Livelihood Assistance Program provides resources to help households increase their income and invest in assets. Secondly, the Community Development Program improves quality of life by increasing access to healthcare, education, safe drinking water, and sanitation. Finally, the Food Security Program provides additional nutrition and acts as a safety-net against socio-economic shocks for vulnerable households. Through rigorous research, OSDI's programs are designed to become self-sustaining so that the rural communities can have the means and support to pull them out of intergenerational poverty.

### LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

#### Agriculture Development Project

After three years of success, the Agriculture Development Project is now completing its seventh phase. Wheat, canola, sunflower, sugarcane, barley, and chickpeas are being harvested in districts Shikarpur, Khairpur, Matiari, and Mardan. OSDI has enabled high yields by assisting farmers on the best practices in cultivation as per the specific conditions of soil. To increase production of small-holder farmers, continuous trainings and demonstrations were provided by OSDI's agriculture experts.

Inter-cropping of canola and sugarcane was facilitated for the first time in four districts. Canola was sown over four acres of land by two families.

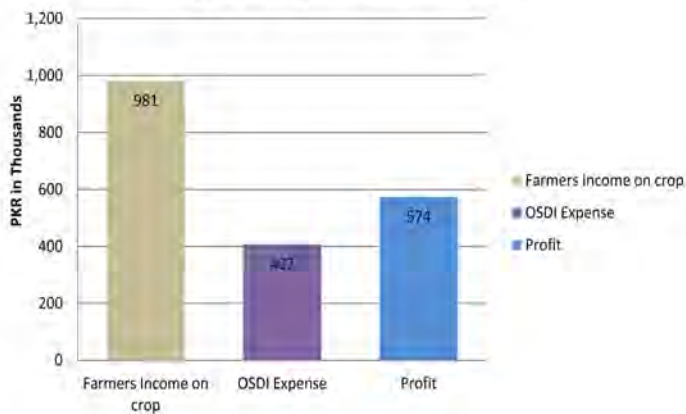
In February 2013, sugarcane crop was also completed by 7 farmers. Despite a pest attack, the farmers harvested over 530 mounds and earned an average profit of PKR 9,348 per month. The second phase of sugarcane started with an additional 11 farmers in March 2013 after land preparation and sowing.

PROJECTS	HIGHLIGHTS	June 13
AGRICULTURE	Acres Financed in Total	3372
LIVESTOCK	Animals Financed in Total	468
EDUCATION	OSDI Schools	5
	Students in OSDI schools	380
HEALTH	Screened for Hepatitis in Total	7524
	Vaccinated for Hepatitis in Total	7334
	Children Vaccinated for Polio (monthly)	2600
	Primary Healthcare Centers	2
	Beneficiaries of PHCs in Total	4280
	Beneficiaries of Mobile Medical Camps	3544
KITCHEN GARDEN	Kitchen Gardens	584





### Sugarcane phase I - Khairpur



Source: Agriculture development project- sugarcane crop sheet phase I

Between April and May, harvesting of chickpeas and barley started with beneficiaries reporting record crops. The grams were firstly sown in district Matiari and Shikarpur on a total land of 147.5 acres and due to hail storm in Matiari, grams yielded 5 mounds per acres.

The cultivation of wheat started from April 2013 on 700 acres by 206 small-holder farmers. The focus villages had a bumper crop this year due to sufficient availability of water and continuous guidance provided by OSDI, except for some losses incurred due to heavy rains in some areas of Sindh.



A control group was formed in the fifth phase of the project to seek data for comparison with the OSDI farmers. Data of inputs, outputs, profit, and savings was collected and analyzed. With the Control Group data, OSDI can evaluate the impact it has had on small-holder farmers.



### Livestock Development Project

After four successful phases, the Livestock Development Project has expanded to district Shikarpur and Mardan in its fifth phase. In February 2013, 75 beneficiaries were financed for purchasing livestock animals in consultation with veterinary doctors and community representatives.



In 3 villages of district Khairpur, each beneficiary opted to purchase 2 oxen for fat-fattening and a female goat for herd increasing. The beneficiaries in Mardan, Matiari, Shikarpur, and one village of Khairpur purchased 4 male-goats for fat-fattening and a female goat for milk production, herd increase, and overall food security. Veterinary doctors, appointed by OSDI for the project, along with field staff are responsible for routine medical check-ups, follow-ups, and profiling of each animal's periodic health and weight.



The veterinary doctor also takes care of vaccination, de-worming, immediate diagnosis, and treatment of any illness that occur. Training on best practices in livestock rearing was organized in each focus district to brief beneficiaries on topics ranging from feed, health, cleanliness, shelter, and general animal care.

### Small Rural Enterprises Project

Small Rural Enterprises Project was initiated to help unemployed educated youth to start small businesses through affordable loans. In the first phase, the small loans were given to two women for setting up tailoring and retail business in districts Matiari and Khairpur. In the second phase, OSDI has financed two young men to purchase and run chinchu rikshaws in district Shikarpur.



OSDI assisted with the project planning, budgeting, feasibility, and overall training. After extensive evaluation and interviews with the applicants, two candidates qualified for the loan. Initial 20% of the loan amount has been contributed by candidates; this will instill ownership and commitment in the candidates. This project has provided two young and unemployed beneficiaries with a source of income so they can pull themselves out of poverty.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Education

OSDI aims to provide physical and financial access to education to children between the ages of 5 and 15 years focusing on basic literacy skills and improving the quality of education in its focus villages. In the schools started and run by OSDI; enrollments have increased to 151 children in district Shikarpur and 129 children in district Khairpur.



In this quarter, OSDI’s Kamal Khan Lashari Primary Girls’ School in district Khairpur, 97 girls appeared in government administered annual examinations for the first time. Assistant District Official Education (ADOE) Khairpur monitored the examination schedule and a teachers’ team was sent to conduct examination papers. 47 girls from Class I, II, and III took written tests for English, Mathematics, Science, and Islamiat subjects; and another 50 girls enrolled in the nursery class appeared in oral and dictation exams.



Government officials also appreciate the effort to increase female literacy level in poor communities of Sindh. The parents are happy to see their daughters getting an education and getting promoted to higher grades.



OSDI has also adopted a government school in coordination with Education department, Government of Sindh in village Jamal Hajano, district Matiari. Over the last decade, this school had deteriorated in terms of quality of education and children attendance.

After adoption in February, regular primary classes have started by two teachers hired locally from the community. Subjects such as English, Urdu, Mathematics, Sindhi, and Islamiat are being taught six days a week. Stationary items such as pencils, color box, text books, and copies were distributed amongst the enrolled students to further motivate them. Their interest and commitment towards education can be seen from their dedication to school work.



In Mari Mohammad Khan, OSDI has assisted in construction of 2 classrooms as well as renovating the existing building of the Marvi Fellowship School. Nearly half of the capital cost was borne by the community, and the contractor also contributed in terms of extra steel, blocks, and concrete which were required for the construction. The zealous response of community in order to send their children to school is an indicator that people understand the importance of education and are willing to contribute to improve capacity in the existing infrastructure.



The Temporary Learning Center, started in village Malhee 2 years ago, is in the process of being turned into a formal registered school. The new infrastructure will have 5 classrooms, toilets for girls and boys, a hand-pump with a motor, and additional basic facilities. The community in village has also contributed with funds and labour to the building of the school.

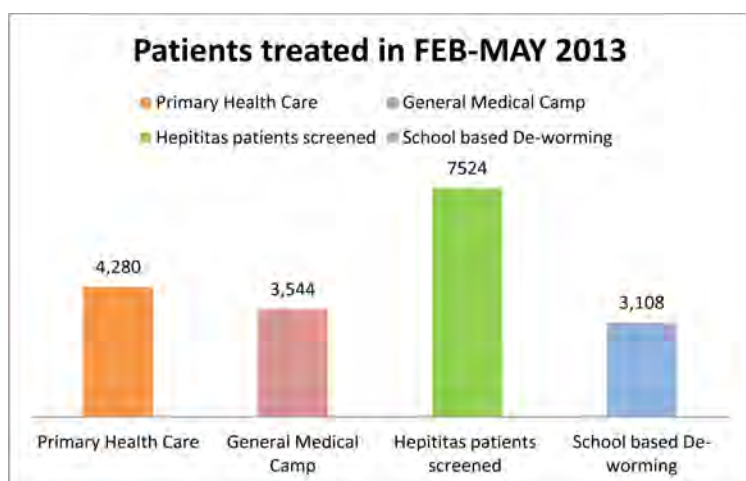
Health

Primary Healthcare Centres have been operational since December, 2010 in district Shikarpur and December, 2011 in district Mardan. An appointed doctor, a dispenser, and a lady health worker dispense primary healthcare to focus communities through OPD services six days a week, providing subsidized quality medicines and referrals to secondary and tertiary health facilities where needed.

In this quarter, Primary Healthcare Centers have treated 1,610 patients from Shikarpur & 2670 from Mardan for common primary illnesses such as gastro-intestinal tract infections, respiratory tract infections, skin infections, and eye infections.



OSDI is in coordination with the government campaign to eradicate polio through deployment of field teams consisting of a lady health worker, dispenser, and social mobilizer in all focus villages. In the last 4 months, the campaign has helped inoculate 2600 children including students enrolled in OSDI's schools.



Source: Health Composite Summary Feb - May 2013

Mobile medical camps are carried out weekly in districts Matiari and Mardan to extend access to remote communities in OSDI's focus villages. A designated mobile health team is assigned for the delivery of basic medical care at their door step. 3544 patients have been treated for malaria, eye problems, sore throat, fever, skin diseases, urinary tract infection, tuberculosis, abdominal problems, and other common diseases through the camps. The total number of patients in Primary Healthcare Centers and Mobile Medical Camps are 7,824.

OSDI is collaborating with the government's Hepatitis Prevention and Control Program by facilitating mass screening, vaccination, and follow-up treatments in all its focus villages. 7524 individuals have been screened for the virus and 7334 individuals have been vaccinated against it. 634 individuals were found to be Hepatitis B or C positive. Out of these, 250 Hepatitis C patients have completed the treatment, whereas 384 new patients took the ELIZA and PCR tests through blood sampling to confirm presence of the virus.



Second phase of School-based De-worming was carried out in all focus villages of Sindh. A team including a doctor, paramedics, field staff, and village Community Representatives administered de-worming medicine to 3108 children and distributed milk packets to boost nutrition. They also provided awareness sessions on health and hygiene and a quiz was conducted to evaluate the progress of weekly health and hygiene sessions done by OSDI. To encourage this practice and motivate these children, small kits consisting of toothbrush provided by World

Health Organization, along with toothpaste & mouthwash by Roomi Enterprise, were also distributed.

The health and hygiene awareness sessions are conducted weekly to improve standard of living and emphasize importance of daily bathing, dental hygiene, and hand washing among children.

### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to safe drinking water was a big problem in village Pir Bux Bhambro as Total Dissolved Solvents (TDS) of the village water sources were far beyond the acceptable levels as per the criteria defined by World Health Organization and PCRWR standards. Ground water sources where levels of TDS were acceptable were explored at multiple sites and multiple depths. One site, that had adequately safe drinking water, was identified at a depth of 50 feet for boring and installing water tank with a motor. OSDI's field team regularly monitors proper usage of installed water tanks and the aqua tabs for the communities.



Moreover, aqua tabs were distributed to filter out microbiological contamination at point of use. 3,240 aqua tabs monthly have been given to 27 households of village Pir Bux Bhambro and sanitation awareness sessions are conducted to emphasize the importance of clean drinking water. OSDI also appointed lady health workers to mobilize the women and children to improve their overall hygiene and sanitation standards.



Village Pir Bux Bhambro lacked a proper drainage system and open water channels were spreading malaria and other diseases. A covered water drainage system was installed in village Pir Bux Bhambro with the involvement of community representatives.







A 108 feet long pipe was installed to drain stagnant water away from the common sitting area of the community. Moreover, a small cemented tank was constructed for livestock animals so that they can drink water from a separate place away from the communal area. The community contributed in the installation of drainage system, volunteering through their plumbing skills and paying for 30% of the project cost.



## FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

### Kitchen Garden Project

Kitchen Gardens Phase III has successfully completed in all focus districts. 118 households were growing between 3 to 4 kilograms of spinach every three to four days inside their homes throughout the winter. Moreover, seeds of okra, tomato, carrot, cauliflower, bitter guard, and turnip were also provided along with fertilizer and close guidance by OSDI.



These vegetables were cultivated in kitchen gardens inside the beneficiaries' homes under the supervision of OSDI's agriculture expert and community representatives. The steady supplies of self-grown vegetables fulfilled their daily nutritional requirements.



Each season of vegetables lasts over 4 months and helps these households save between Rs 100 and 120 per week. These kitchen gardens have been so successful that the beneficiaries have been able to share fresh vegetables with their relatives and neighbours. In fact, other households nearby have also started growing their own vegetables without OSDI's assistance leading to a multiplier effect.



The current phase of Kitchen Garden has started in April. This year for the first time, beneficiaries have contributed by purchasing their own seeds for the Kitchen Garden. OSDI provides training and other inputs such as fertilizer and pesticide where necessary. 101 families from Shikarpur, 62 families from Matiari and 60 from Khairpur have prepared their land for Kitchen Gardens inside their homes.



In this phase, the project has also expanded to district Mardan and village Mulko Wahan in district Khairpur where 13 and six households are growing vegetables respectively in the unutilized space of their homes. Currently families are growing okra, bitter gourd, sponge gourd, bottle gourd, brinjal or egg plants, chillies and, beans.





## Poultry Farming Project

Poultry Farming is an integral part of rural households. In order to provide an additional income to the flood affected survivors through a sustainable poultry business model, a pilot project of backyard poultry farming has been launched in district Matiari in collaboration with Mahvash and Jahangir Siddiqui Foundation (MJSF). The poultry farming project will run for 6 months in its pilot phase.



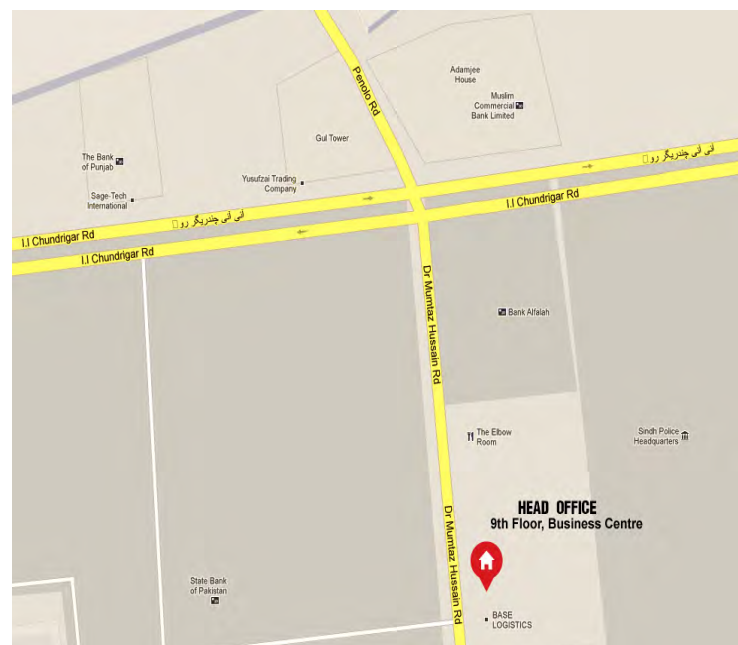
This project's beneficiaries are households with low income, households headed by females, households with high dependency ratio, or households with disabilities. It is an attempt towards women empowerment, attempting to engage them in the economic activities through a social enterprise enabling them to contribute to their livelihoods.



Initially, 80 families from village Mari Mohammad Khan with no livestock, no cultivable land, and a monthly income below Rs 3000, have been selected. Each family is provided with 27 hens and 3 roosters along with cages and sufficient feed for 7 weeks. When they are of appropriate age, the hens will start laying eggs and in time the roosters will help in to increase the herd.



Educated youth will be employed to collect eggs from the beneficiaries and deliver it to the collection point in Hala. Once collected, the eggs would be supplied to the nearby markets or retailers in Hyderabad and/or Karachi. The beneficiaries will be paid against the number of eggs they provide. Alternatively, this project can also provide food security if the families use the eggs for domestic consumption which will increase their calorific intake. In the long run, it is expected that some beneficiaries will take up poultry farming as a business. The policy is designed to mobilize the collective strength of the poor and make them self-reliant.



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