

Note for Record

By: Shoaib Sultan Khan

November 14, 2017

Subject:- Launch of Aid to Uprooted People (AUP) in FATA and Baluchistan Rural Devellpment & Community Empowerment Programme (BRDCEP)

AUP was launched in Peshawar Governor's House on November 6, 2017 and BRDCEP on November 10, 2017 at Quetta. AUP was being implemented by Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) and jointly co-financed by German KFW and European Union. SRSP's component of the project will engage approx. 182438 individuals uprooted in Federal Administrated Tribal Area (FATA) including five Agencies Khyber, Kurram, North Waziristan & South Waziristan. The overall objective of the project is to facilitate the integration of FATA tribal displaced persons (TDPs) by creating favourable environment for their return. SRSP will attempt to achieve this by community institution building to enhance their capacities to pro-actively participate in the identification, selection and realization of reconstruction and rehabilitation of social and physical community infrastructure. The project recognizes active participation of communities as key to participatory equitable, accountable and sustainable development in the region. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with the FATA Secretariat.

The AUP launch was held in the historic Governor House on November 6 attended by the Ambassador of European Union and First Secretary of the German Embassy representing the German Ambassador, who had been called away to Germany and Additional Chief Secretary FATA representing the Governor who at the last minute was called away to Islamabad by the Prime Minister but the ACS did not allow us to feel the absence of his Governor. All the Political Agents of the Agencies were also present besides a number of Donor representatives and SRSP Chairperson, CEO and Directors and many invited guests. It was a high profile launch with speeches from honored guests and presentations by implementers of the project. My speech is at Annexure I.

The Baluchistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme (BRDCEP) was launched at Quetta Serena on November 10 attended by Ambassador of European Union, a Federal Minister, ten Provincial Ministers including two ex-Chief Minister, Senators, MPAs and Secretaries to Provincial govt. besides EU professionals, RSPN, NRSP, BRSP representatives and a large number of community leaders from all over Baluchistan. I had never seen such a large representation of Ministers and Politicians in an RSP event.

BRDCEP aims at mobilizing 300,000 households in eight districts and capacitated through peoples own Institutions (CO/VO/LSO) with expected impact of 25 % of the targeted households see improvement in their incomes in next 5 years and 40 % of the households in bottom rung of the poverty score card graduate to higher bands. My speech is at the launch is at Annexure II.

Annexure I

By:- Shoaib Sultan Khan

Subject:- Speech at Launch of AUP at Governor's House on November 6, 2017
Peshawar

I am honored and most grateful to sponsors of the launch of Aid to Uprooted People (AUP) for inviting me to this august house where I was frequent visitor during my service in KP then NWFP, between 1963 and 1972.

When I look back on 65 years of my working career, 45 years ago I was posted in 1963 as Political Agent Orakzai and Darra Adam Khel combined with the post of Deputy Commissioner Kohat. I had no experience of serving in KP as after training in civil service, on the orders of the Prime Minister Suharwardy all West Pakistan domiciled of 1955 batch were posted to Eastern Wing and East Pakistanis to the West. However my father-in-law Dr. Abdur Rahim's father, Khan Bahadur Ahmad Din was one of the first Indian Political Agents of South Waziristan and was also associated with drawing up Durand Line. I was well aware of the characteristics of the Pakhtuns, so I taught. However, within a week of my taking over at Kohat, intelligence reported that two tribes in Orakzai are at war firing cannons at each other. I was most concerned and sent for the Political Tehsildar Incharge of the area. He informed me this was all to welcome you. That mystified me further. He explained this has been started to attract your intervention, so that they are able to extort some concessions from the administration as the price for ending the so-called dispute. He advised me to do nothing because the cannons are being fired not at each other but in the wilderness of each other's area. True enough after three weeks it was all calm and I never heard of any dispute between the two warring tribes.

Akhunzada of Orakzai was the tribal chieftain and his ancestor in the twenties of last century had helped in recovering Miss Alice whom famous Ajab Khan of Darra Adam Khel had abducted from Kohat cantonment to avenge insult meted out to his mother. The British fixed an annual Rs. 6,000 allowance for the Akhunzada for his services in recovering Alice, who used to make a yearly visit to Political Agent to receive his allowance. Once I asked when he came to meet me where was he going, he announced he was off to Jalalabad. On seeing a query on my face he disclosed that he has to receive some allowances from them also.

One of the Malik's Darra Adam Khel Malik Sarmast used to wear a heavily bulging waist coat whenever he came to meet me. I was informed by my PA that the Malik carries all his money on his body. When I jokingly confronted him with this news, he allowed me to touch his waist coat which indeed felt bulging with packets of notes.

The tribal always met you on equal and friendly footing and were always willing to listen to reason. When in Darra Adam Khel they took me to their arms factory and showed their craftsmanship and asked for supply of electricity to their factories. They also accepted my request to allow Wah Ordnance factory to set up to check the quality of arms for export purposes. Once when I took the Italian Ambassador on a visit to Darra factory they presented a Breta pistol crafted by them. The ambassador could not distinguish it from the original and bought four more pistols to send to the company back home. Later, I pointed to the Ambassador the spelling mistake on the pistol and the fact that it was not made of gun metal, a concession for supply of gun metal from Ordnance factory they wanted. I tried but not with much success. They made a double barrel gun for me copying Churchill gun of England. I could not order them to take me in the tribal area but if a request was made they gladly agreed and once they took me Tor Chappar up in the hills where they said no PA had gone since 1927. Darra Adam Khel connected Peshawar and Kohat and the road used to close from dusk to dawn. It was opened for 24 hours on guarantees given by the tribes living on the road side. Samana was a hill station in Hundo area adjoining Orakzai and had been abandoned. The tribal had no objection to the rehabilitation of the hill station and even convening the meeting of the district council there.

I was most impressed by the democratic way of the tribes. Every tribal had the courage and right to express his opinion however lowly or high he may be. In the annual meeting of the tribes for distribution of allowances, the presence of Maliks did not deter anyone to have his say. The code of Pakhtun Wali was so strictly adhered to by each one of them that I never found any law and order situation in Darra Adam Khel or Orakzai area neither ever any murders were reported from the area although Kohat district though very peaceful, suffered such incidents off and on.

Times have of course changed and any attempt at reviving, the old system or implementing lock stock and barrel the administrative set up of the districts of KP, is not likely to be successful. The need of the hour is, of course, where peace is prevailing to initiate a "Development Partnership" approach with each and every household of the tribe to revive the Social Capital. I wish if we had funds for development in the sixties for tribal areas, the Social Capital of the tribes was very strong and forging Development Partnerships with each and every household through tribes and sub tribes would have been possible without much ado and investment. Currently the challenge will be to foster a framework of grassroots institutions through Social Mobilization where in each and every household, especially the deprived and the most vulnerable are given a voice in improving their household livelihood. Unless that is done, top down interventions like huge infrastructure will only make marginal difference to the impoverished and the poor households. Besides, macro interventions, which are also as essential as micro investment plans of each household. But without Social Capital the macro interventions fail to improve the livelihood of the large majority of the people.

European Union has been a great champion of fostering of Social Capital to ensure involvement of communities and their developments and Rural Support Programme are most grateful to Ambassador Contain for his personal interest and support to the approach. Currently in PEACE area over 15,000 community organizations covering nearly half a million households have been fostered. Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) was the first programme in Pakistan to adopt and replicate the social mobilization approach in 1989 espoused by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme

(AKRSP) in Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral. However, due to Pressler Amendment, USAID, which had sponsored SRSP, walked away in the second year of its existence. Thanks to the hard work put in by management especially CEO Masood ul Mulk since 2002 and European Union's support for peace programme in Swat and Malakand Division, SRSP is very well placed in implementing the Aid to Uprooted People (AUP) through a Development Partnership approach. On behalf of the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and especially SRSP we would like to profusely thank KFW and GIZ for the generous support to AUP. The presence of HE the German Ambassador at the launch is a great source of encouragement and joy to SRSP and us all.

It augurs well that the Additional Chief Secretary FATA is launching the AUP symbolizing the critical support of the government, especially the FATA secretariat and Political Agents. SRSP has been most fortunate in getting unreserved help and support from the army in Swat and Malakand Division. In FATA again SRSP is most grateful to them for their patronage and support.

Annexure II

By:- Shoaib Sultan Khan

Subject:- Speech at Launch of Balochistan Rural Development & Community Empowerment Programme on November 10, 2017 at Quetta

I am most grateful to the Hon'ble Ministers, MNAs, Senators and MPAs Ambassador European Union and Secretaries Baluchistan Government and the distinguished ladies and gentlemen for honoring us by their presence here this evening. The CEO BRSP Nadir Gul wants me to talk about the journey of Rural Support Programmes which began in December 1982 at Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral with the launch of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme by His Highness the Agha Khan.

It was in late eighties that I had the good fortune of two visitors, one German from Pak German Selfhelp Project of Baluchistan and the other was Director USAID. The German Advisor was in search of how to make Pak German project sustainable and Director USAID was so impressed by achievements of AKRSP that he offered to replicate it in another province if the province so desired. I was invited to Quetta and had many meetings and also a workshop to explain the strategy and organization of AKRSP. Finally the govt. of Baluchistan and the German Donors agreed to adopt the AKRSP model and Baluchistan Rural Support Programme was registered in 1991 as a not for profit joint stock company with an independent and autonomous support organization with the Chief Secretary Poonegar as Chairman, in his personal capacity. In the then NWFP now KP, Sarhad Rural Support Programme was born in 1989 with funding from USAID.

This mode of replication of AKRSP got a real boost when the Prime Minister in 1992 approved setting up of a country wide National Rural Support Programme, which was followed by WAPDA and World Bank approving establishment of an RSP for the affectees of Ghazi Brotha Hydro Project, the Chief Minister of Punjab approved a Punjab Rural Support Programme in 1998, a local NGO in Thardeep adopted AKRSP and converted itself into Thardeep Rural Development Programme in 1999, the Govt. of Sindh set up the Sindh Rural Support Organization in 2003 and the AJK govt. followed suit in 2007 with setting up of AJK Rural Support Programme. NRSP gave an endowment of Rs. 200 million to its HRD Division and created an independent subsidiary Institute of Rural Management and all RSPs joined to set up a Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) with funding from DFID in 2001.

Over the last 35 years of my journey of grassroots development through AKRSP and its replications, amazes me when I still find commonly Policy Makers including Politicians and Administrators, Academics, Donors, Private sector and people at large having misconceptions as to the core function of RSPs. Why should the Federal and Provincial Governments which have a plethora of Ministries, Departments, Corporations etc. do they not only set up RSPs but also endow them with endowments and grants. Even going to the extent of Federal Govt. setting up the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund in 1999 to ensure sustainable flow of funds to RSPs amongst others.

The explanation is very simple which of course I had the privilege and good fortune of learning from one of the greatest Social Scientists Akhter Hameed Khan whom I met in the then East Pakistan in 1959. He preached that the two prevalent Pillars of state the Political and the Administrative have no access to each and every household of the Country, Province, District, Tehsil, Thana or even the Union Council what to say of the villages. He advocated setting up of a third Pillar which he used to call the Socio-economic Pillar or Social Pillar. Poverty and impoverishment is at the household level. If govt. services and supplies or of others do not reach them their livelihood cannot be improved. Rural Support Programmes foster a frame work of grassroots institutions to enable each and every household to access services and supplies. In this process they also help unleash the potential of the people individually and collectively when they federate in higher levels of their organizations like community organization of 15.25 households federating in village organizations and the VOs federating in Local Support Organizations at union level. RSPs help these Institutions of people to implement whatever is within their capacity with govt. and donor support. RSPs don't implement or engage contractor. Their implementers and contractors are the organized communities.

Fortunately, currently there is one donor who believes in involving communities in their development the European Union. Initially, it helped SRSP in KP and thereafter NRSP, SRSO and TRDP in Sindh and now with its support eight districts in Baluchistan will have a framework of grassroots Institutions fostered by BRSP and NRSP. BRSP/NRSP are most grateful to EU for its support. BRSP is beholden to Government of Baluchistan for sanctioning an endowment of Rs. 500 million. I am personally grateful to former Chief Secretary Saifullah Chattha for his personal interest in facilitating the grant of endowment and look forward to Hon'ble Planning Minister to replication of BRDCEP in other districts of Baluchistan.