



**GENDER JUSTICE THROUGH MUSALIHAT ANJUMAN PROJECT  
BALOCHISTAN QUETTA**



**MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE GENDER JUSTICE THROUGH MUSALIHAT ANJUMAN PROJECT, HELD ON NOV22, 2006 AT 1300 HRS.**

The Secretary Local Government & Rural Development Department GoB/Chairman Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) presided.

List of participants is attached.

Proceeding commenced with the recitation of versus from the Holy Quran.

Introduction of the members was followed by welcoming remarks from the PPD who highlighted the meeting objectives. The issues deliberated and decision approved as per Agenda were as follows:-

**I Project Design & Objectives**

The PPM presented a detailed resume of the project implementation and achievements. To re-capitulate it was explained that project was conceived with the following goal

***“To assist women and other vulnerable sections of society in improving their conditions through safeguarding and promoting their rights and lawful entitlements.”***

The designed goal was linked with the provisions of BLGO, 2001 pertaining to Musalihat Anjumans focused on two pilot districts of Quetta & Lasbella through achievement of the following objectives:-

- Constitution and mobilization of MAs in all Union Councils of the pilot districts;
- Capacity building of MAs through Provincial level network of Government and CSOs, etc. called Musalihat Anjuman Support Services (MASS) to dispense gender justice;

- Community level advocacy for legal rights of Women and Men's role in ending violence at the community level;

And

- Building of partnerships between judiciary, police and MAs for accountable, fair and equitable justice.

## II **Project Update:**

The updated progress in lines with the described objectives was as under:

- **Fora constituted & functional:**
  - (i) Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) notified on June 20, 2005.
  - (ii) Musalihat Anjuman Support Service (MASS) notified on July 29, 2005.
  - (iii) Musalihat Anjuman Justice Advocate (MAJA) notified on October 19, 2005.
  
- **Awareness Campaigns:**
  - (i) Holding of 10 stake holders /Mass Orientation Workshops/Seminars during 2006.
  - (ii) TV /radio interviews.
  - (iii) Press conferences.
  
- MAs constituted and functional 89 (Quetta 67 and Lasbela 22).
- Offices where possible provided by Union Administration.
- RoBs for MAs notified on March 25, 2006 and translated into Urdu as well.
- 25 Capacity building trainings of MA members/ Insaf Committee members/local councilors/ Police and Judiciary Completed.
- 54 cases resolved.
- Judicial Support to MAs was encouraging pursuant to instructions issued by the Honorable High Court to District & Session Judges for referral of cases to MAs falling within their ambit (**six cases referred**).
- Police support to MAs was significant through issuance of PPO Balochistan's directives to the subordinate offices in this context.

- Orientation of the Police Officials of Police station level of both the pilot districts accomplished.
- District Administration support evident from the instruction issued by DCOs of pilot districts.
- Provincial Government and Implementing Agency support was evident from the level of participation of Provincial Government Officials viz Provincial Minister, Chief Secretary GoB etc.
- MAs reporting system and Project Website established as a regular reporting system from UC to District and Provincial level.
- Project achievements were lauded by Mr. Justice (Retd) Abdul Razak A.Thahim Federal Minister L.G. during his visit to Lasbella.
- High profile Seminar on “ Justice for All” presided by Chief Justice of Pakistan and participated by Chief Justices of High Courts of the provinces , Provincial Ministers , Chief Secretary, IGP and other high ranking Officials held on Nov 4,2006 undoubtedly can be construed a remarkable step towards promotion of ADR in lines with project objectives.

### **III Project Up-Scaling 2007-2011**

The PPM apprised that acknowledging achievements of the project in the pilot phase, its up-scaling and extension has been duly ratified by Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Government of Pakistan preceded by an agreement between collaborating partners i.e. Ministry of LG&RD, Government of Pakistan & United National Development Programme (UNDP) through assurance of continued support by its cost sharing partners, the Royal Norwegian Embassy (NORAD) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) for another 05 years, i.e. 2007-2011 to commence from Jan1,2007.

The salient features of up scaled phase are as under:

- Inclusion of Three more districts from Balochistan in addition to two pilot districts.
- Constitution of Insaf Committees/Musalihat Anjumans and their Capacity Building on gender sensitization and Legal Literacy.
- Notifying of District Focal Persons (DFPs) and provision of Computers, UPS and printers/fax for reporting on the performance of Musalihat Anjumans with budgetary support of

Rs. 5000 per month per to District Focal Person (DFP) for meeting miscellaneous/O&M Cost and performance based honoraria for the Union Secretaries.

- Support for Musalihat Anjuman offices through provision of stationary, table, chairs, display boards and record keeping materials, etc.

#### **IV Selection Criteria of Districts in the Up-Scaled phase**

The forum was appraised that in lines with the criteria incorporated in the project document after thorough consideration and also ensuring balance of ethnic diversity besides homogenous tribal traits the Districts of Gawader, Loralai and Ziarat had been proposed for the up-scaled phase. However the PSC members were free to express their opinion detailed debate followed with a division of views amongst the members. An alternate proposal was to include Sibi, Pishin and Nasseerabad in view of the anticipated quantum of disputes. After taking into account merits of the proposals the PSC resolved to accord preference to the districts namely Gawader, Loralai and Ziarat deemed to be more appropriate & feasible.

The follow-up actions to be adopted in the up-scaled phase were:-

**i) Re-Notification of Provincial Steering Committee (PSC).**

Re-notification is required to include representation from three new selected districts as per prescribed composition of PSC in the Project Document.

**ii) Re-Notification of Musalihat Anjuman Support Services (MASS)**

Re-notification is required to include stakeholders and representations from the new selected districts being a representative body at the provincial level.

**iii) Notifications/Constitution of Musalihat Anjuman Justice Advocates (MAJA)**

Constitution of the MAJA in three Districts selected for the up-scaled phase.

**iv) Notifications of the District Focal Persons (DFPs)**

Deliberating on the nomination of District Focal Persons (DFPs) proposal was either to nominate EDO Community & Social Welfare or Secretary of the Zila Council as focal person was suggested. With a consensus of opinion it was decided that DCO Office should remain as focal office as was in practice in the pilot districts of Quetta & Lasbella.

**V. Work plan 2007.**

The Work plan 2007 encompassing a budgetary provision of **US\$ 261,455** during the up-scaled phase was approved.

**VI. Support from Prov & Districts Govts. To MAs**

The continuous support of both Provincial and Districts Governments in the pilot Districts to the project was highly appreciated. The PPM explained that the project had embarked in its up scaled phase, for efficient functioning of MAs, resources were adequately required. To overcome the budgetary deficit the project would extend the required support provided the Union administration also reciprocated by providing a matching grant for MAs in their respective budgets. It was resolved that the LG and Rural Development Department GoB will issue instructions in this context accordingly.

**VII. Additional**

With the permission of the chair Mr. Sajid Baloch GSP Coordinator UNDP explained that for PPMU support a proposal under debate in Punjab PSC was to provide manpower support at the provincial level. Appreciating the concern the PPM proposed manpower support at the district level which was felt essential.

On soliciting of opinion from the members it was debated that since the DCO office designated as focal offices were already overburdened with existing official work load, therefore the PPMU was in need of field support for the project which was more appropriate and a preferable option. NPM opined that project design encouraged for institutional strengthening rather than creating new positions.

The PSC resolved to recommend both the options projected.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by the chair to PSC members particularly to the FPMU and GSP Coordinator for their participation.