

Baseline Survey

Union Council SASOL

District Khuzdar, Balochistan

Prepared by:



**Participatory
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Baseline Survey Union Council SASOL District Khuzdar Balochistan

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1. Introduction

Khuzdar is the third largest district area wise of Balochistan with an area of 43,261 sq. km and a population of 409,164 persons, according to the 1998 census. Population density is 10.54, lower than the provincial average. It has three tehsils and nine sub-tehsils. The District is among the most disadvantaged. Most of the land is locked within rocky hills, leaving only little patches amenable to agricultural activities in selected locations in Wadh and Baghbana tehsils. The main Quetta-Karachi highway passes through Khuzdar District, playing a lifeline role by making access to the main town possible.

This area is traditionally below the poverty line. It is food insecure due to lack of agriculture, scarce economic opportunities and difficult access to food. Almost all food requirements are met through commercial mechanism. The non-existence of roads has contributed to the paucity of resources and their marketability. The overwhelming reliance of the population on livestock has left them with no other means to survive. The human population trying to exist in this area is generally very poor, with the majority of them managing a subsistence livelihood.

Following the heavy rains and floods in 1995, the district slowly and gradually started drifting towards drought. The drought situation worsened in the district in year 2000-2001 as severe water, food and food shortages resulted in deaths of dozens of community people and millions of livestock in the district. Although there were some rains in year 2003 and 2006, however, the drought conditions persisted during those years till 2007.

In year 2007, the drought hit district was ravaged by rains and floods in the last week of June. The floods were so severe that about 200 people were killed in Naal, Moola and other areas of the district and millions of communities became homeless. However, these flash floods did not resolve the problem of constant drought as due to large scale deforestation and land degradation, the floods failed to bring groundwater stability in the district.

PDI has been engaged in monitoring the drought situation in Khuzdar since 2005. The organization conducted drought assessment in the district in year 2006 and 2007 and also conducted flood damage assessment following 2007 floods.

During the process of drought assessment PDI had identified a number of most vulnerable areas with regard to drought in the district and Union Council Sasol is one of such areas. PDI has now launched a pilot drought mitigation and

preparedness project in Union Council Sasol from September 2007 with the support of Oxfam. This baseline survey is part of the above mentioned project.

2. Study Objectives

- To study the demographic characteristics of the project area in Union Council Sasol, district Khuzdar
- To examine the socioeconomic conditions of the project area in Union Council Sasol, district Khuzdar
- To study the key natural hazards and the vulnerabilities of the communities with regard to those hazards
- To prepare a comprehensive baseline of the project area in Union Council Sasol, district Khuzdar

3. Methodology and Process

A participatory method of PLA (Participatory Learning and Action) was adopted in the research process. PLA is an umbrella term for a wide range of similar approaches and methodologies, including Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Participatory Learning Methods (PLM), Participatory Action Research (PAR), and Farming Systems Research (FSR). The common theme to all these approaches is the full participation of people in the processes of learning about their needs and opportunities, as well as in the actions required to address them.

In this connection different tools of PLA were used in the field to collect necessary data. The communities were involved in the process to the extent that the tools were used with both male and female community members separately to gain insights into their social, economic, livelihood patterns and issues. Following are the key tools used during the field study:

- Observation
- Semi-Structured Interviews of individuals/key informants
- Focus Group Discussions
- Village Social Maps
- Village Resources Maps
- Transect walks
- Timeline
- Trend Lines
- Venn Diagrams
- Wealth Ranking
- Daily Activity Clocks

- Seasonal Calendars
- Resources Picture Cards
- Income & Expenditures Matrices
- Pair-wise Ranking / Problem Ranking
- Problem Analysis Chart
- Community Action Plan

4. The Province and District Background

4.1 Balochistan

Balochistan is Pakistan's largest Province in area (347,000 sq. kms) and has the lowest population (6.5 million). Generally, the economic and human conditions in Balochistan present a dismal picture of underdevelopment. The reasons for this state of affairs are many, ranging from the limited socio-economic opportunities afforded by the people over generations, lack of education, poor infrastructure (particularly road networks), limited cultivable land, scarcity of water and irrigation schemes, limited access to health services and a lack of industry..

The total population of the province is about 6.6 million, which is only 5.2% of the total population of Pakistan. The climatic variations are characterized as arid to hyper-arid, with average annual precipitation being between 50 and 400 mm per year. The physical conditions are harsh with rugged topography and extreme variation in temperature.

Living in widely scattered villages and settlements, most of the rural population is engaged in a variety of agro-pastoral activities facing varying degrees of vulnerability due to environmental constraints - particularly lack of water and degradation of natural resources; limited technological and physical infrastructure; and social-structural impediments mark rural livelihoods. The level of physical infrastructure is very poorly developed even in the urban areas of the province. The influx of Afghan refugees has further aggravated the limited infrastructure base of the urban areas.

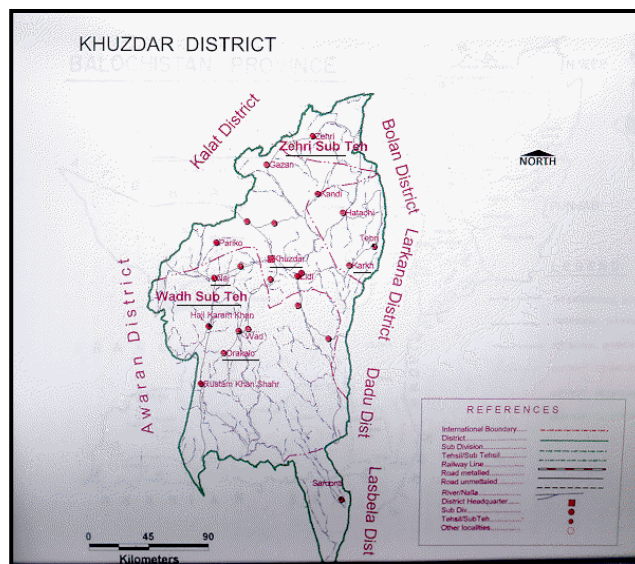
Generally, the economic and human conditions in Balochistan present a dismal picture of underdevelopment. Balochistan has always been the least developed of the province of Pakistan. It consistently lags behind the rest of the provinces on the basis of almost all economic and social indicators of development. For example literacy rate in Balochistan is merely 30.1% compared to the national level 51% literacy rate. The female literacy level in the province is quite deplorable as it is only 18% as compared to the national level literacy rate of 38%. The primary school enrolment is 60.2% in Balochistan compared to 73.2% national level and the female participation is as low as 21% compared to 49.2% national level participation of women. The access to sanitation level is only 7% in the province compared to 18% national level. The situation of child health is dangerous in the province. The infant mortality rate (Per 000 LB) is quite high than the national average. It is 108 as compared to national level 100. High levels of anemia, poor nutrition and maternal weakness arising from frequent childbearing characterize women's

health. The fertility rate is estimated to be very high with an average of 6.5 births per woman in Balochistan. The UNDP Pakistan National Human Development Report 2003 has found that out of Pakistan's top 20 most backward districts, 50 per cent are located in Balochistan. The province is in dire need of resources to combat backwardness and to come out of the under-development trap.

The province has been in the grip of drought since 1999 due to alarming reduction in the rainfall. This has had negative severe negative impact on the local communities, their livelihoods as well as the overall economic condition of Balochistan. According to a recent study, about 70% of the livestock population has been depleted in the past 5 years, from a previous total of 20 million ruminants (sheep and goats). Food and cash crop production, including orchards, have also declined, leading to significant declines in income and food consumption. Malnutrition and a variety of drought-related diseases have also beset the rural poor. About 100,000 families have been displaced, seeking drinking water and better pastureland for their animals. About 1.9 million people or 27% of the province's population have been affected by the drought. Poverty levels have increased, particularly among the poor and most vulnerable. Whereas about 38% of the province was poor in 1997, an estimated 47% of the people are now below the poverty line.

4.2 Background of the District Khuzdar

Khuzdar district has a population of 488,500 (2007 estimate) with 43,661 sq km of area. The district capital is about 320 km away from the provincial capital. The district capital is on the main highway connecting Quetta and Karachi. All sub-divisions are connected with all-weather roads; however, the majority of the union councils, towns and villages have shingle or fair-weather roads.



Airport for Fokker planes and Helipad exist in Khuzdar town. Khuzdar is about 1,600 meters above sea level. There are five Tehsils in the district; Nal, Mulla, Khuzdar, Zehri and Wadh. The city is 300km from Quetta.

The district is topographically mountainous with a number of valleys. These valleys are typically routes of rain water flow down from the mountains. Agriculture is the main livelihood activity in these valleys. Vegetable fruits, pulses and wheat are major crops, while livestock is the second major source of livelihood. The majorities of the farming communities obtain grains from their own fields, and have little reliance on markets for this food item. However, other commodities, like, sugar, edible oil, tea and other daily consumable items are purchased from the market. Main sources of drinking water are spring, wells, hand-pumps and tube-wells.

This area is traditionally below the poverty line. It is food insecure due to lack of agriculture, scarce economic opportunities and difficult access to food. Almost all food requirements are met through commercial mechanism. The non-existence of roads has contributed to the paucity of resources and their marketability. The overwhelming reliance of the population on livestock has left them with no other means to survive. The human population trying to exist in this area is generally very poor, with the majority of them managing a subsistence livelihood.

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4.3 Union Council Sasol

Khuzdar district is consisted of five tehsils. Those include Khuzdar, Moola, Nal, Wadh and Zehri. Union Council Sasol is one of 35 Union Councils of the District. UC Sasol is the part of Tehsil Khuzdar and Sub tehsil Baghbana. Sasol is some 30 km from Khuzdar city in its east. The union council is bounded by Zeedi, Balina Kathan, Baghbana and Kharzan Union Councils on from all the four sides. Total Population of the Union Council is estimated to be 12,000.

The Union Council land mainly consists of rugged mountains and there are small patches of land between those mounts which are used for cultivation by the local communities. The union council had a big hilly forest area in the past; however, those forests have almost completely chopped down by the local communities with the passage of time. The hilly areas of the Union Council usually depend on the rainwater for drinking and irrigation purposes, however, in some low laying areas the local communities use tube wells to fetch water for drinking and irrigation purposes.



4.4 Project Area and Villages

Although the union council is consisted of a number of villages, however, PDI/ Oxfam after field visits in the area and meetings with the local communities have decided to implement the project on Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness in the following five villages of the Union Council:

S#	Village	Number of Households	Population
1	Sarap	150	600
2	Shank	70	196
3	Charpadin	50	160
4	Kadhan	69	227
5	Soruk	48	115
	Total	387	1298

4.4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Project Area / Villages

The project villages in Union Council Sasol are situated basically in Sasol Valley surrounded by mountains almost from all the four sides. The access road to the villages has been constructed from Khuzdar by cutting the mountains. The road is metalled up till the first village of the project area i.e. Sarap. Sarap is the biggest village among all the five project villages. One of the important attributions of the village is that the home of the local *Sardar* is also in the same village.

Majority of the villages [95 %] are Katcha mud plastered houses, while about 2 percent population is still living in the traditional tents which are called as *Gidan* in the local Brahui language. All the villages are connected with each other through katcha paths. The path being rocky, it is difficult for the small vehicles to run on the paths. Usually four by four vehicles are comfortable while travelling on those paths.

4.4.2 Social Fabric of the Area

Almost 100 percent population of the project villages belongs to Brahui tribes, one of three key ethnic groups of Balochistan. Key tribes include Sasoli, Jattak, and Mengal etc. The area is under the influence of Sardari system. The local tribes have their allegiance with the Sardars of their tribe; however, they also are bound to obey the orders of the local Sardar.



Informal and traditional laws and rules of jirga system are still preferred in the area than the formal law of land. Sardars decide all the cases through jirga system from the petty cases of theft to murder cases. The verdict of sardar is the final word for the common people.

Contrary to the urban centers communities here prefer to live in the scattered areas either on their lands or close to the facility of availability of grasses for their livestock as well as water for them and their livestock. There is the historical bondage of mutual cooperation among the communities. This cooperation further strengthens in the case of belonging to the same tribe. People prefer to lay their lives for the honor of their families and tribes.

The villages in the area are mainly homogeneous with people belong to same tribe settled at one place. The villages are small ranging from 20 to 30 households. The poor people have the houses of one to two rooms with a sufficient courtyard while the midlevel and rich poor usually have *Havelly* with three to five rooms one of them being the guest room. The guest room is usually separated and away from the living rooms, some times even out of the boundary wall of the *havelly*.

Women have liberty to move into the village freely. However, they have to cover their face and head once they are out of their house to go to the locality. Male visitors from the other villages have only restricted access to the village. The outsiders usually have to stay at the guest rooms. There is tradition of hospitality. The Guests are served with the traditional food and in the case the number of guests is more than four to five usually a goat or sheep is slaughtered to serve them.

4.4.3 Livelihood Resources

Agriculture and livestock are the prime livelihood resources in the project areas. Agriculture is practiced mainly through *Khushkaba*. However, in the low-laying areas people also use water from motorized dug wells for irrigation purposes. The irrigation system of four villages is almost completely based on *Khushkaba*, while only in the case of the fifth village Sarap, the local communities have their dug wells and tube wells to irrigate their lands.

Wheat is the main crop; however, pulses, barley and other low delta crops are also cultivated. The low laying areas being irrigated through motorized dug wells usually have orchards and vegetables. However, with the lowering of the groundwater orchards have been largely affected.

People also find daily agriculture labor in other agriculture rich areas during the crop harvesting etc. Due to reduction in the agriculture produce in the area due to severe water shortages a large number of the local communities are also engaged in daily wage labour in Khuzdar city. Some of the villagers have also government and private jobs in Khuzdar city. Majority of them make daily outback, while some of those families have partially shifted to Khuzdar, half of the family living in Khuzdar city and the remaining half still living in the area to look after the lands and crops. The communities from some remote areas have also been adopting migration patterns migrating to the agricultural areas of Sindh during the crop harvesting seasons along with their families to earn livelihoods.

4.4.4 Wealth and Poverty Profile

People of the programme area are extremely poor, politically marginalized and thus powerless. The area has become extremely vulnerable to the human-made and natural-disasters. The area lacks basic infrastructure, and people virtually live in the Stone Age, without having any amenities of the modern age. They are deprived of their basic rights to clean drinking water, basic health facilities, and education. The worst victims are women and children. Poor

living conditions have made life of women more miserable. Means of survival are not too many, and the disasters have taken away whatever little they had.

The villagers have their own perception of poverty. According to local community perspective, those who are dependent only on the natural resources are basically poor communities. The middleclass people are those who have other resources along with natural resources and can earn enough. Those who have multiple business or resources are the rich people. According to the local perspectives of poverty, about 90 percent of the local communities are poor, 8 percent are middleclass people, while 2 percent can be termed as wealthy people.

5. Key Capital Assets of the Community

5.1 Human Capital

Education and health are considered the key human capitals for any community. The status of education and health of the local communities of PDI Oxfam Project area in Union Council Sasol identified by the local communities as under:

5.1.1 Education / Literacy

Balochistan itself is very underdeveloped, most deprived and neglected province of the country. Its literacy figures obviously are worst than the average of whole Pakistan. The literacy level is at the lowest in the project villages. It's quite rare to see a literate adult person. There are only two Primary Schools in the area of five villages. Out of those two, one is closed since long due to the non availability of the staff. There is no girls' school in the whole project area.

As a result a large number of children are presently out of school. According to the estimates about 95 percent of the school age boys and 98 percent school age girls are out of school in the five project villages of Sasol Union council. Only few girls are receiving education in the boys school of Sarap, while the girls of the remaining four villages of the project area are completely out of school.

The severe drought has made the people to realize importance of education. They do express their feelings that because of lack of education they could not find other options for the sustenance of their livelihood and hence feel extremely vulnerable to the natural calamities. In this context, now they strongly feel that their younger generation must get education to face

challenges of the future. During the community meetings with the villagers of the project area each and every villager including man and woman realized the importance of education and stressed upon the need of schools for their children.

5.1.2 Health

The whole project area has no functional health facility available. People usually use the local traditional medicines to treat different diseases. Malnutrition in women and children is evident. There is a high rate of mortality because of no access to health facility.

Due to lack of trained lady health visitors and birth attendants the incidence of miscarriages and death/complications during delivery is high. Usually a local women who herself has given birth to 6 or 7 children is called to help during the delivery and is given some gift (clothes, bag of wheat etc.) in return for her services. The nearest hospital is District Headquarters Hospital is in *Khuzdar*, which is around 30 kilometers from the project area.

The drought has badly affected the health condition of the villagers. The elders, women and the children are the worst affected. The elders have the diseases of T.B and the women and the children have hepatitis, diarrhea, anemia and malnutrition problems. The skin diseases are also common among the villagers. This has increased the mortality rate in the villages, the poor have to bear extra burden of medical treatments, which they do not afford in majority cases and the family members who are responsible for earning livelihoods for their family are unable to work due to long illness.

6. Physical Capital

6.1 Land Resources

The land is one of the key physical capitals for the local communities. Majority of the local communities consists of the small landowners owning 2 to 5 acres of land. However, there are also few land owners who own up to 50 acres of land. Those few are called big land owners by the local according to their perception of small and big land



owners.

Almost 80 percent of the families have their own land resources; however in majority cases the land is so small as compared to the big family that it has almost lost its economic utility for the family. The land ownership also includes the ownership of the mountains of the area. However, majority of the mountains are owned by the Sardars and other influential people of the area.

The communities cultivate different crops on their land. Millet (bajra), sorghum, mungbeans, guwar and castor beans have been the traditional summer rainfed crops while barley and rape and mustard have been grown during winter. In addition to producing grains for human consumption or sale, these crops have been the primary source of stalks/crop residues for livestock feeding. However, there is drastic reduction in the crop cultivation and produce in the area.

The local communities their mountain areas usually for cutting trees for using as firewood. They also use their lands and mountains for rearing their livestock. People have also started digging the mountains and other elevated places in the hope of finding hidden treasures.

6.2 Water Resources

There is no perennial irrigation system in the project area. Rainfall and the groundwater resources are the key source of drinking and irrigation water. In the *Khushkaba* or dry land agriculture farming system the fields receive moisture directly from rainfall or from localized runoff. Some area near the foothills with natural gradient is earmarked for the collection of run off, which is



guided in to the prepared areas surrounded by small dykes or bounds so that the water gets the opportunity to seep down and saturate the soil.

The extended drought preventing any recharge of the aquifer has aggravated the groundwater situation. Drop in the groundwater level has resulted in the drying of many surface wells which were operative in the low laying areas

Box: 1**Story of the Tallaf**

The word "TALLAF" is a Brahui word. It means a place on the surface of earth where water accumulates which is used for the drinking purpose of humans and livestock. But the Tallaf which is situated near Charpadin Village is different from the common Tallafs. It is said that this Pond [Tallaf] was made in the ancient time, by the fore-fathers of these peasantries. This local Tallaf was made with the help of Bulls. It was also said by a villager that the construction of Tallaf took several years to complete. People of this area think and believe that Tallaf water goes decreases very slowly because a saint once came here, drunk water from the same Tallaf and prayed to Almighty Allah for the welfare of this Tallaf and people. People of that time were truly genius and were well known about the direction and condition of land that where water can be stored and be used when needed, because this Tallaf is made at that area where water is accumulates easily.

The situation of water accumulation is very interesting here. Area is dry and people depend on the rain water. When it rains, they get water and store it into the Tallaf. If it does not rain then they have to go to the far and away areas to bring only drinking water to survive. In the case there is no water in Talaf the local community members especially women had to wake up early in the morning at 4 a.m and leaving for fetching water from the areas about 10 km from their villages by using donkeys to carry water.

This Tallaf is the sign of life for those people. The Talaf is blessing for both humans and livestock. However, when there are no rains the talaf water decreases and changes its color. Different waterborn insects become visible in the water. However, despite those insects and bad odour from the water people are compelled to drink water from the Talaf and also bring their cattle for watering from the same water. Presently again the water of the Talaf has decreased to greater extent and its color has changed. Despite the threats of water- borne diseases during a field trip PDI team saw that on the one side of the Talaf a women was collecting water while on the other side of the same Talaf some donkeys were also drinking water.

close to Sarap village. Similarly, the lowering of water table has dried the normal Dug/ Open wells and in many areas the only option to ensure water in the wells is to dig them deep and deep. As a result hundreds of acres of lands and the orchards have been left barren and owners and the cultivators of those lands and orchards have been facing severe poverty.

6.3 Livestock

Livestock has been one of the key livelihood resources in project area. Similarly, livestock grazing is the biggest land use in the area. Due to aridity, the vegetation has the characteristics typical of arid or semi arid regions. These rangelands serve as the production base for livestock, which in turn supplies milk, meat for human consumption and other products such as wool, hair, hides and skins. The major livestock species raised in the area are sheep and goats. Mostly mixed flocks of sheep and goats are raised and they are commonly grazed in the mountains and plains. The flock size varies from 25 to over 200 head of sheep and goats.

The drought has left very little grazing available, particularly for small ruminants. Furthermore, continuously repeated grazing on the available vegetation has caused irreparable damage to the vegetation in the area. Only vegetation unpalatable to the animals remains. Repeated cycles of food shortages mean that the animals have become undernourished and cannot travel several kilometers per day in search of food. The constant nutritional stress has lowered the resistance of the animals and disease is common. The shortage of drinking water for livestock in most of the area is another cause of the diseases.



Mortality due to hunger and disease infestation of malnourished animals has increased several times. Distress sale and mortality together have resulted in an overall reduction of 50 to 80 % in stock size, in different project villages, with the individual owners in most severely affected areas losing 80-100% of their animals. Traditionally livestock has been used to generate ready cash whenever needed to meet the household food and other needs. This is no longer available with most families now. The situation has become particularly grave for those for whom livestock production was the sole means of subsistence.

As a result, the availability of meat, milk and milk-products, as part of the family diet, has either totally disappeared or drastically reduced adding to malnutrition and poor health, particularly in children and nursing mothers. Due to malnutrition and poor health of animals both quantitative and qualitative reduction has occurred in the production of wool and hair. Poor quality product is selling at 50% of the normal price.

7. Social Capital

7.1 Social Cooperation

There is strong social cooperation among the local communities living in the project area villages. The cooperation is based on the basis of extended families as well as tribal system of clans and tribes. The primary institution of society i.e. family has still good influence. Family members support each other. Similarly, the clans and casts are also one of the primary sources of social support. Each clan has its own influential person, who resolves the

conflicts among the clan members. However, there are also such influential people in strong tribal casts who are equally respectable for all the communities. Different communities also refer to those influential persons for resolving their quarrels without any consideration on the basis of cast and creed.

7.2 Institutional Cooperation

There is severe lack of institutional cooperation as very few government institutions are active in the area. The road to the area has been built by the Provincial Roads Department, and there are two school buildings belonging to the Education Department. Besides, the communities confirm visits of some NGOs following the last floods and also the visits of the personnel responsible for Polio eradication campaign. The communities have no knowledge of the other institutions as the other institutions have never put their feet on the land of the project area.

When the relationship of the community members with different institutions and individuals was analyzed through the tool of Venn diagram it came to the conclusion that the local communities have more faith on the institution of mosque. However, they do have interest in the schools, hospitals and NGOs etc. Considering the government as of little help to them, they were prompt to keep the government away from the boundaries of their village. They were interestingly also keeping the institution of *Wadera* [the representative of Sardar] also away from their village boundaries as according to them the *Wadera* also usually indulges into self benefit activities, giving little benefit to the local communities.

7.3 Social Conflicts

The social conflicts do occur in the area usually on the basis of tribalism. There is no evidence of any big tribal clash among the local tribes in the recent past. However, some times the tribal clashes in the other area have their influence in the area. For example, in the case of severe tribal clashes between two tribes in any other area, if the people belonging to both the tribes live in the area, there are threats they may indulge in armed clashes with each other.

8. Gender Analysis

Women are the equal part of the family, social and economic system of the area. However, there is little recognition of their role in all the above systems. Besides the household chores, women are also involved along with men in farming, livestock rearing, fetching water and fuel wood collection. A typical

day for a Brahui farmer's wife is seventeen hours long. Her work is sheer drudgery because the labor she performs is merely repetitive and requires no decision making as to how land and other resources are to be utilized.



There is strictly a patriarchal society in the project area having no power with women whatsoever. As the women are given in marriages against a bride price (Labb), they have an economic value through their rendering household services and other work. The role of women in decision making concerning marriages is limited with daughters having no real say in their marriage. Their fates depend upon the decisions made by their fathers or the eldest male of the family. Marriages with the nearer relatives are preferred as the bride price that has to be paid is less and also their mutual relations are strengthened by the marriage tie. The system of exchange of girls prevails among the nomadic tribes. For example an elderly man, who obtains a young girl in exchange of one of his own female relative, has to make an additional payment as compensation.

Being a tribal society there is a high demand on women to have more male kids. This tendency leads to an unbearable number of children per couple. During the study it was observed that average number of kids per family is 7-8. However, there were also families having 15-16 children. There is a general tendency that proper and good meal should go to the male segment and the remnant is availed by the women. This renders them malnourished and anemic. The male usually go out for earning and stay out for days and nights. Women stay back at home and are supposed to take up all the responsibilities of looking after the kids, livestock and managing the entire household.

A woman is sold in the name of marriage. She is given into marriage as compensation of any tribal feud. She is married sometimes when she is still baby of five to ten years. However, one of such cruel anti-women traditions with regard to marriage of the women is the tradition of “*watta satta*” marriages. Under the custom of exchange of women for marriage, woman is married to a man on condition that a man in her family will marry a woman in her husband’s family.

Women have been affected more by drought. While men have the option to go to work in towns where they have a wider choice in food and access to clean drinking water—which is reflected in their visibly better state of health—the women remain tied to the house. Their burden increases when the men are away because they have to take care of all the household needs, even those



that are normally taken care of by men, such as collecting fire-wood and fodder and the sale of animals in emergencies.

Women are not allowed a share in inheritance, although Islam guarantees the share of daughter in father's property. This is because the local custom does not encourage it. However; a person can in his lifetime gift his wife, daughter or sister a portion of his property. In the social or political domain, the tribal chiefs and the members of local council of elders (Jirga) and the religious authorities are always men, setting the terms of moral and cultural values which are based on subordination of women.

9. Key Disaster Natural Hazards in the Area

9.1 Drought

Like other areas of Khuzdar district, Sasol Union Council was severely hit by drought. The district remained in the grip of drought from 1996-97 to 2005-6. The drought resulted in severe water shortages in the Union Council especially in its upland areas, which were highly depended on the rainwater. *Khushkaba* agriculture came to the standstill as there were no rains to create moisture.

The drinking water wells became dried as the groundwater depleted due to the lack of recharging. Scores of the families from the upland areas of Soruk,

Box: 2

When the Wells Dried

While narrating the ordeals of drought the elders in Kadhan village said that as there is a well in their village which is the only source of drinking water for many surrounding villages. As a result of drought the well water lessened to the extent that there was no possibility of fetching water from the well by throwing any utensil in it. Therefore, a man would enter into the well taking a utensil with him. He would rub the utensil in the well bed to fetch whatever water was available. A large number of community members would wait outside to bring out the men along with a utensil of water by fetching him out through a rope. People would drink that muddy water to squish their thirst.

Kadhan, Charpadin and Shank had to migrate from the area as there were not water resources for even drinking purposes.

Livestock perished in large numbers due to the lack of water and fodder. The remnants of dusty fodder resulted in diseases in the livestock. The local communities were pushed towards food insecurity and poverty due to the decreasing number of livestock. Although there were rains in the area in June 2007, however, the rains brought flash floods due to large scale desertification in the area. The groundwater could not be recharged due to gushing floods, which on the contrary further damaged the livelihoods of the already affected local communities of the area. The impacts of the drought are still being experienced by the local communities.

9.2 Floods

In the recent past the area has experienced severe floods resulting in widespread damage to the livelihoods of the local communities. In the year 1995, there were heavy rains and floods in the area which damaged the local crops and lands. The houses of the scores of the local communities were washed away. Those floods were followed by the cycle of droughts.

Another cycle of the floods hit the local communities in June 2007. The local communities

already affected by the drought were severely hit by the floods as their crops and leveled

Year	Hazard	Copping mechanism
1985	Earthquake	Living on the open grounds in place of their houses
1995	Floods	Temporary Migration
1997-2005-6	Drought	Migration, sale of livestock
2007	Floods	Temporary Migration

lands including the *Bundat* were completely destroyed. The streams of the area which had not seen a drop of water during the drought were gushing and overtopping bring flood water to the villages damaging the houses and the belongings of the local communities.

9.3 Earthquakes

It is an alarming fact that Khuzdar District lies in an active seismic zone. It has faced earthquake jolts measuring the magnitude of it up to 6.5 on the Richter scale. The horrible earthquakes of 1985 which recorded as 27 jolts in 36 hours are still lurking in the memories of the people. History stands as a witness of

the complete destruction due to a severe earthquake that hit the Khuzdar city in the middle 18th century.

Union Council Sasol had also sustained losses as a result of the 1985 earthquake jolts. There are threats of heavy blindsiding from the mountains as a result of the earthquakes in the area. There is strong need of preparedness steps to prevent the losses of possible earthquake in the area.

10. Key Problems of the Area

10.1 Natural Hazards

Vulnerability to the different natural disasters including drought, floods and earthquakes is the key problem of the area. The local communities have been heavily affected in the past due to the hazards and there are fears of large scale possible effect of the same hazards in the future. There is strong need of structural as well as non structural preparedness and mitigation efforts to minimize the impact of the natural disasters in the Union Council.

10.2 Water Scarcity

Water scarcely due to the continuous drought situation as well as lack of government investment in the traditional water harvesting systems in the area; have resulted in severe water shortages in the area. The local communities especially in the upland areas are deprived of both drinking and irrigation water supplies. This has resulted in the degradation of the lands, and migration from the area. Those living in the upland areas are facing using contaminated water for drinking purposes resulting in water born diseases and they are unable to cultivate their crops due to the severe water shortages. There is strong need for improving the traditional water harvesting systems in the area.

10.3 Education

Out of the five project villages four are completely deprived of the educational facilities as there is no even single operational primary school in those four villages. Besides, there is no single Girls Primary school in all the five villages. There is only one Primary School in Sarap village in which boys of Sarab and some close-by villages receive education. Some girls of Sarap village also receive education in the Boys Primary School of Sarap, while the girls of all the remaining four project villages are deprived of education. There is strong need of establishing formal and non-formal schools in the project villages for the boys and girls.

10.4 Health

There is no health facility in all the five project villages. There is only one Rural Health Center in Karez Village at the distance of almost 20 km from the project villages. A male doctor visits the RHC on some days of the week, while there is no lady doctor in the center. The local communities usually bring their patients to Khuzdar for treatment. There is strong need of initiating mobile health facilities in the area and also appointing a lady doctor for the RHC.

Annex: I

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