



**Issue: January - March 2008**

## News & Events During the Quarter:

**4<sup>th</sup> NSC Meeting:** The 4<sup>th</sup> NSC meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008, and chaired by Mr Muhammad Saleem Khan, Secretary MoLG&RD. The objectives of the meeting were to: review the Project performance for the year 2007, and approval of the work plan for year 2008. Mr. Riaz Akhtar, NPD, gave a detailed presentation about the Project goal, its objectives, outputs, funding / resources, its extension from Pilot Phase and progress / achievements in the year 2007. During the meeting the performance of the Project in the FY 2007 was reviewed and found satisfactory. The newly inducted Project Districts viz, Nowshera (NWFP) and Sanghar (Sindh), as notified by the respective Provincial Governments, were endorsed. Moreover, future priorities for year 2008 were also approved.



**PSC Meetings in Balochistan, NWFP, Sindh and Punjab Held:** The respective PSC meetings by PPMUs were held as follows:  
Balochistan – 07-02-2008

NWFP – 05-03-2008

Sindh – 26-02-2008

Punjab – 21-02-2008

These meetings were chaired by the respective Secretaries of LG Departments of the Province. During these meetings the performance of the Project was reviewed and approval was granted for the Annual Work Plan 2008.



**Increase in Number of Cases:** By the end of March 2008, total **6,602 disputes** have been received by MAs. Out of these **4,880 disputes** have been amicably resolved, hence the disputes settlement rate remained at 74 %.

**New Federal Minister for LG&RD takes oath:** After the formation of new government at Federal level, Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour has taken oath as Federal Minister for LG&RD on 31-03-2008. GJTMAP welcomes him on board.

**New NPD Appointed:** Mr. Riaz Akhtar (NPD) has been transferred to Planning Division, on his promotion as Joint Secretary and Mr Shahid Latif Anwar, Joint Secretary (RD) MoLG&RD, has been appointed as the new NPD, GJTMAP. We welcome Mr. Anwar on board.

**Country Director UNDP & ARR / Chief PR&GU**

**UNDP visited MAs in Quetta:** Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, Country Director UNDP and Ms. Faiza Effendi, ARR/Chief Poverty & Gender Unit UNDP visited Musalihat Anjuman (MA) in Union Council Mano Jan Huddah on



January 17, 2008 in Quetta, Balochistan. They interacted with MA/IC members, Nazim, Naib Nazim, UC Secretary and other community members. Ms. Effendi emphasized that female MA members should play a proactive role and their presence in MAs should be more visible through their activities. They were accompanied by Mr. Faisal Jamal, PPD,

GJTMAP Balochistan, MASS partners and staff members.

**UNDP's CPAP Review:** As a part of UNDP CPAP review, a joint evaluation mission from UNDP and EAD assessed the progress in achieving results of UNDP Country Program 2004-2008 against its targets. It envisaged to review challenges, lessons learned, document good practices and recommendations for future and to provide strategic direction for 2008 program, Work Plan and CPAP revision. As part of the review, each program had identified / short listed one project for review. The team visited Districts Quetta, Dadu, Attock, etc. and met with Provincial / District level Project Staff, beneficiaries and stakeholders. The team expressed its satisfaction on Project progress.



**Orientation Meeting of UC Secretaries Held:** PPMU, NWFP held an orientation session for the UC Secretaries of the up-scaled districts through MASS partners. The purpose of the orientations were to share criteria for notification of MJ members at the UCs level and to bring clarity about their roles and responsibilities. The orientation resulted in better understanding of roles and

## Priorities for the Next Quarter:

**Focus on Efficiency and Quality Assurance:** Emphasis will continue to remain on quality aspects of monitoring, record keeping and data reporting and to improve efficiency during the next quarter.

**Signing of Contract for GJ Documentary:** A formal contract will be signed with the short listed firm M/s CRS (Private) Ltd. for the production of GJ Documentary. The latter will be used for communication and advocacy purposes to increase awareness amongst masses and to showcase the Project achievements in providing gender justice at grass roots level.

**Signing of MoUs with MASS Partners:** MoUs will be signed with respective Provincial MASS partners to support capacity building in the Up-scaled Project Districts. MASS partners will also help in awareness raising and advocacy activities for the Project at various levels.

responsibilities of various Project stakeholders at the grass roots level.

**GJTMAP Termed as Best Practice for Capacity Development:** A write shop was organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB) in collaboration with Economic Affairs Division (EAD) from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008. It aimed at refinement in the case studies on best practices, prepared by ADB Consultant Ms. Mahe Nau Haider, as an initial step in the analysis of Capacity Development for Aid Effectiveness. GJTMAP was one of the twelve projects selected for the case study as a best practice in the area of Capacity Development. The purpose of the write-shop was to help refine the draft case studies and contribute to the identification and analysis of key capacity issues that emerge from all of the cases.

**GJTMAP Documentary Film:** In order to finalize details of draft contract of GJTMAP Video Documentary, a meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 at GJTMAP FPMU, Islamabad, with the management of Communications Research Strategies (CRS) Pvt. Ltd., as required under RFP. It was decided that CRS will provide a list of team members earmarked to work on the documentary, give feed back on proposed time lines and the number of stories to be covered in the documentary, etc. before the signing of the contract.

Training workshops will be conducted in the Up-scaled Districts to build the capacities of MA and UC members. It will help improve their understanding of their roles and responsibilities and how to carry out different activities with reference to MAs.

**Recruitment of International ADR Expert:** An International ADR expert will be recruited for developing ADR training modules, imparting ToT on the module/s, develop linkages and documenting good practices and lessons learnt. The effort is still underway.

**Liaison with Stakeholders in Up-scaled Districts:** Efforts will be made to further Improve linkages with Judiciary and Police, NGOs, Bar, Academia, etc. to institutionalise the Project in Up-scaled Districts. Existing relations with these stake holders in Pilot Districts will also be strengthened.

## Success Story: Victim Gets Relief

Hajra was looking desperately towards the sky. Her heart was full of complaints against her fate. She wanted to say a number of things to God who sent her to this world with such a disturbed life. She was born in a very poor family. His father, Jasim, was physically handicapped and could not move around without others help. She was married at a tender age, while she would have wanted to play with her friends, instead. Her husband was murdered in dubious circumstances just after three years of her marriage. Her brothers in law demanded her to marry one of her nephews, which she refused. She was thinking whether there is an end to her agonies.

Hajra was married to Ghulam Nabi, who was working as a family servant of a renowned political leader of the area, when she was just sixteen years old. One day when she was busy with her two kids, she was given the tragic news that her husband was killed by an unknown person. She was shocked. She pleaded with the employer of her husband, a local Wadera, to inform her about the killer of her husband. He only sympathized with her and advised her to be patient.

There is yet another twist to her story. Ghulam Nabi, Hajra's husband, had three brothers namely, Qurban, Ehsan and Ahmad. Ghulam Nabi owned a plot worth Rs. one lac and had an inheritance share in another piece of land. Qurban was married to her sister Manzoora, who also had two kids. After the death of Ghulam Nabi, Qurban, Ehsaan and Ahmad put pressure on her to marry Ismail, the son of Ahmad. They wanted that the money and share in the piece of land owned by late Ghulam Nabi should remain within the family. Hajra refused to marry her husband's nephew. On her refusal she was beaten up badly and was thrown out of home. This did not end here, her sister Manzoora was also beaten badly by her husband Qurban and sent out packing with the condition that she could only come back if her sister Hajra agreed to marry Ismail.

Both the sisters took refuge at their father's home, who was poor and handicapped and had no substantial means to meet his family expenses. To add insult to injury, Qurban

lodged a complaint against Jasim (Hajra's father) and his minor son, Farooq, that they had kept his wife Manzoora (Jasim's daughter) in illegal detention. Police arrested Jasim and his son Farooq and locked them up. Jasim and his minor son could only be released after paying off her retainers. He was hurt on his repeated insults.



One of his neighbours advised him to file a complaint in the office of District Mohtasib, which he did. The Mohtasib ordered the Deputy District Officer (Revenue) to probe in to the matter. He, in turn, deputed Mukhtiarkar, Dadu to investigate the matter. Meanwhile, the Mohtasib visited Jasim and referred the matter to Convener of the Musalihat Anjuman (MA) of the area to make efforts to resolve the issue.

The MA convener called a meeting of MA and all the parties were asked to attend the proceedings. After five sittings by MA and lots of convincing by MA, it was agreed that Qurban and others would not force Hajra to marry Ismail. They returned Hajra's dowry which they had kept when she was forced out of the house. They also paid her Rs. 20,000 for the sale of plot owned by late Ghulam Nabi. The latter's inherited land was also transferred as title in the name of his widow, Hajra and her two kids aged two and one years respectively.

Hajra and her sister are still living with their father. Hajra was satisfied that at last after so many bad ordeals from her fate she managed to get her legal share with the help of local MA. Otherwise her poor and handicapped father was unable in his capacity to help her get her legal entitlements. She was smiling and said "thank you Musalihat Anjuman".

**Ms. Hajra Bibi, UC Johi, District Dadu**

*If you want to share your thoughts, comments or views with us and the readers, please send an email to [gjtmap@gmail.com](mailto:gjtmap@gmail.com) or [zgfm100@gmail.com](mailto:zgfm100@gmail.com).*