

Livelihoods Programme



Facts at a glance

Programme Title:

Livelihoods
Programme (LP)

Swiss Contribution:

7'972'000 Swiss Francs

Time Frame:

January 2008 – December
2010 (Phase 1)

Geographic Focus:

North West Frontier
Province (Districts of
Karak, D.I.Khan, Buner,
Swat, Chitral and Haripur)

Implementing Partners:

Intercooperation
Government of NWFP, civil
society organizations and
the private sector

The Livelihoods Programme (LP) supports a more equitable access to public and private services and opportunities. It focuses on economic activities and improving access to markets in selected marginalised districts.

Summary

The poor, rural communities of north-west Pakistan depend largely on natural resources for their livelihoods. Over the years the destruction and degradation of the natural resources base in these areas has had a serious impact on livelihoods and the levels of vulnerability of these people.

The LP supports a more equitable access to public and private services and opportunities and addresses rights issues such as participation in decision making, land rights and tenure, water rights, etc. By building local capacities and service delivery systems around specific local resources/products, the LP focuses on economic activities and improving access to markets in selected, marginalised districts. The ultimate aim is to reduce poverty and empower communities to better manage their lives.

Background and Context

In the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), one of the poorest provinces in Pakistan, most of the labour force is employed in agriculture, livestock and forestry. It is also a very conservative area where women's participation (especially in public life) and mobility are largely restricted.

The LP builds on successful previous experiences in the province, by scaling up earlier programme components that have proven to be effective in improving employment and income opportunities. SDCs involvement in alleviating rural poverty in NWFP spans over three decades.



Objectives and Expected Results

- Income of women and men is increased through diversified means of earning an income.
- Quality and quantity of livelihood assets (natural, physical, social, financial, political, human) are accessed and used by men and women.
- Communities take joint initiative and adopt successful practices and technologies.
- Alliances are formed with other development actors to scale up successful interventions.
- Elected officials and duty bearers assist communities in identifying their needs.

Main Activities

- Enhancing capacities/practices of poor households to cope with crises (e.g. floods, illnesses, financial losses).
- Mitigating risks in fragile ecological zones by concrete natural-resource based measures (eg. planting trees to guard against landslides).
- Establishing community-run, non-formal and potentially sustainable schools.
- Strengthening development partners to help them negotiate their rights and obligations, in order to protect their interests and assets.
- Sensitising government agencies, the private sector and opinion makers to raise key issues regarding resource management.
- Building capacity of women and men to become productive actors in value chains.

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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is part of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

The SDC office, as part of the Embassy of Switzerland, has been operating in Pakistan since 1966. SDC's programme is aimed at reducing poverty through the support of local governance and decentralisation, rights of women and children, rural livelihoods, microfinance and enterprise development. SDC also provides humanitarian aid in the earthquake-affected areas of NWFP.

SDC supports partners in the public and private sectors, international organisations and civil society organisations. SDC's annual budget in Pakistan is approximately 14 million Swiss Francs.