

Practitioner Input Form  
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Input Record Number	012
Name	Ian Tod
Contact Information	53 Victoria Park Cambridge CB4 3EJ UK Tel: (01223) 367118 <a href="mailto:iantod@compuserve.com">iantod@compuserve.com</a>
Organisation(s) Involved	DFID/UNDP/Sarhad Rural Support Programme
Geographic Area	Pakistan Lachi Poverty Reduction Project, Kohat, North West Frontier Province
Dates	2000-2005
Communities Involved	Lachi ~Tehsil is one of the poorest parts of Kohat district with many households living in very marginal or deprived conditions, due to several factors including the arid climate, hilly topography, predominance of sandy soil with low fertility, over-grazing of rangeland and isolated and conservative communities.
Duties and Responsibilities/ Purpose of Project	The Lachi Poverty Reduction Project (LPRP) aims to develop innovative approaches to improving the livelihoods of poor people. The Lachi Project emphasises community mobilisation as an essential pre-requisite for poverty alleviation and seeks to (a) build local development capacity through men's organisations (MCO) and women's organisations (WCO); (b) build capital through regular savings, (c) train villagers in key skills and (d) support communities with technical interventions such as improved access to drinking water and increased production from small farms. The project works with government and other development organisations to promote the project's experience and replicate aspects of the project's approach to other poor regions of NWFP.

<p>Context of Intervention</p>	<p>Water is the most critical resource in the project area, and all households face challenges in accessing sufficient water for their daily requirements. Water resources for domestic and livestock use are often located several kilometres from homesteads, requiring considerable effort and resources to fulfil even minimum daily needs. Farming systems are mainly rain-fed and based on the management of unpredictable and sparse rainfall.</p> <p>LPRP worked with communities to implement a range of infrastructure designed to improve the access and availability of water and the village environment. The measures funded by the project are mainly construction of mini-dams and embankment ponds, construction of water supplies, introduction of more hygienic sanitation, construction of shingle roads and improving village infrastructure.</p>
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<p><b>Lachi Poverty Reduction Project</b></p> <p><b>Case Studies of 4 Water Resource Schemes</b> <b>November 2004</b></p> <p><b>Case Study of Soodal Jungle Khel</b></p> <p>Summary</p> <p>In 1998, villagers in Soodal Jungle Khel identified improved availability of water in the village as their priority need, and over a three-year period villagers with support from initially SRSP and then later LPRP formed community organisations and implemented two schemes to improve their water supply. The first scheme was constructed in 2000 and comprised of the development of an open well, and provision of pump and storage facilities. The scheme was located about two km from the village as no other water source was available closer to the village. The second scheme comprised of the provision of a pipe network to carry water from the storage tank and distribute water to households throughout the village. The two schemes cost Rs 352,123 (2000 prices) and Rs 364,208 (2001 prices) respectively with villagers contributing 30% of the cost. The schemes provide water to approx. fifty-five households in the village, and have been operated by the community since 2001, with an annual operational cost of approx. Rs 80,000. All operation and maintenance costs are paid by villagers and benefiting households pay approx. Rs 125/month. Water is available for 1-2 hours each day. The main quantifiable benefits of the schemes are the time saved from fetching water and increased livestock. The NPV, B:C and FIRR for the two schemes are Rs 794,725, 1.42 and 21.9% respectively. The sustainability of the two schemes is promising. Villagers have shown they are willing to contribute to cover the cost of scheme operation and maintenance. More impressively, the CO managed to overcome the theft of the engine, and initially found a way to continue to operate the scheme before collecting funds for a replacement engine. The well yielded sufficient water, even during the drought years of 2001-2003. There are concerns about the water quality and these should be investigated further.</p> <p>Extract from section discussing involvements/services provided to poor households:</p> <p><b>Social Impacts</b></p> <p>27. <b>Village Coverage by Community Organisations.</b> Soodal is a large village with a total of approx. eight-hundred households (source: LPRP Village Profile). Soodal Jungle Khel is one part of the village and has one MCO and one WCO. The water supply scheme was planned and implemented by the men of Soodal Jungle Khel, with most male villagers participating in the initial dialogue at the village mosque. The households covered by the Soodal Jungle Khel MCO are forty-five, representing approx. 70% of Jungle Khel households. According to WCO members, there are 20-25 households in the village who are not members of either MCO or WCO, but have formed another MCO. The poverty ranking for the village is not updated, and data on numbers of</p>	

households in Jungle Khel varies. However, it was assessed through discussions with members and non-members whether poor households had access to scheme water.

28. **Beneficiaries of Water Supply Scheme.** The village drinking water supply scheme is a combined scheme of the WCO and MCO. According to WCO members, the water supply scheme benefits fifty households as well as the village mosque. The MCO puts the number of beneficiary households at sixty-two, whereas LPRP data says that twenty-nine member households benefit and ninety-one non-member households benefit. Clearly the beneficiary base goes beyond the member households. The formation of the WCO, MCO and the ensuing scheme work has been opposed by a religiously conservative faction of the village. This factionalism has affected the membership of the MCO and WCO as well as the work on the scheme and access of some households to the piped water supply.
29. **Inclusiveness and Decision-Making.** As is the case with most combined schemes, the management and decision-making of this scheme was undertaken mainly by the village MCO. Combined schemes are common in some villages when the cost of one scheme exceeds the limits set by the LPRP. More often than not, a WCO is formed in order to get a larger amount of money sanctioned for such a scheme. In this case, the 'MCO part' of the scheme was the dug well, the pump, the engine and the pump house, whereas the 'WCO component' was the distribution system (that is pipe network carrying water to individual households). Clearly the MCO is being used as a service delivery channel and an organisation that ensures that the management of the scheme is in place. However, the MCO represents a certain faction within the village and access to water depends on which faction a household belongs to. At the same time, informal arrangements between women exist for non-member households to access water. However, the MCO has become more particular about this, and has stopped the access of non-member household's access to piped water.
30. It was evident from discussions with villagers that there is extreme social division within the village. Discussions with MCO members pointed to the fact that initial dialogues for MCO formation, held by the SRSP had resulted in the formation of a more broad-based MCO. The MCO formation dialogue was held with almost all village households present; approx. thirty members left the MCO due to subsequent infighting. It appears that social strife increased once the MCO began planning for the scheme. However, it was not entirely clear from discussions with members what the basis for the division is. Some members indicated that it was due to this split that the first diesel engine for the water pump was stolen, and the village had to buy another one, through its own contribution. It was also due to this that attempts at two bores were stopped in the village when the dug well part of the scheme was being initiated (discussion with WCO members). A total of six to eight attempts were thus made before water was found. Members claim that households who are not part of the MCO have been invited a few times to join the MCO and WCO. This has happened in the wake of their not getting benefits from the scheme. However, these households have not joined either the MCO or the WCO. The MCO has now decided that its membership is closed to these households as is their access to piped water from the scheme. Clearly the water charges and access to water depend on social divisions within the village.

31. Regarding access of poor households to water, WCO members said that they subsidised poor households, allowing them to make late payments and also paid for them for months when they were not able to pay. These were households of mostly unemployed men, or men with irregular income. In order to 'pay back' their loans, most of these households provided labour to those they borrowed from or their women picked peanuts. The women were well aware that monthly charges are made to cover the cost of fuel for the pump as well as the 'engine watchman's salary'.

#### **Women Beneficiaries and the WCO**

32. It was clear that women in the village have their own social networks that assist poor women, despite male opposition to these poor women joining the WCO. Women of the village are most positively affected by the water scheme. Before the scheme was built, the women used to fetch water (for all purposes) on donkeys from a spring approx. 0.5 – 1.0 km away. Women also accessed water from four wells at varying distances from the village. They commonly washed clothes in small rainwater ponds nearby. Approx. 20-25 households who are non-members of the MCO and WCO still do so. However, water in the spring used to dry up frequently, whereas water in the wells was extremely brackish to drink. Women, young girls, and boys all fetched water. However, the young girls had more time as there was no 'girls' school in the village at that time, leaving them with more time to assist in this task. WCO members claim that their lives have changed after water has come to their households
33. Women said that water in their households has led to a cleaner environment as well as better personal hygiene. They are able to wash clothes more frequently, wash dishes and bathe their children and themselves. Some households have also installed latrines. The women said that young girls now had time to stitch clothes and were taught this skill by the LPRP. This skill was not restricted to WCO members. Approx. twenty member households had planted fruit trees and were able to water these easily. However, vegetables are generally not grown as the soil was not fertile enough.
34. The women were well aware that poor women, female-headed households and poor households needed to be subsidised. One very poor woman interviewed, whose husband had died twenty years ago, said that she did not pay bills regularly, and was subsidised by a male MCO member. Her daughter has learnt how to sew from WCO members trained by the LPRP, and will manage to earn some income for the household. Her daughter is not a member.
35. Regarding access to water by non-members, there was a mixed response from women members. However, it was clear that some non-member households were taking water from those households with taps, although this was not always appreciated by the 'non-member men'. Zahu Jna, for example, is not a member, and nor is her husband, but she accesses water from another household regularly, and pays Rs 130 per month for this service. Her husband was from the 'mullah' faction and had earlier joined the MCO. She said that this faction of the village had some members in the MCO when the scheme was planned. However, these members left the village due to infighting in the CO, as did her husband. Rahman Bibi on the other hand, used to access water, but due to disputes within the village, her household was asked to stop this by the MCO.

She now goes to the traditional water source approx. 0.5 km away to fetch water. The WCO members as well as non-member women said clearly that their options are based on the decisions taken by their menfolk, and that without the men's agreement, they cannot become WCO members or access water from the scheme.

## Practitioner Input – Part II

Input Record Number	0012II Ian Tod
9)	Held workshop to discuss water schemes for politicians and government staff Prepare case studies Prepare scoping study for water schemes in adjacent districts. Engage in discussions on National Water Plan
10)	Project monitoring system includes assessment of involvement of the poorest households.
11)	Long-term research is required to assess how poor households use the benefits of improved access to water.
12)	Develop tools to assess the social situation within a community of the likely success or failure of water schemes. Often schemes fail, due to social problems (as well as inappropriate technologies), and tools to help practitioners identify whether a scheme is likely to succeed or not, and also identify what needs to be done to help a scheme succeed.
13)	Tod, I C, Khan A and Khan S (2004) case studies of Four Water Conservation Schemes. Lachi Poverty Reduction Project, Lachi Kohat. November