

SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STOP for Child Protection Project

Supported by ERF
Final Report

2011

HOUSE 1812, STREET 10, SECTOR I-10/2, ISLAMABAD

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Foreword

Society for Sustainable Development is a National Civil Society Organization with its national office in Islamabad and four regional offices in three provinces of Pakistan. SSD is a nonprofit non government social welfare organization committed to work for development and uplift of the marginalized and vulnerable communities. Right Based Approach is the cornerstone of the strategy of SSD.

The massive floods of 2010 created havoc in almost all parts of the country. District D. I. Khan in the KPK, D. G. Khan in Punjab and Jaffarabad in Baluchistan were amongst worst affected areas. The whole population of these areas was affected in multiple ways. SSD started its emergency response soon after the disaster with immediate aim of helping the affected population to face the emergency.

Later on SSD approached ERF to support for a comprehensive child protection project covering many aspects of child protection with special focus on protection and promotion of child rights, strengthening of child protection systems in the three target districts and distribution of winter packages to save the children from the extreme and hostile weather. STOP for Child Protection Project was funded by ERF and started in January 2011.

Different components of the project include: establishment of child friendly spaces (CFSs), establishment and strengthening of child protection committees, strengthening of district commissions of child welfare and development, establishment of referral systems and distribution of winterization package. Following its policy of building local capacity and sustainability, SSD decided to work in collaboration with local partner organizations instead of working directly in the target areas. SSD has worked very closely with the partners providing consistent technical support and assistance, training, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation.

The document in your hand is the final report of the STOP project covering the time from January 2011 to June 2011. SSD is extremely thankful to all its partners in this project for their

constant support and backing. We are indebted to Ms. Maryam Farzanegan for her tremendous support and encouragement for the whole team of SSD. The successful completion of the project would not have been possible without the support the Child Protections Sub Cluster. We are obliged to Ms. Laksmitta, ERF Manager, for her support through all the phases of project.

Aftab Ahmed Awan
National Manager

Acknowledgements

SSD is indebted to Ms. Laksmi Noviera ERF Manager for her support and guidance throughout the process of project implementation.

The successful implementation of the project would not have been possible without the consistent support provided to us by the whole team of Child Protection Sub-cluster, especially the cluster coordinator Ms. Maryam Farzanegan, who not only provided guidance and support but was also a source of inspiration of the whole team of SSD.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work and effort of Mr. Nisar ul Husnain for compiling and finalizing the report. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Laiq Ahmad (Youth Front Pakistan, D. G. Khan) Mr. Watan Yar Khiliji (Ahsas-Pk Jafferabad) and Mr Noor-ul- Moin (SSD-D. I. Khan) for timely reporting and in preparation and compilation of this report

Mir Anwar Shahzad
Project Manager

Introduction to SSD

Vision

Pakistan as a country where development initiatives are rights based, gender sensitive, sustainable and owned by the disadvantaged, vulnerable, marginalized and disempowered communities

Mission

To support sustainable, co-ordinated, rights based and gender sensitive civil society actions for the development and progress of disadvantaged, vulnerable, marginalized and disempowered communities of Pakistan

Brief Profile of Society for Sustainable Development

Society for Sustainable Development is a Pakistani national level civil society organization with countrywide linkages and partnerships. SSD is committed to work for the uplift and development of disadvantaged, marginalized, vulnerable and disempowered communities. SSD has its head office in Islamabad and has local offices in Quetta, Chakwal, Dera Ismael Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Jafferabad. SSD believes that community involvement, participation and ownership is the cornerstone of sustainable development. The key strategic areas of SSD include: Child Protection, Human Rights, Increase awareness and access regarding MNCH services, Poverty Reduction, Increase awareness and build capacity regarding basic human rights and rights based approaches, Prevention and Control of communicable diseases including HIV, TB and malaria, Building Capacity of civil society organizations in best practices, Participatory Policy and Advocacy. Currently SSD is implementing an ERF funded child protection project in three provinces of Pakistan. SSD has worked several assignments and projects in the past and enjoys the services of well known experts in the field. SSD has worked with many national and international donor agencies and poses sound reputation high technical capacity and extensive linkages with the communities.

Introduction to the Project

Project Title:	STOP for Child Protection
Organisation:	<i>Executing Organization: Society for Sustainable Development (SSD) Partner Organization 1: Sawera Development Organization (SDO), DI Khan & SSD DI Khan Partner Organization 2: Youth Front Pakistan (YFP), DG Khan Partner Organization 3: AHSAS-PK, Jafferabad.</i>
Project Manager:	<i>Mir Anwar Shahzad</i>
Location of Project:	<i>Three union councils of Tehsil Jhatpat in District Jafferabad in Balochistan Three union councils of Tehsil Prova in District Dera Ismael Khan in KPK Three union councils of Tehsil and Dstrict Dera Ghazi Khan in Punjab</i>
Start Date:	<i>01/01/2011</i>
Date:	<i>30/06/2011</i>
Target Population:	Total:15,000 (Women: 6000; Boys: 5,000; Girls: 4000)

Jafferabad in Balochistan, D.I. Khan in Khyber Pakhtoonkawah and D.G. Khan in South Punjab are among the most affected districts in recent floods. According to initial assessment of WFP, the most affected district in Khyber Pakhtoonkawah is district D. I. Khan. The total population in need of assistance is 675,502. At least one third of these are children. In Jaffaraabad in Balochistan the population in need of assistance is more than 3 lakh. In Tehsil D.G. Khan of district D.G. Khan in south Punjab, 26 U/C's have been most affected by the flood. In 26 U/C's of Tehsil D.G. Khan the total Population affected is 520,233, among which there are 226,302 men, 205,492 women and 88439 children.

The people were forced to flee their homes and take refuge in camps, open spaces, embankments and on road side, leaving the children highly vulnerable and under the threat of physical harm compounded by the stress and trauma created by the emergency. Nearly all children and adolescents are displaying various symptoms of psychological distress such as withdrawal and an inability to concentrate. The flood produced significant emotional as well as

physical problems for children. The parents were feeling helpless in the aftermath of floods because of destroyed support systems. It was felt that there was a need to support and protect the child to return home safely without being exposed to abuse, exploitation and other risks.

Discussions with families returning to their homes revealed that reconstruction of houses, development of destroyed livelihood mechanisms and resettlement were the top priorities of the parents and families with little focus on psychosocial and emotional needs of children along with their needs of protection against violence and abuse. With the advent of winter season the problems being faced by the children and their families were compounded. In the absence of any means of livelihood, the families and parents were not in a position to meet the winterization need of the children. The children were exposed to extreme weather conditions without having proper protection. It was feared that severe weather would cause disease and illness like cold, flu, pneumonia, fever and other respiratory problems.

In fact there was complete lack of understanding of the probability of harm to children and of their requirements. These children needed to receive high levels of social support and rapidly establish a sense of stability and routine in their lives in order to cope with the stress and trauma of the disaster. There was also immediate need to work with children and communities through the framework of STOP to develop the capacity to withstand stress in a way that would allow self-confidence and social competence to increase through mastery and appropriate responsibility.

Society for Sustainable Development proposed to work in three union councils (Naiwala, Malwana and Lunda) of Tehsil Prova of district D.I.Khan Three union councils (Band Manak, Dera Allahyar- UC Circle - I and Dera Allahyar UC Circle - II) of tehsil jhatpat district Jaffarabad and three union councils (Ghousabad, Jhakar Imam Shah and Haji Ghazi) of Tehsil and district D.G. Khan. All these areas were among the most affected by the flood and all the infrastructure has been wiped out by the flood. Very few agencies were working at that time on issues of Child Protection in these areas. People had taken refuge in the camps and other open spaces but had now returned to their homes and villages which had been completely destroyed. There was complete ignorance about the needs and requirements of the children in the aftermath

of disaster and the children are prone to suffering immense psychosocial distress and personality disorders unless supported and guided through these times.

SSD proposed to address the issues identified above by providing psychosocial support to the children to establish a sense of routine in their lives in order to cope with the stress and trauma of disaster. SSD along with its partner organizations worked with the children and their families through the framework of STOP. STOP is internationally considered the best practice model for providing psycho social and emotional support to the children and their families going through the trauma of disasters and emergencies. STOP stands for S- Structure, T- Trust time talking, O- Opportunity to play and P- Play and partnership. Along with establishing CFS in the most affected areas, SSD established community based support system through social mobilization, formation of parents committees and development of referral linkages. SSD also established and strengthened child protection committees for monitoring the situation of vulnerable women and children. The project is being monitored through the framework of Community Based Monitoring (CBM). The project also aims strengthen DCCWDs (District Commission for Child Welfare and Development), which have previously been established by the provincial government but are not functioning properly.

Activities in brief

Output 1	Sustainable child protection systems are established including referral system in 9 union councils of three selected districts
Activity 1.0	Rapid assessment for identification of sites CFSs
Activity 1.1	Establishment 18 CFSs (2 per union councils in 9 union councils in 3 districts)
Activity 1.2	Registration of children at (least 50 % of the children will be girls)
Activity 1.3	Registration of women registered provision of psychosocial support through counselling sessions
Activity 1.4	Orientation sessions with children and women regarding disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and developing coping mechanisms
Activity 1.5	Referrals of women and children in need of further psychosocial support to district level support systems

Output 2	Children getting winterization package
Activity 2.0	Identification and listing of children in need of winterization package support
Activity 2.1	Distribution of winterization package (consisting of one pair of shoes, warm clothes, one jersey, tow warm socks one blanket) through CFSs
Output 3	Community resilience is strengthened to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation through sensitization, orientation, mentoring, group formation and community sessions
Activity 3.1	Formation of community child protection committees with at least 50 % participation of women
Activity 3.2	Orientation sessions with community on issues related to child protection, child rights, child rights violations, early marriages and needs of children during emergencies
Activity 3.3	Identification of representatives of communities for participation in DCCWDs
Output 4	Key child protection systems are strengthened in three districts of flood affected areas including referral services and referrals established
Activity 4.0	Mapping of existing services/service providers
Activity 4.1	Linkages development with DCCWDs in the target areas
Activity 4.2	Participation of public sector representatives in the sensitization sessions regarding issues of child protection
Activity 4.3	Representation of Community Child Protection committees member in the DCCWDs to establish referral mechanisms
Activity 4.4	Reporting and follow up of child abuse cases

Progress Report

<u>Output 1</u>	Sustainable child protection systems are established including referral system in 9 union councils of three selected districts
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Rapid assessment for identification of sites for CFS

Following an emergency, there was a great need to bring the affected population back to the normalcy as soon as possible. CFSs make it possible to establish daily routines, as well as to facilitate the resumption of customary activities by supporting children's resilience and well-being through community organized inter-sectoral activities conducted in a safe, stimulating environment. The process identification of CFS was started in the first phase at all the three targeted districts simultaneously, while identification of places for CFSs all the standards set by CP cluster were kept in mind,

The hiring of staff for CFSs & Training of project teams.

Keeping in view the nature of the project a highly motivated, well educated & a hardworking staff was hired at all the three districts, D.I.khan, D.G.Khan and Jaffarabad. Their technical capacity was built by conducting training workshops and giving them proper training on the CFS management & child rights. The training was provided to them by National Manager, Project Manager & Monitoring & Evolution Officer from time to time

Establishment of CFS

After the process completed the necessary requirements for the establishment of the CFS were done. During this process the some new construction were also done by the SSD & its IP,s because at many places in villages there was no concept of building the toilet rooms, but SSD ensured its construction in the buildings rented for CFS .

Registration of children

The registration of the child was started after the establishment of CFS. First of all more than five hundred children were identified and registered at each CFS, while registration of

the children for the enrolment in CFSs the children with disability, separated and children were given preference.

Activities at CFs

CFSs are aimed to uphold the psychosocial well being of children through the provision of varied physical, developmental activities, as well as stimulation and encourage interactive learning. The following activities were conducted at CFSs

Psychosocial Support:

All psychosocial support and programming is within the framework of the STOP-for child protection, Health & Psychosocial Guidelines in Emergency

Basic Literacy and Numeracy for non school going children

Life Skills Education

Informing about key issues including health, hygiene promotion, waste management, disaster preparedness, etc

Recreational Activities

Play and recreational activities for children, such as sports, arts and cultural activities are promoted to allow the children to temporarily forget their fears, worries and concerns.

In all the activities conducted in the CFS, the children with disability are included specially

Other supporting mechanisms of established CFS

Identification, registration, tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children:

6 unaccompanied and separated children were identified & registered at CFSs Jafferabad

Identification and registration of vulnerable children and referral

All vulnerable children such as children from very poor households, children with disabilities, children victims of sexual or physical abuse, working children etc. were identified and registered by CFS staff at all the targeted areas.

The Mobilization advocacy for Child Rights through Mass Media

The child rights were raised on the mass media in the local newspapers, & radio programs .in this regard to highlight the issues of child rights were highlighted by the print & electronic media. Mr. Mir Anwar Shahzad, project manager and National Manager Mr.Aftab Ahmad

participated in talk sessions at Radio Pakistan and other local and national newspapers in which they highlighted the issues focusing child protection.

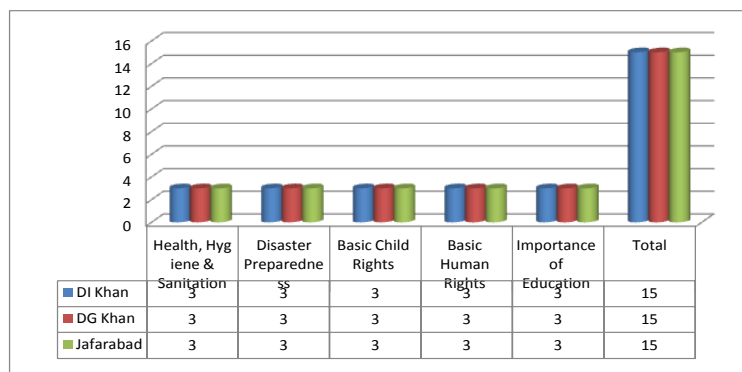
Orientation sessions

The orientation sessions were the important part of the social mobilization process (SMP) in the project STOP-for child protection. The objective of the orientation sessions with the community influential & child protection committee was to sensitize them about the child rights, emergency preparedness, health hygiene and sanitation, basic human rights.

The details of the orientation sessions with topic conducted at D. I. Khan, D. G. Khan and Jaffarabad is given in the table 1

Table 1: Details of Orientation Sessions

Description	DI Khan	DG Khan	Jaffarabad
Health, Hygiene & Sanitation	3	3	3
Disaster Preparedness	3	3	3
Basic Child Rights	3	3	3
Basic Human Rights	3	3	3
Importance of Education	3	3	3
Total	15	15	15

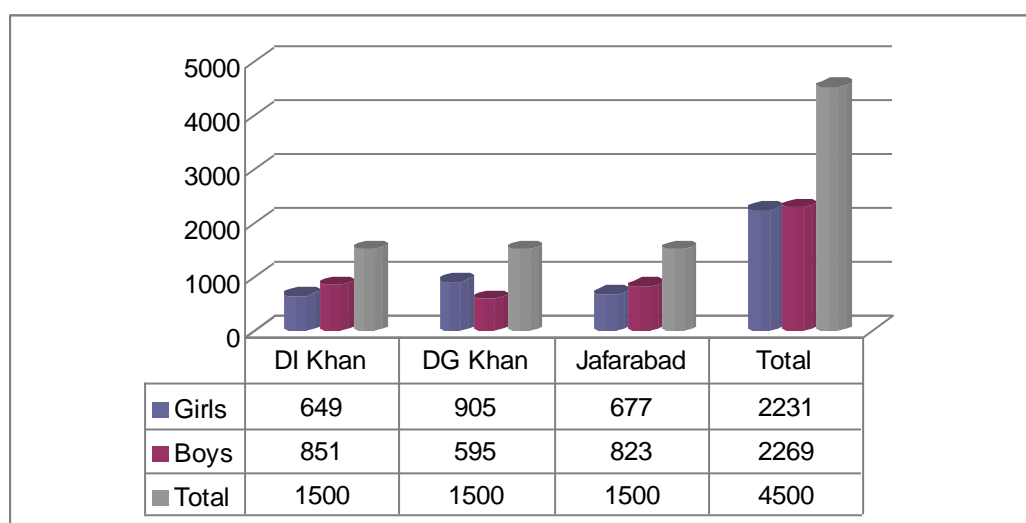


<u>Output 2</u>	<i>Children getting winterization package</i>
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Provision of the winterization package to 4500 children was one of the most important activities of the STOP for child protection project. The activity was conducted at all the three districts in the month of March. For distribution a strong mechanism was formulated. That’s why, despite many security concerns in D. I. Khan & Jaffarabad, it was carried out in very systematic and smooth way. Prior to distribution all the important details about the child was documented like their age, sex, father/parent CNIC and a then a token was issued to them. CFSs were used as the venue of the distribution at all the 18 places of 9 union councils of 3 districts of D. I. Khan, D. G. Khan & Jaffarabad. Every child got one pair of shoes, warm clothes, one jersey, two pair of socks and one blanket through CFSs. Total of 4500 child got the package according to the details provided in the table below.

Table 2: Distribution details

District	Girls	Boys	Total
D. I. Khan	649	851	1500
D. G. Khan	905	595	1500
Jaffarabad	677	823	1500
Total	2231	2269	4500



This initial support of extending NFI assistance to children of the most affected and economically deprived families has helped the targeted families to survive the emergency. The age wise detail is given in the table below

Table 3: Age wise distribution details

Boys/ Girls	DI Khan			DG Khan			Jaffarabad		
	5-8	9-12	13-15	5-8	9-12	13-15	5-8	9-12	13-15
Girls	471	164	14	657	229	19	492	171	14
Boys	541	290	20	378	203	14	523	281	19
Total	1012	454	34	1035	432	33	1015	452	34

<u>Output 3</u>	Community resilience is strengthened to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation through sensitization, orientation, mentoring, group formation and community sessions.
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Child Protection Committees

The role of child protection committee is very important for child protection projects. Activities of CFS are supported by Child Protection Committees (CPC) which consist of 10-15 community members. Parents, grandmothers, religious leaders, youth groups, and others are involved in the CPC. CPCs are supporting the functions of CFS and advocating for the rights of the children in the communities.

Table 4: Child Protection Committees and their constitution

Distri cts	No. of CP Committees	Adult Male members	Adult Female members	No. of children identified by CPC	
				Boys	Girls
DG khan	3	15	24	750	750
Jaffarabad	3	20	4	750	750
D. I. Khan	3	24	18	750	750

Coordination with other stakeholders:

The project was developed in complete consultation and coordination with child cluster coordinator. The draft project was shared with child cluster coordinator and feedback after the review was incorporated. The 2nd draft of the project was reviewed and approved by the child cluster coordinator.

The National Child cluster coordinator is member of the national steering committee of STOP-for child protection project.

The project teams are working in close coordination with Social Welfare Department in all three districts. The representatives of social welfare department and members of District Commissions of Child Welfare and Development are part of all orientation sessions. EDO Community Development or District Social Welfare Officers is the head of local steering committees established in targeted areas .There is a strong coordination with social welfare offices in all the three targeted areas

In this regard the project manager held meetings on regular basis with cluster coordinators at KPK, Punjab, Baluchistan and in Islamabad.

D. I. Khan

The staff holds coordination level meetings and has developed a referral mechanism with Social Welfare office, National Commission for Human Development NCHD, Village Development Program, Save The Children, Khoendo Kor and other humanitarian organizations.

Project Achievements

DI Khan

In D. I. Khan at Chah pahore where SSD has established its CFS, on the Demand of community a feeder girls primary school has been established by NCHD. SSD highlighted the issue and brought it in the notice of NCHD. After having several meetings with NCHD, SSD facilitated a Broad Based Community Meeting in the area where staff from NCHD assessed the need of the school after having meeting with the community. All the members of CPC established under the STOP project were present in the meeting and they thanked SSD for approaching NCHD for the opening of feeder school in their village.

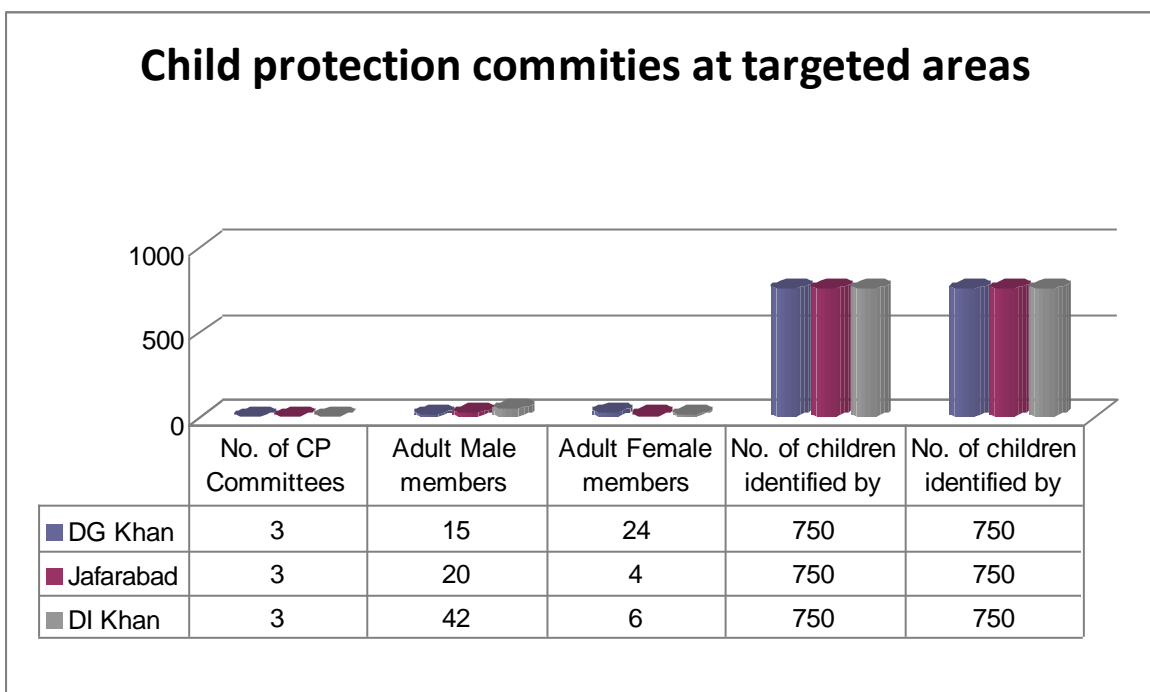
D. G. Khan

The project staff at D. G. Khan also has strong networking with EDO social welfare & other humanitarian organizations like UNOCHA, NCHD and other concerned organizations. The organization has identified many issues of child marriages and child sexual abuse and referred them to different organizations.

Jaffarabad

A strong networking was established in the Jaffarabad also, many meetings have been arranged with local bodies to discuss and address the issues related to child protection

In this regards, 2 cases of Child Sexual Abuse were identified and referred to DANISH which is an NGO working on the issues of CSA in Jafferabad



Output 4

Key child protection systems are strengthened in three districts of flood affected areas including referral services and referrals established

The linkages development with District Commission for Child Welfare and Development (DCCWD) and ensuring the representation of Community Child Protection committees' member in the DCCWDs to establish referral mechanisms were the important activities to ensure sustainability and strengthen the key child protection systems in three districts. In this regard the project team at D. I. Khan, D. G. Khan and Jaffarabad had meetings with local administration to get the notification of DCCWD. Although DCCWD had been notified at all these three districts yet at none of the place the body is functional. So it was decided that local coordination mechanisms will be established to ensure sustainable child protection systems in the districts. Meetings with stakeholders including local NGOs, line departments and other partners are going on regular basis to develop these mechanisms.

Monitoring & Evaluation of the project

SSD developed a strong mechanism to monitor and evaluate the activities their out puts and outcomes of the STOP-for child protection project in proper way.

SSD introduced community based monitoring system for the transparent and accountable monitoring and evaluation of the project. Following steps have been taken for the ensuring of the establishment of proper monitoring of the project

- Establishment of Community committees as part of community based monitoring CBM mechanism
- Orientation of community committees in CBM
- Meetings of the community committees for community based monitoring of the project
- Establishment of national and local Steering committees
- Bimonthly meetings of the local steering committees (One meeting of local committees held)
- Quarterly meetings of the national steering committees (One meeting held)
- Fortnightly visits of M&E officer of SSD to the field areas (4 visits of all project areas)
- Monitoring visits by Project Coordinator (3 visits of all the project areas)
- Monthly reporting

Mr. Khalid Fayyaz, Coordinator UN-OCHA D. I. Khan paid a monitoring visit to the Child friendly spaces in three union councils D. I. Khan. He has shown satisfaction on the activities going on. Monitoring & evaluation officer has been paying fortnightly visit to the field. National manager & project manager also visited at field time to time to monitor the progress of the project

Issues and challenges

SSD and its partners faced several challenges due to the particular dynamics and socio-cultural traditions of the target areas. Women participation and involvement has been extremely difficult. In all the child friendly spaces there are almost no girls above the age of 12 in any of the centres, as families are reluctant to send their girls to the centres due to cultural barriers. Moreover families see no incentives in sending their young girls to these spaces just for the sake of some orientation sessions or entertainment. Families have demanded that some separate spaces should be established for girls between the age of 13 and 18 and activities should also include some skill development for the young girls.

Similarly encouraging women participation in the child protection committees has also proved very challenging and required lot of community mobilization. Despite the fact SSD and the partners had to opt for separate child protection committees for women and children in D. I. Khan and Jafferabad.

Strengthening of DDCWDs is another important objective of the project to ensure sustainable child protection systems in the districts. Yet there are several challenges which have been faced by SSD and its partners. DCCWDs are bodies notified by provincial governments several years ago. The members notified for the DCCWDs are not available anymore as some have been transferred and some ex Nazims and counsellors are no more part of local government system. Therefore the DCCWDs are practically nonexistent. Even some of the current District Social Welfare Officers are not aware of the existence of any such structures. Therefore it has proved extremely difficult to strengthen and build the capacity of the DCCWDs. In order to overcome this problem, SSD through its partners has established alternative systems by establishing child protection working groups at district level consisting of community representatives and NGOs working on the similar issues so that a forum is available to take up these issues.

Delay in issuance of NoC has proved have proved a great obstacle in provision of timely and quality services to target communities especially in distinct Dera Ismael Khan. Despite completing all the requirements and providing all the documents, organizations have to wait for months to get clearance from the concerned security agencies. These delays are especially

harmful in cases of emergency where services are required immediately and can't wait for the issuance of NoC and other requirements. The process needs to be simplified and less time taking.

Some of the other smaller challenges included:

- Blockage of communication channels like mobile phone in D. I. Khan due to military operation, which made communication with all the stakeholders difficult at the time
- Extreme poverty in the target areas which made it quite difficult to identify children for provision of winterization package as almost all of the children were equally vulnerable and deserving but lack of resources did not permit distribution to all.
- Limited role of women in decision making process
- Far flung and spread Union councils.
- Security threats especially kidnapping of social activists during the field in Baluchistan
- Destruction of Road Communications to all the areas which hindered access and out reach