

## Lasbela: focus district for intensive evidence-based planning in Pakistan

### Progress Report - 2005

#### Lasbela:

Area: 12574 Sq Km  
Population:  
Tehsils: 4  
Union Councils: 21  
General location: Makran region of Balochistan close to Karachi in Sindh



Lasbela in Balochistan is close to Karachi in Sindh. In April 2003, the Balochistan Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Governor, Provincial Officer of Police, and ministers, together with the Nazim of Lasbela district, attended a meeting with the Chairman of the Government of Pakistan National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) in Karachi and heard a presentation about the national baseline social audit, including findings from Lasbela. They endorsed the choice of Lasbela as a focus district.

Lasbela was the first district to participate in the focus district scheme and began its first cycle in 2003. In 2004/5, Lasbela is undertaking its second social audit cycle while the other four focus districts (Khairpur, Haripur, Khanewal and Sialkot) are undertaking their first cycle.

#### First Lasbela cycle 2003-4

##### *Design and set-up phase*

In April 2003, CIET conducted an orientation workshop about the social audit process in Uthal, Lasbela, attended by the Zila Nazim, the Zila Naib Nazim, the District Coordinating Officer (DCO), District Executive Officers (DEOs), Tehsil and Union Nazims, and representatives of CCBs, NGOs and the media. CIET also held planning meetings with district officials. The Nazim and his team warmly welcomed the social audit process. This meeting identified a group of focal persons from the district, including Tehsil and Union Council representatives. Headed by the District Nazim, this group became the steering committee for the social audit in Lasbela. The district also showed its commitment to the social audit by identifying a building in Uthal to serve as the CIET district coordination office.



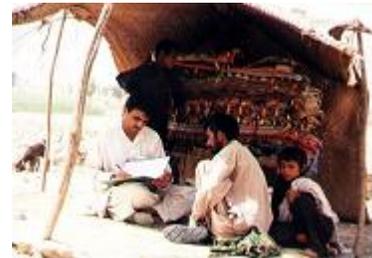
DCO, Zila Nazim and Zila Naib Nazim, Lasbela  
Photo: CIET, N Ansari

CIET conducted the design process in Lasbela in an interactive manner, drawing in the government at district and sub-district levels, as well as civil society. In a series of priority setting meetings organized by CIET at district, tehsil and union councils levels in April 2003 and June 2003, the district government chose drinking and irrigation water as the specific focus for the first social audit in the district. Subsequent meetings organized by CIET between district government focal points increased local ownership, with local partners contributing knowledge and expertise on water and irrigation to instrument design.

The district government focal points helped CIET to identify a stratified random sample of communities. It included 30 communities across the four tehsils: Uthal, Bela, Hub and Dureji.

#### *Data collection, analysis and use*

During August and September 2003, field team members, suggested by the focal persons, helped in piloting and fine-tuning of survey instruments. CIET trained 20 local women and men in data gathering. The CIET team completed data collection, data entry and preliminary analysis by the beginning of November 2003.



Data collection in Lasbela, 2003

CIET held meetings at the district, tehsil and union council levels to present and discuss the findings with the district officials dealing with water services, to prepare for the analysis of risk and resilience factors related to the outcomes. The further analysis was finalized by CIET in March 2004. Field teams re-visited the sample communities across the district to facilitate and record focus group discussions from March to May 2004.

Through a series of systematically convened workshops and meetings, the workshopping process increased interaction around evidence at district, tehsil and union council levels. CIET held a final plenary workshop in August 2004 for evidence-based action planning in the district council hall at Uthal that was jointly presided over by the district nazim and the naib nazim. Participants discussed the action plans and recommendations that working groups had drawn up.

In order to support government officials in their dealings with the media and to orient journalists about the social audit, CIET organized, with the district government, a training workshop for government officers. The press is involved in all social audit activities in Lasbela and has provided media coverage of the process and the findings.



In January 2005 in Uthal, CIET launched the report of the first Lasbela cycle 2003-4. The Governor of Balochistan and the Chairman of the Government of Pakistan National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) attended the ceremony.

## Second Lasbela Cycle 2004-5

CIET held preliminary discussions about the second Lasbela cycle with key individuals in the district in November 2004. The topic for the second cycle is health and, in particular, childhood immunization. The immunization rates in Lasbela are very low, even for Balochistan. The health department suggested important issues to include in a cycle on childhood immunization.



Data collection in Lasbela, 2005

The CIET team and district focal points arranged design meetings in December 2004 that led to the drafting and testing of field instruments in January 2005. CIET conducted detailed training of field teams in mid-January 2005. The teams began work from mid-March and continued to mid-April 2005, collecting data from households in communities all over the district. Feedback and discussion of findings began in the second half of 2005.