Prime Minister launches national social audit report

Islamabad Sept 2005

CIET is contracted[1] to carry out annual social audits over five years, in order to track the effects of devolution on governance and public views, use, and experience of key public services in Pakistan. On 12 September 2005, the Prime Minister of Pakistan was the chief guest at a meeting in Islamabad to launch the report of the CIET 2004/5 social audit of governance and delivery of public services.

CCB members attending the report launch

The event was attended by ministers, federal and provincial secretaries and other senior provincial officials, representatives of donors, district and *tehsil* (sub-district) officials, some 2000 members of citizen community boards (CCBs) from districts across the country, and media representatives. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Shaukat Aziz, was the chief guest at the meeting hosted by the chairman of the National Reconstruction Bureau and of DTCE, Mr Daniyal Aziz.

Dr Khalid Omer of CIET in Pakistan presented findings of the 2004/5 national social audit, comparing public services in 2004 with 2001/2. The social audit of 2004/5 covers nearly 54,000 households, representing 424,841 people in all districts of Pakistan. Many services are moving in the right direction, with increases in public satisfaction and perceived access to services, as well as improvements in more objective indicators such as school enrolment. People are using their local governments, turning to the union *nazim* or a councillor for community needs, and using union council mechanisms to solve legal matters. The challenge is to make sure that the most disadvantaged in society – women, the poorest, the uneducated – can also benefit. At the moment they are not engaging with the new governments or participating in civic life as much as men and people from more educated, less vulnerable households. The

[1] A number of donors provide funding for the social audit, including the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and others through their funding of the Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment (DTCE) via the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan.

report covers local government and citizen participation, basic services, health services, education, and police and courts.

The Prime Minister remarked on the increasing strength of the local government system. The potential to create a friendlier relationship between the government and the people can be tracked through the CIET social audit, as can the need to increase people's participation in governance.

The prime minister, chairman & members of DTCE board

Mr Jam Kamal, the *nazim* (mayor) of Lasbela district, gave an overview of the experience with social audit supporting evidence-based planning in his district.

Click here to download a copy of the 2004/5 national social audit from the library page.