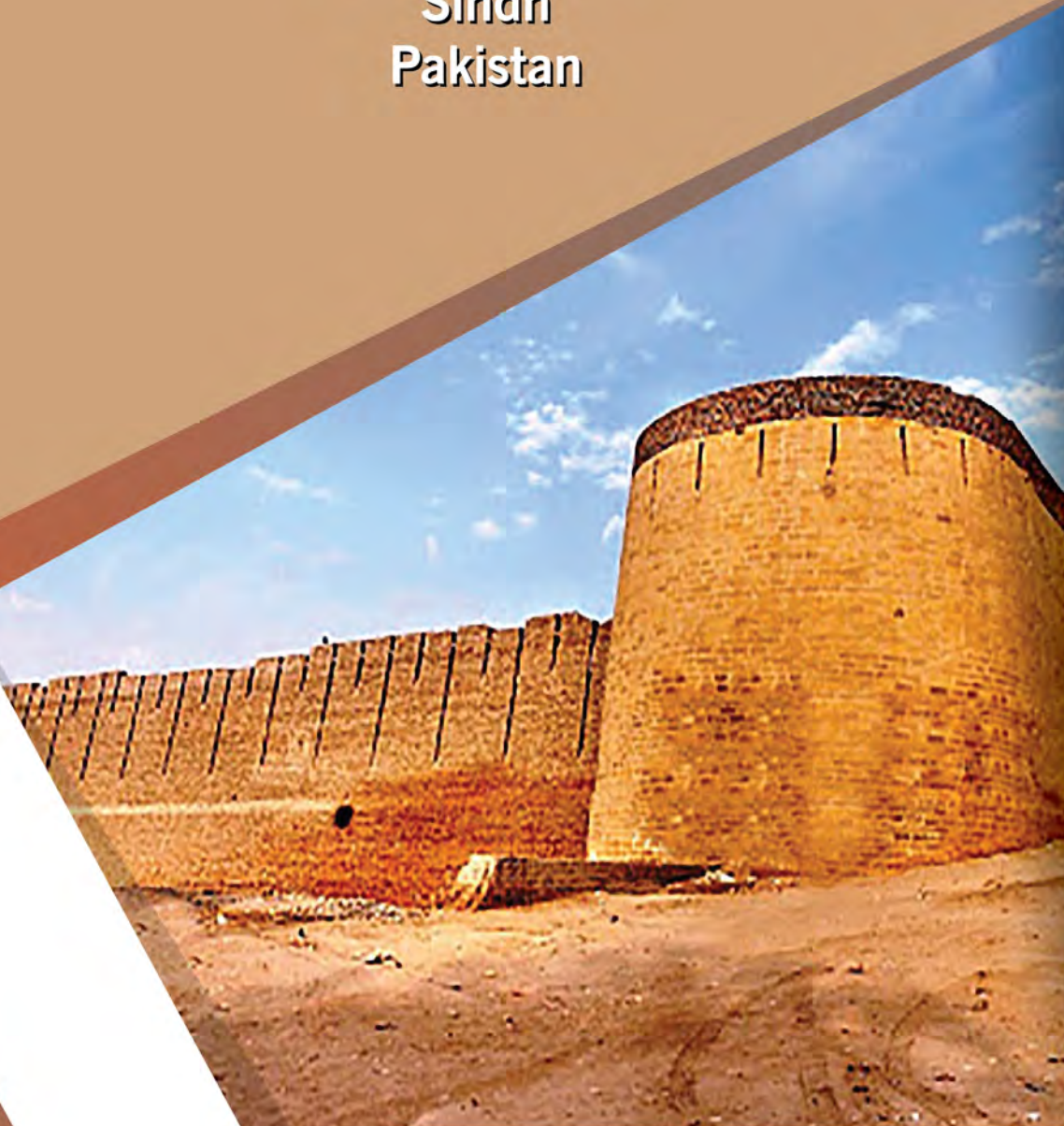


March 2019

Seasonal Livelihood Programming

District Umarkot
Sindh
Pakistan



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ISBN: 978-969-7672-07-3

We appreciate your feedback

Questions and comments concerning this publication may be addressed to the Deputy Commissioner District Umarkot, Sindhvide contact details given below.

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PREFACE

Administratively, Umarkot is divided into 4 Talukas, (Umarkot, Samaro, Kunri, Pitharo), 44 Union Councils and 235 Mouzas. The Eastern part of the district is covered by the *Thar* Desert. The area is rain-fed with limited irrigation practices. The western irrigated areas of the district include Pitharo, Sumaro, Kunri and parts of Umarkot. The district is susceptible both to floods and droughts. The western irrigated areas are prone to riverine floods, while the eastern parts covered by *Thar* Desert are drought prone.

To overcome both the chronic and acute issues of food insecurity and malnutrition and to avoid extreme negative coping mechanisms due to recurring shocks of flood and drought, there is a need to act holistically. It is essential to develop a thorough understanding of the prevailing situation, and plan accordingly to work on several fronts in support of the government.

With support of the district government, World Food Programme conducted five days Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) consultative workshop, from 18-22 March 2019 for district Umarkot. Aim of the workshop is to design and promote coordination of multiyear and multisectoral programmes, taking into account aspects of integration, complementarity, sequencing and partnership. The idea is to realign different programmes in the district with national and local priorities. The SLP workshop was attended by representatives from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA) Sindh, Nutrition Support Programme, Deputy Commissioner Umarkot and representatives of district line departments including Health, Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock, Education, Population Welfare, Sindh Agriculture University, Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI), representatives from the farmers and communities. The workshop was also attended by the representatives from NGOs working in the area including AWARE Pakistan, Concern Worldwide, HANDS, WHH, SIF, CWS, BISP, SRSO, PPHI, and FAO.

For the district authority and line departments, the Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) is a meaningful tool particularly in helping us improve the planning process and programme delivery for sustainable results. In addition, SLP will be instrumental in strengthening coordination among our line departments and partners and will assist to design integrated multi-sector longer-term operational plans. The tool will inform on which programmes should be implemented where, when, for whom, and by which partners. Furthermore, SLP will significantly contribute to developing multi-year plans and designing policies to support sustainable development of the district and ensure food security of the population during typical and adverse years.

On behalf of district Government, I would like to extend my thanks to the World Food Programme for their support on completing the Seasonal Livelihood Programming process for district Umarkot. The report will contribute towards building capacity of concerned line departments, stakeholders and sectors in developing evidence-based programmes aligned with the seasonal challenges in the district.

Deputy Commissioner
District Umarkot, Sindh



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The findings in this report are based on a multi-layer consultative process involving concerned officials from Federal, Provincial and District Governments, representatives of communities from Taluka Umarkot, Samaro, Pitharo and Kunri, Academia, NGOs and UN Agencies. The goal of the consultation was to produce Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) products to support the local authorities, government departments and local communities in the district as well as to inform and strengthen the designing, planning, integration and linkages between existing and new interventions in the District. The specific objective was to discuss and identify major livelihood domains in the district, the time of the year in which they occur, and how they affect people and programming including times of challenges and opportunities.

The discussion points during the consultation mainly included; historical timelines of typical, bad and good years to determine the frequency of and exposure to such years. This was followed by discussions on major events which affect livelihoods, to identify periods where external support may be required and the broad programmatic options that could be considered. This exercise was done for both typical and bad years and, where relevant, captured specific livelihood activities by gender to further inform programme responses.

Broadly, the livelihood domains that were discussed included **Food** (times of labour and production), **Nutrition and Diet** (availability and access to food stocks, diversity of food stuffs), **Income** (sources and expenditure patterns), **Diseases** (human, animals, crops), **Access to Basic Essential Services** (health, education, communication, basic goods and road infrastructure), **Environmental Issues** (conditions of rangelands, pollution and deforestation,) and **Non Tangible or Social Issues** (events/ceremonies, good and bad behaviours, security and peace).

The process also identified on-going programmes and the implementing partners, together with discussions on how these could be further complemented by greater alignment across sectors. Other potential activities that are not being done but could be considered in the district were identified as potential programmes and activity gaps.

The consultation resulted in production of SLP calendars for a typical year and a bad year for the district. The Seasonal Livelihood Calendar provides the following information:

- Identify and map different types of shocks, its frequency and impact that require immediate and long-term responses;
- Identify recovery period after a shock or repeated shocks;
- Create a shared understanding of people's livelihoods in the district;
- Identify times of the year when conditions are more conducive for households:
 1. To make successful investments (engage in/invest in activities that increases or adds value to the assets);
 2. When preparedness efforts are required to reduce coming hardships, and;
 3. When there are greatest risks to livelihoods (protect lives and livelihoods, safeguard investments and development gains).
- Identify relevant integrated programme packages following a shock or a bad year taking into consideration categories of the previous years;
- Improve targeting and selection criteria for different programme interventions;

- Mainstream cross-cutting issues such as gender, climate change, technology and protection;
- Identify programme gaps and opportunities in the district;
- Improve complementarity and coordination in terms of planning, partnership in resourcing and provision of technical support (implementation); and,
- Promote sequencing of programme activities that require implementation i.e. understanding what activities to do, during what time of the year and type of support required.

This information was collected for typical and bad years to facilitate longer-term, multi-year planning considering programming changes in different sectors between typical and bad years. The key points arising from the discussions were captured and placed into a seasonal livelihood calendar of events, as a visual to show how they come together. By covering these elements for a typical and a bad year, the outputs of this consultation offer a practical framework to develop and coordinate multi-year plans and consolidate resilience building and social protection efforts, among others.

It is hoped that the outcomes of this consultative process will offer a useful planning tool for district authorities, communities and developmental partners operating in district Umarkot and beyond, in aligning future (or implementation of current) programmes with the findings from this consultative action process.

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