

## **Drought Emergency Relief Assistance-II (DERA-II) Program:**

The major objective of the 2nd phase will be to provide a systematic thrust to rehabilitate the drought prone district/areas and to further alleviate the impact of drought by developing drought management strategy over a longer period, reviving the agrarian economy, employment generation by implementing labour intensive programmes and environment improvement through replication of proven strategy of DERA-I. The coverage of the programme would also be extended to the left over drought-affected areas in provinces, AJ&K, FANA, FATA and ICT.

### **Key areas**

Following are the key areas which are covered under DERA-II programme: -

- i. Water Management both for irrigation and drinking purposes.
- ii. Opening of new area by developing road linkages.

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- iii. Capacity building of the implementing units at various levels.
- iv. Agriculture Sector development such as land levelling, crop protection, biodegradable technology, provision of fertilizer, pesticides, high yielding drought resistant seed varieties etc.
- v. Employment generation
- vi. Gender equity, industrial homes, cottage industry etc.
- vii. Environment improvement
- viii. Livestock and dairy Development
- ix. Afforestation, range and watershed management soil conservation
- x. Development of drought management strategy for short, medium and longer period.

The total outlay of DERA-II is estimated at Rs 30.0 billion for the next five years, which will be shared between federal, AJ&K and provincial stakeholder on the bases of severity of the drought

and demand driver schemes. Since the programme will be implemented at the to gross root local by the district government, the physical targets are not yet quantified.

### **National Program for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation**

This programme is also known as Prime Minister's programme. The Program aims to radically expand coverage of social mobilization in upto 2000 Union Councils (of a total of 6,022UCs) of the country, in the 5 year Plan period, and use that as a platform and conduit to deliver an array of socio-economic development initiatives, using the Rural Support Programs (RSPs) and provincial and district line departments to execute the program. The Program will consciously include the rural poor in its interventions. Using the RSPs organisational structures, provincial and district line departments and the broad based community organisations formed, the program will include interventions of small scale physical infrastructure schemes, skills training for unemployed educated youth, training of livestock and agriculture extension workers, microfinance, adult literacy, TBA (traditional birth attendant) training, grants for enterprise to the non-productive poor, etc. The program is designed on a modular format, with one Union Council as the model base, offering flexibility to choose any number of Union Councils as resources allow. The program will take up massive development activities at the household and 'Mohalla' level with the focused objective of poverty alleviation through an integrated and holistic approach. This requires additional funding and a change in current management arrangements of RSPs: currently RSPs operate from a tehsil level, this operation will be devolved further and brought down to the Markaz level (4 UCs) with offices in each union council, based upon the District Support Organisation approach. The overall Program will include a national adult literacy program, to be executed by RSPs and the National Commission for Human Development, and a national livestock support program to be executed by RSPs and provincial livestock departments (Govt. of Pak. 2005).

## **Khushal Pakistan Programme**

Government's recent Khushal Pakistan Programme incorporates active community participation in programme selection. Funds are allocated under the Programme to the districts through provincial governments, the schemes under the Programme are identified and selected at the district level through active community participation, and the projects are managed and implemented in partnership with the communities. While systematic evaluations of the recently-launched Khushal Programme are not yet available, the programme needs some basic changes in its design and implementation in order for it to attain its poverty alleviation objectives. These include ensuring targeting efficiency, maximizing employment and stabilization benefits, and creating community infrastructure beneficial to the poor. Khushhal Pakistan Program (formerly known as Integrated Rural and Urban Development Program). Under this programme a total of 9,899 development schemes have been approved all over the country, out of which 4,746 schemes have been completed. The remaining schemes are at different stages of completion. This program will not only create employment opportunities but also help in improving the living conditions of millions of the poor in the country. The Khushhal Pakistan Program basically covers small public works both in urban and rural areas (APO, 2004).

### **Focus Areas**

Following are the main focus areas of this program:

- (i) Farm to market roads
- (ii) Water supply schemes
- (iii) Lining of water channels and desilting of canals
- (iv) Repair and resurfacing of small rural roads
- (v) Ponds

- (vi) Pavement of streets, drains and storm channels in villages
- (vii) Improvement of schools
- (viii) Small soil conservation structures and spurs
- (ix) Sewerage and garbage collection
- (x) Provision and renovation of civic amenities
- (xi) Equipment/machinery for vocational centers and
- (xii) Village electrification.

### **Weakness of Khushal Pakistan Programme**

The audit report of the Auditor General of Pakistan declared that irregularities and mismanagement of allocated funds frustrated the Khushal Pakistan programme despite the fact that Rs 500 million were released for different projects under the programme.