

## Grant from 2008 Special Opportunities & Investment Fund

### Public Policy – A Sustainable Development Policy Program

#### *Final Report*

LEAD Pakistan was granted US 40,000 from the Special Opportunities and Investment Fund in January 2008. The fund aimed at positioning LEAD Pakistan to build on its strengths and raise resources for policy-oriented sustainable development interventions and projects. Most of the work in the public policy arena was developed around the theme of Climate Change. The initial months involved setting the stage and building our own capacity, niche and outreach in the arena of Climate Change and Public Policy. A summary of the activities carried out until August 2008 were reported in the mid term report.

To date, all the activities that have been carried out have a single purpose in mind – to bring about some policy change through a multi-stakeholder approach. At the end of the project, a multitude of endeavors were undertaken and multi-stakeholders were involved during the process. A number of strategic partnerships and alliances were built that will go a long way for our sustainability and further work in the arena of public policy.

During the last two quarters of the project period, the emphasis was to work around two key areas a) Public Policy Programme b) Public Policy for Climate Change and c) Grass Root level Public Policy. The following is a summary of the activities that have been carried out with support from SOIF:

#### Public Policy Programme:

- Public Policy programme was drafted, comments were requested from various quarters, action plan was developed and the same was approved by the board. Based on the programme, it was taken up as a main thread and was integrated with Climate Change.
- Based on the Public Policy outline, compass notes have been drafted on two main themes: Environmental Management Services and Grassroot Social Capital Formation. These draft notes have been circulated inhouse for feedback and comments.
- Based on the various projects being carried out by LEAD, various policy researches were developed during the year. These are in the formatting and editing process and are aimed to be out in the first quarter of 2009. These have been developed on various themes relating Public Policy with Education, Health, Disasters and Community Development. In this context, the citizen's report on the state of Reproductive Health is a policy brief that will be one of the achievements to link Public Policy and Health for policy recommendations.

#### Public Policy for Climate Change

- Based on the public policy outline, a draft of the Climate Change Programme has been developed and shared with stakeholders to provide feedback. The programme has been based on several internal and external consultations and expert focus group discussions. An action plan will be developed subsequently that will cover the next five year period with specific outcomes and indicators. Donors and potential partners will also be engaged for technical and financial support.

- To operationalize the Climate Change Programme, Memorandum of Understandings have been signed with Global Change Impact Study Center and Pakistan Metrological Department.
- Based on the initial work done in the arena of Climate Change, one of the major achievements was that LEAD Pakistan was selected as a Member of the Task Force on Climate Change set up by the Planning Commission of Pakistan. LEAD is the only non-profit being inducted in the Task Force and is entrusted to work in the area of Public Policy and Capacity Building.
- A Corporate Summit is being organized on Climate Change (in Feb 2009) to engage corporations towards this important issue. A concept note was developed during the last quarter of 2008 and has been shared with atleast twenty corporations in the country to solicit support. Several meetings have also been conducted to take the issue to the forefront and develop case studies on the work that has been done in Pakistan on Climate Change.
- An Occasional Paper on *Corporate Responses to Climate Change in Pakistan* was designed, researched and developed by LEAD. This paper empirically reviews the implications and response towards climate change of the most energy-intensive industrial sectors in Pakistan. For this undertaking, a survey of 72 companies across various sectors in Pakistan and 14 interviews of key stakeholder were carried out. The same research will be presented during the Corporate Summit.
- As part of the Leadership Development Programme on Climate Change – The Leadership Journey – the national training session was organized in the third quarter of 2008. It was titled Climate Change: Exploring New Options for Alternative Energy, Livelihoods and Lifestyles.
- The first meeting of the National Network on Climate Change (a forum of almost 9 key organizations working on Climate Change issues at various levels) was convened to provide feedback on how should the Climate agenda be taken forward.
- An e-mail based debate was initiated on Biofuels through the Knowledge Network on Climate Change (an e-mail based forum with more than 230 members who are active in discussion on issues related to Climate Change). Dina Khan (Fellow, Cohort 12) moderated the discussion and the result has been that a policy dialogue is on the horizon to take the issue of Policy Recommendation on Biofuels and alternatives.
- The Climate Change website developed is being updated regularly. It has all the information on projects and activities being carried out by LEAD under Climate Change.

#### Grass Root level Public Policy

- Inline with the Public Policy programme, twelve Public Support Forums (PSFs) were established at the local level in Mansehra, NWFP, Pakistan whose primary role has been upward advocacy campaigns on the rights of the communities and downward advocacy campaigns on international best practices related to public policy and climate change.

Policy forums were organized on Disasters and Climate Change. Trainings Modules were also designed and delivered to these PSFs.

- Three case studies have been developed on our grassroots work on public policy at local and government level. These cases look at partnership at government, community and gender issues.

Fellows and Associates from various cohorts have been involved in the process. Dina Khan (Cohort 12) is spearheading the Climate Change and Public Policy program. Amjad Zafar Khan (Cohort 10) is looking after integrating Public Policy at grassroots initiatives within LEAD. Arslan Zaidi (Cohort 13), Sabeen Mahmood (Cohort 13), Frida Khan (Cohort 12), Hyder Sher (Cohort 12) and Naseer Memon (Cohort 8) have been involved in the discussion, program development, policy dialogues, training design and delivery.

In conducting all these activities mentioned above, LEAD Pakistan was able to gather support (financial as well as technical) from a good number of organizations and institutions. LEAD was able to forge partnership from British High Commission, Oxfam Novib and various ministries including Ministry of Environment and the Planning Commission.