POST CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH IN REMOTE AREAS OF BALOCHISTAN

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Abstract

The Balochistan province has witnessed many insurgencies, over the years, followed each time by an uneasy calm. Historically, these insurgencies have started from relatively inaccessible areas where the writ of the state is weak, which allows miscreants to exploit the feelings of deprivation prevalent within population. This study conjectures that a long lasting peace is not possible in the province unless the core issue of deprivation is not addressed in a meaningful way. It is proposed that the adoption of the human security framework (HSF) developed by the United Nations may be one of the viable options to address this issue which has already been successfully implemented in various countries. The task is no doubt challenging for civil administration, owing to its inability to provide and protect public goods in remote areas, nonetheless the implementation of HSF through a civil-military cooperation (CMIC) is expected to prove as an alternative for civil protection and economic and social stability of the population. This study aims to analyze whether HSF may be effectively implemented in the remote areas of Bolochistan through informal civil-military cooperation. A remote village, Sangan, located in the Sibi district of Balochistan is taken as a case study for this purpose. The study endeavored to collect primary data pertaining to basic facets of life and the progress made in the village through on ground surveys, interactions with local population, and seeking input from civil and military administrations. The analysis reveals that CMIC has contributed significantly towards improving the socio-economic wellbeing of the local population through small, yet inclusive gestures.

Keywords: Human Security, Post-Conflict Development, Remote Areas, Civil Military Cooperation.

Introduction

In terms of area, Balochistan is the largest but relatively underdeveloped and sparsely populated province of Pakistan where numerous pockets of population are traditionally settled along some of the existing watercourses. Due to vastness of its terrain, infrastructure and other facilities are limited or non-existent. The quality of life, especially in remote areas, is far below the acceptable minimum standard. Because of the low level of social and economic

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well-being and scarcity of employment opportunities, the residents of this province are exposed to economic hardships leading to civil unrest.[1] Over the years, the province has witnessed many insurgencies followed each time by an uneasy calm.[2] It has been witnessed that the unrest and insurgencies in the province start from relatively inaccessible areas where the writ of the state is rather weak which allows the trouble mongers to exploit the feelings of deprivation amongst the population.[3] Without timely control and remedial actions, the unrest often spreads to relatively safer parts of the province as well. The evidence confirms that, once such situation is ignited, these troublemakers are able to find support from anti-state elements for their nefarious designs.

Various theories of civil conflict postulate that insurgency and violence relies primarily on militants' ability to recruit additional members and stall intelligence support to government institutions. Gradually, the civil administrative setup collapses and anarchy starts to prevail. To start with, efforts are made to restore law and order with the help of police and other law enforcing agencies (LEA), however upon their failure, assistance is sought from armed forces to confront and defeat militants and restore peace in the region.

The introduction of military and its incongruity with civilian organizations usually leads to an atmosphere of apprehension and mutual mistrust. Consequently, friction caused by overlapping mandates and operational responsibilities become detrimental to peace building in several cases. In order to resolve the issue, a formal form of coordination through CIMIC has occurred. CMIC allows coordination between civil and military organizations by clear demarcation of responsibilities and cooperation between both organizations. This arrangement is being used quite frequently at various places around the world including Afghanistan by the Canadian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).[4]

In August 2005, Canada along with other NATO countries deployed a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Afghanistan. The PRT concept was evolved recognizing that mere use of force will ignite the conflict rather than resolving underlying problems and emphasized on utilizing a small military unit to improve conditions in local communities. PRT constituted 50 to 150 personnel comprising both military and civilian elements to support Afghan Government in the development of a more stable and secure environment in Afghanistan. PRT team from Canada performed various tasks including joint patrolling and training of Afghan National Police. They also undertook various initiatives including construction of Police stations and uplift of Kandahar University. Their performance in establishing writ of Afghan Government remained moderately successful, however, their performance in national rebuilding remained less successful.

As illustrated by the Canadian PRT example, the entire process is not free from operational challenges and criticism during various phases of post conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement. Those with strong opinions often label it as militarization or securitization of development.[5]

As an alternative, the United Nations has developed the Human Security framework (HSF)[6] which emphasizes on reducing all kind of insecurities of the population and allowing them freedom from fear, want and ability to live with dignity. The successful implementation of this framework allows better integration of conflict zones with mainstream and is essential for achieving the UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this framework, the main responsibility of providing human security in post conflict areas lies with the civil administration with an active support from military. These forces then collaborate with civil administration for post conflict development through an arrangement that is referred to in the literature as the civil-military cooperation (CMIC) framework.[7]

The CMIC is a comprehensive program that is being followed in various remote areas of Balochistan to bring lasting peace to the province. It is conjectured that efforts to improve socio-economic situation of an area and its population within the human security framework reduce uncertainty and unrest that lead to agitation and disruption of economic life. To establish this point, a remote village, Sangan, located in the Sibi district of Balochistan has been selected as a case study, where an informal civil-military cooperation has contributed significantly towards improving socio-economic wellbeing of the local population through small, yet inclusive gestures. As a result, the perception of the population has changed favorably, despite the ongoing financial and infrastructure constraints faced by the government. It needs to be highlighted that non-availability of credible data is the biggest challenge for any meaningful research work for remote areas that have experienced repeated episodes of unrest. Despite these difficulties, we have endeavored to collect primary data pertaining to basic facets of life and the progress made in the village through on ground surveys, interactions with local population, and seeking input from civil and military administrations.

The paper is organized as follows. After introduction, the human security and post development process is explained followed by a brief historical perspective of the conflict in Balochistan in general, and Sibi in particular. Later on, the process and the outcome of implementation of HSF in Sangan through civil military cooperation is analyzed.

Human Security Framework

Conflicts usually arise due to poor governance and misrule.[8] Social injustice, poverty, and lack of access to basic facilities encourage individuals and groups

of people to use radical means to get their rights.[9] Citizens cede to state hegemony only if it abides by social contract and provides them necessities such as security, public service, quality education and reasonable economic condition in return. It is argued that failure in the provision of essentials of life by state or society often leads to deprivation.[10] The evidence confirms that many social upheavals have their roots in a collective feeling of deprivation.[11] Failure of the state to provide basic economic facilities, including security, encourages non-state actors to fill the gap. The conflict usually commences from the fringes of the society where the writ of state is tenuous and later on engulfs the whole society, feeding on the underlying resentment and social injustice. The ensuing law and order situation warrants a kinetic prong to subdue the conflict. In order to protect against relapse into conflict, resolution of underlying difficulties which lead to conflict needs to be corrected.[12] Thus, the post conflict development is a challenging task which requires good governance and breaking the nexus between poverty, underdevelopment and violent conflict. The problems are more daunting in remote areas where state has limited resources and difficult outreach.

The term security requires further probing. However, this definition fails to cover a wide range of threats and insecurities emanating from droughts, floods and similar existential pressures facing mankind.[13] People living in abject poverty and insecurity need a wholesome approach for resolving these concerns. The erstwhile method of dealing with one issue at a time does not resolve the underlying problems and also fails to achieve the desired benefits. The HSF recommends a comprehensive approach of providing wholesome security to each individual within the society by fulfilling three basic requirements, namely, freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live with dignity.[14]

Boutrous Ghali introduced the concept of human security in 1992 by stressing the indispensable role of the UN "in an integrated approach to human security" as one of the prerequisites in peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict management.[15] Kofi Anan took a step further by including the human security agenda in a new UN mandate, proposed in the 1999 millennium declaration. As per Kofi Anan, peace is not absence of war and human security is a wholesome concept that includes economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament and respect for human rights, and rule of law.[16]

The HSF allows nations to establish a more inclusive and tolerant society by eradicating poverty and supporting a smooth transition from conflict to development.[17] In the process, various goals set out in the UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals are also achieved. It is relevant to add that the "*Agenda 2030 of UN calls for development strategies that result in more resilient societies where people are safe from chronic threats such as abject poverty,*

*hunger, disease, violence and repression, and protected from sudden disruptions in their daily lives".[18]*

The diagrammatic view of the HSF is explained in Figure 1 below. The four basic principles of human security which distinguish it from other forms of joint efforts are; that it is people centric, comprehensive, context specific, and prevention oriented.[19] The 'people-centric' aspect requires that all the factors which threaten the livelihood of people, especially the vulnerable segments of society are addressed. The 'comprehensive' aspect demands joint efforts by all stakeholders to develop a coherent response to all the threats and insecurities facing society. Since each problem requires a unique solution as there is no one key to every lock, the HSF has to be an overarching and all-encompassing approach. Being 'context-oriented' demands the understanding of the local dynamics to provide solutions to local issues. Finally, a 'prevention-oriented' approach requires addressing those factors, which initiate the problem in the first place and disallow its reoccurrence and reemergence.

Figure-1: **Broad Outline of Human Security Framework**
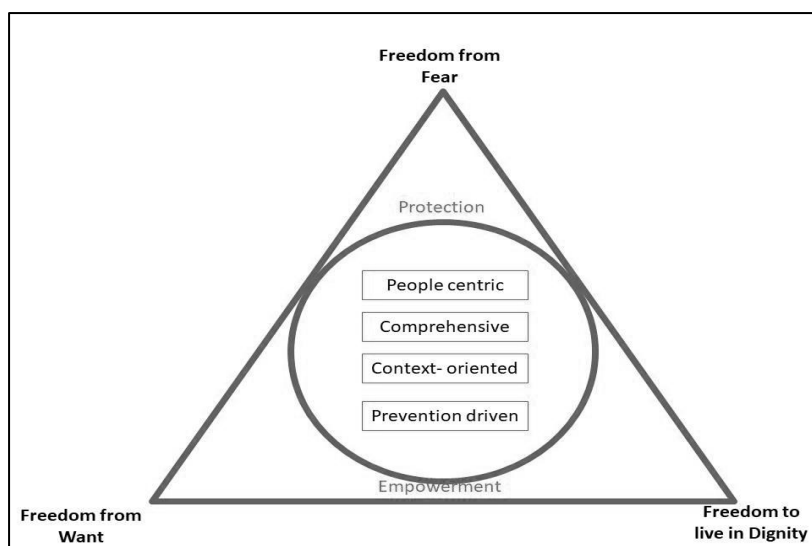
Source: Human Security Handbook, 2016[20]

Given these dimensions of HSF, the approach envisages six pillars of security for the population. These include economic and food security, personal and environmental security, and political security [Figure 2]. Thus, human security is an umbrella of these securities, which are achieved simultaneously to provide a sense of belonging and security to each and every individual in a community.

Figure-2: **Types of Human Security**
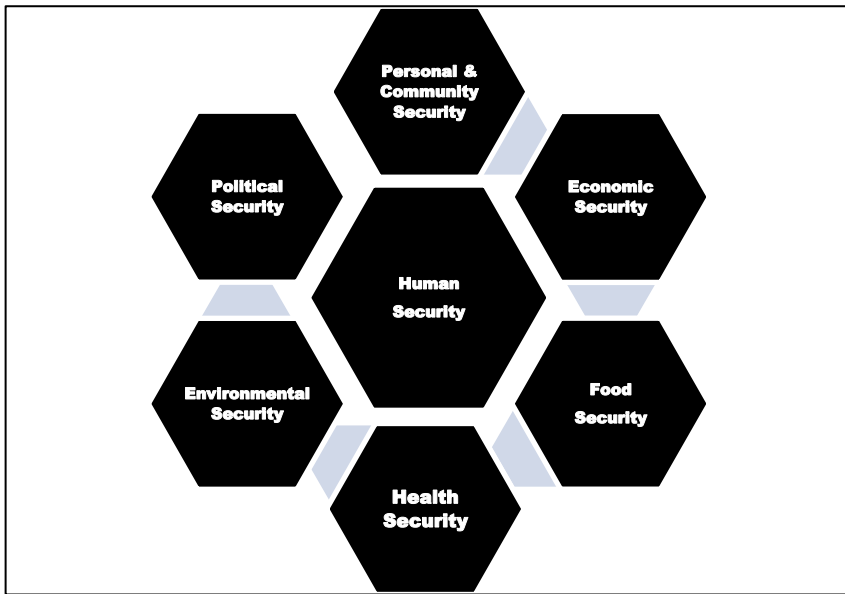
Source: Human Security Handbook, 2016[21]

Application of Human Security Framework in Developing Countries

United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) has funded various human security projects in developing countries. The human security approach in these projects went beyond stop gap measures by rejecting silo-driven responses that have limited impacts on the overall improvement of people's conditions. A few of the examples are enlisted below.

Northern Mali. From 2012 -13, there were armed conflicts between Government forces and Armed rebels in Northern Mali which displaced vulnerable communities in Timbuctoo, Gao and Kidal regions.[22] The conflict affected 4.6 Million people and unemployment was at 55 %. As a result of conflict, the local economy was stagnant and the local population suffered a lack of basic social services such as education, sanitation and health services. The UN program used Human Security approach to focus on the most vulnerable communities. An in depth survey was carried out among the displaced people and returning refugees in consultation with government and civil society organizations to identify short and long term development priorities to address the specific root cause of conflict in Northern Mali. In order to reduce marginalization and social exclusion, basic social services, such as sanitation, water, health care and education and diversification of economic opportunities were provided. Local

tribal leaders were trained on leadership and reconciliation and youth was empowered through participation in community development.

The Aral Sea. The disappearing Aral Sea in Central Asia caused a wide range of environmental, health, economic and demographic problems across Central Asia with region of Karakalpastan being the most affected. The disaster had a devastating effect on the human security of Karakalpakstan residents due to poor irrigation schemes in the Soviet era.[23] The UN program identified goals after a baseline survey which analysed the consequences of the disaster in terms of different human security domains. An integrated package of activities was developed to meet basic needs of communities, including income generation, tourism development, climate resilient agriculture and improved health care. The program is implementing a comprehensive approach targeting the vulnerabilities to the survival, livelihood and dignity of communities affected by the disaster. A multi-partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea has been established focusing on preventive advance comprehensive solutions. The initial investment provided by the UNTFHS, the Aral Sea fund is stimulating application of the human security approach across the region, and providing a foundation for evidence-based policymaking to regional and national governments.

Egypt. The upheaval created by Arab spring created massive economic problems in Egypt which included shrinking revenue from tourism, reduced foreign direct investment and rising inflation. The overall economy contracted and Communities in Upper Egypt, which included 66 percent of the country's extreme poor, were particularly impacted[24]. The rising unemployment and decreasing agricultural outputs resulted in economic, food, health, personal, environmental and community insecurities. The UN programme applied a comprehensive approach to alleviate the multiple social and economic challenges faced by poor and neglected communities. The programme emphasized on combining top-down protection measures with bottom-up empowerment activities. As protection measures, the programme worked on upgrading community infrastructure, enhancing agricultural output and strengthening institutional capacities. Meanwhile, bottom-up empowerment activities worked on making communities self-sufficient and advancing community engagement in local development. 45 Human Security Forums were formed through which community members created sustainable solutions for the betterment of their livelihoods and dignity. The initiatives undertaken under programme empowered vulnerable communities, especially women, by arranging Vocational skills training, business management coaching, and microfinance to mitigate current challenges and build future opportunities. Owing to its huge success, the progamme is being replicated nationwide by the Ministry of Local Development to further empower the country's most vulnerable communities.
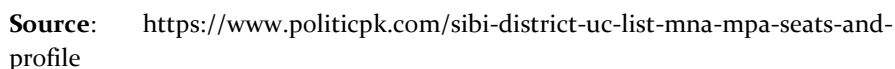
Historical Perspective and Selection of the Case Study Area

A large body of literature is now available on Balochistan which encapsulates the woes of the province. Balochistan consists of 44% of land mass of Pakistan but has only 5% of its population.[24] The province has a huge potential for growth and prosperity due to its location and unexplored natural resources. The deep sea ports at the southern end and western and northern ends make this province an ideal place for regional connectivity. However, despite this strategic importance, Balochistan has failed to realize its potential due to multiple issues such as weak law and order situation, tribal rivalry, poverty and deprivation, fragility of political structure, and bad governance.[25] The so-called new great game and the interplay of various external forces have further compounded the misery of the population.[26] Balochistan is home to various ethnicities, but the three main ethnic groups are Baloch, Brahvi, and Pashtun. Over the years a large number of Punjabis also settled in the province, but their number is dwindling due to unrest and target killing. The simmering tension between various ethnicities is a major cause of the conflict in Balochistan.[27] The evidence confirms that non-Baloch ethnicities have been systematically coerced and threatened by Baloch nationalists within the province, and in some cases the non-Balochs have been forced to migrate from the area.[28]

Sibi is one of the districts of Balochistan located at the entrance of the historical Bolan Pass. The area has traditionally remained restive ever since the British era.[29] The tribes residing in the vicinity used to loot and plunder the caravans passing through the Bolan Pass.[30] This uneasiness has continued even after independence in 1947. There have been five insurgencies in Balochistan over the last seven decades and the Sibi area was badly affected during each of these insurgencies.[31] One of the reasons for this region to remain so volatile has been the presence of militants in the remote mountainous areas of Sangan, located in the North of Sibi.[32] In 1973, a major army led operation was launched against militants[33].[33] More recently, starting from 2006 and continuing till 2017, there was a surge in terrorist activities in the area. Various banned organizations including Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), United Balochistan Army (UBA) and Balochistan Republican Army (BRA) have their roots in the area who continue their anti-state activities quite frequently. The terrorists disrupt the Sibi-Harnai rail-line by destroying bridges and the track. Similarly, the Quetta-Sibi-Sukkur rail-line is also targeted regularly through ambushes. The use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) has further complicated the situation.

The terrorists during all the insurgencies used rugged mountainous terrain as their base for hideouts as the area is devoid of any major population concentration. Small inaccessible villages do exist in this area, which incidentally, serve as the recruiting grounds for the miscreants. Some of the

villages of the area include Sangan, Badra, KanSher, Zadu and Kuchali. Of these, Sangan is the major population center where close to a thousand individuals of Baloch and Pashtun ethnic origin reside. The village is located on Sangan river which is a year-round tributary of Nari river, the second largest river of the Balochistan province. The only access to the village is through a cross-country movement through the beds of Sangan and Nari rivers. In addition to Sangan and Nari, the area is interspersed with numerous nullahs (water channels) which are exposed to flash floods. During the flooding period, which may stretch up to three to four weeks, the entire area is completely cut off from main population centers. At present, the traveling time from Sangan to Sibi City is more than eight hours during fair weather conditions. The Sibi-Harnai rail track provides an alternative means of transportation but it only goes up to the Babur Kuch, which is presently under rehabilitation. A new road between Khost and Sangan is under construction, which is expected to provide round the year connectivity to the village. The village has no electricity, gas, mobile communication, water supply and sewerage system. Solar panels are used to meet basic electricity requirements. The main livelihood of the local population is dependent on rearing of livestock and agriculture.

Figure-3: **Location of Sangan in Sibi District**

Source: https://www.politicpk.com/sibi-district-uc-list-mna-mpa-seats-and-profile

Methodology

Due to non-availability of published research data on the subject, an effort was made to visit the site physically and relevant data were collected through multiple sources. Interviews with local population and tribal elders (Maliks) were conducted to get their feedback on the prevalent situation in the village and the procedures and outcomes of joint efforts conducted by the informal civil-military collaboration. Relevant civil and military authorities were also contacted and their input was noted. Data on the number of terrorist attacks, resultant casualties and injuries were collected from Levies Police Thana situated in Luni, Sibi. Government Boys Middle School, Sangan provided information regarding school infrastructure and student enrollment. Basic Health Unit Sangan was visited to analyze health care facilities in the village. Local Maliks also provided information regarding agriculture yield and types of crops cultivated along with data on livestock owned by different tribes in the village.

Achieving Human Security in Sangan- A Case Study

Based on the over-arching HSF, a joint mechanism of civil-military cooperation was initiated in the Sangan village to improve upon the human security and economic well-being of the people residing in the area. The impact of this initiative on various aspects of human life is discussed as under.

Personal and Community Security

As indicated, historically Sangan has been a major stronghold of the militants. The local populace was held hostage by the militants who did not allow any developmental work by civilian authorities in the area. The schools and medical units were forcefully closed and the locals were required to pay extortion money to the militants. A military operation was launched in the area in 1973 and after clearing it from militants, the military withdrew. However, the militants re-grouped gradually and the area was once again occupied by them. By 2006, the village fell completely into the hands of insurgents. During this time period, the Pashtun segment of the population of the village faced intense persecution and as a result of continuous harassment majority of them were forced to migrate form the area. In 2017, the area was once again cleared through a major army offensive, following which, the LEAs were deployed to avoid repetition of the past episodes. As of 2017, the insurgents have failed to regain ground in the area due to the constant presence of LEAs. As a result, there is a significant reduction in militant attacks which has contributed to regaining normality and an improved individual and community life. The residents are now engaged in socio-economic activities without any fear. The improved security situation has allowed the return of the Pashtun population in the village. The population, which had dwindled to only 300 individuals has

again risen to 2000 individuals, owing largely to peace and security. The dramatic decline in the number of incidents in the area is evident from the incident profile shown in Graph-1.

**Graph-1: Incident Profile Sangan (2017-2019)** [34]
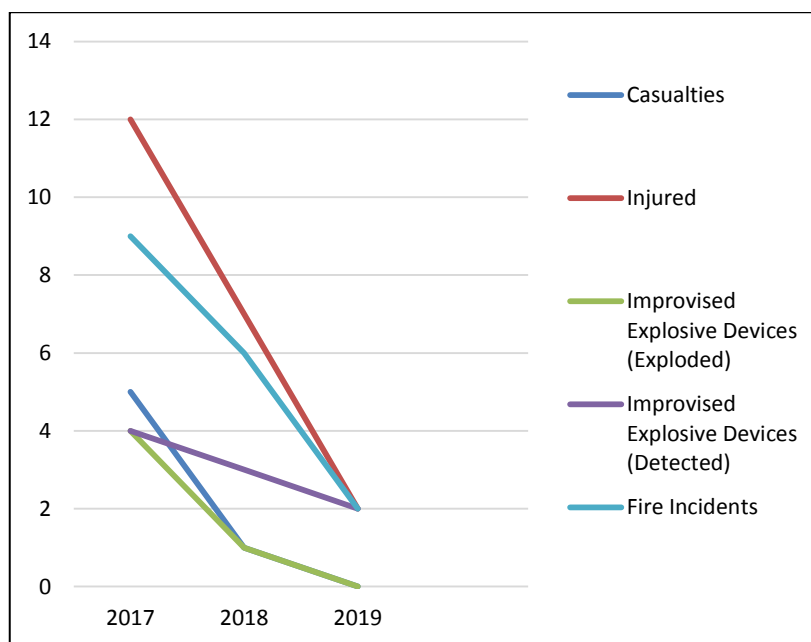
Source: Authors' Compilation; Data: Levies Police Thana: Luni, Sibi

The downward trajectory of graph shows a significant reduction in security related incidents including IEDs, civilian/military causalities and firing incidents. The overall incidents have reduced from 17 to 4 during the past three years.

Socio-economic Security. Before military operation, civil administration was forced to abandon the area. However, due to various initiatives undertaken by the LEA in coordination with civil administration, the area has seen major improvements in various socio-economic spheres, including education and healthcare services, and agriculture and trade activities.

Education: There is a middle school for boys and a primary school for girls in the village. In 2016, the headmaster of the school was killed in a targeted attack and the school was closed. The school was reopened in 2017 after renovation work and infrastructure development was completed. This was possible by hiring of new teachers, distribution of school supplies, books and uniforms among students under the CMIC initiative presented in Figure-4.
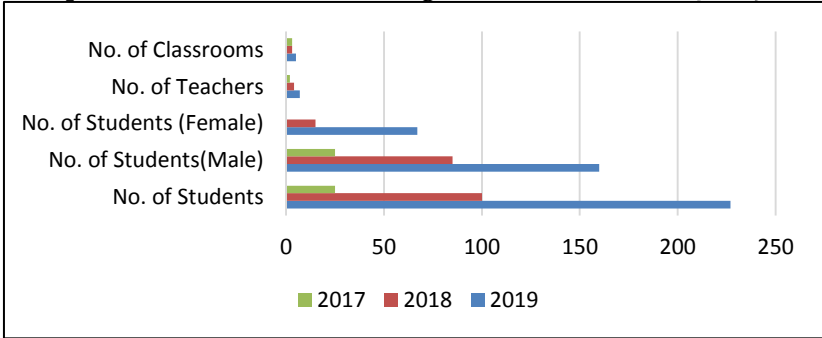
Figure-4: CMIC framework for Education
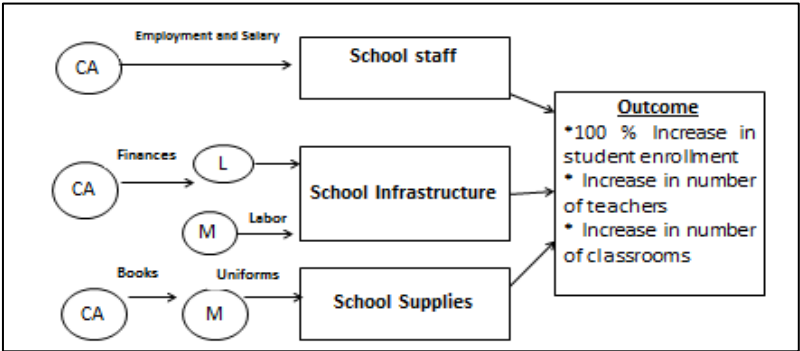
Note: CA = Civil Administration, M = Military, L = Local Population.

Source: Authors' Compilation

As per the framework, the civil administration provided finances to military for improvement of school infrastructure and provision of school supplies while the local population provided manual labor in the construction process, which reduced the overall financial cost considerably. It needs to be realized that a large segment of Sangan population is illiterate either due to the non-availability of schools in the area or there is no demand for schooling due to the non-availability of jobs. Moreover, perception about education is not favorable either. This attitude is likely to change in future as people of the area have shown tremendous interest in school-building effort. The statistics also confirm this point as the authors have found a sharp increase in school enrollment during the past three years. Gender empowerment is also part of this education enhancement drive as enrollment of girls has also increased from zero to 85 in this short period of time. Gaph-2 shows the progress on the objective of educational attainment over the last three years.

Graph-2: Education Profile of Sangan Middle School (2017-2019) [35]

Source: Authors' Compilation; Data: Government Boys Middle School, Sangan

Healthcare Provision: The Basic Health Unit (BHU) in Sangan became dysfunctional in 2015 after its nursing staff was killed by militants. In the absence of any medical facility within the village, patients were taken to Sibi (which is a two-day travelling distance), even for basic illnesses and medicines.

Figure-5: CMIC Framework for Health
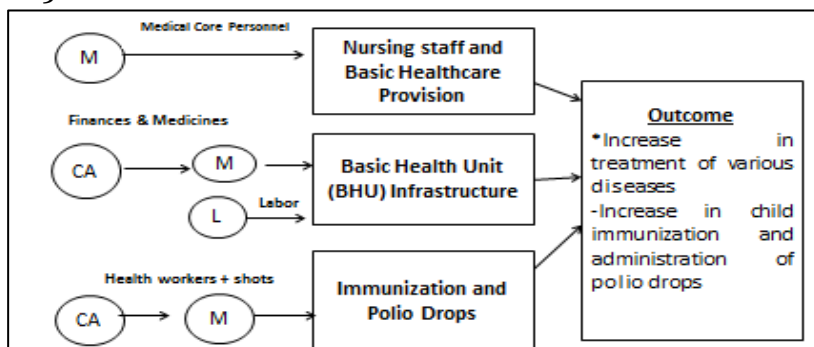
Note: CA = Civil Administration, M = Military, L = Local Population.

After the CMIC initiative, the BHU has been refurbished and made functional. With the help of military nursing staff and financial support from civil setup, the healthcare provision has been started and medicines are being provided to the local population at subsidized rates. Polio vaccination and basic immunization has been administered to approximately 400 children per year. The CMIC framework for improvement in health facilities is explained in Figure-5. The BHU data presented in Graph-3 provides an overview of healthcare provision to the local population and shows a significant increase in treatment of various diseases within the village since 2017 as a result of improvement in health security.

Graph-3: Number of Patients Treated at BHU Sangan (2017-2019)[36]
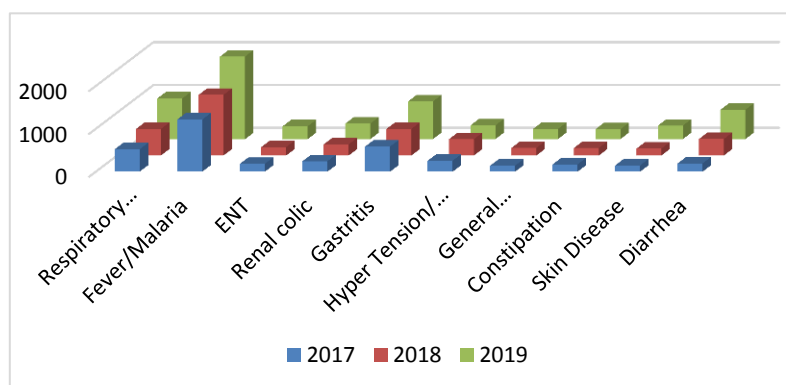
Source: Authors' Compilation; Data BHU, Sangan

Agriculture and Food Security. In the absence of industrial and services sectors, most of the population of Sangan village is engaged in agricultural and agro-based trade activities. Besides growing crops, the major source of livelihood is through raising livestock. It was rather odd to find that despite availability of abundant water and fertile land for agriculture, very little area was under cultivation prior to 2017. Under the CMIC, agricultural inputs, including pesticides and fertilizer were distributed among local farmers to jump start the agriculture economy. Consequently, the agriculture area under cultivation increased from 750 acres to 2000 acres (over 150% increase in irrigable land). With the increase in agriculture output, especially wheat, the number of tractors in the area has also increased from 20 to 37. An effort was also made to diversify the crop output by introducing new crops like cowpea, oats, and garlic. The CMIC framework adopted for agricultural improvements is elaborated in Figure-6. The flow chart explains that locals purchased their own seeds and created water dykes to shift water channels towards fields. The personnel from services helped the local farmers by providing security to those working in the fields and also supported them in developing irrigation dykes for water diversion. The overall impact of this joint civil-military effort was a 500% increase in agriculture yield that ensured food security in the area along with an improvement in the living standard of the villagers. Graph-4 shows the increase in agricultural yield during the last three years.
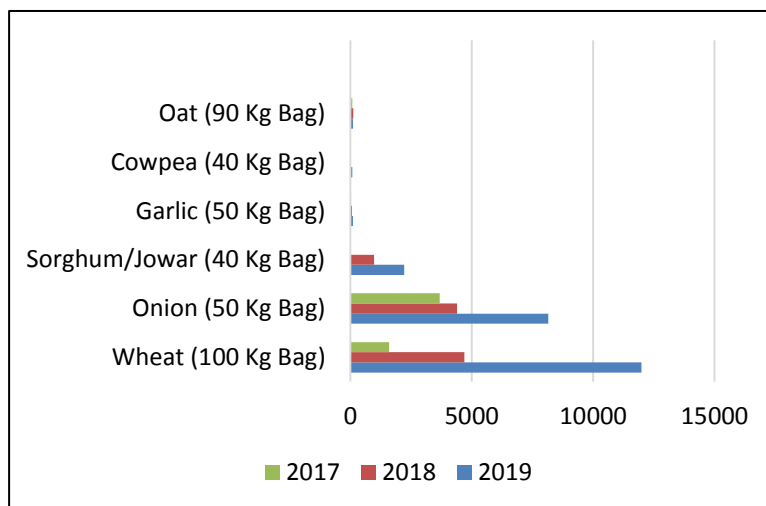
Figure-6: CMIC framework for Agriculture
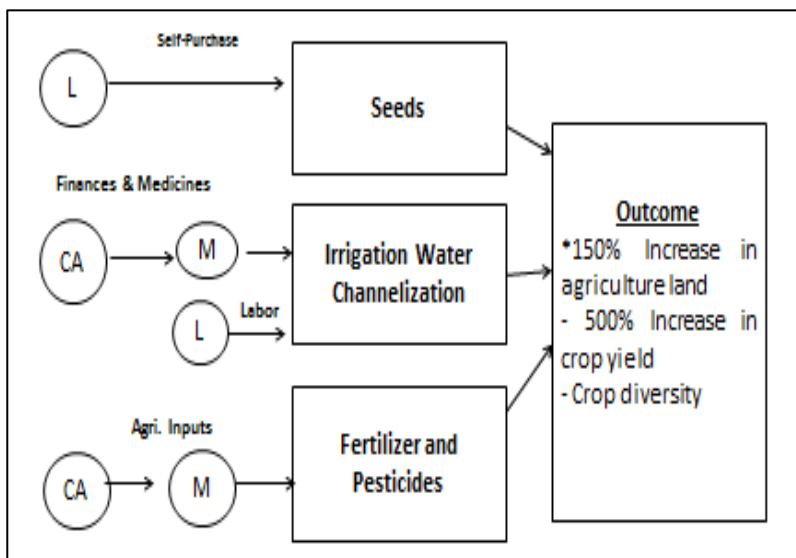
Note: CA = Civil Administration, M = Military, L = Local Population.
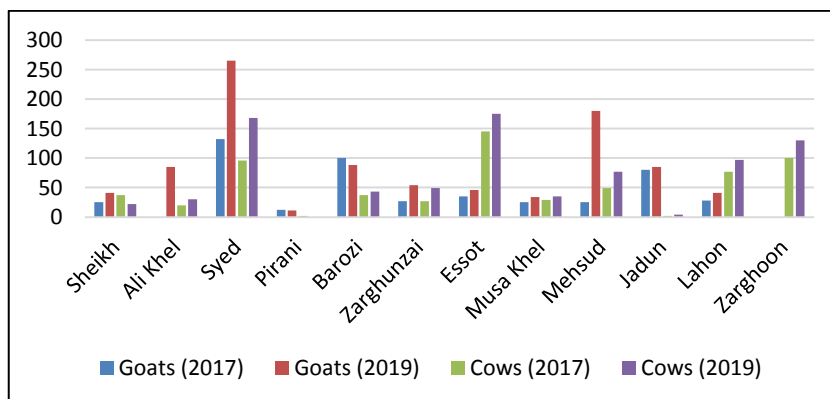
(**Source**: Authors' Compilation)

Graph-4: Agriculture Yield in Sangan (2017-2019)[37]

Source: Authors' Compilation; Data: Local Maliks

Commerce/ Live Stock: Being a tribal society, the data on livestock has been collected on tribal basis from local Maliks. There are 12 sub tribes residing in Sangan and each tribe has shown significant increase in their livestock possession. Graph-5 shows that there has been a 200% increase in the number of goats and 150% in number of cows in three years, which has been instrumental in bringing these people out the clutches of chronic poverty. Incidentally, with an increase in economic activity, the number of shops in the village have also increased from 3 to 11, which also include electronic and mobile repair shop.

Graph-5: Live Stock Owned by Tribes (2017-2019)[38]

Source: Authors' Compilation; Data: Local Maliks

Environmental Security. Being a remote area close to water channels, the village is vulnerable to many environmental hazards. The flash floods, especially in the monsoon season, are fearsome and foremost challenges of the area. Due to environmental changes, the intensity of flash flooding has increased during the past few years. The village is cutoff from the main cities during flooding seasons, thereby, exacerbating the local problems. The access routes are generally cleared through a civil-military collaboration after the floods. During the flooding season, free ration and other household items are distributed to support local population and enable them to survive in difficult times. Although these steps provide temporary relief to the locals, but construction of a proper road infrastructure is essential for the villagers as a long-term solution.

In addition to flash floods, there was a locust attack in the village during recent years that endangered the local crop yield. In order to deal with the locust attack, proper ground survey was done and reported. Consequently, ground and aerial spray of pesticides was coordinated with the Army Aviation planes to mitigate the problem.

Political Security. As pointed out earlier, the law and order situation in Sangan village was precarious before military operation and since then peace and stability has returned to the area. Prior to arrival of LEAs, the population had no previous history of engagement with the military and neither they were used to the government authority. Thus, the initial apprehension and hesitancy among the villagers in supporting authorities was natural. They feared that the LEAs will leave after the operation as has been the case previously. The mutual trust was lacking and it took time and effort to rebuild this trust. Meanwhile, the militants continuously made attempts to dissuade the population from engaging with the authorities. Particularly, in 2017 rockets were fired at the village and people supporting the civil-military initiative were targeted. Similarly, those who were going out of the village boundary for agricultural activities were ambushed. To overcome these threats, and to build confidence and mutual trust, posts were established around the village and security was provided to individuals moving in and out of the village. This has vastly helped in allying fears of the Sangan residents and opened them up for the change.

The locals did not have NADRA-issued national identification cards, which stymied their participation in the electoral process and national discourse. The visits of NADRA teams were coordinated to the area under the civil–military coordination arrangement, which allowed the residents of Sangan to get their CNICs. This single step has not only given a sense of identity and belonging to the locals, it has also allowed them to move freely in the country for their pursuit of higher education, job search, and commerce and trade activities.

Discussion and Analysis

As is evident from above indicators, Sangan has experienced significant improvements in the areas of human security and well-being in the post conflict years. These advances would have not been possible without allocation of considerable financial resources by the civil government and physical presence of LEAs in the area which gave confidence to the local population. The on-field research has re-enforced the point that basic requirements of human security, socio-economic development, food and environmental security through people-centric, comprehensive, context- oriented and prevention-driven principles are absolutely essential for a successful implementation of recovery and rehabilitation plan such as the one undertaken in the Sangan village. The CMIC initiative under the overall HSF of the UN has been instrumental in reducing insecurities of local populace that allowed them to live a life of dignity free from fear and helplessness.

The initiatives undertaken so far are people-centric where the local population has been made part of the solution by motivating them to contribute and start owning the change process. With their help and cooperation, the dilapidated BHU building was rebuilt and refurbished to provide immediate healthcare services, new classrooms were built in the school which allowed enrollment of additional children, and the provision of agriculture extension facilities improved the food security situation in the area. It is obvious that there has been a deep-down desire for peace among the local population. The positive gestures of the government under the umbrella of a non-formal CMIC setup have been reciprocated by people in Sangan by offering free labor services towards construction of these facilities where the construction material and resource persons were provided by the civil and military administrations. In fact, the close cooperation between civil and military hierarchy and comprehensive response by the local population has enormously contributed in the uplift of the village. It needs to be added further that unlike past attempts, the emphasis during the present change-process was not exclusively on security, rather a joint civil-military effort has been made to find a comprehensive solution to different threats faced by the local population. Finally, observing local traditions and norms has also been helpful in improving management and engagement with the local community and minimizing trust deficit. In this respect, local jirgas have been used effectively to encourage the residents of Sangan to support government efforts.

Conclusion and the Way Forward

Development of remote areas of Balochistan is essential for lasting peace in the province. Sangan is an important case study which clearly provides deep insight into the problem and its solution. A well thought out intervention under

the CMIC initiative has been instrumental in improving the livelihood of the population of Sangan. It has substantially reduced the trust deficit between the residents and the authorities. While significant improvement has been registered over the years and substantial progress has been made in economic and social sectors, yet sustainability of this change remains a critical factor that requires a sustained effort on the part of all stakeholders.

Going forward, we find that there is a huge potential for growth in the area. The road connectivity with the mainland is one of the major impediments which has stalled the growth process reaching its optimal level. The work on Khost-Sangan Road needs to be expedited to allow round the year connectivity with the mainland. Sangan is located on fertile land with abundant water resource. With little effort, a small water reservoir can be constructed that will allow more land can be cultivated and orchards to be grown. This would improve the economic well-being of the residents of Sangan in a tremendous way. Thinking further into the future, being a scenic place, Sangan can also be developed as a tourist spot to reap the benefits of its natural beauty.

Endnotes

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