



LSO Initiatives LSO DAI JARKAS, BADIN



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An update on the work of Local Support Organisations



What are LSOs?

LSOs or Local Support Organisations are central to the 'Social Mobilisation' approach of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). In a bid to reduce poverty and empower marginalised people (especially women), the RSPs mobilise rural communities into a three-tiered structure, which consists of Community Organisations (COs)- neighbourhood level community groups, Village Organisations (VOs) - village level federations of COs, and LSOs- union council level federations of VOs. LSOs are able to carry out community-led development at a much greater level due to the advantage they gain from numbers. As the tertiary tier, LSOs are also uniquely able to develop linkages with government and non-government organisations, donor agencies and the private sector.

Managing Disaster Risks

According to BISP survey, around 90% households of the UC are very poor, falling in the Poverty Score Card (PSC) range of 0-23. A major reason for the abject poverty is the fact that the area is prone to multiple natural hazards, including cyclone, flood, drought, endemic diseases, and earth quake.

In collaboration with the USAID funded RSPN Tahafuz Project, the LSO has significantly improved the disaster risk management capacities of its member organisations over the last two years. They now have a trained cadre of 108men and women working under 8 Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) and 16 trained men and women under a Union Council Disaster Management Committee (UDMC). The VDMCs are sub-committees of their relevant VOs, while the UDMC is a sub-committee of the LSO. The LSO has prepared a Hazard Map and Disaster Risk Management Plans, both at UC level and village level. The LSO has nominated two trained members as Operation Leaders and two members as Early Warning Leaders. The two Operation Leaders are responsible for communication and linkages development with government departments and NGOs, while the Early Warning Leaders keep in touch with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and the Metrological Department. They have also formed a four-member First Aid Committee that works closely with the Basic Health Unit (BHU) and the government

Date of Formation:
23 January, 2013

District:
Badin

Union Council:
Dai Jarkas

Total Households in Union Council:	Organised Households:	Coverage:
6,110	3,405	56%

No of Community Organisations (COs):	No of Village Organisations (VOs):	No of General Body Members:	No of Executive Committee Members:
227 127 women's	16 1 women's	46 27 women's	15 7 women's



hospital; a two member Rescue Committee and a two member Search Operation Committee to coordinate with VDMC members and the common people. It is also worth mentioning that these committees have equal numbers of women and men.. They have completed 11 physical infrastructure projects aimed at disaster mitigation. A toolkit also exists to help them deal with emergency situations. The two trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have carried out several awareness-raising sessions for the members at VO level.

Having been organised, trained and connected with government and NGOs, the people of the area are now well aware of their roles and responsibilities and capable of taking actions for reducing the risks during disaster events. They have so far planted 15,000 trees across the UC as a mitigating measure to reduce the impact of cyclones. They mobilised the government for timely repairing breaches made in the irrigation canals by the landlords. A trained couple rescued a boy who was drawn in the canal. The couple dragged out the drowned boy and gave him first aid. They announce hazard warnings on time via the Sindhi TV Channel, and by sending text messages to the vulnerable population through their VDMC members. The area has become much safer and the vulnerabilities of the local people have drastically reduced.

Foster Education

The Union Council has 36 government primary schools for Boys, 10 Primary Schools for girls, 2 Middle Schools for Boys, 1 Middle School for Girls, and one High School, catering to the educational needs of the students. However, the quality of education in these schools was very low. The LSO formed an Education Committee to analyse the education related issues and suggest plans and actions to resolve them. On the recommendation of the Education Committee, they re-vitalised School Management Committees in 25 schools, re-opened closed schools, took measures to ensure regular attendance of teachers in all schools, and started a Community School, on self-help basis, where students pay Rs 100 per month to cover the salary of teachers. They also campaigned for enrolment of 100 percent boys and girls in schools, and conducted awareness-raising sessions on education for parents. As a result of these efforts, 460 children were enrolled in Government Schools and 74 children were enrolled in the Community School.

Health Development

There are only two Government Dispensaries and one Basic Health Unit in the entire UC. The services offered by the health facilities were also very poor. Therefore, the LSO decided to form a Health Committee to ensure consistent efforts for improving the

available health facilities. The community volunteers provide support to the Government staff during polio vaccination campaigns and join the efforts to ensure 100 percent coverage. So far, anti-polio vaccination drops have been administered to 5,234 children in the UC. The LSO members also carried out awareness-raising campaigns about the threats of Measles outbreak, and the importance of timely vaccination.. A campaign is underway for formation of blood donor groups to provide blood to patients of Thalassemia; prevalent in the area, mainly due to intra-family marriages.



Support to the Poorest Families

Vast majority of the LSO members are very poor. Therefore, provision of support to such families is one of the LSO's top agendas. Vulnerable families have been identified through the Village Organizations, and financial support is provided to them during Eid (for Muslims) and Holi (for Hindus), enabling them to enjoy the festivities, like other members of the village community. Two Hindu families have also been helped for reconstruction of their houses gutted by accidental fire.



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