



LSO Initiatives LSO SUJAG, DIPLO



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An update on the work of Local Support Organisations

Managing Disaster Risks

The LSO is working to protect its communities from natural hazards through the USAID funded Tahafuz CBDRM Project. As the name shows, the project focusses on several measures relating to Disaster Risk Management in their area. They have 71 trained people working under 7 Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) and 14 trained people under a Union Council Disaster Management Committee (UDMC). The VDMCs are sub-committees of their relevant VOs, and the UDMC is a sub-committee of the LSO. All the VDMCs and the UDMC have developed Disaster Risk Management Plans in a participatory manner and they are busy with the implementation of these plans.

The trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have carried out several awareness raising sessions for the members at VO level. Through this project, the LSO has implemented 11 critical community infrastructure (CCI) projects mainly aimed at disaster mitigation. An emergency tool kit is available with the UDMC. As a result of these concerted efforts, people of the area now keep vigilant eye on hazardous events and communicate promptly for warning and support. These efforts help to reduce the danger of a hazard to turn into a disaster. Recently, in some fire instances affecting some houses in two villages, the local VDMC members informed the UDMC members. The UDMC members quickly arranged fire fighting vehicles from the local

**Date of Formation:
02 September, 2013**

**District:
Tharparkar** **Union Council:
Dhabro**

**Total Households in
Union Council:
3,926** **Organised
Households:
2,131** **Coverage:
54%**

No of Community Organisations (COs): 208 117 women's	No of Village Organisations (VOs): 44 all women's	No of General Body Members: 34 13 women's	No of Executive Committee Members: 11 3 women's
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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.



government Fire Brigade office. This instant coordination helped put out the fire which could have spread to and affected a large number of houses otherwise. In another village, fire fighting vehicle could not reach on time due to lack of proper roads and the houses in the entire village were burnt into ashes. Here, the UDMC, on self-help basis, arranged tents to provide shelter to the affected households.

Support to Draught Affected Families

The LSO area has been suffering from drought since 2014. On its part, the LSO activists are continuously helping themselves by providing all types of support to a number of relief and rehabilitation activities carried out by government and other organisations. For example they provided voluntary services to Pak Army teams in organising 10 mobile medical camps and food distribution among 500 drought-hit families. Similarly they helped Pak Army in identifying the most deserving villages for organising medical camps and also provided their voluntary services for management of the crowd and provision of drinking water at the camp site. Moreover, they organised three medical camps with the help of Taluka Medical Officers and two medical camps with the help of the medical students of Liaquat Medical College, Karachi. They also carried out a survey to assess the nutrition status of pregnant and lactating women and children. Also, with the technical support of TRDP, they helped to conduct a survey for identifying common diseases in the livestock in 30 drought affected villages. Later, the LSO assisted the Government Livestock Department in carrying out vaccination and drenching of livestock in 22 villages.

Provision of Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan to Members

The objective of the Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan programme is to make access to finance easier for the vulnerable and marginalized households having Poverty Score of 0-40. At least 50% of the loans are disbursed to women to support female participation and inclusion in economic activities.

The LSO has been closely working with TRDP for implementation of this programme in its area. The LSO validates the identified members and shares the final list with TRDP for appraisal. The Loan Approval Committee consists of Taluka In-charge Prime Minister Interest Free Loan Programme, Unit In-charge of TRDP and 4 LSO

members. So far, interest free loan of Rs. 7.260 million has been disbursed to 365 members; 70% of them are women. The recovery rate of these loans is 100%. The loan programme has proven to be instrumental in improving the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable families and women.

Promoting Education

A number of Primary Schools were closed in the UC due to lack of teachers. When new teachers were recruited last year, the LSO approached the Education Department and requested them to transfer 8 teachers to the closed schools, so as to re-open them. The LSO has opened a Feeder School at village Karli Mahallah. They regularly celebrate the International Literacy Day and organise seminar and rallies to increase school enrolment. As a result of these efforts, the enrolment ratio is steadily increasing in the area.

