



LSO Initiatives

LSO GIDDAN, KHUZDAR



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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.

Conservation of Irrigation Water

The issue of water losses through irrigation systems has a major impact on surface water supplies and management. The main causes responsible for water losses in watercourses are leakages from turnouts, curves in the watercourse, high density of vegetation in the unlined canals, deposition of sediments, weak and un-compacted banks and lack of maintenance. Proper lining of irrigation channels is a proven solution to this problem.

There are 13 irrigation channels in the LSO area, and only small portions of them are lined. Therefore, a significant amount of precious surface water is lost every year due to leakage. Lining of irrigation channels cost huge amount and the local people cannot do it themselves. Thus, the LSO strives for accessing funds from government and donors. With the help of BRSP, the LSO received Rs. 5.02 million from PPAF for lining of 6,200 feet of three irrigation channels in villages Chakrani, Whandari and Gulfam. The local communities contributed Rs. 1.3 million in the form of cash and free labour and completed the projects with a total cost of Rs. 6.3 million. These three projects are not only providing sufficient water to 391 acres of existing land but also

Date of Formation: 30 November, 2011			
District: Khuzdar		Union Council: Abad	
Total Households in Union Council: 2,495	Organised Households: 1,639	Coverage: 66%	
No. of Community Organisations (COs): 109 41 women's	No. of Village Organisations (VOs): 16 5 women's	No. of General Body Members: 98 All men	No. of Executive Committee Members: 11 All men

brought 55 acres of additional land under cultivation. The 434 beneficiary families of these projects report sustainable increase in their household income and assets. In addition to that, the water leakage from the irrigation channel of Whandari was creating health and hygiene issues for the local settlers and damaging mud houses of people and a large number of buildings of government Education and Health departments, PTCL and Levies. The lining of the channel resolved all these issues once and for all and significantly reduced the environmental and health hazards.

Promote the Cause of Education

The LSO area is characterized by low literacy rate; 43% in men and 21% in women, and the enrolment rate is around 69%. Illiteracy has adverse effects on the society, in several aspects. It not only jeopardizes the future of individuals but also has a significant unfavorable social and economic effect on the society. The LSO has taken the following steps to improve the literacy level of its members:

1. Established five Literacy Centers with the help of NCHD and provided basic literacy and numeracy skills to 750 women.
2. Run school enrolment campaign and provided admission to 47 boys and 35 girls in local schools.
3. A large number of students especially girls used to drop out of schools after Primary level due to lack of Middle and High Schools in the area. In consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and Education Department, the LSO was able to persuade to upgrade one Girls Middle School to High School, and three Girls Primary Schools and one Boys Primary School to Middle Schools. These steps helped provide Middle and Metric level education to the students of poor families in their own villages.

4. With the financial support of PPAF, the LSO carried out necessary repair and maintenance work in the Boys High School, Girls Middle School, one Girls and one Boys Primary Schools. Moreover, provided furniture, course books and sports goods and equipments to these schools.
5. Established Science Lab and a Library in the High School with the financial support of PPAF.

These activities, though not enough to bring a transformation in the existing education system, are proving quite useful in terms of creating awareness among local communities about providing quality education to their children, increasing school enrolment and improving literacy ratio of the men and women of the area.

Policy Advocacy for Electricity

Tehsil Krakh Baluchistan is deprived of electricity. Despite their repeated request to their Members of National and Provincial Assemblies, the people of the area could not break through the bureaucratic hurdles of Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC). When KESC started laying the Dadu-Khuzdar transmission lines which was passing through Krakh, the LSO requested to the KESC authorities for electricity connection to their area. But KESC authorities told them that there were no such provisions in the project plan. The LSO leaders requested to KESC for making revisions in the project plan, but it was to no avail.. The LSO leaders then lobbied with the leaders of LSOs of neighboring Union Councils and they stopped the construction work of Dadu-Khuzdar transmission line at Gulbhat. In the meanwhile, they staged demonstrations at the Press Club Quetta. This resulted in the Chief Minister of Baluchistan inviting them to his office. The Chief Minister listened to their demands and allocated Rs. 220 million from his discretionary funds during 2014-015 for installing electricity poles and laying out transmission lines to Tehsil Krakh. Currently, the project is under construction.

