



**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 VO. 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.

**Promotion of Education**

The key focus of the LSO since its establishment has been on promoting education. The literacy rate in the Union Council was really low, around 17% (21% in men and 11% in women), and over a vast area of 525 Sq. Km there are very few education facilities: 11 Boys and 7 Girls Primary Schools and 1 Boys High and 1 Girls Middle School. In addition to that, the facilities in these schools are very poor; number of teachers is very few, and they are not adequately trained. The LSO focused on promoting education in the UC and the LSO first established a five member Education Committee comprised of its Executive Committee and General Body members. The Committee reviewed and analysed the main causes of low literacy in the UC, both in terms of quantity and quality, came up with improvement measures and has implemented the following activities so far:

1. Constructed three classrooms in each one of three Girls' Primary Schools in collaboration with Girls Promoting Education funded by the World Bank. As a result, 185 additional girls were admitted in these schools.
2. Repaired four rooms in Boys' Primary and Middle Schools and constructed their boundary walls with the financial support of PPAF.
3. Upgraded Girls' Middle School to High School. As a result, a large number of girls could get matriculation level education in their villages. This also opened

Date of Formation:  
**13 March, 2013**

District:  
**Khuzdar**

Union Council:  
**Abi Noghay**

Total Households in Union Council:

**1,421**

Organised Households:

**659**

Coverage:

**46%**

No. of Community Organisations (COs)

**82**

40 women's

No. of Village Organisations (VOs):

**28**

13 women's

No. of General Body Members:

**62**

27 women's

No. of Executive Committee Members:

**12**

3 women's



opportunities for higher education to the bright girls of poor families who do not afford to send their daughters to cities.

4. Provided training to 17 teachers of Boys' High School in Science, Mathematics and English. Also arranged teacher training for 47 temporary female teachers in Science and English subjects from UNICEF.
5. Two female teachers were working on honorary basis for the last six years. On the recommendation of the LSO leaders, the Secretary Education issued appointment letters to them as permanent teachers.
6. Established a Computer Lab in the Boys' High School and arranged training for seven teachers in computer training. Now interested boys are getting computer literacy in the morning times while girls are getting computer skills in the afternoon. A solar light project is in process to provide uninterrupted power to the computer lab.
7. Arranged safe drinking water facilities in 32 schools with the help of UNICEF.

AS a combined effect of these measures, both the quantity and quality of education has substantially been improved in the LSO area.



## Inclusive Development

Realising the fact that mainstream development activities do not serve the marginalised segments of the society, the LSO has been trying its best to reach out to the left out groups in the UC. The LSO has carried out Poverty Score Card survey which showed that an overwhelming majority of 75% households fall under 0-23 category. The rural women are generally excluded from development programmes. Thus, the LSO has so far organised 656 women in 40 Women Community Organisations and 13 Village Organisations and provided them leadership positions in the LSO. It is also trying to provide financial support to the poor women from BISP and Baitul Maal. The LSO raised funds from donors and provided stitching machines to 42 poor women and 55 goats to 18 poor women and these women are using these productive assets to increase their income on a sustained basis. With the financial and technical assistance of PPAF, the LSO has trained 110 women as TBAs and they are effectively serving their communities. The LSO has also provided employable skills to 47 unemployed educated youth from poor families with the help of PPAF and now most of them are either self-employed or employed in the job market in cities and towns. It has also provided loan to four poor members to start micro enterprises and they are running their enterprises successfully. The LSO identified four poor blind people and provided them treatment. In short, the LSO is using all possible ways and means to reach out to the marginalised and vulnerable families in the UC and support them both through its own sources as well as accessing resources for them from external sources.



## Promoting Rural Physical Infrastructure

Prior to the formation of the LSO, the condition of the rural physical infrastructure in the UC was very poor. However, due to the efforts of LSO, the conditions have improved immensely. With the financial assistance of PPAF, the LSO has been able to establish drinking water supply schemes in four villages that supply safe drinking water to around 416 families. The LSO has cleaned and re-habilitated four Karez (underground water channel) systems and provided irrigation water to cultivate 415 acre of land owned by 150 poor families. With the help of UNDP, the LSO has been able to level 570 acre of uneven land owned by 740 rural families. Due to this, the productivity of the levelled land has increased to double. With the financial support of UNDP, 33,320 foot long PVC pipe was laid down to reduce wastage of irrigation water due to seepage. This project helped in providing more water to 135 families resulting in increase in their farm income.