

ISSUE-03



SUCCESS

# SUCCESS

Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support Programme  
SUCCESS is funded by the European Union

October 2016 – March 2017 | Bi-Annual Newsletter

COVER STORY

Transforming Lives:  
The Power of Self-  
Help Initiatives



## In this Issue

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Distribution of Community Investment Fund started - PG 3

Women's day and Activists' Workshop - PG 3

RSPs' Learning Visit to Jamshoro - PG 3

Deputy Commissioner of Dadu validates Poverty Scorecard Survey data - PG 4

Activists' Workshop in Qambar Shahdadkot and AKRSP Team's Visit - PG 5

EU Representative Mr. Georges Dehoux visits Local Communities in Sujawal - PG 5

EU Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) Mission visits SUCCESS Programme areas - PG 6

EU Ambassador's Sindh Visit - PG 7

Organised Women Fighting Social Ills - PG 9

Social mobilisation progress - PG 10

Researcher's Diary: Why do people defecate in the open? - PG 11

Insights from the frontline - PG 12

From Activist to Organiser - PG 13

**Text:** Noor Muhammad, Communications Officer, SUCCESS, RSPN

**Edited by:** Filza Nasir, Documentation and Reporting Officer, SUCCESS, RSPN

**Reviewed By:** Fazal Ali Saadi, Programme Manager, SUCCESS, RSPN

**Design & Publication:** Dot Advertising



EUROPEAN UNION

SUCCESS is funded by European Union

### SUCCESS Partners



## COVER STORY

# TRANSFORMING LIVES: THE POWER OF SELF-HELP INITIATIVES



Women of village Chando Kohli standing by the newly designated waste disposal site.

A community organisation (CO) in Daulat Mir Jatt village of district Tando Allahyar, is working towards betterment of health of the local women and children. This spirit of self-help initiatives stirred in the village through their CO President, Nazeeran.

The CO, Daulat Mir Jatt II, consisting of 16 households, all below the poverty score of 23, was formed merely eight months ago, under the European Union funded Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme.

The members of the CO attribute the awakening, towards not only the reproductive health issues in women, its causes, and implications but also the importance of vaccination in children, to National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) for coming to their village and training them about these issues.

As the president of her CO, Nazeeran, 48, has been actively involved in community work. Nazeeran says that she always possessed the drive to do something for her village, however she felt limited in the actions she could take. After attending the Community Management Skills Training (CMST), she says she felt empowered and full of ideas to work on in the village. She has so far assisted three women in undergoing birth-spacing surgeries, and has accompanied the polio workers to visit the households in her village. She has succeeded in getting children in all of the 20 households in her village



vaccinated. Nazeeran lights up when she tells her story of trying to convince women of birth spacing, and getting their children vaccinated.

“I was part of this three-day training, where the team from NRSP came and gave us lessons on managing the CO, planning for our village’s development, as well as on critical issues like health (family planning, nutrition), education, and environment. It was then that I realised how important family planning is for the health of women. If women keep giving birth without any gap, they put their lives as well as their children’s lives at risk.”

As part of the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, all the presidents and managers of COs are to be provided with CMST for the purpose of mobilising them and strengthening their capacities to identify their issues and find solutions for them. The training aims to enhance the knowledge, skills and capabilities of the participants in planning and managing their developmental activities and to utilise the available local resources as well. It provides the participants an opportunity to build their capacities

to break the vicious cycle of poverty by realising their potential and undertaking income generating activities at their own, according to their household’s needs.

Another case in point of self-help initiative through the effectiveness of CMST can be found in the village of Chando Kolhi, district Tando Mohammad Khan. The two COs of the village, Jaimal Thakur, and Mohan Kohli were formed in June, 2016, and since the last nine months the presidents and managers of both the COs have attended CMST, and have been inspired to work for the betterment of their villages.

Chanta, manager of the CO Jaimal Thakur, says that the three-day training was especially enlightening for her. She learned about the adverse impacts that improper waste disposal has on one’s health as well as the environment. After she attended the three-day training, she says “I realised the importance of waste management and having access to potable water in order to eliminate diseases in the village. I knew these were the reasons our children were getting so sick, facing diarrhea and not being able to attend school regularly.”

To ensure proper waste management, the village started making waste disposal sites in their homes, and a big such site at the entrance of the village. These waste disposal sites were dug into the ground and covered with mud. As the landlord did not allow them to take the mud from his fields where most of these women and their husbands work as laborers, the women, determined to eliminate waste and diseases, walked a few miles each way to collect the mud from around the coast of the river. They use these sites to separate the recyclable waste such as plastic and glass, and burn the rest.

To decrease the spread of diseases among the villagers, the women in their CO meeting decided to send the sample of water from their drinking water source for testing. Depending on the results, they will decide whether to demand a new source of potable water or not.

These self-help initiatives and awakening in the women of rural areas is a heartening sight to see, and can be attributed to the messages imparted to them through social mobilisation.

■ By Filza Nasir, Documentation and Reporting Officer, SUCCESS-RSPN

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

---

### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND STARTED

Sukkur, March 25: The first round of Community Investment Fund (CIF) was distributed in the newly fostered three Village Organisations (VOs) from Naseerabad, and Ratodero during the visit of Chairman RSPN, Mr Shoaib Sultan Khan to Kamber-Shahdadkot and Larkana Districts in Sindh on March 25, 2017.

CIF is one of the main components of the European Union (EU) funded Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme, and is targeted at the women from poor and poorest households. A capital grant is provided by the programme partner Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) to either VOs or Local Support Organisations (LSOs), and is used by those community institutions (CIs) as a revolving fund. The poverty score of the household, obtained through the Poverty Score Card (PSC) survey, is used to identify the eligible households to ensure that only the poor and poorest households (with Poverty Score 0-23) access CIF capital and start income generating activities.

During the visit, Mr Khan also met with the leaders of CIs who gave brief overview about the progress made by their respective CIs for local development. LSO Manager from Ratodero said that the women feel empowered and important after forming their own organisations. Talking about the priorities of the LSO she said, "Capacity building of women and making them more aware about various social and health issues is the LSO's priority area".

While discussing the challenges that VO Qabool Teenvo's Manager has faced in her area, she said "the locals were not ready to mobilise initially, but persistent persuasion helped the communities realise the importance of coming together and saving money." Many women also shared their stories about the ways savings have helped them in their times of need. While talking to the organised women community members Chairman Shoaib Sultan said, "I am very happy to hear your stories and you have proved that you can solve your local development issues and help reduce poverty at household level once you are organised."

### WOMEN'S DAY AND ACTIVISTS' WORKSHOP

Sujawal, March 8: International Women's Day was Celebrated by NRSP in village Noonh Walro, revenue village Wicholo, union council Khiral, District Sujawal. The workshop was attended by community members,

LSO representatives and District Government officials. The day was celebrated to highlight the importance of women mainstreaming in development and presenting SUCCESS Programme as role model for active and equitable rural development.

**Jamshoro:** A workshop of community activists was organised by TRDP in Jamshoro. Fifty-five women community activists and leaders from 13 villages participated in the workshop. Women leaders of COs and VOs made presentation about the process of social mobilisation and institutional development in their communities and also highlighted that many of them have begun to take small self-help initiatives for their own development.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Munwar Mehsar, Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro District, thanked TRDP for inviting him to join the Community Activists Workshop. Mr Mehsar said that he was most encouraged by the achievements that the VOs have made within such a short time. Mr Mehsar particularly appreciated the women's keen interest in improving education and health. He added that his administration will provide full support to the rural women of Jamshoro. Through the CO/VO/LSO social mechanism, the government line departments have an opportunity to extend their outreach and that he will encourage the departments to work closely with TRDP and the women's COs/VOs/LSOs.

### RSPs' LEARNING VISIT TO JAMSHORO

**Jamshoro, February 27:** A lessons learning visit to District Jamshoro was held on 27th February. Present in the group of visitors were Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN, Mr. Munawar Ali Mahesar, Deputy Commissioner of Jamshoro, Mr. Perviaz Chandio Director UCBPRP, and the CEOs of SUCCESS partner RSPs and COO RSPN, among others.

The learning visits to Jamshoro included meetings with a VO, LSO and group of Community Resource Persons (CRPs). In the meeting with VO Madadgar, in village Chaudhery Karamuddin, Union Council AB-Shoro, Ms. Ruskhsana Khan, President of the VO, gave a brief overview of the VO's activities. She highlighted various self-help and awareness interventions on promotion of health, hygiene and education.

During the meeting, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan emphasised the need for fostering and strengthening community institutions so that the social pillar is enabled to complement government's political and administrative pillars. He also asked about the Micro Investment Plans



(MIPs) of the households and their strategies to reduce poverty. With the help of hand drawn maps of the village, Ms. Khan explained the current status of educational and health facilities available in the village, and the future plans for the village.

The women community leaders expressed hope and demonstrated enthusiasm, saying their confidence had increased manifold since the formation of Community Organisation (CO) and Village Organisation (VO) as part of the European Union funded SUCCESS Programme. They said that by coming together and learning about improving their quality of life, they feel more empowered and important in their society.

Talking to the members of community institutions present at the meeting Mr. Munawar Ali Mahesar, Deputy Commissioner of Jamshoro praised the women activists and all the members for stepping forward to help themselves and their village. He said that the administration will assist and support them in any manner possible. He also thanked TRDP and the European Union for starting SUCCESS Programme in the area.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan shared his experiences with the women members, urging and encouraging them to work with dedication for the resolution of their issues. He thanked the government of Sindh for taking a leading role in the development and

implementation of the UCBPRP, and the EU for funding the SUCCESS Programme. The visit was jointly organised by RSPN and TRDP.

### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF DADU VALIDATES POVERTY SCORECARD SURVEY DATA**

DADU, January 31: Deputy Commissioner (DC) visited Union Council (UC) Kamal Khan, Tehsil Johi, Dadu accompanied by TRDP Manager Mr. Ali.

Nawaz Nizamani. The purpose of this visit was to validate the PSC information provided to his office by TRDP, and the UC of Kamal Khan was selected due to its remoteness. The Deputy Commissioner visited four selected villages and after meeting with villagers, validated PSC of 16 households.

After this validation exercise DC held an informal meeting with villagers in village Bajai Khan Mastoi. During the meeting, the DC spoke about the huge efforts the Government of Sindh (GoS) is making for poverty reduction in the province, and particularly in district Dadu. DC thanked the European Union for supporting GoS for the SUCCESS Programme in district Dadu in partnership with TRDP. He spoke about the validation exercise and said that he appreciates the excellent work of TRDP in the district.

Later, the DC directed the government line departments to coordinate with TRDP to support the newly formed COs, VO's and LSOs. DC said that these organisations of the people are the best forums to increase the outreach of government services to all rural households. He thanked



Mr. Ali Nawaz Nizamani and his team for the solid start made in the SUCCESS Programme in district Dadu.

### **ACTIVISTS' WORKSHOP IN QAMBAR SHAHDADKOT AND AKRSP TEAM'S VISIT**

Qambar Shahdadt, January 20: Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) Qambar office, organised a one-day 'Activist workshop on Social Mobilisation' under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme in the Village Mahi Darban of UC Yarodero, district Qambar Shahdadt on January 20, 2017. The purpose of the workshop was to establish a platform for learning and experience sharing and for linkages development between Community institutions and local government.

More than 100 rural women leaders of Community Institutions (COs, VO) from different villages participated in the workshop.

Mr. Ghafor Shah (Chairman of the district Council) was the chief guest. A Team from Agha Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) also attended the Activist Workshop.

Other key stakeholders were also invited including government officials, elected representatives of local government like Mr. Zeshan Khan (Vice-Chairman of district council), notables, representatives of PPHI-Sindh and SRSO officials to inform them about the community level initiatives especially utilisation of Community Savings.

### **EU REPRESENTATIVE MR. GEORGES DEHOX VISITS LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SUJAWAL**

SUJAWAL, January 19: Under the SUCCESS Programme, Mr. Georges Dehoux, Development Advisor of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, participated in meetings at Village Fateh Muhammad Jat, Union Council Ghotaro and other Union Councils in District Sujawal as part of a field-monitoring mission.

During the meeting, the EU development advisor received presentations by female members of the community organisations and started a dialogue with the community groups regarding the SUCCESS Programme as well as the EU-funded Women and Children/Infant Improved Nutrition in Sindh (WINS) project implemented by Save the Children in the area.

In the presentations, the community organisations shared profiles of the settlements and their achievements under EU funded SUCCESS Programme. The EU representative said that this programme is crucial to the area because



it focuses on the participation of women who are core members of every household. He also said that, so far, the progress under SUCCESS programme is quite impressive and the EU Delegation believes that in coming time it will bring even more power to the rural communities to be more self-reliant and stable regarding their economy.

Mr. Georges attended meetings of community organisations in Union Council Marho Bola Khan, Tehsil Jati where he asked about the living standards of the community and links towards the nutrition in children and women.

Answering a question during the discussion, Mr. Georges stated that the European Union is supporting the government of Sindh in the field of primary education and will continue to do so in the future, but it is also very important to recognise the power and potential of community institutions to further improve education in the rural areas in conjunction with the Department of Education and Local Authorities. He also expressed strong belief in the capacity of the COs, VO, and LSOs, to actively support and influence the development of education in the rural districts of Sindh.

Mr. Georges also had meeting with government representatives such as Shahzad Fazal Abbasi (Deputy Commissioner Sujawal), Tufail Ahmed Temro (DO Education), Liaquat Sehto (Deputy Director Social Welfare) and Dr. Zahid Khattai (Livestock Officer) seeking their views regarding the SUCCESS programme and exploring areas of further cooperation with local authorities under SUCCESS or other EU-funded programmes in the rural areas.

## EU RESULT ORIENTED MONITORING (ROM) MISSION VISITS SUCCESS PROGRAMME AREAS

HYDERABAD, November 14: A Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) Mission of the European Union visited the Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme from November 14 to November 27, 2016. The aim of ROM mission, implemented by external contractors and experts, is to support EU services in their project monitoring and reporting functions. The purpose of the ROM mission's visit was to conduct a third-party evaluation of performance of the SUCCESS Programme during the first year of implementation.

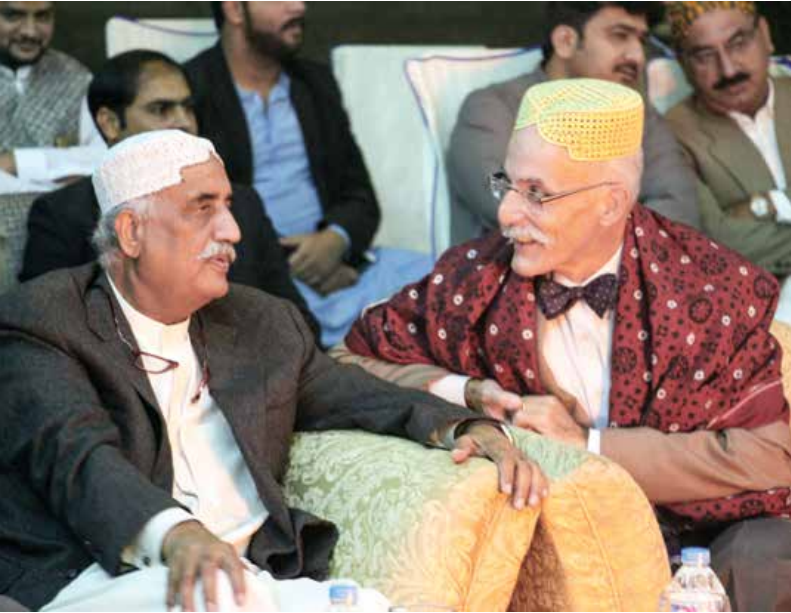
Mr. Massimo Canossa, ROM Review Monitor, visited the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP), Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), the SUCCESS Technical Assistance (TA) team (in Karachi), and the Government of Sindh (GoS), to undertake full monitoring and

evaluation of the programme against the four standard evaluation criteria, i.e. relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. At the end of the visit, Mr. Canossa prepared a monitoring report to present findings and the recommendations by the ROM mission, which was widely shared with all partners and the EU.

In September, 2016, RSPN also engaged an external consultant, Mr. Izhar Ali Hunzai to perform an internal evaluation of the first year's activities of RSPN's component of the SUCCESS Programme. The first evaluation of the RSPN Component in SUCCESS Programme had two primary components: accountability to stakeholders; and learning to improve effectiveness. The evaluation also examined RSPN component's performance against four standard evaluation criteria such as relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. Mr. Hunzai ranked the programme overall at 4 on a scale of 1 to 5, signifying major strengths of the approach, good design feature, and high quality of results delivered and adopted by implementing partners. The final report also contains the key findings, and recommendations for RSPN to better implement the programme.



## EU AMBASSADOR'S SINDH VISIT



The European Union Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Jean-François Cautain, and his wife, Mrs. Sonia Cautain, visited SUCCESS Programme districts in December 2016. During the three-day visit, they met the Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly, Syed Khursheed Shah, Mayor of Sukkur, the commissioner of Larkna Division, and other key government officials. The Commissioner for Larkana hosted a reception for the visiting envoy.

Later, the EU ambassador along with a delegation visited Larkana District and participated in a number of social mobilisation activities. The day started with a programme introduction dialogue in Karani village of Union Council Mohenjo Daro. A large number of women from various villages had gathered to attend the first dialogue session. Mr. Jamal Shoro, Programme Manager of Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), explained in detail the concept, scope and objectives of the newly launched Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme.

The EU Ambassador, Mr. Jean-François Cautain in his address said that the 28 member states of the European Union have become the richest countries of the world, by maintaining peace and creating synergies, standing together and cooperating, in various spheres of economy and society. He said that the EU aims to reduce rural poverty in Pakistan, and for this purpose, resources are being with the federal and provincial governments, to

ensure that people live better lives. Mrs. Cautain also addressed the women, sharing her admiration and appreciation for their resilience and urging them to organise and stand for their rights.

Speaking at the occasion, SRSO's CEO, Mr. Muhammad Dittal Kalhor, thanked the European Union and the Government of Sindh for their continued efforts against poverty in the region. He urged the women to save more and more money, and use it for creating small enterprises. He said that SRSO would not only help the community organisations in terms of building their capacity, but also provide them with grants for income generating activities.

Dr. Shereen Narejo, Secretary Social Welfare, Government of Sindh, and SRSO Board Member, and Ms Shandana Khan, CEO of Rural Support Programmes Network, also shared their views during the first dialogue. They emphasised the importance of togetherness for social development, and urged the women and men to join hands for reducing poverty.

The women present during the first dialogue expressed their willingness to be part of the process of change, and promised to form local level community organisations. Local elders presented the guests with traditional gifts. The EU Ambassador and his wife thanked the communities for their hospitality and warm welcome. The







guests also planted trees at the end of the session to mark the start of a new beginning.

The EU Ambassador then moved to village Imam Bux Mallah, where the local women leaders apprised the guests about the performance of their organisations, their achievements, so far, and their aspirations and dreams.

The women leaders were representing around a hundred Community Organisations formed by Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) as part of the European Union funded SUCCESS Programme. Sharing their experiences, they said that by actively engaging in the development of their Goths, and area, they feel more empowered and confident.

The women leaders said that their strength has grown by coming together and working in an organised manner. Several women also shared stories of their resilience in the face of all the odds. The women leaders said that by confidently and positively explaining the purpose of joining the Community Organisations to their family members, they have been able to garner support for the development of their villages.

Speaking at the occasion EU Ambassador Cautain expressed his pleasure on seeing the progress made under the SUCCESS Programme in a short span of time.

He remarked that the people of Europe would be satisfied to know that their tax money is being used by motivated and energetic women leaders to change the lives of tens of thousands of people. He said that the work done by the women leaders in a short span of time is inspirational, and that he is impressed.

The participants actively engaged in an interactive discussion in which many important aspects of life, society and change in the area came under discussion. The women leaders were confident, and they said that through their work they could bring about very positive changes in the society. After the meeting, the guests went to see the excavated remains of the 5,000 years old Mohenjo Daro civilisation, that flourished on the bank of the Indus River, before being wiped out, most probably by floods.

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND FIELD STORIES

# ORGANISED WOMEN FIGHTING SOCIAL ILLS

Pakistani women, especially the women from rural areas, are often seen as timorous, subservient, and devoid of any agency. It is assumed that the rural women are traditionally conditioned to obey everything told by men, and expect nothing. This may certainly be true for a very large number of rural women, but not for the residents of Allah Waryo Mallah. The women here have taken an unusual step, putting their men in a corner, for good. Let's come to that a bit later.

Allah Waryo Mallah is a village located in Union Council Sheikh Fareed, District Tando Muhammad Khan. Villages in Sindh are generally named after prominent personalities, or tribal chiefs. In some cases, villages are also named after the caste of the residents. Allah Waryo might have been the name of one of the elders of the village from the past, while Mallah is the name of a caste. The Mallahs are traditionally engaged in fishing and boating.

Allah Waryo Mallah is like any other poor village of rural Sindh. Located at a slightly elevated piece of land, the village is surrounded by dry bushes, with thorns on them, erected as a safety measure. A narrow opening in the protective bush-wall leads one to an open space where small and large huts, mud-houses and cattle pens are located. The houses are in bad shape, the village floor is dusty, and there are merely a couple of trees, here and there. Buffalos, goats and hens can be seen near the residential quarters. There's poverty everywhere.

Under one roof, a group of prattling, colorfully clothed women sit in the midst of beautiful Rillies (handmade mosaic sheets), hung on the walls and also spread on the floor. A couple of men are also present.

These women are members of a local community organisation formed only two months back with the help of National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), as part of the Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support Programme (SUCCESS), funded by the European Union. Such organisations are being formed in eight districts of Sindh, to organise and mobilise the rural women.

During their first meeting, the women of Allah Waryo Mallah village discussed their problems, including lack of access to water, lack of health facilities, inadequate educational opportunities, unemployment and myriad other issues. These problems were discussed at length, with the aim of finding solutions.

What topped the list of problems faced by women in the village, however, was substance abuse and gambling by



Repaired portion of the school building's boundary wall

the men. Vast majority of the village's men, and boys, were either drinking alcohol, or taking some other drugs. Some had become addicts, and were also involved in gambling and other activities leading to the wastage of hard earned resources. Something had to be done to stop this.

The women thought for long about the issue, and decided to not remain silent spectators. They wanted to put a stop to the resource wastage and deterioration of health caused by consumption of locally distilled booze and other drugs. The women, unanimously, agreed that they will talk to the men of the village and ask them to stop consuming alcohol and other drugs, and also to stop gambling on cock-fights. While the women were determined, they were also cognizant of the risks involved. What if the men refused? What if they became violent? There were many risks, but silence was not an option for the women anymore.

The debate against drugs and gambling started inside the houses. Pros and cons were discussed, and reason won in some cases. But, as we know, not everyone is logical. Some men resisted, while some reacted with anger, asking the women to stay in their limits. Some women were rebuked harshly. However, the women did not back off. Some of them stopped talking to their husbands and sons, while others started being less cooperative. As a measure of last resort, some women also threatened that they would report the men to the police if they used drugs, or indulged in gambling. This scared some, and they agreed to cut down consumption, and gradually stop drinking.

So far, the women said, they have been able to convince 30% of the men to stop drinking.

"What gave us confidence was the fresh sense of

togetherness after becoming members of the Tanzeem (organisation). We were united and we felt powerful”, said Ms. Nazeema\*, a community leader, while the women sitting around nodded affirmatively, as if endorsing her statement.

“Even the boys had started drinking alcohol by looking at the elders. It is not healthy. Drinking alcohol has destroyed so many lives. Men would become abusive after getting drunk. They wasted money. It affected all of us in one way or the other. Therefore, we stood against it, and have had some success. But the struggle will continue”, she adds, smiling.

The women said that a local man who used to distill alcohol has now less customers than before. He also avoids being seen around the village due to the fear that the CO members might report him to the police. The cock-fighting has also gone down, and men are able to save more money. Kaleem Muhammad\*, 30, an ex-alcoholic agrees. A fisherman by profession, Kaleem earns around 300 rupees per day.

“I used to give 200 rupees to my wife and keep 100 rupees for Tharra (local word for alcohol) every day”, Kaleem says, in a low voice, sitting in the middle of the women who are smiling and laughing. Kaleem wasn’t comfortable opening up about his indulgence in alcoholism, initially. A couple of women stood up, talked to him and almost dragged him to the middle of the meeting hall, making him sit and confess.

“I used to drink because I was very frustrated. Feeding seven children with my income is very difficult. I did not know what to do. So every day I would drink for 100 rupees, and got some solace. One day a police man also fined me when he caught me drunk”, he says, laughing.

“I stopped because what I was doing was bad. The women made me realise that consuming alcohol was not good. I was wasting 100 rupees per day. Now I spend that on my family”, Kaleem adds, while promising to never touch booze again.

The women clap for him, encouraging him to keep his promise. He stands up and literally salutes them. It seems so magical, surrealistic.

Gaining confidence from their initial success, the women of Allah Waryo Mallah now look forward to continue their fight against drug abuse and gambling. But they also have other plans.

Recently, the women and men collected money, and provided labor, to mend the broken boundary wall of a primary school located just outside the village. They are urging parents to send their children to school. They are also helping the villagers in developing their marriage certificates and other official documents.

In the future they plan to raise awareness about health issues. Tuberculosis, Malaria, Diarrhea, epilepsy and stroke are some of the diseases affecting people in the village. The women also plan to save enough money to construct a Mosque in the village as there is no communal place of worship for them currently. They are also concerned by the increasing unemployment. The women want to find solutions for these issues. It is an uphill task to resolve all these issues at the community level, but the women’s determination creates a lot hope.

By: Noor Pamiri, , Communications Officer, SUCCESS-RSPN

\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

## SOCIAL MOBILISATION PROGRESS

**849775**

Households surveyed with PSC

**286703**

Households organised

**15604**

Community Organisations (COs) formed

**1258**

Village Organisations (VOs) formed

**57**

Local Support Organisations (LSO's) formed

**24517**

Women trained in CMST

**1924**

Women trained in LMST

**626**

Community Resource Persons trained

**80**

Activists Workshops held

## RESEARCHER'S DIARY: WHY DO PEOPLE DEFECATE IN THE OPEN?

Majority of the people in the villages of Union Council Masoo Bozdar and Dad Khan Jarwar, District Tando Allahyar, are constrained to live without toilet facilities inside their houses. In Union Council Dad Khan Jarwar, 51.2% of the households do not have latrines, while in Union Council Masoo Bozdar 57.1% of the households do not have latrines, according to a Poverty Scorecard Survey (PSC) conducted by National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in 2016.

Being tenants, living on the landlord's property, the poor people have little control over the houses they live in. "Our landlord does not allow us from constructing toilets on his land", said Dhani, a local woman, during a Focused Group Discussion held in Khalid Khan Jarwar village.

Also, they have little money to spend on construction, even if they are able to get permission from the landlord for construction of toilets.

The issue is not limited to the two UCs though. According to a UNICEF report, 40 million people do not use toilets in Pakistan.

Due to absence of latrines, the people are forced to relieve themselves in the open, behind bushes, under trees, and near water bodies. In rain, and heat, or storm, the women and men, often walk long distances to find a bush, or a tree, or a water body, to defecate.

This laborious, and often humiliating experience, is not a major problem for men. They can easily use open area for defecating any time. It is the women who have to wait for darkness, or wake up before everyone, to find a safe, honourable, place for defecation. They have to wait for long hours, many a time as long as 13-14 hours, to relieve themselves.

"We mostly use open area for defecating when darkness falls in the evening, or when the sun rises in the morning", said a 52-year-old woman, whose name is being withheld to maintain privacy.

In order to urinate less during the day, the women often cut down their water consumption. "Normally we drink little amount of water to curb frequency of urination", said Jami (name changed).

"When the people are sick, and can't walk for long to find bushes and water bodies, they urinate or defecate in the

animal pan located within the household's boundary wall, or they use the space available behind the house", said Mao Patel, a local resident.

Women and children who have to defecate in the open are more susceptible to health issues. Around 110 children, under the age of five, die every day in Pakistan from diarrhea-related diseases, which is often attributed to poor sanitation. (Grieve, 2015)

While those living off the landlord's property are not allowed to construct toilets, the locals having their own land and property also seem to not prioritise construction of toilet, and instead defecate and urinate in the open.

Interestingly, many families can afford to buy motorcycles, mobile phones, television sets, dish antennas, and refrigerators, but choose not to construct toilets and stop defecating and urinating in the open. On inquiry, many locals said that because of the absence of drainage and sewerage system in the area, the toilets may not be very useful.

It appears that the practice of open defecation is affected by economy, culture and level of education. All three factors can be at play in some cases, while in other cases one of them can determine the attitude towards hygiene, and open defecation or urination.

Learning from the Bangladesh experience can be useful." [That] you have to first recognise that it's a behaviour shift that's needed before you put in the infrastructure" (Magda, 2014)

The issue can be addressed by raising awareness about the hazards of open defecation, and by convincing the locals that it is in their own interest to stop the unhealthy practice. Helping low-income people in construction of toilets and proposing alternate waste management models to the village people can also be helpful.

In the long run, the state should devise policies to reduce tenant's dependency of landlords, and to create more educational facilities in the regions, to develop citizens who are more informed and inspired to change the unhealthy practices that appear to be normal.

 By: Sultana Ali, Field Researcher, SUCCESS-RSPN.

## Insights from the frontline

**Sana Ali**, a young girl in her twenties, works as a Social Organiser and Capacity Building Officer for the Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP). Sana has been associated with the European Union funded SUCCESS programme from the early days of its inception, recruited as an enumerator for the Poverty Scorecard (PSC) survey before she became a Social Organiser, now working as part of a Social Mobilisation Team. Sana's tireless efforts in the field support a family of 11 people. Living in a joint family system, she supports her siblings, their families and her parents through her income. Speaking about the value she sees in working for the SUCCESS programme and the rural poor, Sana reflects that having grown up in a village herself, she recognises the intensity of the situation and wants to do her part to help. "We used to see NGO workers coming to our village, trying to help better the lives of people around us, and I wanted to do the same." Seeing the innate potential in her people, Sana believes that each woman is should be empowered and made strong enough to get out on her own and stand on her feet. If she was able to fight the odds and break through, so can others. The key lies in wanting to make the difference, not only for yourself but for others as well. Having spent a significant amount of time working with women and helping them form their own community institutions, Sana has had time to involve herself in their lives and understand many of the problems

they face. Sana shed light on a number of issues faced by young girls and women, particularly in the rural areas in the face of abject poverty and helplessness. Speaking specifically about sensitive instances where some women come head-to-head with harassment and other social pressures, Sana stated, "People need someone to talk to, someone who they can trust," as she elaborated about her goal to create a support group for rural women where they feel safe. Expanding on the issue, Sana explained that men in positions of power or superiority sometimes pressurise women who succumb and find themselves in unpleasant situations in return for help or support that they are in dire need of. Some women begin to find themselves trapped in such vicious cycles that they are not able to break free of. She elaborated that for them, the fear of speaking out even to other women, does not seem feasible because of the threat of bringing shame or facing the consequences. Hence, with the advantage of forming women-only organisations in the SUCCESS programme, Sana hopes that along with the other work that these community institutions do, she can encourage COs and VOs to become safe spaces for women to share their problems and become a source of strength for one another. For in unity, there lies strength.



**Arbab Ali Jhatial**, 41, is working as a social organiser for Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP). He joined the European Union funded SUCCESS Programme in April 2016. Since then, he has been working in Meher Taluka of District Dadu, as a Unit In-charge, looking after social mobilisation activities in five Union Councils.

Married, and father of five children, Arbab Ali is a graduate of the Sindh University, Jamshoro, where he got his Master of Arts degree in Social Work.

"I joined the SUCCESS Programme because of the Community-Driven Development philosophy it espouses", says Arbab, when asked about his motivation. "What the RSPs are doing is not charity work. They don't give alms to the people. Their approach is to organise and mobilise communities through long-term engagement, enabling the people to stand on their own feet. Self-sustenance is the corner stone of our work", he elaborates.

Arbab Ali, who looks young for his age, is confident and satisfied with the work being done so far. "The results are beyond my expectations", he says. "I was astonished to see women asking tough questions from a Nazim (elected administrator) during an activists' workshop", he adds. Arbab explains that women are traditionally expected to not ask questions.

"This change is phenomenal for women from rural backgrounds where patriarchy is rigid and unforgiving", he explains. Arbab is a male social organiser working with a team of mostly female organisers, serving only women from the rural areas. Does this affect his work? Why, as a male, did he choose to work with the women?

"I don't think there's anything odd about it", says Arbab, cheerfully, adding that women and men are equal and should

work together. "I respect my female colleagues for their work, and they respect me."

Talking about refusal cases, Arbab says that refusals from communities are mostly triggered by lack of clarity. "If we are unable to clearly state our programme's objectives and activities, and their impact on the community's lives, then there might be resistance from the locals", he says.

"In Mangwan area, the local landlord did not allow us to work initially", Arbab explains his earlier point with an example. "It was because he did not have a clear idea about the scope of our work."

"The landlord, after some time, realised the importance of social mobilisation, by looking at the work being done in his neighboring villages, and approached TRDP himself, requesting that the Poverty Scorecard Survey be started in his area", said Arbab.

Arbab thinks that the use of android based tablets, modern gadgets, makes the life of the organiser easier. Documentation has been made easier, and the margin of error has gone down, he says. SUCCESS Programme can bring changes by working on behavior change, thinks Arbab. "Men are the decision-makers in the rural settings, and also urban areas. By changing their attitude towards women, we can bring quantum change in the society".

"When men in the organised and mobilised villages see the women taking the lead and bringing about changes, they definitely reflect on their traditional standards. Their patriarchal beliefs are questioned by confident, active and successful women", concludes Arbab.



## FROM ACTIVIST TO ORGANISER:

# The Story of Jumo Agham's Saniya



Ms. Saniya, 24, belongs to village Jumo Agham of district Larkana. Her village is located some 11 km away from Ratodero town. She was the first child in her family. Encouraged by her mother, Saniya took a keen interest in studies. After completing her school education, she continued with her studies. Saniya successfully obtained M.A. degree in Sindhi Literature from Shah Abdul Lateef University. Later, she also obtained a B.Ed. degree from the Allama Iqbal Open University, through distant learning. According to Saniya, her first interaction with the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) team took place when the team visited her village. SRSO team explained the purpose of the visit and set schedule

for holding the programme introduction meeting with community members. Saniya agreed to mobilise the women members of community to attend the programme introduction meeting.

On the agreed date and time, SRSO team reached the village. Saniya had successfully mobilised the village women and the entire community of village Jumo Agham participated in the programme introduction meeting, held at Saniya's house. She says that it was an honour for her family to host the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, the village women agreed to collaborate with SRSO.

Few days later, the SRSO team arrived again to form the Community Organisation. The village women agreed to set up the CO, naming it Chamakdar (shining). Saniya was unanimously selected as the first CO Manager. Saniya said that this again was a great honour for her as the village women had placed great trust in her.

After CO formation, Saniya got busy conducting regular meetings of the CO, particularly visiting individual households to explain the purpose and objectives of CO to members. Saniya says that she got so much involved in matters related to the CO that she could hardly find any time to spend at home.

When SRSO was organising a Community Skills Management Training (CMST) for all local CO leaders, Saniya offered that the training could be held at her house. SRSO agreed. Saniya actively participated in CMST training and showed outstanding potential to support social mobilisation locally. At the conclusion of the three-day CMST training, everyone recognised Saniya as the key activist of the community.

Taking on a broader role, Saniya then started visiting other communities to talk about social mobilisation and to answer people's queries about social mobilisation. She highlighted the importance of community-driven development initiatives to improve people's own lives. Saniya also supported COs and Village Organisations with their record keeping and savings. She became a key activist to support the roll out of social mobilisation in the entire Union Council and was a continuous source of strength for the SRSO field team.

---

**“I want to remove the dark clouds of extreme poverty that have been lingering over the area for so long”**

---

In December 2016, Saniya joined other leaders of the COs and VOs to participate in a meeting with the members of a team from the European Union Delegation Islamabad at Mohen-Jo-Daro. At this meeting Saniya had an opportunity to present the work of CO Chamakdar. During the presentation, she explained activities and initiatives undertaken by her CO in a short span of time. Saniya also mentioned details of the support she offered to other COs and VOs in the Union Council.

For Saniya, speaking in front of visitors, including the EU ambassador, was a source of motivation. She became more determined to work for the welfare and prosperity of their whole area, not just for a single CO or village. Saniya discussed her vision with SRSO's field team and showed a keen interest in becoming a Social Organiser.

Later, when SRSO announced vacant positions for Junior Social Organisers under the SUCCESS Programme, Saniya also applied, following the procedure outlined in the announcement. A few days later, Saniya received a call from the SRSO head office at Sukkur and was asked to appear for an interview. Based on her academic qualifications, understanding of basics of social mobilisation, and being a local resident, Saniya was recruited as a Junior Social Organiser. She is now a highly valuable member of the social mobilisation team of the SUCCESS Programme working out of SRSO's office at Ratodero.

After joining SRSO, Saniya attended a three-day Orientation Training on Social Mobilisation and SUCCESS Programme. Since then, she is actively engaged in conducting programme introduction meetings, formation of COs and VOs and conducting CMST for female community leaders.

Today, Saniya is an active member of the SUCCESS Programme team, working for empowerment of poor rural women. For other young girls and young women in her area, Saniya has become a source of inspiration, a role model. The members of CO Chamakdar are very glad and proud that their former CO Manager is now working as a development change-maker for the entire area.

Saniya says that she had never imagined being part of SRSO and the European Union funded SUCCESS Programme. “I want to remove the dark clouds of extreme poverty that have been lingering over the area for so long”, says Saniya, when asked about her mission.

SUCCESS Programme is based on the Rural Support Programme's (RSPs) social mobilisation approach to community-driven development (CDD). Social Mobilisation centers around the belief that poor people have an innate potential to help themselves; that they can better manage their limited resources if they organise and are provided technical and financial support. The RSPs under the SUCCESS Programme provide social guidance, technical and financial assistance to the rural poor in Sindh.

SUCCESS is a six-year long (2015-2021) programme funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) and Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) in eight districts of Sindh, namely: Kambar Shahdadkot, Larkana, Dadu, Jamshoro, Matiari, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan.



EUROPEAN UNION

"This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union."

More information about the European Union is available on:  
Web: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/>  
Twitter: EUPakistan  
Facebook: [European-Union-in-Pakistan/269745043207452](https://www.facebook.com/European-Union-in-Pakistan/269745043207452)



**Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support Programme**

Office No. G-3, Islamabad Stock Exchange Towers  
55-B, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad  
Ph: 92-51-2894060-3 Fax: 92-51-289064  
URL: [www.success.org.pk](http://www.success.org.pk)  
Facebook.com/successprogramme  
Twitter @successprog