











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.

LSO Initiatives

LSO Digh Mori

<p>District</p>  <p>Tando Muhammad Khan</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Digh Mori</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>27 2016</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>3,208</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,380</p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p>43%</p>
	<p>No of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>64 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>8 (all women's)</p>	<p>No of General Body Members</p>  <p>24 (all women)</p>	<p>No of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>15 (all women)</p>	

Village-level Solid Waste Management

A lack of proper system for cleaning the village from garbage, human and animal wastes was a major reason for pollution and unhygienic conditions in the LSO area. People used to dump their garbage either in the corner of a room or the courtyard. Sooner or later, the garbage used to spill out and spread across the house again. Even worse was that the land lord and other large farmer families used to dump their cow dungs in the corner of the streets in the villages. These heaps of garbage were the main breeding centres for flies, mosquitos and other harmful insects and bacteria. During the rainy seasons, the cow dung heaps used to spread dirt and foul smell all over the village.

After the formation of LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme last October, their leaders went through awareness-raising sessions on public health and hygiene in January 2017. The sessions also included training on solid waste management. The LSO leaders conducted similar sessions with their respective VO leaders, and the VO





leaders conducted sessions in their respective COs to aware the community members of the benefits of cleanliness and hygiene. The VOs resolved to clean their villages. They first negotiated with the land lords and other farmers and motivated them to store their cow dungs out of the villages. Then they fixed a date for cleaning their villages on self-help basis. All 8 VOs decided to clean their villages. They prepared land-filled sites by digging the ground in the outskirts of their villages. However, digging and transporting the mounts of cow dungs already dumped in the corners of the streets was a problem for them. They, therefore, requested NRSP for support. NRSP provided each VO with a set of tool kits for digging, collecting and transporting the garbage to safer places and arranged tractor trollies on rent to transport the garbage to the land-filled sites. All 8 VOs carried out village cleaning campaigns in turn. On the invitation of the VO, men, women, young boys and girls and even children actively participated in the campaigns which continued over two to three days. They also constructed garbage collection points in their villages and asked the families to put their household level garbage into them. They burn the garbage in the evening, which is also helpful in driving out mosquitos. Each VO now repeat the cleaning campaign on monthly basis. The activity not only proved instrumental in providing the local people with a healthy environment but also boasted the self-confidence of the LSO and VO leaders for carrying out similar other initiatives in future.

Testing of drinking water sources

Waterborne diseases are very common in rural Sindh. The main reason of waterborne diseases is use of un-safe water. However, the general masses had never thought that their water sources might be polluted. As a result of awareness session received under the SUCCESS Programme on the causes and solutions of waterborne diseases, the LSO leaders decided to test all 6 public water sources in their union councils (UCs). They collected water samples and sent them to the laboratory of Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR) Badin. The result showed that 5 water sources were safe while one water source was un-safe to be used as drinking water. The LSO painted the safe water sources with green colour and the un-safe one with red colour and announced to the general public that the red-colour source is not good for human consumption, so they should use it only for washing clothes and other such purposes. The water testing cost the LSO Rs. 18,300 which was contributed to them by their members. This initiative helped reducing waterborne diseases in the area.

Plantation Campaign in Collaboration with Government Forestry Department

The government nurseries in Sindh are mandated to provide rooted plants to community organisations at a subsidised rate of Rs. 2 while they charge Rs 8 to others. Before formation of the LSO, the local people had no information about this subsidy. But after formation of the LSO they learnt about it and they submitted a resolution to the Government Forest Nurseries for providing rooted plants for plantation.

The Forest Nurseries provided 600 plants to the LSO, which then distributed the plants among VOs. The VOs further supplied them to interested members. The LSO is planning to procure more plants from the Government nurseries in future by submitting their demand resolutions well on time.



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