













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 Shah Inayat Rizvi

<p>District</p>  <p>Tando Allahyar</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Shah Inayat Rizvi</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>2017</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>3,765</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,719</p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p>46%</p>
	<p>No of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>91 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>10 (all women's)</p>	<p>No of General Body Members</p>  <p>30 (all women)</p>	<p>No of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>15 (all women)</p>	

Preparation of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC)

A CNIC is an essential document for a Pakistani national to get basic citizen's rights, including voting rights in Local Government, Provincial and National Assembly elections. The LSO leaders knew that majority of people especially women do not have a valid CNIC. Therefore, they are deprived of their basic citizenship rights. The LSO leaders raised this issue in the Activists Workshop organised under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme. The SUCCESS staff briefed them about National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) mobile van arrangement, which on the demand of the community visits their village and issues CNIC at their door steps saving them significant amount of money and labour.

On the advice of the LSO, the leaders of VO Khair Muhammad Jarwar prepared a list of those women and men



who are eligible to get CNIC but have not availed yet. They also checked the existing CNICs and listed down the expired ones. The LSO leaders approached NADRA office and submitted an application for sending their mobile van for issuing CNICs to their villagers. During the month of May NADRA sent their mobile van to the village for three days and issued CNICs to over 400 women and men. The LSO requested NADRA to send the mobile van to other villages of the UC and NADRA assured them that once they get approval from their Head Office, they will visit other villages as well. It is worth mentioning that the LSO arranged CNICs for all people in the village irrespective of whether they are CO members or not.

Support member VO and COs in opening of bank accounts

Transparency and accountability are two key values of community institutions. The financial transactions through institutional bank accounts are considered as a key measure for assurance of transparency and accountability. However, due to the State Bank of Pakistan's regulations, the opening of bank accounts for the community institutions has been difficult. Therefore, the LSO leaders are supporting member COs and VOs for opening their bank accounts in The First Micro Finance Bank and NRSP Microfinance Bank. The COs will use the bank accounts mainly for safe keeping of their savings and VOs will use the bank account for safe keeping of VO Fund and implementation of projects etc.



Support persons with disabilities in getting Special CNIC

There are several facilities available for persons with disabilities in government institutions. For example, they can receive medical treatment in government facilities free of cost or at subsidized rates. They are exempt from standing in

queues for getting token in government facilities. Therefore, NADRA issues a special CNIC to the persons with disabilities. However, due to lack of information, the persons with disabilities in rural areas normally apply for the standard CNIC.

The LSO leaders learnt about the benefits of Special CNIC for the persons with disabilities in an Activists Workshop held under the SUCCESS Programme. After identifying persons with disabilities in their area, the LSO leaders helped them getting special CNICs. So far, 19 persons have received their special CNICs with the help of the LSO.



Establishment of linkage with Government Forest Department

Forest trees are invaluable assets for rural communities. These may grow in unused farm lands, in the courtyards, in the sides of streets and roads etc. However, due to lack of awareness and planting materials, people do not plant forest trees. The SUCCESS Programme raised the awareness of forest trees among the LSO leaders in one of the awareness sessions. The LSO leaders discussed it with their member VOs and COs and they all decided to carry out a plantation drive. The LSO then approached the Government Forest Department for provision of planting material. However, as the plantation is seasonal, they could only obtain 100 rooted forest plants. The LSO is planning to get maximum plants during the next planting season in August.



"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."

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THE LSO INITIATIVES SERIES IS BY THE RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK 

