

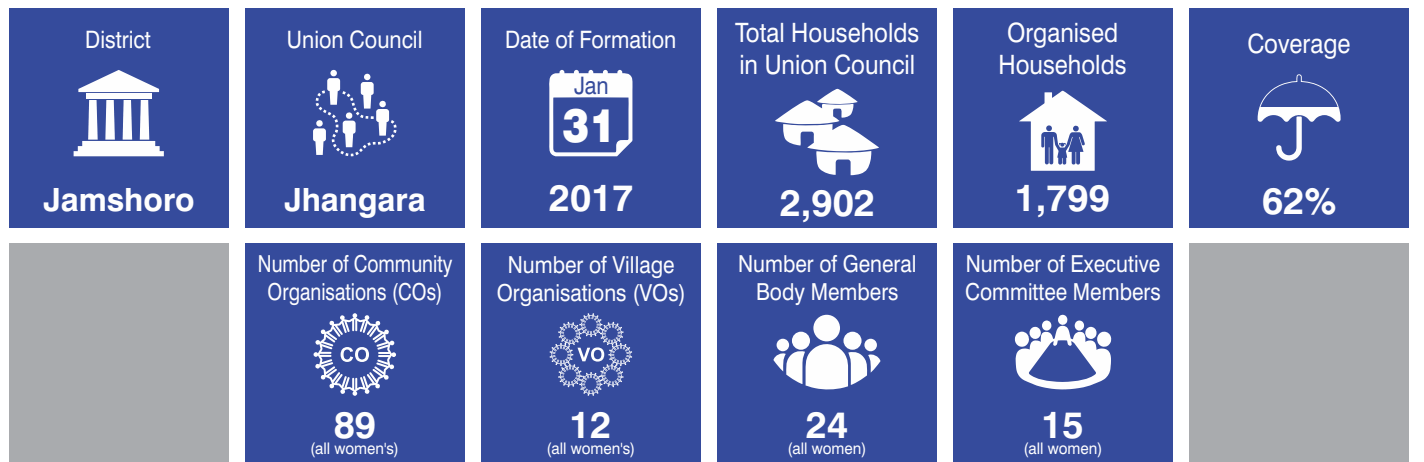


What are LSOs?

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 Khushali Jhangara



(LSO Profile as of August 2017)

Campaign for Enrolment of Children in Schools

In the union council of Jhangra, a large number of school-going age children including both girls and boys were out of school. The main reason for this was a lack of awareness about the importance of education among the parents. However, as a result of awareness raising sessions carried out by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) under the EU supported SUCCESS Programme, the community leaders and members understood the strategic importance of education for the bright future of their next generation.

The LSO leaders rightly decided to transform this mass awareness into action. They therefore, motivated all VO leaders to lead enrolment campaigns for admission of girls and boys into schools. They identified the out-of-school children and then visited each house in their respective villages to motivate and guide the parents. Simultaneously, they held meetings with the head teachers of the schools and sought their support for maximum enrolment of students. As a result of these efforts, 1,400 girls and 1,022 boys were enrolled in the local government schools during a six-month period. The LSO leaders are committed that they will ensure 100% enrolment of school age girls and boys in schools by the next academic session.



Opening of Closed Government Schools and Construction of Boundary Wall of a Government School

During the enrolment campaign the LSO leaders learned that four government schools are closed in their area due to unavailability of teachers. The members of LSO Executive Committee went to meet the District Education Officer (EDO), briefed him about their enrolment campaign and its successful gains. The LSO leaders explained the issue of unavailability of teachers and submitted an application for appointment of teachers to these four schools. The EDO appreciated the efforts of the LSO leaders and he immediately appointed teachers to these schools. All four schools are now functioning well, and a total of around 261 girls and boys have been enrolled in these schools.

One of the government schools had no boundary walls. The LSO approached TRDP for support. The TRDP provided funds from a project and constructed the boundary wall. The LSO also contributed some funds collected from their own members to complete the project.



LSO leaders meeting in their office

Support to Malnourished Children

After getting sensitised about the importance of nutrition during the awareness-raising session on nutrition, the LSO conducted a survey in the union council to identify the number of malnourished children. A total of 26 children were identified who were suffering from malnourishment, out of which seven children were in critical condition. The LSO generated funds from their members and took these children to the nutrition centre established by Action Against Hunger (ACF), a global humanitarian organisation, in Dadu town, where they were properly checked by nutrition experts and provided with required food and food supplements. The LSO leaders are taking these children to Dadu town for regular

check-up on monthly basis. As a result of the treatment and proper care, the health status of these children is improving steadily.

Support to Members for Registration of New-born Children and Nikah Nama

There was no tradition of birth registration and nikah (marriage) registration among the common people. If the birth registration is not done on time, people face immense difficulties at the time of admission of children in schools and later on getting National Identity Card. Similarly, if the nikah is not registered, the woman cannot claim anything from her husband in case of disputes and divorce.

The awareness sessions delivered by the CRPs on the need and importance of basic registrations was instrumental in inspiring the LSO leaders for launching campaign on birth and nikah registration. So far, they have been successful in registering 400 births and 12 nikah.

Medical Camp in Remote Villages

The LSO leaders learnt that in three villages close by Manchar Lake that have no health facilities there was a serious outbreak of measles among children as well as diarrhoea and skin diseases among both children and adults due to pollution of water. The LSO brought the issue in the notice of the Government Health Department and offered their support in arranging Medical Camps in the effected villages. As a result of this quick response, the Health Department immediately arranged three Medical Teams with vaccines, necessary medicines and testing equipment in these villages. The Medical Teams vaccinated the children against measles and treated both children and adults suffering from diarrhoea and skin diseases.



Opening ceremony of LSO Office



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