



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 Lakhat

District Tando Muhammad Khan	Union Council Lakhat	Date of Formation Jan 03 2017	Total Households in Union Council 2,517	Organised Households 1,412	Coverage 56%
	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 70 (all women's)	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 9 (all women's)	Number of General Body Members 27 (all women)	Number of Executive Committee Members 11 (all women)	

(LSO Profile as of August 2017)

Partnership with Global Fund for Awareness Raising about Malaria

Malaria is one of the most common causes of fatal diseases in the area. The Global Fund, a financing institution, providing support to countries in the response to three diseases: AIDS, TB and Malaria, is collaborating with NRSP for prevention and treatment of Malaria in ten districts of Sindh, including Tando Muhammad Khan. The Global Fund has established latest facilities for testing and treatment of Malaria patients in the local government hospitals and health centres. However, due to a lack of information and awareness, very few people take benefits from these facilities.

When the LSO was formed under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, it hired Community Resource Persons (CRPs) who started delivering sessions on social issues through the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) to the community members. Looking at the effectiveness of these sessions, The Global Fund staff contacted the LSO leaders and negotiated an MoU for using the services of the CRPs for





conducting awareness sessions about Malaria in the union council. The Global Fund trained four CRPs on session delivery and provided them with the awareness-raising materials. The LSO organised awareness sessions across the UC and the CRPs conducted the sessions for 833 community members. The result was quite encouraging as the average number of people coming for Malaria test to the local health centres increased from 10 to 35 per day. The Global Fund paid Rs. 65,000 to the LSO for payment of honorarium to the CRPs, and of record keeping, monitoring and reporting of the awareness sessions. After paying all expenses, the LSO managed to save Rs. 9,000 which was deposited into LSO fund.

Introduction of improved wheat cultivation method

The majority of the farmers of the union council cultivate wheat, but due to mainly traditional farming practices and shortage of water, the yield is so poor that wheat cultivation is not cost efficient. The wheat production is not sufficient enough to meet their annual home consumption; therefore, they have to buy flour from market on high rates. After

formation of the LSO under the EU supported SUCCESS programme, the community leaders contacted the Agriculture Department, Government of Sindh, to seek their advice and technical help to improve wheat farming. The department was not of much help, however looking at the interest of LSO leaders, the district team of NRSP linked them with the local office of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) that works on sustainable maize and wheat farming. The CIMMYT provides training to local farmers on new methods and tools about wheat farming.

The LSO nominated 9 farmers to get training as master trainers from CIMMYT at Tando Muhammad Khan town. The master trainers are then to train other farmers in the improved method of wheat cultivation. Two of the master trainers experimented the new wheat farming method during the last season. These farmers contacted Engro Fertiliser Company for their advice on proper use of chemical fertiliser. Engro sent two Field Officers who taught them proper use of fertilisers in wheat fields to get maximum production with minimum use of fertiliser. According to the master trainers, the new method is quite beneficial. Under the traditional method, the cost of production per acre amounts to Rs. 17,000 and the gross production is Rs. 30,000 leaving the farmers with only Rs. 13,000 net income per acre. Under the new method, the cost of production is Rs. 18,000 but the gross production amounts to Rs. 55,000 resulting in a net profit of Rs. 37,000 per acre to the farmers. The new method also requires less water.

The farmers are very happy with the new cultivation method of wheat and the LSO is planning to train maximum farmers to scale up the new method across the UC during the coming years.



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