

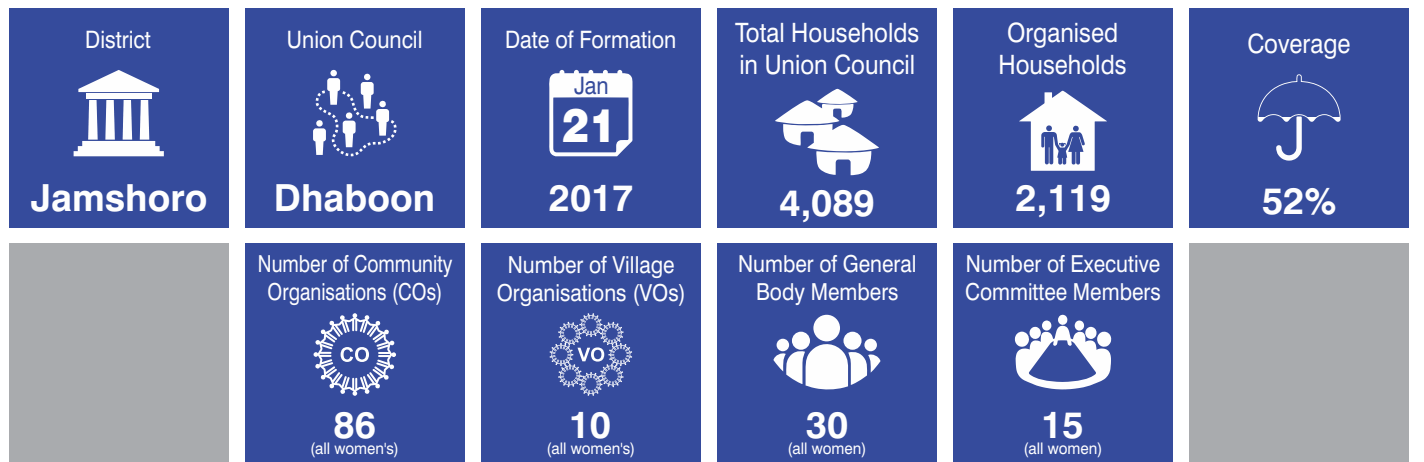


What are LSOs?

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 Aitabar Dhaboon



(LSO Profile as of August 2017)

Procurement of Forest Plants from Government

In February, the Government of Sindh launched a plantation campaign called Green Day. The members of the LSO participated in the campaign and as a result of their motivation, a large number of people planted trees in their homes, streets and fields. However, the main issue was a lack of availability of planting materials, and unaffordability of plants being sold at private nurseries. The LSO leaders went to meet the local Deputy Commissioner and asked him to give them planting materials from the government-owned nurseries free of cost. The Deputy Commissioner issued 400 plants from the Government Forest Nursery. The LSO leaders collected the plants and distributed them to the members who planted them in their homes and fields. The LSO leaders are planning to get more planting materials from the government-owned nurseries for next plantation season.



Opening of a Community School

In the village of Hari Camp, Jamshoro, there was no school. The village was, in fact, established in the year 2007 to provide shelter to the drought affected families that migrated from Tharparkar. The Government of Sindh constructed houses for 75 families in the village, and a single-room community centre was also constructed. As there was no school in the village, the local community decided to turn the community centre into a school. Despite a number of efforts, the government line departments did not assist and open the school there. Therefore, their children were unable to get education, which was a great loss for them.



The EDO Jamshoro visiting the Community School

After formation of the LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, the issue came under discussion at VO and LSO level. Finally, they decided that instead of waiting for any government department to help and open a public school, they would start a school on self-help basis. A local educated young man was hired as teacher and the community centre was turned into a school. The parents of students pay Rs. 100 per month as fee which is used for payment of salary of the teacher. Till now, 35 girls and boys are enrolled in the school.

Recently, on the request of the LSO leaders, the District Education Officer visited the school and was greatly impressed by the self-initiative of the community. "If everyone had the same zest and zeal for education of their children, the light of education would illuminate

each and every part of Sindh very soon" he remarked after visiting the school. He promised to try to obtain formal approval for the school from government, arrange teachers and construct a proper building.

Improving Functions of School Management Committee

Before getting organised into COs, VOs and LSOs, the community members had no understanding about the function of the School Management Committee (SMC). It is mandatory for every government school to form a SMC with representatives from both the school and community. The government provides funds to these SMCs on annual basis for repair and maintenance of the school. However, the funds are mostly never used properly. The LSO members learnt about the functions of the SMC and its funds through an awareness session conducted by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs). The LSO leaders went to visit one school in village Goth Wadero Muhammad Khan Dhaboon and found that the school had no furniture and the students were sitting on the floor. They asked about the SMC fund and found that it was lying in the account of the SMC. So on their demand, the SMC purchased carpets for the school using the school fund. Moreover, the SMC promised to arrange proper furniture for the school very soon. The LSO demanded to take one of their active leaders as a member in the SMC so that she can keep a close eye on its activities and utilisation of resources.



Ms Kathryn Ennis, Team Leader EU SUCCESS Technical Assistance visiting the LSO



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