













**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 Duaa, Sehwan

<p>District</p>  <p><b>Jamshoro</b></p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p><b>Channa</b></p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p><b>2016</b></p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p><b>3,361</b></p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p><b>2,066</b></p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p><b>61%</b></p>
	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p><b>118</b> <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p><b>12</b> <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p><b>24</b> <small>(all women)</small></p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p><b>15</b> <small>(all women)</small></p>	

(LSO Profile as of October 2017)

**Education**

The village of Haji Gul Muhammad consists of 375 households. Since the village is close to Sehwan town, people usually send their children to schools in the town. The general impression was that all school-going aged children are enrolled in the town schools. Therefore, no need was felt to open schools inside the village. After formation of the LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, the LSO enquired about the enrollment status of the school-going aged boys and girls in its member VO areas and learnt that a large number of children were out of school in the village. Upon asking the villagers the reason stated was that long distances had to be covered to reach the schools in the town. As this was a matter of concern, the LSO leaders, therefore, contacted Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) and motivated them to establish a school in the village centre. The SEF was extremely responsive to the request and within a six months established a primary school in the village. This resulted in increase in enrolment, with 55 girls and 65 boys (120 students) enrolling in school.

In April 2017, the LSO started a union council wide campaign to enrol maximum out-of-school children in schools. The LSO took



out a rally in the bazaar of their main village, Haji Gul Muhammad, to highlight the importance of education and to motivate parents to send their girls and boys to government, community and private schools. This resulted in enrolment of 252 students, including 120 girls and 132 boys.

Furthermore, the LSO leaders are regularly holding meetings with the School Management Committees (SMCs) of the local government schools to discuss, among other things, the status of the school fund. If they find that the fund is lying unused, they identify repair and maintenance needs of school buildings or missing facilities in the school and motivate the SMC to spend the money for improvement of the school in a transparent manner. The LSO leaders, so far, have met with 8 SMCs regarding the utilisation of the school fund.

### Civil Registration

Civil registration is the system by which the government records the vital events (births, marriages, and deaths) of its citizens and residents to create a legal document that can be used to establish and protect the rights of individuals. Another purpose of civil registration is to create a data source for the compilation of vital statistics. Mainly due to a lack of awareness about the importance of civil registration, people of the area, especially the women, were least interested in preparing their CNICs. Moreover, they did not know where and how to obtain birth certificates and marriage certificates.

However, during the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) session on Basic Registrations, given by the community resource person to the members of CO, they learnt about the importance of civil registration and the way to obtain all the certificates. Since then around 70 women and men have obtained their CNICs from NADRA office, 25 children have received birth certificates, and 18 couples have obtained their marriage certificates from the local UC Office.

### Health

When the Community Resource Person (CRP) delivered awareness-raising session on birth spacing, the community women learnt the importance of birth spacing between pregnancies and its effects on the health of a mother and her baby. Frequent pregnancies without birth spacing result in a number of issues, including an increased risk of low birth weight, small gestational size, preterm birth, infant death and labor issues such as uterine rupture. As a result of these learnings, more and more women are motivated to adopt birth spacing methods. So far, 298 women have visited the local Family Planning Centre to get advice and measures for birth spacing. In addition to that, the LSO is advising pregnant women to go to hospitals, local health centers and LHWs for delivery of new



born. So far, 36 deliveries have been reported to be taken place in hospitals.

### Developing Linkages with Government Departments

One of the primary objectives of the LSO is to establish productive linkages with government line departments to access their services and supplies for its members. The leaders of LSO Duaa have so far held meetings with various government line departments to highlight the issues they are facing and to obtain their support. The meetings have been held with departments such as NADRA for obtaining their support in preparation of CNICs; Revenue Department to obtain household data to ensure 100% inclusion in the Poverty Scorecard survey; Public Health Department for obtaining no objection certificate for a drainage system scheme planned under the SUCCESS programme; Education Department to take actions against absentee teachers; Social Welfare Department for registration of the LSO; and Local Government for civil registrations. The results of these meetings have been encouraging and the linkage development efforts have so far been fruitful. Building upon these successes, the LSO leaders are planning to establish cooperative relationship with other government departments as well in future.



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Reported by: Muhammad Ali Azizi  
 Edited By: Filza Nasir  
 Designed & Printed by: Masha ALLAH Printers

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