







**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 Fatah, Larkana

<p>District</p>  <p><b>Larkana</b></p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p><b>Izat Ji Wandh</b></p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p><b>2017</b></p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p><b>2,332</b></p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p><b>1,739</b></p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p><b>75%</b></p>
	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p><b>80</b> (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p><b>8</b> (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p><b>16</b> (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p><b>7</b> (all women)</p>	

(LSO Profile as of October 2017)

### Reforestation of the Villages

Due to the practice of deforestation or cutting of trees for the use of wood, the lands of the Union Council Izat Ji Wandh had lost many of the trees. As forests facilitate the sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, reforestation measures, which is repopulating an area which has lost its tree population are widely accepted to mitigate global warming and rebuild natural habitats and ecosystems. Furthermore reforestation functions as anti-erosion and flood-control measure.

In one of their meetings, the LSO members discussed the adverse effects of deforestation of their villages, and decided to start a reforestation campaign in collaboration with their member VOs and COs. However, the members did not have gardening and planting material. To start with, they decided to use the unwanted forest trees grown in their farm fields as planting material. Usually, these trees were uprooted and thrown away. The LSO members decided to uproot these trees and plant them in the barren areas in and around their villages. During the last planting season, a number of villages adopted this initiative successfully. Moreover, the members bought rooted trees from the local nurseries and planted them in their



A farmer giving water a newly planted forest tree



courtyards and other barren spaces. The LSO is planning to expand the campaign across all villages in the next planting season. They estimate that by doing so, they will be able to restore the past greenery of their villages which had turned into deserts due to heavy cutting of forest trees without replantation plans.

### Inclusion of Poorest Families in COs

When the LSO was formed, they learned that a large number of poorest families are reluctant to join their COs due to a lack of awareness and misconceptions about the programme. The LSO leaders decided to motivate them to join the COs. They asked their VO leaders to contact the people who refused to join and brief them about the purpose and benefits of becoming members of COs in collaboration with the Community Resource Persons (CRPs). So far, they have managed to include 431 poor families in their respective COs.



Group picture of the Executive Committee members of the LSO with RSPN and SRSO staff

### Enrollment of Girls and Boys in Schools

The Poverty Score Survey conducted under the SUCCESS Programme provides information about the out of school children. The LSO learnt that some 2,604 girls and boys are not enrolled in any schools in their area. The LSO decided to take immediate actions against it and started motivating the mothers of those children in their neighbourhoods to send them to schools. The CRPs also motivated CO members during their awareness sessions. As a result of their joint efforts, they managed to enrol 448 children, including 214 boys and 234 girls in schools. The LSO has planned to continue the campaign during each and every admission season in schools. The LSO has formed an Education Committee to plan, execute and monitor the enrollment campaigns in collaboration with member VOs and COs.

### Motivated Members for Birth Spacing

In the LSO area the people have misunderstanding about the concept of birth spacing and the women are not provided with any awareness regarding the benefits of birth spacing. As a result, the

women are faced with continuous pregnancies, which have adverse effects on their health and on the health of the new-borns. It is also believed by some people that practicing birth spacing is a sin. To rid the people of these misconceptions and explain the benefits of birth spacing, to both the mother and children, the LSO leaders organised a birth spacing camp in one of their villages in collaboration with Population Service International (PSI). More than 50 women were provided with birth spacing facilities in this camp. Emboldened with this success, the LSO leaders are planning to organise more such camps in other villages.



An LSO member is receiving birth spacing services from the camp

### Spray against Mosquito

Sugarcane is widely grown across the Izat Ji Wandh UC. During Spring, the months of March and April, and Autumn, the months of September and October, mosquito population expands in these fields causing spread of malaria among the villagers. As an affordable and quick relief, the LSO contacted the government departments for carrying out an insect-repellent spray in the affected villages. The health department carried out insect-repellent spray in 5 villages, which was quite effective in reducing the population of the mosquitoes and hence incidences of malaria in the people of those villages.

### Financial Support to Poor Members from Savings

Savings at the CO level is a practice that is given immense importance as it acts as a precautionary measure for any unforeseen circumstances or in cases of emergencies. The member COs of LSO Fatah regularly save during their monthly meetings. As a result, the total savings of the member COs of the LSO have increased to 805,600 rupees. On the recommendation of the LSO leaders, the COs have started providing interest-free loans to needy members from their saving pool. So far the COs have provided financial support to more than 50 members and the members have been returning the loans on time.



"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."

Reported by: Mohammad Ali Azizi, RSPN  
Edited By: Filza Nasir, RSPN  
Acknowledgment: Hamid Ali Magso, DPM Larkana and Tahir Sario FUI  
Rato Dero, SRSO  
Designed & Printed by: Masha ALLAH Printers

THE LSO INITIATIVES SERIES IS BY THE  
RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK



Web: [eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan\\_en](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan_en)  
Facebook: European Union in Pakistan  
Twitter: EUPakistan

Web: [www.success.org.pk](http://www.success.org.pk)  
Facebook: successprogramme  
Twitter: SUCCESSinSindh

Web: [www.rspn.org](http://www.rspn.org)  
Facebook: RSPNPakistan  
Twitter: RSPNPakistan