











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 under SUCCEED, mobilise rural women 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 Ghotaro, Sujawal

<p>District</p>  <p>Sujawal</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Ghotaro</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>2016</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>3,512</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>2,220</p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p>63%</p>
	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>61 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>7 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>28 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>20 (all women)</p>	

(LSO Profile as of March 2018)

LSO Ghotaro, formed on October 2016, represents a total of 2,220 organised households from the district of Sujawal. Women leaders of LSO Ghotaro are planning and executing development activities including among others complementing and supplementing government's efforts in Polio eradication, anti malaria campaign and tree plantations. The EU funded SUCCEED programme is empowering rural women in Sindh through realising the power they gain from collective action. The organised women now are gaining awareness about their rights and making the service providers accountable and also taking self-initiatives to improve their lives.

Support to Government in Polio Vaccination

Last year, a polio case was detected in District of Sujawal. To address the epidemic, the Government of Sindh has been implementing a monthly polio vaccination programme throughout the District for the last nine months. Despite the Polio Vaccination Team's efforts and endeavours, some children have been missed out on the vaccination. Therefore, the Government Health Department has sought the services of the women LSO leaders to ensure 100% coverage of the Polio vaccination in each round. The



The LSO is observing a procession on raising awareness about Polio vaccination in a local school.

LSO carried out village wise awareness campaigns to sensitise all the local residents about the importance of the campaign. They also managed to convince those communities who have been reluctant to give vaccinations including Polio drops to their children due to ignorance and/or negative propaganda by certain extremist groups. Since the women members of the LSOs know the families



and children who live in their villages, they can easily point out any left out child in their area and then inform the Polio Workers about it. The Polio workers conduct follow up visits and vaccinate such left out children.

Anti-malaria Campaign

Mosquito bite and malaria is common in the UC Ghotaro especially during the monsoon and rainy seasons. It is reported that around 20% people suffer from malaria on annual basis leading to fatalities. Although malaria is a common disease but one of the types of malaria is fatal and the affected persons rarely survive. With the financial support of Global Fund Against TB, AIDS and Malaria (GFATM), the Directorate of Malaria Control Programme (DOMC), a Government of Sindh Organisation, has been implementing a malaria control programme in the province, which also includes UC Ghotaro. One of the partner RSPs of SUCCESS programme, NRSP is also one of the implementing partners of DOMC. NRSP has been implementing its component of the programme in collaboration with the LSOs. The LSO Ghotaro also has signed a Terms of Partnership (ToP) with NRSP and is actively participating in the antimalarial drive. NRSP has hired Community Resource Persons (CRPs) from among the LSO activists and trained them in delivering awareness sessions to their members to take preventive measures to avoid malaria, including filling low level water storage areas with mud, mixing lime or ash in such water ponds, advise members to go to the Health Centre and take a malaria test in case of first fever before taking any medicines or malaria vaccine and ensure that their children are under the mosquito net before sun-set etc. The LSO organises village wise awareness raising campaigns and NRSP pays a fixed amount to the LSO for payment of honorarium to the CRPs for delivering the sessions and cost of refreshments during the sessions, to the participants. The LSO is planning to save any money from the amount using cost-efficient measures to build its fund to use for future activities and operations.



A CRP delivering an awareness session on malaria prevention measures

Plantation of Trees

During their interaction with the SUCCESS field teams, the LSO leaders learnt the importance of planting trees for the improvement of their environment. Moreover, semi-mature and mature trees are assets which the community can use in many ways, such as selling them to get money in any emergency, or using the timber for construction of houses and animal sheds. On the recommendation of the women leaders of LSO Ghotaro, their VO leaders raised awareness among their CO members during CO meetings. However, finding affordable planting material was an issue as the plants sold by the private nurseries are expensive. On the guidance of SUCCESS field team, the LSO approached Government Forest Department for provision of rooted plants on subsidized rates. The Forest Department however could only supply 250 plants to the LSO members. They bought the plants and distributed them among the interested members in five villages with necessary instructions about their proper plantation, timely watering and protecting them from domestic animals in the early stages. This action created a great awareness among the LSO members about the importance of tree plantation, and the LSO is planning to cover their entire village settlements with trees in the near future by continuing plantation campaigns during the plantation seasons.



An LSO member is planting a rooted tree in her courtyard

Application for the Post of LHV

The LSO leaders learnt from advertisements given by the Government of Sindh in the local newspapers and FM Radio that nine posts of Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) are open to be filled in their UC. The LSO leaders discussed the matter amongst themselves and realised that the role of LHV is very crucial in improving health status of the local people. In the past, influential families used to induct women of their families as LHVs from the town areas, whose interest was only in the salary, and therefore did not perform their duties properly. The LSO thus decided to motivate their women members to apply for the post. As a result of their awareness raising about the importance of LHVs and encouragement to apply for the positions, six LSO members have applied for the posts of LHVs.



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