











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 SUCCESS, 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 Loat, Larkana

<p>District</p>  <p>Larkana</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Tatri</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>2016</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>1,709</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>937</p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p>55%</p>
	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>45 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>9 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>18 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>5 (all women)</p>	

(LSO Profile as of September 2018)

LSO Loat from District Larkana was formed in June 2016 by 937 member households organised in 45 COs and 9 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Loat are planning and executing development activities both on self-help basis as well as in collaboration with Government agencies. EU funded SUCCESS 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.

Utilising CO Savings to Promote Local Enterprises

The COs' members in LSO Loat have been regularly saving money. However, the saved amount usually remained unused until LSO Loat started advising the members of COs to find out ways and means for utilising their savings. On the advice of the LSO, the CO members came up with a proposal to lend CO members for setting up small businesses. In CO Bhitai, one member was given Rs. 4,000



The LSO leaders holding their monthly meeting

in loan for making Kulfies (ice cream). The member earned Rs. 400 to 500 on a daily basis. Soon he made savings from his profit and bought a cart to move around the village and make more profit by selling more Kulfies. Two more members took loans of Rs. 1,500 each to make and sell Samosas and Pakoras. Both members are earning upto Rs. 300 daily. In CO Singhar, 25 members took a loan



of Rs. 6,000 to buy two poultry birds for each family. Now they are selling eggs. Later, they bought four-week old poultry birds and raised them at home. Now these hens are also giving eggs. These families are earning Rs. 40 per day by selling eggs. CO Soraj decided to loan Rs. 8,000 from their savings to a very poor woman member. She bought big pots for making and selling Biryani at a roundabout in the UC. She is earning Rs. 500 to 600 daily.

Opening a Community School

There is only one primary school in village Piaro Maxi. The middle and high schools are far away from the village. Therefore, most of the girls were unable to continue their education after the 5th grade. After getting organised into COs, VOs and LSO, the community members realised the importance of higher education for socio-economic development and empowerment of women. The women leaders of VO Piaro Maxi discussed the issue in their VO meeting and decided to request the government for opening of a middle school in their village. However, they knew that it would take time, therefore, they asked the LSO leaders to advise alternative means to provide middle level education to the girls students without any further delay. The LSO leaders advised them to open a community school. For this purpose they needed a teacher from the village, monthly salary for the teacher and a building to start the school. Fortunately, they found an educated woman from their own VO members and she agreed to teach the students free of cost. However, on the advice of the LSO leaders, the VO leaders decided to pay her Rs. 3,000 per month as an honorarium so that she could teach the students with commitment and dedication. One of VO members offered a large room of her house for the school. The VO has 13 member COs and they agreed to contribute the monthly salary of the teacher from their collective savings for the time being. A total of 45 girls had taken admission and are now receiving 6th grade education from the school. The LSO leaders advised the VO to collect fees from the families of the students so that the school becomes self-sufficient in its operations. There is another educated woman in the same village and the VO leaders have planned to recruit her as well if the number of students is increased and parents agree to pay fees for their children.

CNICs and Registration in the Voter List

Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) is a prerequisite for casting votes in National and Provincial Assembly elections. Due to lack of CNICs, a large number of women and men used to become ineligible for casting their votes at the time of elections. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to prepare CNICs for all eligible people of their UC LSO. Some 35 women prepared their CNICs on their own. However, the LSO leadership realised that this was time consuming and costly because people had to make several trips to and from the NADRA office, located quite far away from their villages.

Therefore, the LSO leaders approached the two local land lords to help them getting a National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) mobile van. This worked and the landlords approached NADRA to send mobile vans to each and every village of their UC. In this way CNICs of over 600 women and men in the UC were prepared and these people also got them registered as voters.

Making LSO Green

Forest trees like Neem (Azadirachta Indica), Willow and Tali (Dalbergia Sisso) grow well in the LSO Loat area. These trees provide forage for domestic animals, shade in summer, timber for local use and as well as an income source for the seller. People hardly had a culture of planting forest trees in the area. The LSO members learnt about the importance of growing trees in and around their villages during the Community Awareness Raising sessions conducted by the Community Resource Persons under the EU supported SUCCESS programme. LSO members started planting trees in the compounds of their houses and in every open and free space in the village. So far, 150 trees were planted in the last planting season. The LSO members plan to plant more than 500 trees during the next plantation season.



A member of LSO Loat taking care of her newly planted tree



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