











**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 Kamyabi, Jamshoro

<p>District</p>  <p><b>Jamshoro</b></p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p><b>Arazi</b></p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p><b>2016</b></p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p><b>2,834</b></p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p><b>1,947</b></p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p><b>69%</b></p>
	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p><b>121</b> (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p><b>15</b> (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p><b>27</b> (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p><b>15</b> (all women)</p>	

(LSO Profile as of September 2018)

LSO Kamyabi, from District Jamshoro was formed in December 2016 by 1,947 member households organised in 121 COs and 15 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Kamyabi 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.

### Promote Education

Parents in most villages of Union Council Arazi, lack interest to enrol their school-going age children in schools. There are multiple reasons behind the lack of parent's interest, which include unavailability of washrooms in girls' schools, teacher absences and poor education levels. After organising themselves in COs, VOs and an LSO, they received awareness sessions on the importance of education under the EU supported SUCCESS programme. The women leaders of LSO Kamyabi realised that education is a human right and essential in the



The reopened girls' primary school in Village Tando Shahbaazi

socio-economic development of individuals as well as their families. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to take various steps to increase school enrolment especially girls' enrolment. One activity was to organise awareness raising walks in villages of their union council. They organised three awareness raising walks in the three main villages of the UC. In Village Tando Shahbaazi, the girls' school had been closed for the past four years, due to lack of teachers. The women VO leaders organised a rally of the school's students in the village demanding to



open the school. Moreover, the LSO wrote an application addressed to the Deputy Director Education, visited him at his District Office, submitted the application and demanded to immediately appoint a teacher for their school. As a result of their efforts, the Education Department appointed a female teacher and the school was reopened. Earlier, 25 girl students were enrolled in the school. The LSO leaders motivated parents of other school-aged girls to send their daughters to school as well. So far 10 more girls have been admitted in the school. As a result of their efforts, the women leaders of LSO Kamyabi succeeded in enrolling 635 children in schools in 2018.



Education awareness raising campaign

### Established Linkages with Government Agriculture Department

Majority members of LSO Kamyabi are tenants of landlords, and agriculture is their main source of income. But due to lack of knowledge and training in modern agricultural practices, the agricultural production is very low. Through the SUCCESS programme, they learnt about the importance of accessing the services and resources available with government line departments. Therefore, they decided to improve productivity with the technical help and agricultural inputs from the Government Agriculture Department. They realised that establishing productive linkages with the Agricultural Department is strategic to obtain sustained cooperation. Keeping these goals in mind, the women LSO leaders visited the Deputy District Officer (DDO) Agriculture at his Taluka Office and asked him to guide their LSO members on how they could improve their agricultural production. The DDO Agriculture listened to their request and promised to send his technical staff to UC Arazi to provide technical support. The LSO members took initiative on their own to contact the department to explore alternative methods and technological mechanisms meant to improve agricultural practice.



LSO leaders with the DDO Agriculture and his staff

### Social Accountability of School Management Committee Fund

School Management Committees (SMCs) work towards enhancing parents' participation in the school functioning and provide mechanisms for more effective management at the school level. It also provides a platform where community and schools pool resources for better management of the school. The government provides annual funds to SMCs for repair and maintenance of the schools. However, in most government schools, the SMCs do not function well and the fund is misappropriated. For example, certain SMCs ordered paint jobs in schools costing Rs. 5000, however, the SMCs would claim that they had utilised the entire fund by presenting unauthorised bills. The LSO leaders learnt about such misappropriations during their meetings with the SUCCESS programme staff. Therefore, they decided to meet the SMC members and persuade them to utilise the funds properly in future. So far, they have held meetings with 25 SMCs across their UC and advised them to use the school fund in efficient and effective manner. As a result of these meetings, the SMC members learnt that the LSO leaders are monitoring their performance. Therefore, they are now cautious about utilising the funds in an appropriate manner. Examples where SMCs have utilised funds efficiently include, the construction of an entire boundary wall, the installation of hand pumps and the repair of washrooms in different schools.

### Supporting Government's Polio Vaccination Teams

Pakistan is one of those countries where polio cases still exists. Therefore, the government, with technical and financial support of UN agencies conducts vaccination campaigns against polio. Unfortunately, due to various misconceptions, some families refuse to vaccinate their children. Sometimes, the polio team overlook certain families because they were not at home at the time of the visit. Keeping the seriousness of the matter in mind, the LSO leaders decided to support the polio team in their UC. The LSO holds its meeting two to three days before the polio vaccination campaign and write messages to their VO leaders and other members across the UC to cooperate with the Polio Teams. On the request of the Health Department, the LSO provided services of CRPs and VO leaders to deliver polio drops. They convinced the refusal cases by educating them and clarifying their misunderstanding about polio drops. Due to their support, the Polio Vaccination Team achieved 100 per cent coverage in UC Arazi.

### Promote Birth Spacing

According to UNICEF, "birth spacing can protect the child and the mother against the danger of loss of life. It also improves both the health of the child and the mother. The well-being of the family can be improved by planning in advance how far apart to space the births of the children". Despite the efforts of government and non-government organisations to promote birth spacing, majority of married couples in UC Arazi were not practicing birth spacing, because they thought it was against their religion. However, when CRPs began delivering CAT sessions, the community learnt the negative effects of not practicing birth spacing. The LSO leaders, therefore now constantly motivate married women in reproductive ages to adopt birth spacing practices. As a result of their efforts, around 1,600 women have adopted birth spacing across the UC.



"This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union"

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 Acknowledgement: Abdul Hameed Samejo, Taluka Incharge, Sehwan, TRDP Jamshoro  
 Designed & Printed by: Masha ALLAH Printers, Islamabad

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