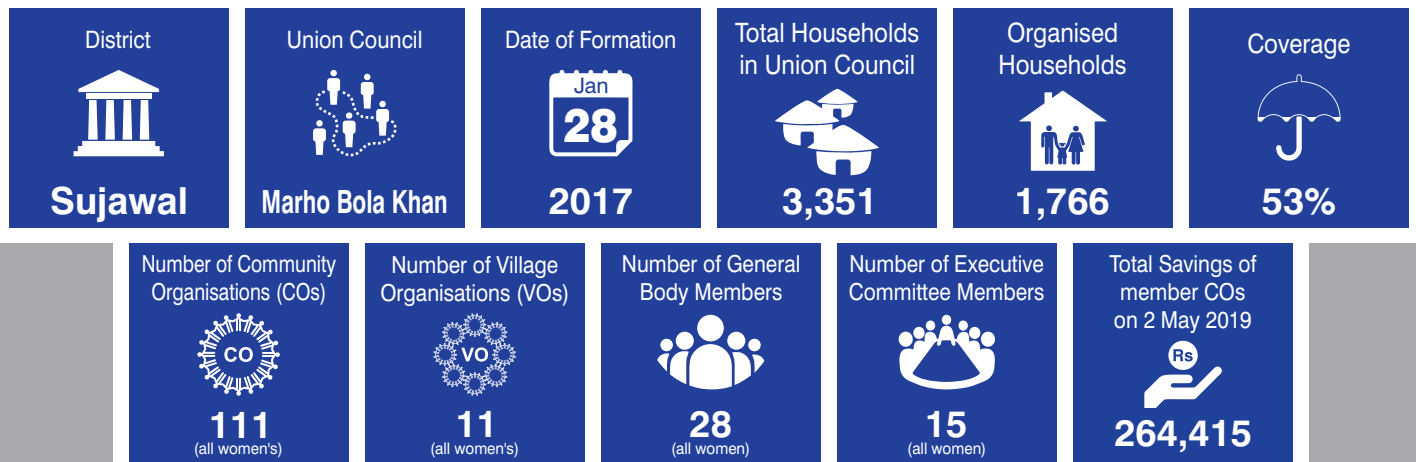


What are LSOs?

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 Marho Bola Khan, Sujawal



(LSO Profile as of 31 March, 2019)

LSO Marho Bola Khan, from District Sujawal was formed in January 2017 by 1,766 member households organised in 111 COs and 11 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Marho Bola Khan 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.

Enrolment of Out of School Children in Government Schools

Despite the availability of government schools in Union Council Marho Bola Khan, a large number of school aged boys and girls were out of school. The main reason was parents' unwillingness as they lacked the understanding of the importance of education. The women leaders of LSO Marho Bola Khan understood these facts when they attended awareness sessions conducted by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) under the EU funded



Children attending their classes in government schools

SUCCESS programme. Mrs Nasreen, LSO President says "This is the age of computer and information. Therefore, people that are not educated are like blind people. You cannot get a decent employment without education". Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to launch a campaign to admit all school aged children in schools in their UC.



The LSO first conducted a door to door survey to identify out of school children with the help of its VO and CO leaders. The CO leaders then motivated their members to send their children to schools by making them realise the strategic importance of education during the meetings. The CO leaders conducted follow up visits of their houses and ensured that the children are enrolled in schools. 1,200 children have been enrolled through the efforts of Community Institutions leaders. According to the LSO leaders "Majority of out of school children are now enrolled in government schools. Only around 60 families are not sending their children to schools, because these children are responsible for their domestic animals. However, as access to grants and funds through SUCCESS programme increases, these children will be enrolled".



Children attending their classes in government schools

Civic Documentations

Women of the UC realised the importance of civic registration after attending CRP awareness raising sessions. They were taught that Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) were needed to cast votes during elections and to be eligible for IGG, CIF and TVST interventions under the EU funded SUCCESS programme. They also realised the importance of registering their marriage contracts to resolve disputes and the importance of timely registration of newborn children to get admission in government schools. So far, 350 women in the UC have prepared their CNICs, 80 couples have registered their *nikah namas* and over 400 new-born children have been registered with NADRA.

Plantation of Forest Trees

Situated in a coastal region, UC Marho Bola Khan has saline soil that does not support tree growth. After the formation of the LSO, they learnt that there are certain tree species which grow well in the saline soils. They purchased 570 rooted *Conocarpus* plants from the Sindh Forest Department as well as from private nurseries and distributed among their CO members who have planted them in their courtyards. According to the LSO leaders "These trees grow very fast. They provide us shade in summer and fuel wood in winter".



A newly planted *Conocarpus* tree in the courtyard of an LSO member

Construction of LSO Office

When LSO Marho Bola Khan was established in January 2017, the women leaders started holding their meetings in the houses of Executive Members. However, they soon realised that they needed a proper office. The issue of construction of an office building was discussed in the LSO meetings, but they had no funds to construct it. Mrs Nasreen, the President of the LSO, provided land to the LSO and constructed a two-room office. When asked why she constructed the LSO office with her own money, she said "I realised the need for an independent office for the LSO. Since I had resources, I felt it as my duty to construct it instead of collecting donations from the poor members. I hope God Almighty is happy with my humble work".



Mrs Nasreen, the President of the LSO in front of the LSO Office constructed by her



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