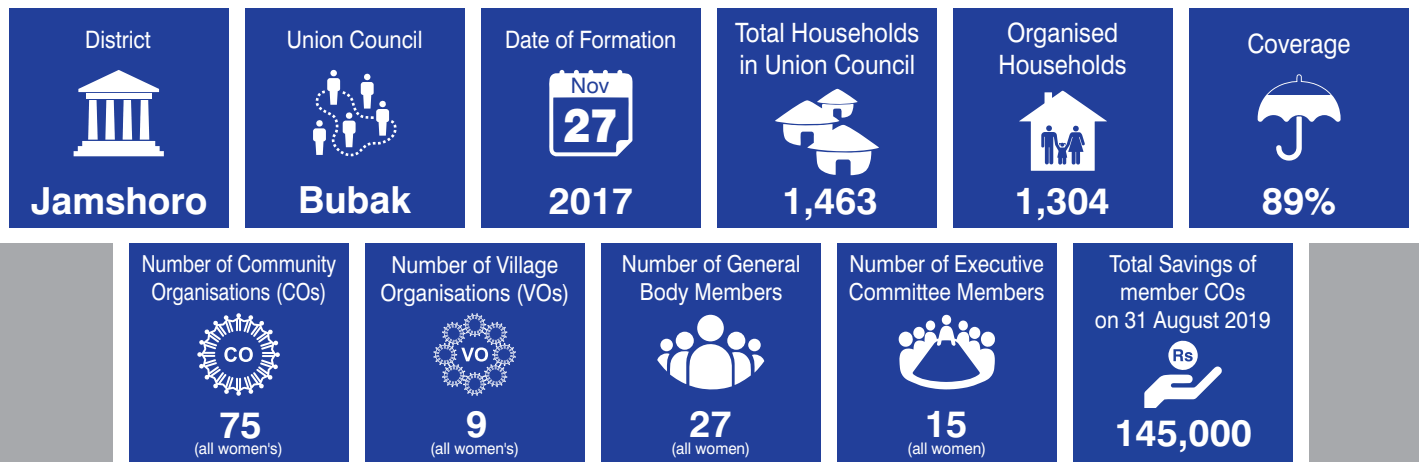


What are LSOs?

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 Bubak, Jamshoro



(LSO Profile as of 31 August, 2019)

LSO Bubak, from District Jamshoro was formed in November 2017 by 1,304 member households organised in 75 COs and 9 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Bubak 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.



Celebrating International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8 every year. The day aims to help nations worldwide eliminate discrimination against women. It also focuses in helping women gain full and equal participation in global development. Earlier before the EU funded SUCCESS

programme, the rural women of Union Council (UC) Bubak were extremely marginalised. They were not allowed to participate in social and communal matters. They lacked awareness about their rights and their role in the development of their families and their society.



However, after being organised in community institutions and gaining access to awareness sessions they decided to celebrate the International Women's Day in their area. They celebrated the event in villages Mola Bux Malla and Miyani on the same day. The celebration at village Mola Bux Malla took place in the morning while the celebrations in village Miyani was arranged in the afternoon. In village Mola Bux Malla, around 45 women and 30 school children participated in the celebrations, while in village Miyani, around 70 women and 50 school children took part in the celebrations.

The LSO organised rallies at both villages. They displayed banners highlighting messages on women's rights and chanted slogans in favour of women's empowerment. The rallies then converted into gatherings, where the President, General Secretary and Treasurer of the LSO made speeches on the importance and benefits of celebrating International Women's Day. The local UC Counsellor also attended the celebrations and offered his support in arranging the celebrations in every village of the UC next year. The Taluka Incharge and Social Oragniser (SO) of Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) also attended the celebrations and appreciated the efforts of the LSO leaders.



Celebration of International Women's Day at Village Miyani

Celebrating Eid with Poor, Orphans and People with Disabilities

AKHU is an NGO that works for the welfare of marginalised members of society. One of their activity is to celebrate Eid with marginalised members of society, including the poorest families, orphans and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs). On Eid-ul-Azha, AKHU serves sacrificial meat to such people. UC Bubak is one of the poorest UCs of Sindh, therefore, AKHU wanted to celebrate Eid with the marginalised people of the area. However, they were struggling to identify the appropriate people.

Upon learning of the community institutions in the UC, AKHU contacted the LSO leaders and requested their cooperation.

The LSO leaders identified marginalised members of the community in four villages of UC Bubak. On Eid-ul-Azha, the AKHU staff served food to over 300 people.



Celebration of Eid-ul-Azha with marginalised members of society

Social Accountability of Government Health Workers

UC Bubak is situated in a remote area of District Jamshoro with poor health facilities. Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) Lady Health Workers (LHWs) and Community Midwife (CMWs) play critical roles in the region. In UC Bubak, 2 LHVs, 3 LHWs and 2 CMWs are appointed by the Government Health Department. However, they were not performing their duties regularly and effectively. Therefore, the vaccination coverage was restricted to mere 30% of the target population. Vaccination coverage of polio was also not up to mark.

The LSO leaders learnt about these facts from the SUCCESS staff and CRPs trained under the SUCCESS programme. In March, the LSO leaders arranged a meeting in their office and invited all LHVs, LHWs and CMWs. The LSO leaders reminded these health workers that it was their duty to carry out routine vaccinations and awareness raising sessions in all villages of the UC. The LSO leaders offered their support in increasing routine vaccinations as well as polio vaccination. They asked the LHVs, LHWs and CMWs to report all refusal cases to them so that they could convince them by explaining its benefits and removing any misconceptions about vaccinations.

After that meeting, a close coordination mechanism has been established between the LSO and Government Health workers. Due to this achievement, other staff members of the Government Health Department began conducting more field visits in their duty areas. As a result of this coordination, polio vaccination achieved 100% results over the last eight months. The coverage of other routine vaccination has also increased from 30% to 65%.



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