





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 AWAM JO AWAZ, DADU

<p>District</p>  <p>Dadu</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Mian Yar Muhammad Kalhoro</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>Jan 19 2017</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>2,798</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>2,204</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>79%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>110 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>8 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>24 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>5 (all women)</p>

(LSO Profile as of 31 December 2019)

LSO Awam Jo Awaz, from District Dadu was formed in January 2017 by 2,204 member households organised in 110 COs and 8 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Awam Jo Awaz 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.

Plantation of Forest Trees

LSO Awam Jo Awaz has planted around 8,000 forest trees over the last three years. The LSO organises plantation campaigns every year to encourage communities to plant trees in their courtyards, school buildings, open spaces in their villages, and along roadside. While LSO leaders arrange the planting material from government and private nurseries, the community members pay the cost of tree saplings, plant them and take care of them. Ms Arifa, the President of the LSO, says, "People in the area had little knowledge about the



importance of trees before they were organised into community organisations under the EU-funded SUCCESS programme. Through the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions, women now learnt that trees reduce heat in summer; provide shade and fodder for domestic animals; clean the environment and control soil erosion. Trees also help in reducing water logging, which has been a big issue in the area. In our Union Council Development Plan, our LSO then decided to make this a regular annual activity".



Playing a role in population control awareness and tackling spread of viruses

LSO Awam Jo Awaz formed a three-member Health Committee to tackle polio and measles virus, and raise awareness on key health issues in their union council, family planning being one in particular.

Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by the measles virus. Outbreak of measles is common in Sindh, and the Government of Sindh carries out frequent vaccination campaigns for immunisation. Due to an unfortunate incident of seven children dying due to use of expired vaccines in near by district of Shaheed Benazirabad, mothers began to refuse from getting their children immunised. After formation of the LSO, women have been putting extra efforts in providing clarity to mothers about the benefits of immunisation and the correct way to administer the vaccine.

The LSO now sets a date for each village to have parents consult the Health Department on their concerns. Community members also get their own children vaccinated in front of other members to build their trust in the safety of the measles vaccine. The LSO members learnt that one out of 100 vaccinated children can have a reaction to the vaccine, therefore, the health committee keeps the contact numbers of the concerned government doctors to speak to in case of an emergency. Due to this push, around 7,000 children have been vaccinated against measles across the union council over the last three years.

The LSO Health Committee also helps the Health Department in polio vaccination campaigns. The Health Department hires Community Resource Persons of the LSO for a period of one month on a honourarium rate of PKR 2,000 to deliver polio drops to the children. The LSO agrees vaccination dates with the Health Department for every village and ensures that all children till the age of five receive polio drops. As a result, polio vaccination coverage is 100 percent in their UC.

Pakistan's population annual growth of about 2.5 percent undermines its efforts to relieve poverty and achieve sustainable development. Sindh's Five-Year Population Welfare Program aims to take quality family planning services to doorsteps of common citizens. A key challenge for the programme is its outreach to remote rural areas. The LSO decided to provide their support to the programme by organising a Sehat Mela (Health Day) in their union council. A large number of women and men attended the Sehat Mela to hear about the importance of family planning and the methods used for this purpose. As a result, a significant number of men and women registered to adopt family planning practices. The Population Welfare team distributed male contraceptives and provided information on birth

spacing methods to interested couples.



Sehat Mela organised in the UC by Population Welfare Programme

Getting schools re-opened for children

This LSO has a three-member committee to address education issues in UC Mian Yar Muhammad Kalhoro. In village Haji Hussain Bux Lund falling within this union council, a government primary school was closed for the last ten years. In fact, the landlord of the village had occupied the school building and was using it for storage of his agricultural produces. The appointed teacher was also reported to be taking his salary regularly from the Education Department without taking classes. Upon learning, the committee filed a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner Dadu asking to have the school vacated and re-open for its intended purpose. When the issue was highlighted by the LSO, a local journalist published a news story in a local newspaper. Eventually, the demand to leave the school premises grew against the landlord from all parents in the village, leading him to give in. The LSO was also able to get the teacher back on his duty. Due to high parental demand and commitment of the LSO, a total of 160 girls and boys are now able to attend school on a daily basis.



The Government School reopened by the LSO



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