



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 DUA, DADU

<p>District</p>  <p>Dadu</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Bali Shah</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>Jan 26 2017</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>1,809</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,670</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>92%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>104 (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>27 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>15 (all women)</p>

(LSO Profile as of 31 December 2019)

LSO DUA, from District Dadu was formed in January 2017 by 1,670 member households organised in 104 COs and 9 VOs. Women leaders of LSO DUA 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.

Deserving community members received solar panels, hand pumps and sewing machines from the UC Chairman

"Prior to getting organised in the form of community institutions under the EU-funded SUCCESS programme, we had never imagined discussing our development issues directly with the Chairman of the Union Council. Such interactions were considered as the domain of men only. However, now the women LSO leaders do not only visit the UC Chairman's office as needed but also invite him to our LSO office to discuss and resolve community issues", said Ms Zeenat Solangi, President of LSO Dua, UC Bali Shah.



As soon as the LSO leaders learnt that the UC Chairman had received funds for the provision of solar panels, hand pumps and sewing machines to the poor, they offered to help him identify the deserving community members to receive these supplies. Since the Chairman was well aware of the LSO's work and its network of VOs and COs, he readily agreed. Through the support of CO and VO leadership, the LSO successfully prepared the list of deserving families. Thus, the UC Chairman provided 700 solar panels, 150



hand pumps and 10 sewing machines to the households identified by the LSO.

Now 700 poor families are enjoying electricity using the solar panels and 150 families have access to potable drinking water through the hand pumps. Moreover, 10 families are able to earn a modest income per month by using the sewing machines provided by the UC Chairman. The provision of sewing machines was much appreciated as some of the community women had trained in sewing and stitching but were unable to use their skills earlier due to lack of sewing machines.

The LSO leaders also convinced the UC chairman to get drainage lines constructed along the paved road in village Mian Jo Goth. The required construction costed one million PKR. Previously, whenever it rained, the road used to get filled up with water causing a lot of inconvenience to the community. However, after the drainage lines got functional, the road remains clear and fully operational throughout the year.

Enrollment of Out of School Children

Community Resource Persons (CRPs) deliver monthly community awareness sessions. One of the sessions focuses on the importance of schooling and education for the socio-economic and personal growth of the people. In some of the poor households, either the parents are not fully convinced of the importance of education or the children are required to work in the agricultural fields to support their families and hence they cannot attend schools.

The LSO leaders realise that they must play their role in ensuring that all the children of school going age must attend schools. Therefore, they organised school enrollment campaigns in all major villages with the help of the concerned VO leaders. They compiled a list of all the out-of-school children in their villages and then convinced their parents to send them to schools. As a result of these efforts, over 2,700 children including 1,500 girls were admitted into schools.



The Government Girls Primary School reopened by LSO leaders

Similarly, thanks to the efforts of LSO leaders, a girls' school got reopened after five years in village Mian Jo Goth of UC Bali Shah. Seeing the school closed, LSO leaders had reached out to the teacher. He mentioned that parents were not sending their girls to school and that is why he also stopped coming to the school. With the help of community sessions and meetings, LSO leaders were able to talk to the parents and convince them about the importance of education. Now, a total of 180 girls are attending this school and the teacher is also performing his duties regularly.

Tree Plantation

One of the awareness sessions delivered by the CRP highlights the importance of tree plantation in the area. Realising the importance of trees as timberwood, air purifier, fodder for domestic animals and firewood for household consumption, the LSO leaders decided to plant trees across their union council. They arranged 721 tree saplings from government and private nurseries and distributed among the interested members through their VOs. The members did not just pay the cost of the saplings, but also planted them in a safe place and pledged to take care of them until they grow into trees.



New trees planted by an LSO member at her courtyard

Health Camp for Hepatitis-C screening

Hepatitis C is an infectious liver disease that can prove fatal if not treated immediately. It usually transmits through contaminated water carrying fluids or secretions from an infected person. Cases of Hepatitis C were becoming prevalent in UC Bali Shah. One reason could be that the main source of drinking water in the UC is open wells which become unsafe due to the poor hygiene conditions. Through the help of the UC Chairman and upon the insistence of LSO leaders, People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) Sindh was requested to organise a health camp in the UC to test local people for Hepatitis C. The LSO and its VO leaders did not just actively inform the local people about the camp but also motivated them to test their families for Hepatitis C. Over 500 people in the UC got tested for Hepatitis C and 45 of them were found positive. The PPHI staff referred these people to reputed hospitals in large cities where they are getting proper treatment and health facilities. The initiative of the LSO leaders has thus saved the community from a potential health disaster.



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