













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 VO. 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 Allahyar Turk

<p>District</p>  <p>Tando Muhammad Khan</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Allahyar Turk</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>Oct 31 2016</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>2,353</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,831</p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p>78%</p>
<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>101 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of COs become member of LSO</p>  <p>83 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>11 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>32 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>5 (all women)</p>	<p>Total Savings of member COs by March 31, 2020</p>  <p>Rs 162,000</p>

(LSO Profile as of March 31, 2020)

LSO Allahyar Turk, from District Tando Muhammad Khan was formed in October 2016 by 1,831 member households organised into 83 COs and 11 VO. Women leaders of LSO Allahyar Turk are planning and implementing development activities both on self-help basis as well as in collaboration with government agencies. The 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, making the service providers accountable and also taking self-initiatives to improve their lives.

Civic Documentation

Before women in UC Allahyar Turk organised into COs, VO and LSO, there was little awareness among them about the importance of the Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC). When the Community Resource Person (CRP) delivered her session on the importance of civic registration, the women members of LSO Allahyar Turk learnt that the CNIC number is required for many activities such as receiving social insurance and Zakat funding, opening a bank account, getting a mobile phone, receiving medical services from government hospitals, donations from philanthropies, services and supplies from non-government agencies, to name a few. Realising these benefits, the women members of the LSO showed interest in obtaining CNICs. However,



NADRA mobile van preparing CNICs of LSO members at their doorstep

they soon found that making a CNIC is not an easy task. They had to travel to the NADRA office located at the District Headquarter several times due to incomplete documents. In addition, the lack of public transport coerced them to hire expensive private vans to travel to the NADRA office.

The LSO is a member of the District Joint Development Committee (JDC). In one of its meeting, the LSO representatives complained about the challenges faced by their fellow women in connection with



CNIC registration and suggested that NADRA should send its mobile van to their villages. The Deputy Commissioner asked the NADRA representative to arrange mobile van services to the LSO area on priority basis. In the meantime, the LSO identified those women who needed to prepare CNICs and helped them prepare and complete their documentation. NADRA sent its mobile van twice to UC Allahyar Turk and prepared CNICs of over 400 people, mainly women. The LSO also routinely guides its members on preparation of the required documents before they visit the NADRA office at the district centre. This way, they are prepared to apply for the CNICs and can register in a single trip. In short, around 700 people, majority of them women, have prepared their CNICs with the assistance of the LSO leaders.

Coordination with Government in Immunisation Programmes

Immunisation is one of the best ways to protect current and future generations from infectious diseases. According to the World Health Organisation, each year, vaccines prevent more than 2.5 million child deaths globally. Unfortunately, the coverage of immunisation is very low in Pakistan, particularly in rural areas. The LSO leaders learnt that the coverage of immunisation in their area was only 55%. Therefore, when they had the opportunity to sit with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) in the JDC meeting, the LSO leaders complained about the low immunisation coverage in their UC. The DC asked the District Health Officer to explain the reasons behind this lag, and he informed that although the Health Department sends immunisation teams to all areas on a regular basis, but due to lack of awareness and suspicions about vaccination, the community people abstain from getting their children vaccinated. He, therefore, asked the community institutions to extend their support in immunisation; the women leaders of LSOs assured their support. Accordingly, since then the Health Department coordinates with the LSO on every immunisation programme. The LSO leaders spread awareness and information about the date of immunisation camps and ensure coverage of the target population. The Community Resource Persons (CRPs) also join hand with the Health Department staff in delivering Polio drops and other vaccines to the target population. As a result of this joint action, the immunisation coverage ratio has increased significantly. The Health Department is highly impressed with the LSO leaders' support and has presented an appreciation certificate to Ms. Sahibzadi, a CRP working under the LSO.



Ms Sahibzadi with her appreciation certificate received from Deputy Director Health



Joint development Committee Meeting in session

Water and Sanitation

On the basis of the good performance of the LSO, NRSP decided to launch its Water, Immunisation, Sanitation and Education (WISE) programme in the UC. The objectives of the programme were to ensure that all households have access to safe drinking water sources, complete immunization coverage of children and pregnant women, all households develop the habit of proper disposal of solid waste and improve sanitation conditions, and full enrolment of school-aged children. A key feature of the WISE programme is that the LSO takes complete responsibility of sustainable implementation of the activities after completion of the project. The LSO implemented the programme very well and took full responsibility of maintenance of the programme components on a sustainable basis. For example, the LSO provided awareness sessions to 977 women on sanitation through 62 sessions. The LSO then cleaned the streets of 14 villages through village cleaning campaigns and disposed of the waste properly. Now, they ensure that instead of littering the streets, people dispose of household solid waste into the waste bins constructed by the LSO at 21 sites across the UC. The LSO also ensures cleaning of drainage lines on regular basis. Before the WISE programme, people used to dispose of their household garbage in the streets. The waste material thrown in the streets blocked the sewage lines alongside them and the drainage water used to overflow, causing serious environmental and health hazards for the residents. Now the streets are clean, the sewage lines are running properly and the solid waste collected at the waste bins is burnt on regular basis.

The LSO also provided awareness to 720 women members through 45 sessions on using clean water for drinking purposes. They tested 14 water sources across the UC and found that 11 sources were fit for drinking while 3 were unfit due to high contamination by arsenic and total dissolved solids (TDS). TDS is a measure of the combined total of organic and inorganic substances contained in a liquid; this includes anything present in water other than the pure H₂O molecules. The LSO leaders labelled the pure sources with green and the polluted sources with red colours and advised the community members not to use water from the polluted sources for drinking purposes; they can use the water for washing clothes etc. As a result of such sustainable water and sanitation systems, the entire UC of Allahyar Turk has become safer from the health hazards associated with environmental pollution and unsafe water.



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Reported by: Mohammad Ali Azizi, RSPN
 Edited by: Meha Pumbay, Knowledge Management Officer, SUCCESS, RSPN
 Acknowledgment: Faisal Raza, Programme Officer M&E, Tando Muhammad Khan, NRSP
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