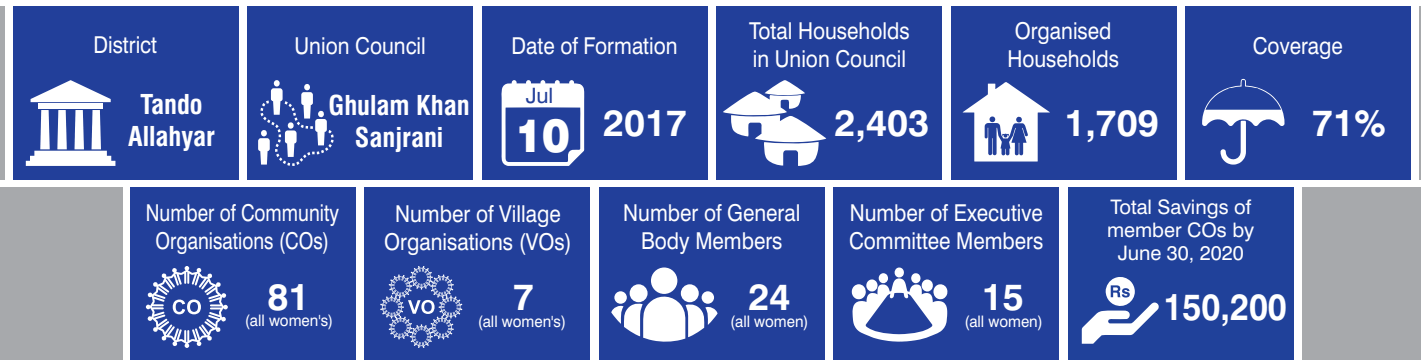


What are LSOs?

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

Local Support Organization Ghulam Khan Sanjrani



(LSO Profile as of June 30, 2020)

LSO Ghulam Khan Sanjrani, from District Tando Allahyar, was formed on July 10th, 2017, by 1,709 member households organised into 81 COs and 7 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Ghulam Khan Sanjrani are planning and implementing development activities both on a 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. Organised women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Zahida, General Secretary of the LSO, said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone was confined in their homes due to government-imposed lockdown, and the poor were deprived of their livelihood sources, unable to provide three meals a day to their family members. The women LSO leaders trained under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme collected funds from their relatively well-off members and distributed 30 ration bags to needy families on a self-help basis. The LSO leaders contacted the government authorities to seek food items for such families. The LSO leaders identified and nominated such vulnerable families to the District Authorities. The District Authorities provided ration bags to the UC Chairman who distributed them among the 120 vulnerable families identified by the LSO leaders. In this way, the LSO leaders facilitated food security of 150 vulnerable families in their UC.



The women LSO leaders also registered 1,500 poor families under the Federal Government's EHSAAAS Emergency Cash Programme. So far, 700 families have received PKR 12,000 each from the Programme. Thus, the LSO leaders' support to these vulnerable families was instrumental in obtaining PKR 8,400,000 from Government sources for the betterment of the poor.

In addition to the efforts of the LSO leaders, the women Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are providing awareness to LSO members about the pandemic and educating them about safeguarding and preventive measures during the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions held in COs. Following guidelines of the Government of Sindh, the CRPs ensure a distance of six feet among the participants during the CO meetings. After delivering the



scheduled CAT sessions, the CRPs educate the participants about preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19, which include: a) washing hands frequently with soap, b) avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth without first washing hands, c) following cough/sneeze hygiene practices, d) staying home, e) maintaining physical distancing (avoiding large gatherings and keep a distance of at least 6 feet when in the company of others), and f) wearing a face mask if sick with cold/flu-like symptoms or when outside the home in an area with others. So far, CRPs have conducted such sessions in 65 COs.

Support Government Health Department in Typhoid Vaccination

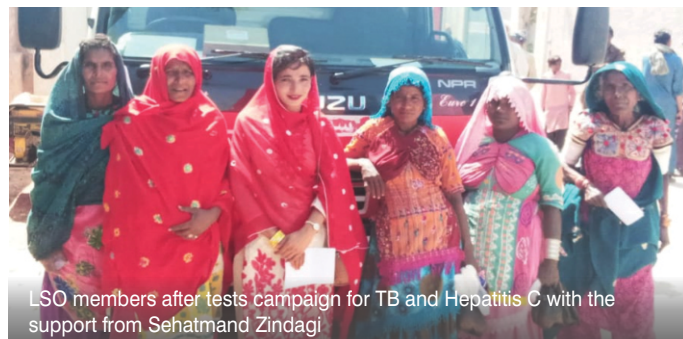
When the outbreak of typhoid was reported in the UC last year, the LSO activists approached the Government Health Department and requested for vaccination in their UC. Due to their persistent demand and on-ground support, the health department vaccinated 350 people in the Union Council for the prevention of typhoid. This activity prevented the marginalized community members from typhoid and saved them from unbearable treatment expenses of the contagious disease.

Support to Government Authorities in Polio Campaign

The women LSO leaders actively supported the Government Health Department in the effective launch of Polio vaccination campaigns at the UC level. The VO leaders helped convince families that were resisting Polio vaccination for their children. They also informed Polio teams about the children missed in the campaigns, so that they could overcome the gap during their follow-up visits. Due to the coordinated efforts of the LSO and Health Department, the vaccination campaigns achieved maximum results at the UC level.

Medical Test for Tuberculosis (TB) and Hepatitis C

Ms. Zahida, the General Secretary of LSO Ghulam Khan Sanjrani, realised that the cases of TB and Hepatitis C were on the rise in the UC. However, the poor LSO members were not able to afford the expenses of the tests for these diseases. She discussed the matter in the LSO meeting and decided to seek assistance from external sources to bear the cost of medical tests. Luckily, they were able to contact Sehatmand Zindagi, an NGO working in the area, and managed to test 300 suspected cases of TB and 20 cases of Hepatitis C. Ms. Zahida said that she and her fellow LSO activists are glad to see that poor people are benefiting from their efforts.



LSO members after tests campaign for TB and Hepatitis C with the support from Sehatmand Zindagi

Vaccination of Livestock from Government Livestock Department

Livestock is one of the most valuable assets of rural people. However, frequent attacks of contagious diseases result in loss of animals, and their weight and milk. Due to the identification of the LSO, a Community Livestock Extension Worker (CLEW), with the support of the EU Funded PINS Programme, coordinated with the Government Livestock Department, and vaccinated 421 animals in the Union Council against contagious diseases. This was the first time that the poor community members were able to vaccinate their animals and save them from fatal diseases.

Village Cleaning Campaign

The sewerage system of the villages in the UC is open and therefore requires frequent cleaning to remove the blockage by waste materials. Earlier, there were no arrangements in place for cleaning of these drainage lines. Moreover, people threw household waste in street corners which ultimately formed large garbage heaps. Overflowing waste results in pollution, which causes various respiratory diseases and other adverse health effects. The waste also blocked the sewerage line resulting in stagnant water, leading to many diseases, like Malaria. Realising the adversity of the situation after attending CAT sessions on health and hygiene issues, the LSO leaders resolved to clean their village. The LSO activists started a village cleaning campaign, and as a joint venture with member COs and VOs, safely disposed of waste from 10 villages, cleared the sewerage lines from waste, and assigned the responsibility to the concerned COs for maintaining the cleanliness of these villages. Due to the village cleaning campaigns, the living conditions of these villages have improved significantly.



Vaccination of animals by Government Livestock Department



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