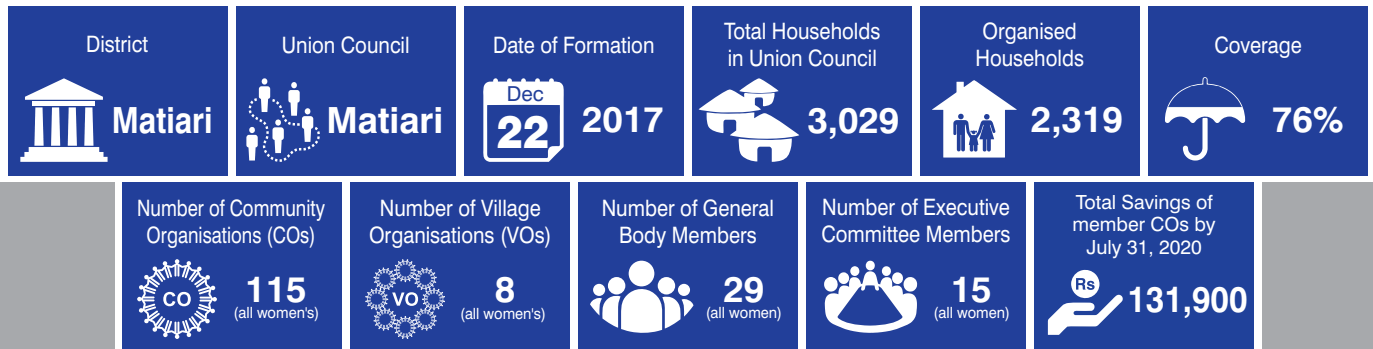


What are LSOs?

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

Matiari Local Support Organisation



(LSO Profile as of July 31, 2020)

LSO Matiari, from District Matiari, was formed on 22nd December 2017, by 2,319 member households organised into 115 COs and 8 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Matiari 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.



Awareness session to CO members on COVID-19 by the CRP

Response to COVID-19

When the Government imposed lockdown to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, a large number of poor people in the LSO area lost their income sources and could not afford even essential food items for their family members. This posed a serious threat to the lives of these people along with the COVID-19 pandemic. The women leaders of the LSO coordinated with the government authorities, civil society organizations (NGOs), and philanthropists for support to such vulnerable people. As a result of these timely efforts, the District Government distributed 120 ration bags, the local former MPA distributed 50 ration bags, and another local well-off family distributed 50 ration bags among the poor families. In addition to that, Shirkat Gah and Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) provided ration bags, soaps, sanitisers and face masks to 29 and 6 families respectively, Public Health & Engineering Department, Matiari, Government District Administration, and Local Government provided soaps to 500 families and 120 families respectively. These timely and coordinated efforts of the women leaders of the LSO, organised under the EU supported SUCCESS programme, managed to provide essential food items, hand-washing soaps, sanitisers and face masks to the vulnerable members of their LSO.

sessions in the COs. Following the 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. So far, CRPs have conducted such sessions in 61 Cos.



Distribution of ration bags among vulnerable families affected by COVID-19 lockdown

The women Community Resource Persons (CRPs) along with community activists are providing awareness to LSO members about the COVID-19 pandemic and educating them about safeguarding and preventive measures during the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT)

The women LSO leaders managed to register 2,500 poor families under the Federal Governments EHSAS Emergency Cash Programme. So far, 1,000 families have received PKR 12,000 each from the Programme. The total amount received by these poor families is PKR 12 million from Government sources.



LSO Activities to Improve Education

The building of Government Primary School goth Memon Gi Wasi was damaged and required immediate repair, however, nobody in the Government was taking notice of it. The LSO leaders, therefore, highlighted the issue of the damaged school building through different media channels, and as a result, the Government Education and Public Works and Services Departments repaired the school building. The LSO leaders are also making efforts to increase the enrolment of children in schools in collaboration with the Government Education Department. As a result of their coordinated efforts, 60 girls and boys have been enrolled in different schools; out of these, 10 girls are enrolled in the High School for continuing their further education.



LSO leaders meeting Government Education Officer

Coordination with government Agriculture Department for Promoting Kitchen Gardening

The LSO leaders supported the Government Agriculture Department in carrying out community-level activities under their project Sehat Bakhsh Zaraf Khato (Healthy Agriculture Project). The Agriculture Department established 4 demonstration plots as model kitchen gardening and provided awareness sessions in 14 COs on the importance of kitchen gardening in improving the nutrition and health of the respective families. They distributed vegetable seeds, organic compost, and toolkits to 60 families in the union council for growing kitchen gardens. The LSO identified these members based on their eligibility and willingness.

Coordination with Government Livestock Department for Vaccination of Animals

The Community Resource Persons (CRPs) provide awareness to the community members on the importance and benefits of vaccination of their domestic livestock, which is a valuable asset for their livelihood. Hence, there was a demand for vaccination of animals within the community members. The LSO coordinated with the Government Livestock Department for the vaccination of livestock in their UC. As a result, the livestock department vaccinated 575 animals across the UC. The vaccination will prevent the spread of communicable diseases among the animals and the farmers will get maximum output from the healthy animals.



Government Livestock staff vaccinating domestic animals

Provision of Services and Supplies to LSO members from Local Government

LSO Matiari's active members are always in close coordination with the local government and this close coordination has brought about results. The LSO, with the financial support of the Local Government Department, distributed 12 sewing machines to poor women of the UC for earning them a modest monthly income. A total of 12 hand pumps have been installed in different places across the UC to provide safe drinking water to the villagers at their doorsteps. The Local government also provided several drainage schemes and concrete roads in the union council. This coordination journey is continued and the local community is benefiting from this in many ways.

Tree plantation

Trees are valuable assets for rural people as they provide shade in hot weather, fodder for domestic animals, and clean pollution from the air. The LSO leaders coordinated with the Government of Sindh in the tree plantation campaign. On the request of the LSO leaders, the Assistant Commissioner of Matiari provided 250 rooted saplings free of cost from the Forest Department. The LSO distributed these saplings among its VOs, who gave them to interested people in their member COs for planting in their courtyards and other free spaces around their homes. The LSO members are committed to planting more trees in the future.



Community members planting trees

Activities on Civic Rights

The LSO Matiari is also working on the Civic Rights of the people of their UC. In this connection, the LSO is providing awareness on Civic Rights through CRPs during the CAT sessions. The LSO is also working on Civic Rights with ABAD, an NGO. With the technical support of ABAD, the LSO has organized 23 large sessions on Civic Rights in different villages of the UC. Ms. Mehrunisa, the President of LSO Matiari, is an active member of ABAD NGO and she identifies and provides shelter to the women victims and supports them in acquiring legal assistance through an advocate. To date, Ms. Mehrunisa has enabled legal support and shelter for 8 women.



Meeting of LSO President with professionals of ABAD NGO



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