











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

Bhale Dino Sathio @ Kunb, Local Support Organisation

<p>District</p>  <p>Tando Muhammad Khan</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Bhale Dino Sathio @ Kunb</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>31 2016</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>2,172</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,715</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>79%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>89 (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>25 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>15 (all women)</p>

(LSO Profile as of July 31, 2020)

LSO Bhale Dino Sathio @ Kunb, from District Tando Muhammad Khan, was formed on 31st October 2016 by 1,715 member households organised into 89 COs and 8 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Bhale Dino Sathio @ Kunb 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. The organised women now are gaining awareness about their rights, making service providers accountable, and also taking self-initiative to improve their lives.

Plantation of Forest and Fruit Trees

In line with the Prime Minister's Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM), the Government of Sindh launched a tree plantation campaign in Sindh. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) who heads the Joint Development Committee (JDC), formed under EU supported SUCCESS Programme, knew the strengths of LSOs in terms of their wide outreach and strong networks as VOs and COs. Therefore, the DC decided to put the LSOs at the front seat of the plantation campaign. The DC inaugurated the plantation campaign in District Tando Muhammad Khan at LSO Bhale Dino Sathio @ Kunb by planting a tree himself. Upon his instruction, the Government Forest Department provided 1,300 forest and fruit plants to the LSO. In addition, the LSO approached a local sugar mill to provide plantation material as part of their CSR plan; they provided 200 forest and fruit plants to them. The LSO distributed the 1,500 plants among its VOs for onward distribution to their COs. The CO members planted these trees in their courtyards, Government Schools, and Health Centers. The Forest Department had only forest plants



for distribution, but on the instruction of the DC, they also provided fruit plants to the LSO. It is hoped that the fruit trees will help improve the nutrition status of the respective community members in the near future.

Combating COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a serious health situation and the Government imposed a countrywide lockdown to restrict its fast spread. People in rural areas did not receive proper messages about the threats and dangers of the disease or about the precautionary measures against it due to poor communication systems and illiteracy. Moreover, there were widespread rumors about the pandemic and a large number of people believed that it was a conspiracy against the people of Pakistan. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to join hands with government authorities to take appropriate actions against the pandemic. The District Health Officer assigned the District Monitoring Officer Health to provide training to LSO leaders, CRPs, and NRSP SUCCESS staff on COVID-19 preventive measures. He also provided awareness-raising brochures to the LSO leaders for distribution among communities. The LSO leaders included awareness sessions on COVID-19 in the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions and the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are now delivering the awareness session after their routine CATs sessions in the CO meetings. Moreover, on the instruction of the LSO leaders, the CRPs ensured proper distance and reduced the number of participants to a maximum of 9 members during the meetings. The LSO leaders and CRPs also distributed 1,500 awareness-raising brochures among community members. The LSO members who were trained in tailoring under the Technical and Vocational Training programme funded by the EU supported





Awareness session on COVID-19 in a CO meeting

SUCCESS Programme, stitched 150 face masks and distributed these among poor community members. The LSO leaders approached the Chairman of the Union Council, who had received handwashing soaps from the District Council for distribution among people, and obtained 80 soap bars for distribution. The LSO leaders identified community members who were not able to register themselves in the EHSAAS Cash Programme and helped register 35 such families.

In recognition of the LSO leaders' active participation in combating COVID-19, the Government nominated the President, Manager, and CRPs of the LSO at the UC level Committee formed to distribute ration and soap bars among the poorest families and assist the Trace, Test and Quarantine (TTQ) of suspected COVID-19 patients. The LSO leaders and CRPs performed their due roles so efficiently and effectively that the District Health Officer awarded the LSO with the Best Performance Certificate.

Rally to Raise Awareness about Child Marriages

Child marriage effectively ends a girl's childhood, curtails her education, minimizes her economic opportunities, increases her risk of domestic violence, and puts her at risk for early, frequent, and very high-risk pregnancies. According to reports, 21% of girls in Pakistan are married before their 18th birthday and 3% are married before the age of 15. There is a Child Marriage Restraint Act in Pakistan, which imposes punishments on the parents or guardians of the child who facilitate child marriage directly or indirectly. However, child marriage is still prevalent in remote villages mainly in poor families in UC Bhale Dino Sathio@ Kunb. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to create awareness about the negative effects of child marriage in their Union Council. They organised a rally, which was attended by the leaders of the LSO and its member VOs and COs. The LSO leaders briefed the participants about the negative impacts of child marriages and the punishment provided in the state laws against the guilty ones. The LSO leaders displayed banners in the local language against child marriage and warned that if any such case comes to their notice, they will report it to the local police for prompt action.



Rally to raise awareness about Child Marriage

Coordination with District Health Department in Polio Campaign

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, the focus of the Government Health Department was shifted away from Polio drop delivery. When the COVID-19 cases were brought under control with effective coordination of the organised communities, the Health Department re-started the Polio vaccination campaign. Since the District Health Officer had learned about the strength of the LSOs in terms of their capable and active leaders and

organised network, he decided to invite their support in delivering Polio drops. The Health Department acquired the services of the LSO CRPs for delivering Polio drops. The LSO and VO leaders announced the dates of the visits of Polio teams to their villages in advance. They also convinced those previously refusing to allow their children to receive Polio drops. They monitored the campaign and reported missing children to the Polio teams who covered them during the follow-up visits. Due to this coordinated and dedicated effort, almost 100 percent of children were covered during the Polio drop campaign across UC Bhale Dino Sathio@ Kunb.



LSO activists coordinating Govt. Health Department in Polio campaign

Coordination with SAAF Suthro Sindh Programme in Collaboration with Local Government Department for Construction of Latrines

Open defecation is still practiced by poor community members across the rural areas of Sindh. This negatively affects the health conditions of the local people and causes diarrhea and other fatal diseases especially in children resulting in stunting and malnutrition. The development objective of the Multi-Sectoral Action for Nutrition Project for Pakistan is to increase dietary diversity and improve sanitation and hygiene practices in targeted project areas. The first component of this Project is to support the Saaf Suthro Sindh, which has the following subcomponents: (i) building capacity for open-defecation-free (ODF) certification; (ii) behavior change for improved hygiene; and (iii) incentivizing good hygiene behavior. Tehsil Bulri Shah Kareem, District Tando Muhammad Khan, also falls under this project. Bhale Dino Sathio @ Kunb is a UC of Tehsil Bulri Shah Kareem, therefore, 73 villages of the UC are covered under this project. The selected villages will be made as 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages by June 2021. The Project has been assigned to the Management Development Foundation (MDF) for implementation. However, Ms. Shaista Jabeen, Project Coordinator, found that the implementation of activities can be improved. Therefore, she met with Mr. Yasir Bhatti, the Deputy Commissioner of Tando Muhammad Khan, and brought the issue in his notice. On the advice of the Deputy Commissioner, MDF organised a meeting with the leaders of LSO Bhale Dino Sathio@ Kunb, in coordination with the local SUCCESS Programme team of NRSP and asked for their cooperation. The LSO is currently supporting MDF in creating awareness about ODF and motivating the community members for the construction of low-cost latrines. MDF staff provides technical support to the motivated community members, who construct the latrine with their own resources. So far, 50 percent of villages have been declared as ODF. Both MDF and the Government are very happy with the active support of the LSO leaders and CRPs in achieving this goal. The LSO leaders are committed to declaring 100 percent target villages as ODF well on time subject to the provision of proper technical support by MDF staff.



Meeting of LSO Leaders and NRSP staff with MDF staff



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