



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 Umeed, Jamshoro

<p>District</p>  <p>Jamshoro</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Allah Bacho Shoro</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>25 2017</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>5,953</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>2,633</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>44%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>146 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>15 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>27 <small>(all women)</small></p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>15 <small>(all women)</small></p>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 March 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme

 <p>PKR 69,90,000 LSO managing CIF Amount</p>	 <p>Disbursed 359 CIF loans worth of PKR 9,669,000 to 244 poor households which is 20% of 1,219 total eligible HHs</p>	 <p>65 poorest households out of 65 eligible HHs (100%) benefited from income generating grants worth of PKR 1,374,000</p>
 <p>397 Poorest households and 2,779 number of people have micro health insurance coverage</p>	 <p>62 women and 01 man received technical vocational skills training</p>	 <p>8 community physical infrastructures implemented</p>

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

The LSO has implemented **8 different Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)** schemes in the Union council Allah Bacho Shoro, under SUCCESS programme. Total worth of these schemes is **Rs: 3,373,838** and total **904 households** are benefited from these schemes. Total **2,771 (1,345 females and 1,426 male)** population is benefited from these

schemes. The schemes include CC Pavement, Drainage, Brick Pavement of streets, Hand Pumps, Latrine, Extension of Water Supply Line and Lining of Water Course. The schemes have improved the access to mobility, hygiene, sanitation and provision of drinkable water to the beneficiary rural population.



Activities carried out through self-help and in collaboration with Government and donor agencies:

1. Prepared **2,200 CNICs**, mainly for women members of its UC and registered them in the voter lists
2. Reopened **2** closed **Government Schools** with the help of Assistant Commissioner
3. Made **2 Government Schools** fully functional by filling the vacant posts of teachers
4. Carried out repair and maintenance of **3 Government School buildings** through their SMCs
5. Enrolled **2,422** out of school **children** in schools
6. Motivated **1,095 pregnant women** to adopt safe delivery
7. Provided **medical checkup** and free medicines to around **2,000** men and women by organising **3** medical camps in the UC
8. **Vaccinated domestic animals** in three villages in collaboration with Government Livestock Department
9. **660** couples registered their marriages with NADRA and **400** newborn children received their birth certificates from NADRA
10. Planted **1,000 trees** in collaboration with Forest Department
11. Opened bank accounts of **15 member** VOs

LSO Umeed, from District Jamshoro was formed in January 2017 by 2,633 member households organised into 146 COs and 15 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Umeed 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 are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable and also taking self-initiatives to improve their lives.

Campaign for Voter Registration of Women

Voting is a very important part of any democracy. Local Bodies elections in particular have the power to impact everyday life, such as healthcare, education, communication, public safety, dispute resolution, peace and harmony and environment.

Prepared 2,200 CNICs, mainly for women members of its UC and registered them in the voter lists

In Pakistan today, women comprise less than half of the country's registered voters, owing to the challenges they



LSO leaders discussing Voter Registration matter with TRDP staff

face obtaining ID cards, the distance to polling stations, and cultural norms that restrict women to the home. The voter registration ratio of women from rural areas of Sindh is very low. According to reports, only around 40% of eligible women are registered in the voter list with the Election Commission. To increase the female voter ratio, the District Election Commissioner Jamshoroo met with TRDP District Manager at her office in Jamshoroo in the month of March 2017. He asked for support of TRDP in terms of engaging the organised communities in their voter registration drive. TRDP Social Mobilisation Team

facilitated the Election Commission staff in conducting awareness raising sessions in the meetings of COs and VO's organised under the EU funded SUCCESS programme.



LSO leaders receiving training on voter registration from Mr. Naveed, District Election Commissioner

Later on, the Election Commission of Pakistan took another initiative to enhance the turnout of women voters in the general elections of 2028 by introducing District Voters Education Committees in those districts where the women's voter registration ratio was low. The committee comprises of different stakeholders of the district who are working as a volunteer to educate the citizens about the voter registration process and the importance of vote. Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) signed a three year long MoU with the District Election Commissions Jamshoroo and Dadu starting from March 2018 to increase the number of registered voters, especially the women voters using the organised communities as conduits. The leaders of LSO Umeed played their part effectively in this campaign and conducted the following activities:

1. Received training on awareness raising about voting and preparation of CNIC to become eligible for casting their vote.
2. Conducted 10 awareness sessions in communities about the importance and benefits of casting votes in the elections of National and Provincial Assemblies and Local Government (district, taluka and union council bodies).
3. Encouraged and supported women and men in preparation of their CNICs, which is the basic document to get oneself registered with the Election Commission as a voter.
4. Identified community members, especially women, who needed CNICs and prepared their list at village level.
5. Organised campaigns to prepare CNICs at village level in collaboration with NADRA and District

Election Commission Jamshoroo in 10 villages of their UC. NADRA sent its Mobile Van to these villages and prepared CNICs of eligible people, especially women.

6. A large number of community members also prepared their CNICs on their own. As a result of these joint efforts, the LSO was able to prepare 2,200 CNICs, mainly for women members of its UC.
7. The turnover of the voters, especially the women voters in the 2018 General Election was significantly high in the UC compared to previous elections.
8. The LSO leaders are planning to cast maximum votes in the coming elections and using their vote power strategically to access services and supplies from the Political and Administrative pillars of Government.



A poster used in the awareness sessions on voter registration

Re-opening of Closed Government Schools

Under the EU funded SUCCESS programme, the active women members are selected as Community Resource Persons (CRPS), and are trained to deliver awareness raising sessions in the monthly meetings of COs using the Community Awareness Toolkits (CATs). CATs cover 12 cross cutting development themes, including education, health, human rights and environment. The awareness session on the importance of education and the role of the organised community members in this regard significantly improved the sense of responsibility in them. Therefore, the women leaders of LSO Umeed resolved to first identify their collective development challenges and then try to resolve them on self-help basis or in collaboration with Government Authorities.

Reopened 2 closed Government Schools with the help of AC



A burning issue in the field of education was the fact that 2 Government Primary Schools who provide education to both girls and boys were closed while 2 other schools were not functioning well as only few students were attending them. The main reason was lack of teachers. When the LSO leaders received a chance to meet the Assistant Commissioner (AC) in the Joint Development Committee (JDC) meeting, they raised the issue with him and asked for his direct support to resolve the issue. The AC very kindly wrote an official letter to the Education Department for posting teachers to these schools. As a result of that, the Education Department immediately filled in the vacant posts of teachers in all 4 schools.

Made 2 Government Schools fully functional by filling the vacant posts of teachers

The LSO leaders then motivated the parents of the students to send their girls and boys to these schools. Now majority of school aged girls and boys are enrolled in these schools. The teachers of these schools punctually attend their schools because they have realised the advocacy power of the LSO leaders with the AC.

Repair and Renovation of Government School Buildings

The LSO leaders noticed that the buildings of Government Schools in villages Chodary Karam Deen, Muhammad Malavo and Kazim Shoro require repair and renovation. In one school, the roof of the classrooms was damaged and rain water was dripping in the classrooms. Therefore, the school used to get closed during rainy seasons. In another school, the main gate was damaged and required immediate replacement. There was no drinking water facility in one school, and a hand pump was required for that purpose. The building of one school needed white wash, because no white wash has been done for years.

Carried out repair and maintenance of 3 Government School buildings through their SMCs

The women LSO leaders organised meetings with the School Management Committees (SMCs) of these schools and asked them to do the required repair and renovation works using the SMC funds available with them. The SMC members said that if they use SMC funds, the Government Audit teams unnecessarily harass them. The LSO leaders advised them to keep

proper record of the expenditures and show to the Audit and Monitoring teams on their visit. Citing their own example, the LSO leaders said that they implement donor funded projects worth millions of rupees, but keep proper records, therefore, all donors are happy with them. They said that If the SMCs follow them and maintain proper records of all expenditures, nobody from the Government Departments will be able to harass them.

Convinced by the strong logic in the argumentations of the women LSO leaders, the SMCs of these Government Schools carried out the repair and renovation works of their schools using the SMC funds lying idly in their bank accounts. As a result of these activities, the learning environment of these Government Schools has improved considerably, and, therefore, the number of students were also increased in them significantly.

School Enrollment Campaigns

Enrolled 2,422 out of school children in schools

A large number of school aged girls and boys were out of school in UC Allah Bacho Shoro. The main reason was lack of proper awareness in their parents about the importance of the education of their children. They wrongly thought that education is only to get a job in a Government or non-government organisation. During the CATs awareness sessions delivered by the CRPs, they learnt that basic education is the right of every girl and boy. Therefore, the LSO leaders launched enrollment campaigns at the time of the new school year and motivated parents of the children to admit them in the nearest Government Schools. As a combined result of the women LSO leaders in promotion of education in their UC, a total of 2,422 children, including 1,400 girls and 1,022 boys have so far been enrolled in Government Schools in UC Allah Bacho Shoro.

Educate Members about Safe-pregnancy and Childbirth

Safe pregnancy and childbirth is an important health consideration. Pregnancy complications, such as premature birth, poor growth and some conditions suffered by mothers, are associated with infant and child mortality as well as problems with brain development. Unfortunately, the majority of pregnant women in UC Allah Bacho Shoro were not registered with a proper health centre. Therefore, child mortality and poor health of their mothers was a common issue across the UC.





A CRP delivering a CATs session in a CO meeting

Motivated 1,095 pregnant women to adopt safe delivery

Educated by the CATs session in their CO meetings on the importance of safe-pregnancy and childbirth, the LSO leaders started a campaign for safe delivery of children in their UC, in collaboration of their member VOs and COs. As a result of that, the registration ratio of the pregnant women with the local BHU has significantly increased. As per the LSO records, around 1,095 pregnant women had practiced safe delivery so far. This not only has reduced the ratio of child mortality but has also saved the pregnant women from delivery related complications.

Organisation of Medical Camps in the UC

Provided medical checkup and free medicines to around 2,000 men and women by organising 3 medical camps in the UC

The Government Health facilities in UC Allah Bacho Shoro is not properly equipped with proper staff, laboratory and medicines. Therefore, people with complicated and chronic diseases need to be taken to Hyderabad or Karachi for treatment. But poor families do not afford to bear the high cost of medical treatment, therefore, they cannot treat such patients and they die or become persons with disabilities. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to organise Medical Camps at their UC level, in collaboration with District Health Department and other philanthropies. The LSO has so far organised 3 Medical Camps at three villages of their UC. In these Medical Camps, over 2,000 women and men patients were checked up by qualified and experienced Medical Officers. Apart from giving free medicines to the patients, the Medical Officers advised to take the chronic patients for proper treatment in the Government Hospitals located at cities. In this way, the LSO leaders provided both health and economic relief to a large population of their members.

Organisation of Vaccination Campaigns for Livestock with the Help of Government Livestock Department

Livestock plays a key role in the livelihood of the people of the UC. The local people rear cows, buffaloes and goats. Their family members consume milk and milk byproducts produced by these animals, and sell the extra milk in the local market. They also sell the offspring of their cows, buffaloes and goats and earn a significant cash income on annual basis. However, viral diseases are common, and these diseases reduce their milk product and make the animals extremely weak. The poor families have to pay a huge price for treatment of their animals by private livestock technicians. In short, viral diseases put a heavy economic burden on these poor families.

Vaccinated domestic animals in three villages in collaboration with Government Livestock Department

Before getting organised into COs, VOs and LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS programme, the community had never thought that they can protect their animals from these viral diseases simply by vaccinating them with the help of the Government Livestock Department. Once they learnt about this, the women leaders of LSO Umeed approached the Government Livestock Department and asked for their support. Soon, they facilitated the Livestock Department staff in vaccination of cows, buffaloes and goats in three villages of Choudary Karamdeen, Kazim Shoro and Karokohli. Around 200 cows, 150 buffaloes and 120 goats were vaccinated in these villages.

Support to Members in Civil Registration

Civil registration generates documentation that supports an individual's right to recognition as a person before the law and acknowledges their formal relationship with the state. Individuals are able to have their existence, identity, and vital events legally recognised and obtain proof of legal and civil status through valid certificates. The absence of civil registration has been described as a 'scandal of invisibility'. Therefore, a session on Civil Registration is part of the Community Awareness Toolkits (CATs) under the EU funded SUCCESS programme. In this session, the CO members are sensitized about the importance of having a valid ID card, birth certificates of their new born children and marriage certificates of the married couples.



In collaboration with Bhan Bale, a local NGO, the LSO leaders launched a campaign for preparation of ID cards for the eligible women and men so that they can also become eligible to cast their votes in the elections. They identified eligible women and men lacking a CNIC and prepared village wise list in collaboration with its member VOs. They then submitted the lists with NADRA and requested to send NADRA Mobile Van to these villages and prepare CNICs at village level. Around 200 CNICs, mainly of women members were prepared during these campaigns. In addition, on the motivation of the LSO leaders, people themselves went to the NADRA office to prepare their CNICs. Earlier, preparation of CNICs of women was considered by their men as a useless effort, therefore a large majority of women of the UC had no ID cards. However, under the influence of the awareness raising sessions, they took their women to NADRA office and prepared their ID cards.

Arranged NADRA Mobile Van for preparation of 200 CNICs of poor people at their doorsteps

A main issue for preparation of ID cards of young people was lack of registration of marriages of their parents. So the LSO leaders motivated such couples to register their marriages with NADRA office and then register their children in their B-Form. After completion of these procedures, the young girls and boys who had attained the age of 18 years also prepared their ID cards from NADRA office. So far, 660 couples have registered their marriages with NADRA.

660 couples registered their marriages with NADRA and 400 newborn children received their birth certificates from NADRA

On the advice of the LSO leaders, the registered married couples started registering their children in their B-Forms and obtaining birth certificates. Birth registration and certificate is required for the admission of these children in schools. A total of 400 children have received their Birth Certificates after being registered with NADRA.

Plantation of Forest Trees in Collaboration with Government Forest Department

Planted 1,000 trees in collaboration with Forest Department

As part of their plantation campaign, the Government Forest Department distributes planting material among interested organisations and individuals in winters on subsidized rates. The LSO leaders approach the Forest Department and obtain as many plants as they can, and distribute them among CO members via their VO leaders. So far, the LSO has planted over 1,000 plants across their UC. The interested members have planted these trees in their courtyards or any other free space near their house, so that they can take care them properly. The plantation drive is improving the environmental status of the local settlements. Moreover, after growing up in size, the forest trees will provide fodder to their animals and fire wood for the family members.

Opening of Bank Accounts for Member VOs

Opened bank accounts of 15 member VOs

The State Bank of Pakistan has made its regulatory procedures of bank accounts for NGOs and civil society organisations extremely difficult these days. So opening of organisational bank accounts for the LSO itself and its member VOs was a big challenge for the LSO leaders. However, the LSO leaders didn't give up and finally managed to open institutional bank accounts for the LSO as well its 15 member VOs.



LSO leaders seeking advice from TRDP staff on opening of bank accounts



"This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union"

Reported by: Mohammad Ali Azizi, RSPN
Edited by: Fazal Ali Saadi, Programme Manager, SUCCESS Programme, RSPN
Acknowledgment: Nasreen Khan, DM, TRDP Jamshoro
 Khimchand Sanjo, Communication Officer, SUCCESS, TRDP
Designed & Printed by: Masha ALLAH Printers, Islamabad

THE LSO INITIATIVES SERIES IS BY THE RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK



Web: eas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan_en
Facebook: European Union in Pakistan
Twitter: EUPakistan

Web: www.success.org.pk
Facebook: successprogramme
Twitter: SUCCESSinSindh

Web: www.rspn.org
Facebook: RSPNPakistan
Twitter: RSPNPakistan