



SUCCESS

SINDH UNION COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

FEATURE STORY

AS A YOUNG GIRL, HAJRA WAS DEPRIVED OF HER RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION. NOW AS A MOTHER, SHE IS CHALLENGING THIS VICIOUS CYCLE OF INJUSTICE BY ENSURING AN EDUCATION FOR HER DAUGHTERS

When it comes to a better future for her children, a mother never gives up! Hajra's life as a mother is dedicated towards this mission. She is a resident of Peer-Jo-Goth Village, a member of Community Organisation (CO) 'Mor-Pakhi' in the SRSO managed SUCCESS Programme district Larkana, and a proud mother of three daughters.

Confronting the established cultural tradition of early marriages, Hajra courageously took a stand for her daughter Samina and helped change the course of her daughter's destiny.

When Hajra's husband followed communal customs to arrange their eldest daughter Samina's marriage after she passed 8th class, Hajra was the only one who opposed the decision. She was ready to put her own married life on the line for her daughter's future. According to Hajra, "I told my husband that if he did not delay the wedding, I would leave the house and go back to my parents. Our village practices the custom of arranging early child marriages. But I did not want my daughter to suffer at a very early age. I wanted her to continue getting an education and pursue a respectable profession for herself."

After several efforts, Hajra succeeded in delaying her daughter's wedding; her next goal was to enroll Samina in high school.

One day, when her husband had left for work, Hajra travelled to Larkana City with her daughter to get Samina an admission to high school. This decision was no free lunch. Hajra shared, "I paid PKR 900 as the admission fee from my savings and purchased Samina's uniform and books."

Life at high school was an unfamiliar experience for Samina who did not immediately settle into her new routine. She was not confident enough to face the new people around her. Hajra, again, was the one who came to her daughter's aid. She would travel to the high school with Samina and wait under a nearby tree's shade until her daughter's classes were over.

Hajra's sacrifice did not go unnoticed by the school. "The teacher noticed me sitting under the tree, she came to inquire about the reason for my being there and gave me a chair to sit. I went with Samina to the high school for a month. After that she got some confidence to go along with her friends on a rickshaw. One day, she came back home and started crying. I consoled her, saying that she had to be strong if she wanted to move ahead. Meanwhile, my husband had agreed to let her continue with her education."

Hajra credits the Community Awareness Toolkit or CAT sessions,



Hajra sits proudly with her three daughters as they study together in SRSO district Larkana

a key component of the SUCCESS social mobilisation intervention, as her means of learning about the importance of education and the problems girls face in early marriages.

Continuing her story, Hajra shared, "Now my only son has an education till the standard 8th grade and my daughters are continuing their education. I want my daughters to be independent, and earn their own keep and also support their brother. After marriage, they may also be able to earn for themselves. I know what a person feels without an education! I am uneducated,

but my daughters help me with reading the things that I cannot. My daughters are like my eyes."

Samina could not express her love for her mother in words; she only said: "I am happy that my mother supported me. Now I want to continue my studies and pursue teaching as a profession to support her in the future."

Hajra's dedication towards the future of her three daughters Samina, Ganwa and Asia is a life-long mission. She intends to convince her daughters' prospective in-laws to financially support her girls' educational careers as well!



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Implementing Partners



Technical Assistance Partner



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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

POLICY

SINDH GOVERNMENT'S TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL GROWTH CENTER AT CHUHAR JAMALI



The SUCCESS TA and UPSP teams admire the handicrafts of Tharparkar's women artisans

The Government of Sindh is forging ahead with its continued active efforts to implement the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), with the first pilot Rural Growth Centre (RGC) at Chuhar Jamali, District Sujawal starting to take material shape. The development at Chuhar Jamali is intended to not only improve the living standards of the local community but transform the entire area of Taluka Shahbunder. Progress highlights include the education scheme's soon-to-begin ground work after formally passing through the government's planning stages to found a school which will accommodate over 900 students. In addition, the scheme for water supply, sanitation and drainage improvements has progressed through the first stage of approval and will signify clean drinking water for the community.

All stakeholders including Planning & Development Department (P&D), local administration and line department officials, MNAs, MPAs, and the business community, are on the same page regarding the RGC's implementation. PKR 4 billion has already been included in the 2020-2021 Annual Development Plan for establishing the RGCs under the PRS. The SUCCESS Technical Assistance (TA) Team along with Mr. Faisal Uqaili, Director General, Urban Directorate, continue to have extensive cooperation with the district administration officials including Mr. Muhammad Ismail Memon, Deputy Commissioner District Sujawal, and Mr. Imran, Assistant Commissioner Chuhar Jamali. To support the Urban Policy

and Strategic Planning (UPSP) with Chuhar Jamali's progress, additional short-term technical experts in architecture, urban planning, health facilities, and public health engineering were engaged. LSO leader Ms. Iram Waheed was also brought on board as the community expert of the TA Team.

Furthermore, four priority areas have been identified for the integration of RGC implementation and community driven local development (CDLD): kitchen gardening, housing, provision of clean drinking water, and village revitalisation. These tasks may be delivered or managed by community organisations, capitalising on the social capital built up over the years by the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) working in Sindh. The UPSP and TA Teams have been investigating other potential RGC locations in targeted districts Tharparkar, Badin, and Thatta. Extensive scoping visits have taken place for on-site assessment and consultations with the relevant stakeholders are ongoing. Mr. Muhammad Waseem, Chairman P&D, Ms. Shereen Narejo, Secretary Planning, and Mr. Naeem-uz-Zafar, Chief Economist, have been positive, action-oriented, and passionate in progressing the PRS and RGC implementation. The SUCCESS TA Team is also assisting the Bureau of Statistics (BoS) in the baseline survey for Chuhar Jamali in Taluka Shahbunder, District Sujawal, and the Monitoring & Evaluation Cell, P&D in developing the M&E framework for the PRS implementation.

ENGAGEMENT, GROWTH, AND PARTNERSHIPS

BUILDING ON 2020: HOW SUCCESS HARNESSSED DIGITISATION TO EXPAND OUTREACH

For the EU-funded SUCCESS programme, 2020 was a year of survival, grit, and resilience, while 2021 is a year of engagement, growth, and partnerships. The SUCCESS implementing field partners, RSPN, SRSO, TRDP, and NRSF employed a range of in-house capacity building and content diversification strategies to boost the project visibility and outreach to new audiences and uncharted territory. These efforts of building a stronger digital footprint paid off when parties from private, non-profit, and entrepreneurial sectors began to take notice of the SUCCESS programme's work in community driven development. Initial meetings led to a range of new ventures and collaborations with the added bonus of expanded



Manjhund Government High School in TRDP district Jamshoro promotes online education

media coverage which included two SUCCESS features in The American University of Rome, Italy website, as well as external partnership articles in the 'What's Next For SUCCESS' monthly e-magazine. The efforts and achievements of the SUCCESS stakeholders on this front include:

Collaborating with National and International Players

SUCCESS decided to expand its global outreach to partner with organisations in the entrepreneurial, diplomatic, and academic sectors for creating collaborations that would help boost the SUCCESS programme's post-project sustainability. In January 2021, SUCCESS partnered with award-winning femtech social enterprise 'Aurat Raaj' to conduct the programme's first menstrual focus group session using digital storytelling techniques and Artificial Intelligence (AI) chat bot Raaji. The collaboration with 'Aurat Raaj' led to more than 7 menstrual hygiene and management (MHM) focus group sessions with participation from rural women leaders under all three Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). These included both virtual and on-ground sessions. SUCCESS RSPN and TRDP Communications teams collaborated with German enterprise 'Audiopedia' in the company's Facebook Coronavirus Campaign by providing the Sindhi transcription and audio recording. SUCCESS was also invited by Dr. Georgia Sermamoglou-Soulmaidi, Director of the Greek Studies on Site Program in Athens, Greece to submit an application for providing internship opportunities to students at the University of Illinois, USA.



Aurat Raaj Menstrual Awareness Session in NRSF District Office Tando Allahyar

Participating in Webinars and Virtual Conferences



SUCCESS participated in a range of virtual discussion platforms that included two Facebook livestreams hosted by Aurat Raaj and three e-conferences. In October 2020, SUCCESS collaborated with Just Results LLC, USA on a webinar panel entitled "Accountability through Digital Governance" at the C20 Civil Society official engagement group of the G20 Global Economic Summit 2020. The Group of Twenty, or the G20, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation and brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent. SUCCESS was also part of the 13th Annual Conference organised by PODA or Potohar Organisation for Development Advocacy in October 2020 to celebrate International Day of Rural Women. The virtual conference was held at Lok Virsa and SUCCESS participated in the panel on the leadership of rural women in the COVID-19 response. The latest conference with SUCCESS participation was at the first webinar of the 20th Anniversary leadership lecture series of The Boston Pledge, USA in January 2021. SUCCESS was part of a nine speaker panel that presented global perspectives on "Uncovering the Hidden Assets of South Asia to Trigger Bottom-Up Socio-Economic Surge." The webinar included 240 participants from 15 countries.

Maintaining Research, M&E Standards



RSPN and NRSP teams conduct monitoring and evaluation fieldwork

The SUCCESS monitoring and evaluation team launched a third round of the Institutional Maturity Index (IMI) survey to gauge the Community Institutions' (CIs) weaknesses and strengths. 80% of survey's data collection has been completed (247 out of 313 LSOs, 266 out of 315 VOs and 505 out of 630 COs); the remaining process is expected to finish by the end of April 2021. An additional study on the linkages developed by the LSOs with other stakeholders was launched alongside the IMI survey. 16 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with LSO members, 11 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with the RSPs District Managers and Programme Managers, eight KIIs with the government line departments, and eight In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) with the LSO representatives in the Joint Development Committee (JDC) were undertaken to gather their perspective on the extent and effectiveness of linkages created in the programme. The report is expected by end of May 2021.

On the research side, a Midline Socio-economic Household Survey was carried out in two Union Councils of District Tando Allahyar, where a randomised control trial is being conducted since 2016. Among other findings the results suggested that the mean per capita income of households receiving SUCCESS interventions is slightly higher, with the contribution of female earnings also being higher. During 2020-21, a detailed study on the impact of financial access under SUCCESS on poor households was also carried out across all eight programme districts. The results suggested that CIF/IGG investment in micro income generating activities positively impacted the income of SUCCESS women beneficiaries.

ADVOCACY

JOINT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (JDC) MEETINGS IN DADU AND JAMSHORO

Two Joint Development Committee (JDC) meetings were held in TRDP districts Dadu and Jamshoro in February and March 2021 respectively. The Dadu meeting was held at Gym Khana Hall and chaired by Mr. Samiullah Nisar Shaikh, Deputy Commissioner Dadu. Participants included Mr. Imdad Ali Abro, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, DEO Education, members of the Local Support Organisations (LSOs), and representatives from livestock, fisheries, and irrigation. Mr. Aftab Baloch, TRDP Sub-Grant Specialist gave a detailed presentation of the projects which TRDP is implementing in District Dadu. The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for strengthening coordination and advised LSO representatives to highlight issues

like dysfunctional schools at a Taluka level. It was decided to form a WhatsApp group with relevant government officers for LSO members to share issues and gain the line departments' support. The Jamshoro JDC meeting was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Kotri where the LSO president and community representatives showcased their development initiatives and raised community challenges. Ms. Nasreen Khan District Manager TRDP gave a briefing on TRDP's different efforts for reducing poverty by presenting a factsheet of activities undertaken by TRDP under SUCCESS. The meeting was attended by line departments including Social Welfare, Revenue, Education, Health, Public Health Engineering, Livestock, and Civil Society.



JDC meeting between community and government stakeholders in TRDP district Jamshoro

ACTIVIST WORKSHOP ON WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY

Accurately themed as 'The Clock is Ticking!' NRSP organised an activist workshop to commemorate World Tuberculosis Day on 24th March, 2021 in district Tando Allahyar. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Pakistan, with an estimated 510,000 new TB cases emerging each year and approximately 15,000 developing drug resistant TB cases every year, is ranked fifth among B high-burden countries worldwide and accounts for 61% of the TB burden in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. The Activist Workshop

organised by NRSP was held at Taluka Hospital Piyaro Lund, district Tando Allahyar to address the health issue and discuss way forward. The key objective of the event was to raise awareness and sensitise stakeholders to reduce the TB burden. Participants included Community Institution (CI) members, medical officers, community midwives, lady health workers, lady health supervisors, and district focal persons of the TB Program from the Health Department. Total participation was 65 including six men and 59 women.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

as of March 2021



849,797

HOUSEHOLDS COVERED BY POVERTY SCORECARD SURVEY



605,078

ORGANISED HOUSEHOLDS



29,993

WOMEN COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS (COs) FORMED



3,444

WOMEN VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS (VOs) FORMED



314

WOMEN LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS (LSOs) FORMED

55,367

WOMEN CO LEADERS WHO RECEIVED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT SKILLS TRAINING



7,480

WOMEN VO/LSO LEADERS WHO RECEIVED LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT SKILLS TRAINING



3,453

COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS (CRPs) TRAINED



40,488

HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITING FROM INCOME GENERATING GRANTS (IGGs)



628

MILLION (PKR) AMOUNT OF INCOME GENERATING GRANTS (IGGs) GIVEN TO POOR HOUSEHOLDS



98,052

HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITING FROM COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (CIF)



2,566

MILLION (PKR) AMOUNT OF CIF DISBURSED TO POOR HOUSEHOLDS



26,065

COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED IN TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

41

JOINT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES FORMED AT TALUKA AND DISTRICT LEVEL



311

NUMBER OF UNION COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT PLANS (UCDPs) DEVELOPED

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World Tuberculosis Day commemorated in NRSP district Tando Allahyar

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS TAKE SELF INITIATIVE TOWARDS ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE



LSO members in SRSO district Kamber-Shahdadkot enjoy their new sewing machines

Local Support Organisation (LSO) leaders are passionately work for their community's long-term sustainability through collaborating with other organisations. On 10th March, 2021 Anaya Vocational Centre was inaugurated by the Sindhu Vaas Foundation and LSO 'Sonhri Dharti' in SRSO district Kamber-Shahdadkot. An MOU was signed between the two parties in the presence of LSO 'Sonhri Dharti' office bearers, trainees of vocational centres, and

Sindhu Vaas board member Ms. Ifat Batool. six sewing machines and two embroidery machines were donated by Sindhu Vaas Foundation to LSO Sonhri Dharti for the vocational centre. The plan is to induct 15 trainees for the 3-month skills training in the first batch with alternate shifts by two teachers. After the completion of the first batch, resources will be re-utilised to train the second batch in another LSO and so on.



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