


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 Organisation (LSO) Sindhu, Dadu

<p>District</p>  <p>Dadu</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Mangwani</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>30 2017</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>2,659</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>2,248</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>85%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>130 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>13 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>41 <small>(all women)</small></p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>6 <small>(all women)</small></p>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 March 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme

 <p>PKR 6,500,000 LSO managing CIF Amount</p>	 <p>Disbursed 653 CIF loans worth of PKR 15,431,000 to 379 (30%) poor households out of 1,273 total eligible poor households</p>	 <p>133 poorest households out of 165 eligible HHs (81%) benefited from income generating grants worth of PKR 2,448,000</p>
 <p>2,514 people from 449 poorest households have Micro Health Insurance coverage</p>	 <p>57 women and 8 man received technical vocational skills training</p>	 <p>8 community physical infrastructures implemented across the UC</p>

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

LSO has implemented **8 different Community Physical Infrastructure** schemes in the Union Council Mangwani of Taluka Mehar, district Dadu. Total worth of these schemes is PKR **4,668,945**. A total of **5,528** people (**2,681** women and **2,847** men) from **1,070** households have benefited from these

schemes. The schemes include Rehabilitation of Bridge, Water Supply through Solar Energy, Protection Wall, and Brick Pavement of streets. The schemes have improved mobility, health and hygiene and access to portable water for the rural population.



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

1. Enrolled **1060** children including **615** girls and **445** boys in schools
2. Vaccinated around **945 animal**, mostly cows in collaboration with **Government Livestock Department**
3. Supported **186 people** including **109** women and **77** men in getting their **CNICs** and registering in the voter list with Election Commission of Pakistan
4. Organised **Free Medical Camp** and screened **350** suspected people for Hepatitis B and C. Helped treatment of **100 people** diagnosed Hepatitis B and C positive
5. Planted **250 forest trees** across the UC
6. Conducted awareness sessions to community members on **COVID-19** and stitched and distributed **250 face masks** in community members free of cost
7. Provided **financial support** from collective savings to those members who fall into **PSC band of above 24**

LSO Sindhu, from District Dadu was formed in January 2017 by 2,248 member households organised into 130 COs and 13 VO. Women leaders of LSO Sindhu 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 the realisation of the power they gain from collective action. The organised women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable and are also taking self-initiatives to improve their lives.

Campaign for Enrolment of Children in Schools

Similar to other rural areas of Pakistan, a large number of school aged girls and boys in the UC do not go to schools. According to the base line survey of the UC under SUCCESS Programme, out of a total of 6,682 school aged children (3,197 girls and 3,485 boys) only 1,470 children (22%) including 512 girls (16%) and 941 boys (27%) were enrolled in schools. There are different reasons for the low school enrolment, including lack of proper facilities and poor learning environment in the Government schools, long distances from home to schools and poor awareness of parents about the importance of basic education of their children. During

the awareness sessions on cross cutting socio-economic development themes conducted by Community Resource Persons (CRPs) under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, the women leaders of LSO and its' member VOs learnt about the critical importance of basic education of their children in terms of confidence building, learning new skills, accessing information from social media and supporting their own children in their education when they become mothers and fathers in future. Therefore, a large number of parents have sent their children to schools. However, the LSO leaders found that a number of parents are still hesitant to send their children to schools. Therefore, they have decided to run village wise enrollment campaigns at the time of every new academic session. Through the campaign, the children out of the schools are identified and their parents are motivated to enroll them in nearby schools. In this way, 1060 children (615 girls and 445 boys) have been successfully enrolled in schools.

Livestock vaccination in collaboration with Government Livestock Department

Rearing buffaloes, cows and goats is one of the major livelihood of the people of UC Mangwani. The milk and its by-products yoghurt, butter and sore milk play an important role in fulfilling the nutritional needs of the poor families. However, due to various viral diseases, the



people suffer heavy losses every year in terms of animal mortality, reduction in milk production and loss of animal weight. After getting organised under the LSO, the LSO leaders learnt about the free of cost services that can be provided by the Government Livestock department. Therefore, they visited the Livestock Department officials, briefed them about their issues and requested for their technical and material support to prevent spread of viral diseases in their UC. As a result, the Livestock department has started their visits to UC villages. They vaccinate the animals against common viral diseases, give free treatment to the sick animals and educate the livestock owner families about the health and hygiene practices which should be followed to safeguard their animals from diseases. According to the LSO records, a total of 8 villages have been visited by the Livestock department and vaccinated and treated over 945 animals, mostly cows. The community members rightly expect that these visits would minimize their losses and increase their income in the livestock sector.

Civic Registration

The registration of all female and adults above the age of 18 years is mandatory in Pakistan. NADRA is a National institute that issues the Identity cards to eligible citizens. However, the poor people of rural Pakistan have little idea about the importance of having a Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC). In addition, NADRA has its offices only in the urban areas therefore, travelling to city and town centers for registering themselves with NADRA is costly for those living in far flung and remote villages. Consequently, a large number of people, especially women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) do not prepare their CNICs. The people living in rural areas have not given this enough importance and have ignored to get registered with NADRA. The LSO leaders realized the importance of CNIC when they started the socio-economic development work through their community institutions, because all the inputs of the SUCCESS programme were linked with the CNIC. Moreover, opening of bank account also requires CNIC of the account holders. Having that experience, the LSO started to conduct meeting with NADRA office and asked them to send their mobile van team for registration of the eligible people in their own villages. Through the NADRA's mobile van service to the villages of UC Mangwani, CNICs of 186 people, including 109 women and 77 men have been prepared. Another important benefit of this activity is the fact that according to the new electoral law, those who possess a valid CNIC automatically become eligible for casting votes in Local Body, Provincial and National Assembly General elections.

Organised Medical Camp in Remote Villages

Availability of portable water is a huge issue in most of the villages of UC Mangwani. Therefore, along with other water-borne diseases, Hepatitis B and C are spreading fast in those villages. These diseases can prove fatal if not diagnosed on time for proper treatment. Moreover, unless the Hepatitis patients are diagnosed, other family members do not avoid from having close contacts and sharing bath towels and shaving kits with them. Therefore, other family members also remain at the risk of getting infected quickly.

When the issue was brought in the notice of the LSO leaders by the VO leaders, they decided to request the relevant Government Health Department to organise medical camps in those villages for the screening of the suspected men and women for Hepatitis B and C. The LSO leaders held meetings with the Health Department officials, explained them about the situation and told them that the poor people cannot afford the travel cost to go to city and town centers to get themselves tested, therefore, the Health Department should organise medical camps in the suspected villages. The Health Department agreed with them and organised two medical camps in villages Bhaly ji Miyani and Mangwani. 350 suspected people were screened, including 200 women and 150 men, out of which 100 people were found to be Hepatitis positive. The Health department staff advised these people to perform their Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test to detect the presence of the virus precisely and visit the free Government Hospitals where they would receive treatment free of cost. In addition to that, the Health staff checked up sick people and provided free medicines to them.



Medical Camp to screen suspected people for Hepatitis B and C

Tree Plantation

The organised members of LSO Sindhu learnt about the benefits of tree plantation in terms of providing shade, reducing heat in the summer and improving the quality of



air during the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions on environment. Therefore, a general awareness was there in the community for tree plantation. The community members asked the LSO Leaders to arrange planting material from nurseries. The LSO leaders collected the demand for planting material from CO members via their VO leaders and purchased 250 forest tree saplings in bulk from private nurseries located at Mehar town. The material was provided to interested members on cost. These members have planted them in their courtyards as well as other free spaces near their house.



Community member are planting and watering newly planted trees in their courtyards

Efforts to Combat COVID-19

Right from the early days of COVID-19 pandemic, the LSO leaders started self-help initiatives to address the issue at local level. In the initial days, the main issue was lack of proper awareness about the potential threat of the pandemic and the precautionary measures to be taken by the people to prevent fast spread of the disease. In a close collaboration with TRDP Field Unit Mehar, the LSO leaders and the CRPs, disseminated awareness among their members about the threats of this novel Corona disease to their health and wealth, and educated them about the importance of following the Government SOPs. The CRPs are still conducting awareness sessions in the COs at the time of their monthly CATs sessions. The LSO leaders received pamphlets in Sindhi language containing messages about taking precautionary measures to avoid getting infected by the deadly virus and distributed them among the community members.

During the early days of the pandemic, face masks were not available in the market. On the advice of the LSO leaders, the community members trained in stitching of clothes under TVST component of SUCCESS

programme stitched 250 face masks at their own and distributed them among those members who needed to go out to perform their official duties or for daily labour. Mainly due to these efforts, the infection ratio of corona virus remained at minimal across their UC.



A community member stitching face masks for free distribution

Provision of Financial Support to a Poor Member from Saving

According to the eligibility criteria set up for receiving CIF, only those members who fall under PSC bands of 0 to 23 can take advantage of the funds. The financial needs of the members over and above these bands are met by the LSO from the collective savings of their COs. For example, Khairan Bibi, member of CO Chandm VO Urooj, used to make ropes from dry date leaves. She used to buy the material from shopkeepers on credit and sell the ropes to the same shopkeeper, who used to exploit her both at the buying and selling points. As a result, she used to get only a fraction of her hard work. She requested her CO to lend her PKR 1,200 so that she can buy the raw material from market by paying cash and sell her ropes in the market at a competitive price. The CO, in consultation of the concerned VO provided her an interest free loan of PKR 1,200. She made a net profit of PKR 800 by selling the first lot of newly made ropes. She bought a goat kid from her profit who is now grown up and is giving birth to her own kids. She has repaid her loan in two monthly installments of PKR 600. She is grateful to her fellow member women for supporting her and acknowledges that she would never have received such a support if the women were not organised in CO, VO and LSO.



"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: Huma Irfan, Knowledge Management Officer, SUCCESS, RSPN
Acknowledgment: Sumaira Shah, Field Unit Incharge Mehar 1, Dadu and Khimchand Sanjo, M&E Officer, TRDP SUCCESS
Designed & Printed by: Masha ALLAH Printers, Islamabad

THE LSO INITIATIVES SERIES IS BY THE RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK



Web: eeas.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