

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 Bhan Saedabad, Jamshoro

<p>District</p>  <p>Jamshoro</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Shaikh</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>May 19 2018</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>3,907</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>2,710</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>69%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>205 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>21 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>31 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>6 (all women)</p>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 May 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme

 <p>PKR 6,490,000 LSO managing CIF Amount</p>	 <p>155 number of poor households have benefited from CIF and LSO managing 243 loans. Total organised households (PSC 0-23) are 1,562 and 10% of them have received the CIF whereas in terms of loans coverage it is 16%</p>	 <p>Total number of poorest households (PSC 0-9 score) is 145. 57 (40%) have been benefited from Income Generating Grants (IGGs) worth of 1,185,000</p>
 <p>333 number of poorest households and 1,865 number of people have Micro Health Insurance (MHI) coverage</p>	 <p>111 number of women have received Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST)</p>	 <p>8 schemes of Community Physical Infrastructures (CPI) have been implemented</p>

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

LSO has implemented **8 different community infrastructure schemes** in the Union council Shaikh of Taluka Sehwan. Total worth of these schemes is **PKR 5,418,736** and they have benefited a total **512** households. Total **3,486 (1,715 females and 1,821 male)** population has benefited from these initiatives. The schemes include CC Pavement, Latrine, Open Drain, and Brick Pavement. They have resulted in improved access to mobility, better hygiene, and sanitation of the rural population.



LSO Bhan Saedabad, from District Jamshoro was formed in May 2018 by 2,710 member households organised into 205 COs and 21 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Bhan Saedabad 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

In the Union Council of Shaikh, a large number of school-going age children including both girls and boys were out of school. The main reason for this was a lack of awareness about the importance of education among the parents. However, as a result of awareness raising sessions carried out by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) under the EU supported SUCCESS Programme, the community leaders and members understood the strategic importance of education for the bright future of their next generation. The LSO leaders rightly decided to transform this mass awareness into action. Therefore, they motivated all VO leaders to lead enrolment campaigns for admission of girls and boys into schools. They identified the out-of-school children and then visited each house in their respective villages to motivate and guide the parents. Simultaneously, meetings were also held with the Head teachers to seek their support for maximum enrolment of students. Due to these efforts, 300 children, 190 boys and 121 girls were enrolled in the local government schools during the last two years. The LSO leaders are committed that they will ensure 100% enrolment of school age girls and boys in schools by the next academic session.

Appointment of A Honourary School Teacher at Government Primary School

Government Boys and Girls primary school Muhalla Sajjad colony near Bhan town has an enrollment of 300 children. However, there are only four teachers teaching at the school. The ideal student teacher ratio is 15: 1, whereas the ratio in this school remains at 75:1, which is quite high. Therefore, the quality of education in the school has not been up to mark. The head teacher of the school shared the issue with the LSO leaders and declared that no further enrolments can be made in the school as that will further deteriorate the quality of the education. As a temporary fix, the LSO leaders decided to appoint a volunteer teacher in the school and pay the honourarium by collecting donation from LSO members. In the meanwhile, the LSO leaders are looking into other options including approaching the Government Education Department to request increasing the strength of teachers in the school as soon as possible.

Improve Civil Registration in the UC

There was no tradition of birth registration and nikah (marriage) registration among the UC people. If the birth is not registered in time, people face immense difficulties at the time of admission of children in schools and later on, while getting Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC). Similar issue are faced if the nikah is not registered. CNIC which does not only provide a valid identity as a citizen of the country but is also required for utilizing medical facilities, registering herself with EHSAS Cash Grant, Zakat and Baitul Maal programmes, buying a SIM card for a personal cell phone, and opening a mobile bank account in her/his name. Furthermore, a valid CNIC is required to register the women and men in the voter list which makes them eligible to cast their votes in elections of Local Government, Provincial and National Assembly members. Since a large number of population in the UC, especially women, had not prepared their CNICs, the awareness sessions delivered by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) hired under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme played a key role in raising the awareness of the LSO members about the strategic importance of these civil registrations. In addition to that, the leaders of the LSO and its member VOs also stressed upon their members to take all possible steps to increase the civil registration numbers. As a result of these coordinated efforts, the LSO leaders have been successful in preparing 800 CNICs, registering 150 newly born children and 175 nikah-namas across the UC.

Arranged a Medical Camp in Remote Villages

Both the Government and private health facilities are located in the town area of UC Shaikh. Therefore, people living in remote villages face serious access issues to these facilities. Due to lack of any regular transport system, people need to hire private transport to take their sick persons to the health facilities, which is beyond the financial capacity of the poor families. Therefore, simple health cases normally grow into chronic cases. Keeping into the need of these people, the LSO leaders organised a one-day free medical camp at village Sabu Shaikh in collaboration with Population Welfare Department. The Medical Officers checked up the sick men and women and provided them free medicines. They also referred the chronic cases to Government Hospitals in the town area. A total of around 100 sick men and women were treated by the medical officers.



Medical Officers checking up patients in the Medical Camp

The Family Planning team provided awareness sessions on family planning and guided them about the different birth spacing methods available with them. They also provided birth spacing supplies to the interested couples. Around 50 women received birth spacing services during the camp.

The trained women under Technical and Vocational Skill Training (TVST) under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme put up stalls and displayed their products of aplic work, baskets, arch work, hand embroidery and children valets etc. at the medical campsite. They were able to earn profits by selling their products to the visitors.



Stall of products prepared by TVST trainees in the Medical Camp site

The demand for the medical camp is high, therefore, the LSO leaders are planning to organise similar events in future as well.

Efforts Made to Control Spread of COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Pakistan during the first quarter of 2020, the main challenge was lack of proper awareness among the general masses about the gravity of the viral disease and the precautionary measures to be taken to protect themselves and their loved ones from the viral infection. Therefore, the LSO leaders instructed the CRPs to disseminate awareness raising messages amongst the members of the Community Organisations (COs) during their routine awareness raising sessions. In addition to that, the LSO also distributed face masks, soap bars and sanitizers among the poorest community members.

When the Federal Government launched the EHSAAS Cash Grant programme to provide financial support to the poorest families adversely effected due to economic shortfall across the country, the LSO leaders received complaints from their members that they were unable to register themselves with the programme due to lack of literacy skills. The LSO leaders, in

collaboration of their VO leaders helped in registration of over 1,200 poorest families via the on-line registration process using cell phones. Large number of these families are now receiving cash grant from the Federal Government Programme.

Tree Plantation

The LSO has planted large number of tree sapling in all villages of Union Council. A total 10,750 fruit and forest plants have been distributed among member Village Organisations (VOs). The VO leaders provided these plant saplings to their CO members and they planted these sapling in their courtyards and other available spaces near their houses. They are taking care of these plants in terms of watering them on time and protecting them from animals. Most of the tree saplings were purchased from Government and private nurseries. EU funded PINS ER3 Programme has also provided the plants to the community. The plant types included Cheko, Orange, Neem, Moringa and Guava. Once matured, the fruit trees will contribute towards improving the nutrition status of the beneficiary families. The surplus fruit will be sold into local market which would resultantly improve the financial status of the family.



Women members of LSO Bhan planting trees

Celebrating National and International Events

The LSO leaders have been actively engaged in commemorating various National and International days to raise awareness in communities. The main events, celebrated by the LSO are Cultural Day, International Women's Day, Independence Day, Labour Day, and Tree Plantation Week. These events are celebrated by organising rallies and workshops at villages.



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