











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 Initiative Sheikh Fareed



<p>District</p>  <p>Tando Muhammad Khan</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Sheikh Fareed</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>Feb 25 2017</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>3,378</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>2,401</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>71%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>124 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>13 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>27 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>15 (all women)</p>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 May 2021)


Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme




PKR 4 million
LSO managing CIF Amount




Community Investment Fund (CIF) amount of **PKR 6.8 million** disbursed to **255** households



Income Generating Grant (IGG) amount of **PKR 1.7 million** benefited **118** households



Micro Health Insurance (MHI) provided to **481** households benefitting **21,933** people



90 women received Technical-Vocational Skills Training (TVST)



7 community physical infrastructures implemented



Activities implemented through self-help and in collaboration with Government and other development agencies:

1. Planted **1300 plants** under Prime Minister's Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM)
2. Conducted awareness sessions for community members on COVID-19 and stitched and distributed **150 face masks** in community members free of cost
3. Distributed **80 handwashing soap** bars among poor community members
4. Registered **35 needy families** for Prime Minister's EHSAAAS Cash Programme
5. Supported **264 people** including **179 women** and **85 men** in registering for CNICs and the voter list with Election Commission of Pakistan
6. Delivered awareness sessions on Malaria across the UC benefitting **833 community members**
7. Provided awareness to **441 women** members through **45 sessions** on usage of clean water for drinking purposes
8. Provided awareness sessions to **577 women** on sanitation through **62 sessions**
9. Constructed waste bins at **06 sites across** the UC for proper disposal of solid household waste
10. Cleaned the streets of **12 villages** through village cleaning campaigns and disposed of the waste properly

LSO Sheikh Fareed, from District Tando Muhammad Khan was formed on 25th February 2017 by 2,401 member households organised into 124 COs and 13 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Sheikh Fareed 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.

and fruit plants to the LSO. The LSO distributed these plants among its VOs for onward distribution to their COs. The CO members planted these trees at their courtyards, Government schools and health centers. The Forest Department only had the 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 nutrition status of the respective community members when they bear fruits in the near future.

Plantation of Forest and Fruit Trees

In line with the Prime Minister's Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM), the Government of Sindh launched Tree Plantation Campaign in Sindh. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) who heads the Joint District Development Committee (JDDC), formed under EU supported SUCCESS Programme, knew the strength of LSOs in terms of their wide outreach and strong networks in the form of member 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 Sheikh Fareed by planting a tree himself. On his instruction, the Government Forest Department provided 1,300 forest



Inauguration of Tree plantation campaign by DC Tando Muhammad Khan

Combating COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19, incited panic in Pakistan, and the Government imposed country wide lockdown to restrict its fast spread. Due to poor communication systems and illiteracy, the rural people did not receive proper messages about the threats and dangers of the disease and on the precautionary measures against it. Moreover, there were widespread rumours 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 include awareness sessions on COVID-19 in the Community Awareness Toolkits (CATs) and trained the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) to deliver the awareness session after their routine CATs sessions in the CO meetings. Moreover, on the instruction of the LSO leaders, the CRPs ensured to maintain social distance and reduced the number of participants to maximum 9 members during the meetings. The LSO members who had obtained tailoring training under Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) component of the SUCCESS Programme, stitched 150 face masks, and distributed among the poor members of the community. The LSO also leaders approached the Chairman Union Council who had received hand washing soaps from the District Council for distribution among people and obtained 80 soap bars which were then, distributed among its poorest members. Furthermore, the LSO leaders identified the community members who were not able to register themselves in the EHSAAS Cash Programme and helped in registration of 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 poorest families and Trace, Test and Quarantine (TTQ) of suspected members. The LSO leaders and CRPs performed their due roles so efficiently and effectively that the District Health Officer awarded the LSO with a Best Performance Certificate.

Preparation of National Identity Card

The Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) is an important document as it provides a legal citizenship right to its holder and is also required for all kinds of formal transactions in the country. When the LSO was formed in UC Sheikh Fareed under the Water, Immunisation, Sanitation and Education (WISE) Programme, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) conducted awareness sessions for the member COs on

cross cutting development themes including a session on civil registration. These sessions raised the awareness among the people of the area, and resultantly motivated them to prepare CNICs of all eligible men and women. Since the NADRA office is located only at the District Head Quarter, the women, elderly locals, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) faced difficulties in accessing the office. Not only was it time consuming but was also expensive as each person had to travel individually to the urban centre for their CNIC registration. Therefore, LSO leaders requested NADRA to provide a NADRA mobile registration van to ease the registration process for the community members. With the support from NADRA, LSO and VO leaders helped in preparation of total 264 CNICs of 179 women and 85 men.



CNIC registration through NADRA mobile vans

Water, Immunisation, Sanitation & Education

Based on the good performance of the LSO, NRSP decided to launch its Water, Immunisation, Sanitation and Education (WISE) programme in the UC. The objectives of the programme were to ensure that all households have access to safe drinking water sources, complete immunisation coverage of children and pregnant women, a developed habit of proper disposal of solid waste followed by improved sanitation conditions, and full enrolment of school-aged children. A key feature of the WISE programme is that the LSO takes complete responsibility of sustainable implementation of the activities after completion of the project. The LSO implemented the programme very well and took full responsibility of maintenance of the programme components on a sustainable basis. For example, the LSO provided awareness sessions to 577 women on sanitation through 62 sessions. The LSO, then, cleaned

the streets of 12 villages through village cleaning campaigns and disposed of the waste properly. Now, it is ensured that, instead of littering the streets, people dispose of household solid waste into the waste bins constructed by the LSO at 06 sites across the UC. The LSO also ensures cleaning of drainage lines on regular basis. Before the WISE programme, people used to dispose of their household garbage in the streets. The waste material thrown in the streets blocked the sewage lines alongside them and the drainage water used to overflow, causing serious environmental and health hazards for the residents. Now the streets are clean, the sewage lines are running properly, and the solid waste collected at the waste bins is burnt on regular basis. The LSO also provided awareness to 441 women members through 45 sessions on using clean water for drinking purposes.



Community awareness session on clean drinking water



Waste bin planted by the LSO for proper disposal of household solid waste

Partnership with Global Fund for Awareness Raising about Malaria

Malaria is one of the commonest causes of fatal diseases in the area. The Global Fund, which provides support in the response to three diseases of AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, is collaborating with NRSP for prevention and treatment of Malaria in ten districts of Sindh, including Tando Muhammad Khan. Global Fund has established latest facilities for testing and treatment of Malaria patients in the local government hospitals and health Centres. However, due to lack of information and awareness, very few people were taking advantage of these facilities. When the LSO was formed under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, it hired Community Resource Persons (CRPs) who started delivering sessions on Community Awareness Tools to the community members. Looking at the effectiveness of these sessions, Global Fund staff contacted the LSO leaders and negotiated an MoU for using the services of the CRPs to conduct awareness sessions about Malaria. Global Fund trained four CRPs on sessions delivery and provided them with the awareness raising materials. The LSO organised the awareness sessions across the UC and the CRPs delivered the sessions to 833 community members from as many households. The result was quite encouraging as the average number of people coming for Malaria test to the local health centres increased from 10 to 35 per day. Global Fund paid PKR 65,000 to the LSO for payment of honorarium to the CRPs, and for record keeping, monitoring, and reporting of the awareness sessions. After paying all expenses, the LSO managed to save PKR 9,000 which was deposited into LSO fund.



Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department visited a village of LSO Sheikh Fareed



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Reported by: Faisal Raza, MER Officer, SUCCESS NRSP
Edited by: Huma Irfan, Knowledge Management Officer, SUCCESS, RSPN
Designed by: Masha ALLAH Printers, Islamabad

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