



**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

## Sultanabad Station Local Support Organisation

<p>District <b>Tando Allahyar</b> Tehsil <b>Jhando Mari</b></p>	<p>Union Council <b>Sultanabad Station</b></p>	<p>Date of Formation Nov <b>29</b> 2016</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council <b>3,430</b></p>	<p>Organised Households <b>2,704</b></p>
<p>Coverage <b>78.8%</b></p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs) <b>121</b> (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs) <b>09</b> (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members <b>27</b> (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members <b>12</b> (all women)</p>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 May 2021)

### Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme



LSO managing CIF Amount of **PKR 4 million** initial Sub-grant as CIF



Community Investment Fund (CIF) amount of **PKR 13,585,000** disbursed to **318** households



Income Generating Grant (IGG) amount of **PKR 1,932,000** benefited **146** households



Micro Health Insurance (MHI) provided to **394** households providing coverage to **3,224** individuals



Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) benefited **31** male and **33** female beneficiaries



Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI): **08** schemes (**5** schemes completed and **3** are ongoing)



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

1. Conducted **504 sessions** educating **3,459 individuals** on COVID-19 safety precautionary measures
2. Distributed **5,000 handwashing soaps** in the UC with the support of UC Chairman, NRSP, and other philanthropists
3. Organised **06 camps** through which **2,000 individuals** have been vaccinated against COVID-19
4. **PKR 2.52 million** granted to **210 families** through the support of Federal Governments **EHSAAS** Emergency Cash Programme
5. Provided routine immunisation to children of **age 0-23** and women of ages between **15-49 years**
6. Provided Hepatitis testing facility to **1200 individuals** and provided free of cost complete (course) treatment to **100 individuals**
7. Organised a **blood camp for the thalassemia patients** and collected and donated **35 blood units** to the patients
8. Enrolled **300 children** in the schools of Union Council
9. Registered **2,000 CNICs, 520 B-forms, 80 Nikkah Namas, 400 residential certificates** and **95 death certificates** in the Union Council
10. Vaccinated **1,200 animals** with the help of **Livestock & Fisheries Department**
11. Planted **2,250 trees** different villages of the UC with the help of NRSP and Forest department

*LSO Sultanabad Station came into existence on November 29, 2016, in Union Council Sultanabad Station, tehsil Jhando Mari, district Tando Allahyar, under the European Union funded SUCCESS programme. Since the formation of LSO Sultanabad Station its women leaders 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 by realising the power they gain from collective action. The organised women are gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable and are also taking self-initiatives to improve their lives.*

### Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 incited panic in Pakistan and the Government imposed country wide lockdown to restrict its fast spread. The rural people did not receive proper messages about the threats and dangers of the disease

and on the precautionary measures against it due to poor communication systems and illiteracy. 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



Hand Washing Practice during COVID-19 sessions

leaders decided to raise awareness among the communities through awareness sessions on COVID-19. The Community Resource Persons (CRPs) were directed to deliver these sessions after their routine Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions in the CO meetings. The women CRPs provided awareness to CO/VO/LSO members about the pandemic and educated them about safeguarding and preventive measures during the CAT sessions. These preventive measures included: a) frequent handwashing with soap, b) avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth without washing hands first c) follow cough/sneeze hygiene practices, d) stay at home, e) practice social distancing (avoid large gatherings and keep a distance of at least 6 feet when in the company of others), and f) wear a face mask if sick with cold/ flu-like symptoms or when outside the home in an area with others. Following the guidelines of Government of Sindh, the CRPs ensured the social distancing of six feet among the participants during the CO meetings.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic, 13 CRPs and other community leaders of CO/VO/LSO have conducted 504 sessions in all affiliated 116 COs. These sessions have educated 3459 individuals on the above mentioned COVID-19 precautions. Furthermore, in order to proliferate the information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic among the communities, the women LSO leaders along with COs made announcements in villages through mobile speaker. This activity was conducted in all 4 Revenue villages of the Union Council. The awareness on COVID-19 continues to be raised in the Union Council through the network of CO/VO/LSO with the help of CRPs.



During the COVID-19 pandemic situation, LSO with the support of UC Chairman and other philanthropists provided in-kind support in the form of essential food items, soaps, etc. to 300 poorest households. 5000 soaps were also distributed in the UC with the support of UC Chairman, NRSP, and other philanthropists. The women LSO leaders managed to register the needy families under the Federal Government's EHSAS Emergency Cash Programme. 210 families have received PKR 12,000 each from the Programme. Therefore, the support of LSO leaders to these vulnerable families was instrumental in getting PKR 2.52 million from Government sources. The LSO is also supporting the Government Health department in the COVID-19 vaccination. The COs and VOs have been mobilising the communities for the COVID-19 vaccination and have also organised 06 camps through which 2000 individuals have been vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccination process is still in progress in the UC.

### Immunisation Campaigns

The women LSO leaders actively supported the Government Health Department in the effective launch of routine immunisation campaigns at the UC level through the CRPs. The CRPs and VO leaders helped the vaccinators, Lady Health Workers (LHWs), and Polio teams in the immunisation and convinced those families who were resisting vaccination, to allow the vaccinations to be given to their children. They also informed government teams about the children missed in the past campaigns, so that they could overcome the gap during their follow up visits. Due to the coordinated efforts of the



LSO and Health Department, the vaccination campaigns achieved maximum results at the UC level. Under the SUCCESS CAT sessions, CRPs have also been delivering sessions on routine immunisation to raise awareness about the significance of routine immunisation in the community. As a result of LSO efforts through CRPs sessions and support of Government Health Department, the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Department's report for the month June has revealed that 73% children of age 0-11 months have completed their vaccination till PENTAVALENT III, whereas 96% children of age of 12-23 months have completed the Measles II vaccination. Apart from this, 93% women of ages between 15-49 years have completed the TT-II vaccination. This report represents the data from 2 Basic Health Units (BHUs) and 1 dispensary falling in the UC area and vicinity.

### **Blood Camp for Thalassemia Patients and Hepatitis B&C tests and treatment**

The LSO Sultanabad Station also organised a blood camp for the Thalassemia patients and asked the community to participate in the camp. A total of 35 blood units have been collected and donated to the Thalassemia patients. In addition, LSO also organised medical camps on Hepatitis B&C with support of Madrasa Madinat-ul-Uloom. These camps provided Hepatitis testing facility to 1200 individuals and provided free of cost complete (course) treatment to 100 individuals. The Community leaders, CRPs and volunteers played a vital role in organising, facilitating, and managing these camps.

### **Education Initiatives**

LSO Sultanabad Station has also taken educational initiatives with the support of Government's Education Department. The LSO is mobilising the community through the COs, VO, and CRPs for educating their children. The session on education and enrolment in school is also incorporated in CAT sessions. With the coordinated effort of the Community Institutions, 300 children have been enrolled in the schools of Union Council. Previously, one of the schools had been closed due to unavailability of the teacher. The LSO activists conducted meeting with the DDO Education of district Tando Allahyar and requested him for provision of teacher. A teacher was appointed in the school and the school has now been opened for education.

### **Civic Rights - CNIC Registration**

LSO Sultanabad Station is working on the awareness of civic rights and family planning. Under SUCCESS Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) programme indicators, sessions on importance of civic rights were delivered by the CRPs through CO meetings. As a result of these sessions, population from the Union Council was motivated to complete their registration and documentation. The women community leaders played a crucial role in ensuring the registration of population with NADRA due to their active coordination with the related line departments. The registration for computerised identity cards is a difficult, time taking and an expensive activity. Therefore, the community leaders requested NADRA office to provide a Mobile Registration Van so that all community members including elder, persons with disabilities, and women can easily register for CNICs. This led to the registration of 2000 CNICs, 520 B-forms, 80 Nikkah Namas, 400 residential certificates and 95 death certificates in the Union Council on self-help basis.



### **Livestock Vaccination**

With the support of Government, LSO has facilitated the vaccination of 1200 animals in the Union Council. The Community Institutions at the ground level supported the



Livestock Department teams in the livestock vaccination. The vaccination teams visited different villages of the Union Council and vaccinated all types of the animals at the doorstep/villages of the community.

## Tree Plantation

Keeping in view the strategic importance of trees as family assets such as providing shade in hot weather, providing fodder for domestic animals, and cleaning the air etc., the LSO leaders decided to join hands with the Government of Sindh in the plantation campaign. The CAT sessions delivered by CRPs promoted the learning on afforestation. On the instruction of the LSO leaders, the Village Organisation (VO) leaders raised awareness among their member COs about the benefits and importance of tree plantation and created effective demand for planting materials. The demand for tree saplings was submitted to LSO leaders who further approached the Forest Department for provision of rooted trees for onward distribution among CO members through VOs. On the self-help basis and with the support of NRSP ENRM sector, LSO leaders bought 1,000 saplings at subsidised rates from the Forest Department. Furthermore, on self-help basis, LSO also purchased/collected 1250 trees and distributed these amongst the COs & VOs. Therefore, 2250 trees have

been planted in the different villages of the UC. The process is continued, and LSO is raising awareness for tree plantation through their CRPs. The LSO members are committed to plant more trees in future.

## Other Activities

- With the Support of a Server 4 sale organisation, LSO has supported 150 households for establishment of kitchen gardening and provided them agriculture toolkits and seeds to these 15 households.
- Through the support of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), LSO has supported 150 households for smart agriculture by providing 2 bags of fertilizer and 1 bag of seed to each household.
- With the support of Research & Development Foundation (RDF), LSO has established three Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) centres on hand embroidery, tailoring and beautician in which 52 individuals have been trained.
- On self-help basis and with the support of a philanthropist, LSO has supported 6 households whose everything was burnt in a fire. A total amount of Rs. 135,000 was collected and distributed to the affected households.



Tree plantation in the UC



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