



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 Organization Shaikh Geo, Dadu

<p>District</p>  <p>Dadu</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Bhawalpur</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>Sep 27 2018</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>2,117</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,719</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>81%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>80 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>15 (all women's)</p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>31 (all women)</p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>5 (all women)</p>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 May 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme



LSO managing CIF Amount of PKR **5,673,000**



183 poor households benefited from CIF and LSO managing **255** loans. Total organized households (0-23) are **1,072** and **17%** of them have received the CIF whereas in terms of loans coverage is **21%**



Total number of poorest households (0-9 score) is **122** of them (**54%**) have benefited from income generating grants worth of **1,452,000**



397 number of poorest households and **2,514** number of people have micro health insurance coverage



09 schemes of Community Physical Infrastructures (CPI) have been implemented

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

LSO has implemented **9 different Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)** schemes in the Union Council Bhawalpur of **Tehsil Johi**. Total worth of these schemes is **PKR 4.98 million** and total **577 households** are benefitting from these schemes. There are **3,410 beneficiaries** of these schemes

which include **1731 women** and **1812 men**. The schemes include drainage, latrine construction, CC pavement, and brick pavement. The schemes have improved the access to mobility, hygiene, sanitation, and provision of drinkable water to the rural population.



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

1. Enrolled **110 out-of-school children** in schools, including **70 boys** and **40 girls**
2. Facilitated the vaccination of **2,138 animals** with the support of Livestock Department and EU-funded PINS Programme
3. Registered **70 individuals** including **10 men** and **60 women** with NADRA
4. Planted **160 trees** across the UC on self-help basis and with the support of TRDP, PINS campaign
5. Prepared and distributed **815 masks** in 4 rounds from LSO savings
6. Spent **PKR 3,200** from LSO savings to provide soaps and sanitisers to the poorest community members
7. Supported **13 poor women** in starting small businesses
8. Sought support from Deputy Commissioner in providing **2 RO Plants** for drinking water to **2,251 people** of 2 villages in the UC
9. Ensured safe delivery of **13 most needy pregnant women** from certified maternity hospitals
10. Motivated **6 households** through CRP sessions to construct latrines

LSO Shaikh Geo, from District Dadu, was formed on 27th September 2018 by 1719 member households organised into 80 COs and 15 VO. Women leaders of LSO Shaikh Geo are planning and implementing development activities both on a 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. Organised women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and are also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

education, the governing body of LSO Shaikh Geo conducted the sensitisation sessions and enrolment campaigns in the villages through the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) to raise awareness among parents. Individual meetings were also held with the parents, local influential persons such as village heads and local players to convince them on the importance of education and to facilitate the enrolment of out of school children in schools. Due to the successful efforts of the LSO leaders, 110 children including 70 boys and 40 girls were enrolled in schools.

Livestock vaccination

Livestock is the second main source of livelihood for the population in the Union Council. Due to lack of awareness, livestock owners usually treated their animals themselves for minor ailments. In case of serious disease, quack livestock vets were consulted, or medicines/injections were bought from such vets which aggravated the health of animals in the most cases. Therefore, the overall productivity of the livestock assets remained low. Keeping in view the issues concerning the health of livestock in the UC, the LSO office bearers held a meeting with the Livestock Department to initiate a

Campaign for Enrolment of Children in Schools

Similar to many other rural areas of Sindh, lack of awareness about importance of education among parents had kept a large number of the school age going children out of school. The major reasons that kept the most children out of school included child labour (mostly cattle grazing), long distance between school and villages, a misconception that there is no need to invest on education of girls as they must get married one day and leave the home etc. Realising the importance of



vaccination drive. The request was taken positively by the Livestock Department and a livestock vaccination drive was conducted by the Government department to facilitate the vaccination of animals at focal points administered by the vaccinators. It was ensured that no animal remains unvaccinated in every village and muhalla. A total of 2138 animals were vaccinated through this vaccination drive. Later on, LSO leaders convinced and linked the livestock owners with Community Livestock Extension Worker (CLEW) appointed under the EU-funded Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS). Due to large and scattered population in the UC, the coordination between LSO, CLEW, PINS field team and community members helped in reaching out to every livestock owner for drenching. The services by CLEW have effectively improved the livestock production in the area.

Facilitation in CNIC Registration

The registration of all adults, having attained an age of 18 years or above, with NADRA is mandatory in Pakistan. However, due to low literacy rate and lack of awareness among rural people, the CNIC registration rate in the UC remained low. This negligence is more common for women by their male family heads. Therefore, due to cultural constraints and outdated customs, a large number of adults (age 18 and above), especially women, were not registered with NADRA. The LSO leaders recognised the problem and started to convince the male family heads to register their family members. Furthermore, LSO requested NADRA for Mobile Registration Van to facilitate the elderly, disabled, women and all those who could not visit the NADRA office due to shortage of money and the long distance between the village and urban town where the office is placed. With the efforts of LSO Shaikh Geo, a total of 70 individuals, including 10 men and 60 women received their Computerised National Identity Cards (CNIC) from NADRA.

Tree Plantation

The LSO encourages tree plantation by organising tree plantation campaigns, purchasing plants from nursery using the LSO savings, and supporting different stakeholders in a similar cause. LSO Shaikh Geo planted trees through its Village Organisations (VOs) using its



own resources and with the support of TRDP, PINS campaign. A session was also arranged on the importance of trees. Through the VOs and COs, the LSO conducted follow-up checks to ensure that the trees are protected from livestock and are watered regularly to ensure their survival. LSO Shaikh Geo has planted 160 trees in different villages of the UC.

Efforts to Combat COVID-19

The lack of awareness breeds ignorance and keep the communities backward. When COVID-19 first appeared on the horizon, majority of the village communities





Distribution of masks, soaps and sanitisers among the community members

ignored it. The myths and misinformation overwhelmed the medical advice. The common myths circulating in each hearth, hamlet, tea shops and other community gathering places suggested that the virus will die down during the extreme summer season. LSO proactively ran sessions with communities and made efforts to convince them about how deadly the virus is, has caused havoc around the world, and may prove fatal if precautionary measures such as social distancing and handwashing are not adopted. The LSO prepared 815 masks in 4 rounds from their own savings and distributed these among the people. They also distributed the masks during routine meetings. These cloth-made masks could be reused after washing. As LSO office bearers spanned the entire UC for COVID-19 awareness, they urged the male and female community members to act on the SOPs and regularly wash their hands with soap. Some of the poorest families complained that they cannot afford

buying soap. To respond to this need, LSO spent PKR 3,200 to distribute soaps and sanitisers among the poorest households. LSO is also urging the communities to get vaccinated.

Supported women in starting small business

Due to unavailability of capital, many women in the UC could not start their small businesses. In addition, their high Poverty Scorecard (PSC) score rendered them ineligible for CIF and IGG. Therefore, LSO utilised its savings to provide 13 such women with small amount ranging from PKR 5000 – 8000 for activities to initiate their start-ups such as buying livestock, material for rope making etc. An overall improvement in lives and social status of these individuals has been observed after receiving the grant. If LSO had not stepped forward to provide the needed amount, these female community members would have remained deprived to utilise their skills for entrepreneurship purposes.

Access to Drinking Water

Underground water in the UC is braking and people have to walk 3 to 4 kilometres to fetch drinking water from the water tank. On average, each household spent PKR 200 on fuel to get drinking water on motorbike. Furthermore, male member of one of the households had to abandon his daily wage to fetch water for the family. The poor population of two villages installed hand pumps form their donation, however, the water turned to be extremely brackish. The LSO office bearers were informed by TRDP that help can be sought from Government departments



Meeting of LSO office bearers with the Deputy Commissioner



for the issues regarding basic needs such a drinking water. In case of no response from the departments, Deputy Commissioner can also be approached with the request to provide basic public amenities. The LSO President, Ms, Zarena, and the LSO Treasurer, Ms. Reshma, then conducted a meeting the Deputy Commissioner district Dadu, Mr. Samiullah Shaikh to discuss the issue of drinking water. The Deputy Commissioner approved two water supply Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants for which the implementation work was halted in between. Upon asking the public health department, LSO office bearers did not receive a satisfying answer. Therefore, LSO President threatened to complain the Deputy Commissioner in case the work is not started again immediately. On the next day, the work was started again and has been completed now. As the RO plants are about to begin, this effort of LSO would benefit 60 households and 451 individuals in the village Saleman Pahore and 700 individuals from the surrounding villages. Other RO plant in Faqir Muhammad Jamali would benefit 259 households and 1800 people. Therefore, the consistent effort by LSO office bearers and regular follow-ups are about to bear fruitful results and solve the decade old problem of drinking water which will provide drinking water to a total of 2251 people in two villages of UC Bhawalpur.

Supporting to poorest pregnant women

Due to poverty, and negligence towards the women, birth deliveries were previously attended by untrained midwives. LSO took the initiative to raise awareness among women about the harmful impacts and associated risks of deliveries conducted by untrained midwives. The sessions were conducted by Community Resource Persons (CRPs). However, a few poorest families were still unable to afford deliveries at health institutions. Most of villagers from rural areas had no knowledge about the health facilities and were unaware about the route to these places. Therefore, LSO stepped

forward to provide support from LSO savings and the LSO President accompanied 13 most needy pregnant women to certified maternity hospitals for their safe deliveries.

Construction of Latrines

As open defecation is common in rural areas, it creates extremely unhygienic conditions and is the host of multiple diseases. LSO started efforts to create consciousness among the families to construct latrines for healthy and disease-free environment. Resultantly, 6 households have constructed latrines from their own resources after CRP and LSO/VO/CO sessions on importance of latrines and harmful impacts of open defecation.

Holding meeting with stakeholders

LSO President held meeting with the public health engineer to discuss the reasons behind halted work on RO plants. After the meeting, the team began its work immediately and finished the project effectively. Meetings were also held with the UC Chairman and a local member of the National Assembly (MNA) to brief them about the work done by the LSO and issues faced by the population of the UC.

Future vision:

LSO president wants to see women of her Union Council self-sufficient, and fully empowered.

For further detail please visit Facebook page of LSO Shaikh Geo

<https://web.facebook.com/lsoshaikh.geo>



"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: Khimchand Sanjo, M&E Officer, SUCCESS, TRDP
Edited by: Huma Irfan, Knowledge Management Officer, SUCCESS, RSPN
Designed 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

