

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 Yaqeen

<p>District</p>  <p>Larkana</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Wakro</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>01 2018</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>1,840</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>924</p>
<p>Coverage</p>  <p>50%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>44 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>5 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>10 <small>(all women)</small></p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>5 <small>(all women)</small></p>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 May 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme

 <p>PKR 3,537,800 LSO managing CIF Amount</p>	 <p>Disbursed CIF loans worth of PKR 4,437,650 to 262 poor households out of total eligible HHs of 722 (36%)</p>	 <p>26 poorest households, out of 108 total eligible HHs (24%) benefited from Income-Generating Grants worth of 327,100</p>
 <p>155 poorest households and 1,007 number of people have Micro Health Insurance coverage</p>	 <p>42 women received Technical-Vocational Skills Training (TVST)</p>	 <p>4 schemes of Community Physical Infrastructures (CPI) have been implemented</p>

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

The LSO has implemented **4 different Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)** schemes in the Union Council **Wakro**, under the SUCCESS Programme. The total worth of these schemes is **PKR 2,884,420** and a total of **755 households** are benefiting from these schemes. There are **5,433** beneficiaries of these schemes which include **2,766** women and **2,667** men.

The schemes include Tuff Paver and brick pavement. The schemes have improved the basic infrastructures and productive assets used by, and services delivered to, the targeted communities. The improved community infrastructure has been beneficial for the community members to meet their basic needs and gain better access to public services.



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

1. Registered around **1,100 people under the EHSAAAS Programme**, out of which a total of **700 people** received **PKR 12,000** cash grant of **PKR 8.4 million**
2. Provided **seeds & fertilizers to 150 Small Farmers** with collaboration of Ministry of National Food Security & Research Department
3. Reopened **1 school** at Wakro with the help of the Education Department
4. Arranged NADRA Mobile Van for preparation of **300 CNICs** of poor people at their doorstep
5. Planted **400 forest trees** and **200 fruit trees** across the UC
6. Provided **320 solar panels, fans, 20 sewing machines** and **solar lights** with the support of UC Chairman
7. Installed **300 hand pumps** with the support of different philanthropist
8. Provided Ration to **190 families**
9. **300 children** have been vaccinated against Measles

LSO Yaqeen, from District Larkana, was formed on 20th October 2018, by 924 member households organised into 44 COs and 5 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Yaqeen 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.

Deserving community members received solar panels, fans and sewing machines from the UC Chairman

"Prior to getting organised in the form of Community Institutions under the EU-funded SUCCESS programme, we had never imagined discussing our development issues directly with the Chairman of the Union Council. Such interactions were considered as the domain of men only. However, now we not only visited the UC Chairman's office but also invited him to our LSO office to discuss and resolve community issues", said Ms Ashraf, President of LSO Yaqeen, UC Wakro. As soon as the LSO leaders learnt that the UC Chairman had received funds for the provision of solar panels, fans and sewing machines to



Distribution of solar panels and sewing machines to community members



the poor, they offered to help him identify the deserving community members to receive these supplies. As the Chairman was well aware of the LSO's work and its network of VOs and COs, he readily agreed to seek the support of LSO leaders. Through the support of CO and VO leadership, the LSO successfully prepared the list of deserving families. Thus, the UC Chairman provided 320 solar panels and fans, and 20 sewing machines. The LSO leaders also convinced the UC chairman to get solar lights installed along the paved roads in villages of UC Wakro.



Installation of solar lights along the paved roads in villages of UC Wakro

Installation of Hand Pumps for Drinking Water

Fetching clean water is a big problem for the women of UC Wakro. Only a few households could afford the cost of drilling and installing hand pumps. Deprived families used to fetch water from these houses, which often caused them humiliation. After forming the LSO, Community Institutions identified access to drinking water as a priority need. The LSO leaders conducted a survey to recognise families who were in need of hand pumps and identified 300 such households. LSO leaders approached different philanthropists to receive aid in providing access to clean water to the deprived families. Through the help sought by different philanthropist, 200 hand pumps got installed in UC Wakro. This has led to the improved access to clean water resulting in the health and hygiene of the households. Furthermore, it has also

improved the social standing of these women who no longer feel humiliated asking for water from their neighbours.



Installation of hand pumps for access to clean drinking water

Plantation in their LSO office and Union Council

As LSO leaders and members learnt about the importance and benefits of trees, they aimed to plant trees in the compounds of their houses and in every open



Tree plantation by community members



and free space in the village, even in their LSO office. The leaders and members of LSO Yaqeen actively acknowledge the benefits of trees which include provision of forage for domestic animals, shade in summer, timber for local use as well as an income source for the seller. Due to active mobilisation of community members and other villagers, 600 trees have been planted at various settlements across the Union Council.

CNIC Registration through mobile van service

Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) is a prerequisite for casting votes in National and Provincial Assembly elections. Due to lack of CNIC registration, a large number of men and women could not exercise their right to cast votes at the time of elections. However, many individuals could not afford to go to the urban towns as the task is time consuming and costly. Therefore, LSO leaders decided to arrange a NADRA Mobile Registration Van service in their Union Council. LSO leaders wrote an application for Mobile Registration Van service and submitted it at the nearest NADRA office. Upon approval of the application, the van service became available in the Union Council which resulted in CNIC registration of over 300 women and men.



NADRA Mobile Registration Van for CNIC registration of community members

Reopening of government school

As school is one of the most significant institutes in any community which plays an important role in shaping an individual's overall life, the leaders of LSO Yaqeen have taken a self-initiative to improve education in UC Wakro.

One of the schools in the UC was closed for many years due to a land conflict. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to approach the concerned Government Department and officers. A detailed meeting was conducted with Taluka Education Officer (TEO) and Chief Monitoring Officer (CMO) for reopening of school, so that children can be enrolled and continue their education. Taluka Education Officer Naveed Khokhar and CMO Sorath Abro visited the school for reopening purpose. The school has reopened now and approximately 500 children have been enrolled and are receiving education there.



Students receiving education at the reopened school

Response to COVID-19

During the lockdown imposed by the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many people lost their livelihoods and could not provide bread for their family members. In such a situation, the LSO leaders came



Ration distribution to needy households during COVID-19

forward and started supporting its members. The women leaders of the LSO approached the representatives of local government, civil society organisations, and philanthropists to support vulnerable households. LSO Yaqeen distributed ration among 190 needy households with support of community notables and local philanthropists. With the efforts of LSO Leaders, UC Chairman distributed PKR 100,000 among needy members of the LSO. They also supported the provision of precautionary items to people, such as soaps, masks, and sanitisers. The Leaders and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) of LSO Yaqeen received training on awareness raising about precautionary measures against COVID-19 from the Government health staff. They conducted awareness sessions among LSO members and educated them about the severity, symptoms, and preventive measures of COVID-19. They also conducted 240 such sessions in 44 Community Organisations (COs).

Support Government Health Department vaccination of Measles

The women LSO leaders actively supported the Government Health Department in the effective measles vaccination at the UC level. The LSO leaders announced the date of the vaccination across the UC well on time and informed each residing family via their network of VOs and COs. On the vaccination day, the CRPs, who work under the LSO, joined the Health Department's



Vaccination team on visit for routine immunization of children

vaccination teams to administer vaccination of children. The VO leaders helped convince those families that were resisting vaccination, to allow teams, and get their children vaccinated. They also made a note of the children missed in the campaigns, and informed teams 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. So far, 300 children have been vaccinated.

Seed and Fertilizers distribution

The Ministry of National Food Security & Research is mainly responsible for policy formulation, economic coordination, and planning in respect of food grain and agriculture. LSO leaders along with UC Chairman approached National Food Security & Research department to seek support in procurement of agricultural products to support and promote the practice of farming in the UC. With the collaboration of the department, food grains and fertilizers have been distributed among 150 small farmers.



Distribution of seeds and fertilizers among farmers



"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"

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