

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 Rahbar

District Larkana Tehsil: Bakrani	Union Council  Bux Jatoi	Date of Formation  March 22 2018	Total Households in Union Council  1,837	Organised Households  1,232
Coverage  67%	Number of Community Organisations (COs)  54 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs)  09 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members  18 <small>(all women)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members  07 <small>(all women)</small>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 May 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme

 LSO managing CIF Amount of PKR 3,919,386 initial Sub-grant as CIF	 Community Investment Fund (CIF) amount of PKR 5,931,700 disbursed to 382 households	 Income Generating Grant (IGG) amount of PKR 1,243,200 benefited 107 households
 Micro Health Insurance (MHI) provided to 38 households providing coverage to 258 individuals	 Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) benefited 38 male female beneficiaries	 04 Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) schemes implemented

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

The LSO has implemented **4 different Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) schemes** in the Union Council Bux Jatoi, under the SUCCESS Programme. The total worth of these schemes is **PKR 938,073** and a total of **163 households** are benefiting from these schemes. There are **1,297 beneficiaries** of these schemes which include 663 women and 634 men. The

schemes include **brick pavement, tuff paver and retaining wall**. 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. Supported **CNIC registration** of **1200 people**, including **500 women** and **700 men**
2. Arranged a medical camp aiding Tuberculosis testing of **200 suspected** men and women
3. Enrolled Over **50 out-of-school children** in Govt. schools, including **30 girls** and **20 boys**
4. Provided schoolbooks **150 students** through **School Management Committees (SMCs)**
5. Planted **300 rooted tree** saplings
6. Established **8 nurseries** across the UC and distributed **9,600 rooted plants of Moringa** among the community members
7. Delivered **400 awareness sessions** on the **COVID-19** and facilitated a total of **29 men** and **women** in conducting Anti-Bodies and PCR tests
8. Distributed **850 masks** and sanitisers among the community members
9. Registered **1,300 member** households under **EHSAAS Emergency Cash Grant Programme**, out of which **1,225** received **PKR 12,000** each
10. With the help of UC Chairman, **distributed 20 solar panels, 10 hand pumps** and **15 sewing machines** among the poorest households

LSO Rahbar, from District Larkana, was formed on 22-March-2018, by 1,232 member households organised into 54 COs and 9 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Rahbar 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.

CNIC Registration through NADRA Mobile Van Service

Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) is an important document in Pakistan. It serves as an identification document to authenticate an individual's identity as the citizen of Pakistan. It is a prerequisite for casting votes in National and Provincial Assembly elections as well as local body's elections. It is also required to register marriage and receive the nikah nama document, obtain birth certificate of new-born children, enrolment in school, and obtaining resources from Government's social security funds like BISP, Zakat and Baitulmal. When the LSO Rahbar was formed in UC Bux

Jatoi, the women leaders learnt that a large number of eligible women and men did not have CNICs. Therefore, they decided to launch a campaign in coordination with VO leaders to prepare CNICs of all illegible women and men in their UC. The LSO leaders raised awareness of the community members on the importance of CNIC through Community Awareness Toolkits (CATs) delivered by the Community Resources Persons (CRPs) in the CO meetings. A village wise list of women and men who were eager to prepare their CNICs or renew their expired CNICs was prepared. The list was submitted to NADRA office with a request for sending their Mobile Van to the village. The LSO leaders met their UC Chairman and asked for his support in getting NADRA Mobile Van on



Community members preparing their CNICs at a local school through NADRA Mobile Van

time. This proved very effective as a large number of women and men were able to prepare their CNICs at their doorstep. In the meanwhile, a significant number of women and men prepared their CNICs on their own as well. As a result of these collective efforts, 1,200 people, including 500 women and 700 men, have prepared their CNICs. As per the new election rules, all CNIC holders automatically become eligible for casting votes. Therefore, the CNIC drive has improved the number of registered voters across the UC in a significant manner. Normally, people have to travel to towns for preparation of CNICs as the NADRA offices are only located in town areas. Therefore, preparation of CNICs at their doorsteps has not only saved the precious time of people but has also resulted in saving the travel cost to town areas.

Arranging Free Health Camp Service in Collaboration with Health Department for Diagnosing Tuberculosis (TB) Disease

Tuberculosis (TB) disease is highly epidemic in Pakistan these days. According to the latest WHO estimations, the incidence of TB is 230 per 100,000, and the prevalence and mortality are 310 per 100,000 and 39 per 100,000 respectively. This indicates 410,000 incident cases of TB and 69,000 TB deaths in Pakistan every year. If diagnosed and treated on time, TB is a curable disease now a-days. Moreover, timely diagnosis and treatment are key elements in controlling the spread of the disease. Therefore, the Government has set up a special unit under the Health Department for this purpose. The TB unit diagnoses TB patients and provides medicines free of cost.

There were a number of TB cases in the LSO area. However, due to lack of awareness about the Govt. facilities, they were facing difficulties in getting medicines on time. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to contact the Govt. Health Department and sought their guidance to control its fast spread in the UC. The LSO Bookkeeper (CBK) contacted the Health Department and held a meeting with them during which the Health Department

offered to launch a Health Camp in a central place of the UC. The LSO leaders facilitated the Government Health department in organising the Health Camp. In this camp, over 200 suspected men and women were tested and 5 of them were found TB positive. These patients are now receiving free medicines from Govt. Health department. The Health Department's team advised the family members of these patients on keeping them in isolation and providing them with proper and rich food. A large number of general patients were also checked up by the team and received free medicines.

Enrolment of Children in Schools

The right to education is a fundamental human right. Every individual, irrespective of race, gender, ethnic or social origin, age, or disability, is entitled to free elementary education. However, due to multiple reasons, literacy rate and school enrolment ratio are very low in Pakistan. The situation is worst in rural areas. After getting organised in COs, VOs and LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, the LSO leaders decided to take actions for improvement of education in their UC. A key activity was to launch school enrolment campaigns to admit as many students in schools as possible. The LSO leaders motivated parents of the out-of-school children for sending them to schools. The LSO leaders also talked to the school Head Teacher and ensured that the children have been properly enrolled in schools. Over 50 children, including 30 girls and 20 boys have been enrolled in Govt. schools in villages Kariyo Shaikh, Bachal Wahan and Bux Jatoi.

On the other hand, the LSO leaders have taken a number of self-initiatives to improve education system in Union Council Bux Jatoi. There are two non-functional schools in the UC. The LSO leaders met with the Chief Monitoring Officer of Education Department, Ms. Sourath Mazhar,



Health Camp for TB diagnosis and Treatment



LSO leaders are processing enrolment of a girl in a Govt. Primary school



and briefed her about it. On her advice, the LSO has submitted a proper application to the Education Department complaining against the two non-functional schools and asking for re-opening them as soon as possible. Furthermore, the LSO leaders met with the School Management Committees (SMCs). In these meetings, the LSO leaders stressed upon ensuring regular attendance of both, teachers, and students, in the Government Schools. Additionally, books were not provided to the students of two schools. On the instruction of the LSO leaders, the SMC provided books to 150 students in these schools.

Tree Plantation

Trees play an important role in the economic development and conservation of rural areas. Fruit trees provide shade, fruits, and fodder while forest trees provide fodder, firewood, and timber. Trees also increase green zones and significantly improve the aesthetic dimension of the rural lifestyle. The LSO leaders learnt about the multiple benefits of trees during the CATs sessions and therefore, tree plantation was identified as an important self-help development activity. There is a huge potential for plantation of both fruit and forest trees in UC Bux Jatoi. However, supply of planting material remained short in the UC. The LSO leaders planted 300 rooted tree saplings on self-help basis and distributed them amongst their interested members. The members planted these trees in the courtyards of their houses or in a nearby free space. They water the trees and protect them from the domestic animals.

Moringa is known as a superfood tree. Like other superfoods, Moringa tree offers enormous amount of nutrients, vitamins, and minerals required by the human body. Another important benefit of Moringa is that it can be grown in extremely arid regions where rainfall is in limited supply. The leaders and general members of LSO Rahbar received awareness under EU funded PINS ER-3 Programme about plantation of Moringa in their area. With the technical support of PINS ER-3 staff, the LSO established 8 nurseries across their UC and distributed



CO member looking after her newly planted tree

A Moringa Nursery grown by LSO

9,600 rooted plants of Moringa among its member VOs. The VOs distributed them among their CO members, who have planted them in the courtyards of their houses or in a nearby free space.

The LSO leaders are planning to get more planting material from the Government Forestry and Agriculture Departments in the coming plantation season.

Screening Test of COVID -19

The women leaders of LSO Rahbar decided to cooperate with SRSO and Government Health Department for educating their members about the COVID-19 disease. The LSO formed a four-member committee. The committee members received training on awareness raising and Trace, Test and Quarantine (TTQ) procedures from Government Health Department and SRSO staff. The committee members, then, delivered 400 awareness sessions on the pandemic across the UC using the platforms of their member COs and VOs. They briefed the community members on the common signs and symptoms of the Corona disease and precautionary measures such as avoiding crowded places, keeping social distances, washing hands with soap, and quarantining the suspected persons at home. They also guided and facilitated the suspected corona patients in conducting Anti-Bodies and PCR Test from Civil Hospital Larkana. So far, a total of 29 men and women have been facilitated in conducting Anti-Bodies and PCR tests.

The LSO leaders collected 850 masks and sanitisers from the Local Government and distributed them among their members. In addition, 1,300 member households were registered under EHSAAS Emergency Cash Grant Programme, out of which 1,225 received PKR 12,000. In this way, the LSO leaders made their effective efforts in helping the Government control the spread of the fatal disease and providing relief to their member households in this difficult time.



COVID-19 Screening Camp



Provision of Solar Panels, Hand Pumps, and Sewing Machines to Poor Families from UC Chairman

Electricity supply is a chronic issue in UC Bux Jatoi. Power load shedding is so long and unpredictable that people cannot rely on the Government's electricity supply. Solar powered electricity is a reliable source. Therefore, rich people have installed solar panels at their houses in UC Bux Jatoi. However, the poor families cannot afford the initial cost of solar panels and batteries.

Another serious issue is access to portable water. The only source of portable water in UC Bux Jatoi is underground water that requires hand pumps. However, due to lack of resources for installation of hand pump, poor families remain the most affected. There are also a number of women who are trained as tailors but due to lack of

money they cannot afford to buy a proper sewing machine.

Keeping in view the aforementioned issues, the Local Government provided funds to supply solar panels, hand pumps, and sewing machines to the most deserving families through the UC Government. The LSO leaders learnt about this and prepared list of the most deserving families to be submitted to the UC Chairman. Generally, the Chairman of the UC distributes these supplies among families of their choice irrespective of their eligibility. However, when the LSO submitted a list of the most deserving families, the UC Chair compelled to distribute the Government resources among these families. The UC chairman has distributed 20 solar panels, 10 hand pumps and 15 sewing machines among the poorest households.



CO Member with her new sewing machine



Solar panel granted to community members



A hand pump given by the UC Chairman



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