

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 Banu

<p>District Sujawal</p> <p>Tehsil: Mirpur Bathoro</p>	<p>Union Council Banu</p>	<p>Date of Formation March 16 2018</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council 2,632</p>	<p>Organised Households 1,881</p>
<p>Coverage 17%</p>	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs) 113 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 09 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of General Body Members 27 <small>(all women)</small></p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members 10 <small>(all women)</small></p>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 July 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme

 <p>LSO managing Community Investment Fund (CIF) with an amount of PKR 4,000,000 (Initial Sub-Grant)</p>	 <p>Community Investment Fund (CIF) amount of PKR 992,000 disbursed to 64 households</p>	 <p>Income Generating Grant (IGG) amount of PKR 1,482,000 benefited 114 households</p>
 <p>Micro Health Insurance (MHI) provided to 477 households providing coverage to 89 individuals</p>	 <p>Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) benefited 106 female beneficiaries</p>	 <p>Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI): Initiated three 03 schemes and completed one 01</p>

Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

The LSO has initiated **three (03) schemes but completed only one (01)** as of now. The schemes included one (01) Drinking Water Supply scheme (DWS) and two (02) Cement Concrete (CC) Pavements. The total worth of the DWS scheme is **PKR 167,000**. A total of **208 people** including **109 women** and **99 men** from **27 households** are

benefiting from it. The total cost of **two CC Pavement scheme is PKR 1,049,000** and **88 households** will benefit from these two schemes. These physical infrastructure schemes will improve the basic infrastructure along with uplifting the quality of life with services delivered to the targeted communities.



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

1. Installed **60 hand pumps** for clean drinking water from Muslim Hands
2. Prepared **CNICs of 780 women**
3. **1,500 people** have taken **COVID-19 vaccine** on persuasion of LSO leaders
4. Planted **1,500 new trees** across the UC

LSO Banu, from District Sujawal, was formed on 16th March, 2018, by 1801 member households organised into 113 COs and 09 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Banu 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 recognising their power they enhance from taking collective actions. Here and now, these organised women are progressing in awareness about their rights, knowing the service providers as accountable coupled with improving their lives at large.

Provision of Hand Pumps from Muslim Hands

Access to clean drinking water is a serious issue across the UC Banu. The groundwater is the main source of clean water in the area. Installation of hand pumps are required to pump groundwater for daily use. A hand pump is a small but efficient mean to provide clean drinking water to the households and small communal areas. Since the installation of hand pumps is expensive, therefore, only a few well off families in the villages afforded to install hand pumps in their houses. The women and children of economically lower strata households (who cannot afford to install hand pumps at their houses); have to fetch water from far places like houses of their affluent neighbours or elsewhere. Therefore, they have to bear heavy labour on daily basis. At the times of communal disputes and conflicts, the poor families cannot get water from their neighbours, hence they had to consume unsafe water collected from polluted ponds and other sources. Therefore, installation of hand pumps was one of the top priority items in the village and UC Development Plans of LSO Banu.

The LSO leaders learnt that Muslim Hands, a humanitarian organisation provide hand pumps to poor people. They went to Muslim Hands office and requested them to visit their UC and see themselves the plight of

the poor people regarding unavailability of safe water. Resultantly, Muslim Hands installed 60 hand pumps in the villages of UC Banu, thus providing 300 poor families with safe drinking water. Apart from provision of clean drinking water, these hand pumps have greatly relieved women and children from their labour of long commutes for fetching water.

Preparation of CNIC

Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) is an important document. But, preparation of CNIC is not an easy task as, people have to travel long distances and bear the travel cost to go to NADRA office situated in the town centre. Moreover, they have to work for the preparation of prerequisite documents for applying for CNIC such as birth certificate and Form-B etc. Therefore, a large number of people in UC Banu had never made their CNICs. However, when the women of the UC organised in CO, VO and LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) conducted awareness sessions on crosscutting development themes, including CNIC registration, they realised its importance. The LSO leaders motivated and guided their members for preparation of CNICs. As a result of that, a large number of people prepared their CNICs. Federal Government's



The women and men members are queued for preparation of their CNICs outside NADRA office



- Motivated their members for taking COVID-19 vaccines. The LSO President, Manager and CRPs went to the vaccination centre established by the government and received their vaccines. This action supported in removing doubts among their members regarding vaccination's side effects. Therefore, they are now taking vaccination. Over 1,500 adult women and men have taken their vaccines as of now. Some active members, LSO President, Manager, and CRPs with the help of tehsil Social Mobilisation Team visited People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) Basic Health Unit (BHU) for vaccination. Many were vaccinated from BHU and others received their doses by vaccinators at their doorsteps. Around 1,500 households (HHs) are vaccinated from 1881 HHs.

EHSAAS Cash Grant Program and Government of Sindh's Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Program (BBSYDP- a training program for young unemployed people); both programmes required the people to have a valid CNIC for registration. Therefore, the LSO leaders guided and supported all eligible women and men in preparation of their CNICs. So far, over 780 women and men have prepared their CNICs.

Awareness Raising about Preventive Measures of COVID-19

Social media has both the positive and negative impacts, therefore, we have to choose our direction smartly. The ease of sharing has boosted accessibility to information, but it has also brought in the menace of fake news. Spreading disinformation and misinformation about COVID-19 has very serious repercussions like endangering public health and directly affecting people's lives. It has been promoting ambiguity on official guidelines regarding treatment and vaccination. Therefore, the women leaders of LSO Banu decided to promote awareness about COVID-19 in collaboration with its member VOs and COs along with the concerned government departments. They conducted the following activities in this regard:

- Reinforced the preventive measures of COVID-19 including avoiding crowds, physical contact (like shaking hands), washing hands properly, wearing facemasks in crowded places and Trace, Test and Quarantine (TTQ) part of the routine awareness session of CRPs.
- Educated the members about benefits of COVID-19 vaccination and cleared their doubts about its negative impacts which were circulating among the masses.



LSO members receiving COVID-19 vaccines





Tree Plantation

The growing need for environmental conservation has grabbed a lot of attention in the past few years. Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, because experts estimate that only five per cent of the country has forest cover, against a global average of 31 per cent, making it one of the six countries most susceptible to climate change. Therefore, the government is also encouraging people to plant trees. The LSO leaders learnt about the importance of trees in environmental conservation during the Community Awareness Toolkits sessions delivered by CRPs. Therefore, the LSO leaders contacted Government Forest Department and received rooted plant saplings for plantation. The LSO leaders distributed these plants among their members for planting these trees in the courtyards of their houses and on sides of the streets. Meanwhile, the LSO leaders received Moringa tree saplings from EU funded PINS ER3 project. The Moringa tree saplings were given to the most vulnerable families so that they use the tree leaves for improving their nutrition status. So far, a total of 1,500 new trees have been planted by the LSO. In addition, the LSO motivated

local schools to organise tree plantation days to educate the students about the role of trees in safe environment and to inculcate sense of responsibility among the students across the UC for planting new trees and avoid cutting old ones.



An LSO member planting a new tree at her house



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