










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

LSO Sheikh Berkhio


 District Tando Muhammad Khan	 Union Council Sheikh Berkhio	 Date of Formation Feb 23 2017	 Total Households in Union Council 3,642	 Organised Households 2,556
 Coverage 70%	 Number of Community Organisations (COs) 140 (all women's)	 Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 12 (all women's)	 Number of General Body Members 36 (all women)	 Number of Executive Committee Members 15 (all women)

(LSO Profiles up to 31 July 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme


 LSO managing CIF Amount of **PKR 4,000,000** Initial sub-grant as CIF

 Community Investment Fund (CIF) amount of **PKR 8,145,000** disbursed to **247** households as of October 2021

 Income Generating Grant (IGG) amount of **PKR 1,185,000** benefited **85** households

 Micro Health Insurance (MHI) provided to **261** households benefitting **261** people/population covered

 Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) benefited **25 male** and **49 female** beneficiaries

 Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI): **07 schemes** (7 schemes completed and 0 are ongoing)



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

1. Planted **1250 forest** and fruit trees with the help of Deputy Commissioner (DC)
2. Distributed **100 face** masks and **65 soap bars** to the poorest community members during COVID-19
3. Ensured **100% coverage** during Government Health Department's Polio Drop campaign
4. Raised awareness among **1,421 women** members on sanitation and clean drinking water through 70 sessions
5. Cleaned the streets of **14 villages** and constructed solid waste bins at **36 sites** across the UC

LSO Sheikh Berkhio, from District Tando Muhammad Khan was formed on 23rd February 2017 by 2,556 member households organised into 140 COs and 12 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Sheikh Berkhio 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 through realising the power they gain from collective action. The organised women now are gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable and taking self-initiatives to improve their lives.

Plantation of Forest and Fruit Trees

In line with the Prime Minister's Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM), the Government of Sindh has launched Tree Plantation Campaign in Sindh. The Deputy Commissioner (DC), who heads the Joint District Development Committee (JDDC) formed under EU supported SUCCESS Programme, knew the strengths of LSOs in terms of their wide outreach and strong networks in the form of member VOs and COs. Therefore, he decided to put the LSOs at the front seat of the plantation campaign. The DC inaugurated the plantation campaign in district Tando Muhammad Khan at LSO Sheikh Berkhio by planting a tree himself. The Government Forest Department provided 1,250 forest and fruit plants to the LSO. The Forest Department had only forest plants for distribution, but on the instruction of the DC, fruit plants were

especially sourced for the LSO. It is hoped that these trees will help improve nutrition status of the respective community members when they bear fruits soon.

Combating COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic incited panic in Pakistan and the Government imposed country wide lockdown to restrict its fast spread. Due to lack of accessibility, the rural people did not receive proper messages about the threats and dangers posed by the disease and the precautionary measures to prevent it. Moreover, there were widespread rumours about the pandemic and many people believed that it was a conspiracy against the people of Pakistan. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to include awareness sessions on COVID-19 in the Community Awareness Toolkits (CATs) and trained the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) to deliver the awareness session after their routine CATs sessions in the CO meetings. Moreover, on the



Awareness session on COVID-19 in a CO meeting

instruction of the LSO leaders, the CRPs ensured to keep proper distance and reduced the number of participants to maximum 9 members during the meetings. The LSO members who were trained in tailoring under the Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) component of the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, stitched 100 face masks and distributed them among the poor community members. The LSO leaders also approached the Chairman Union Council who had received hand washing soaps from the District Council for the distribution among people and obtained 65 soap bars for the poorest community members.

In recognition of the LSO leaders' active participation in combating COVID-19, the Government nominated the President, Manager and CRPs of the LSO at the UC level Committee formed to distribute ration and soap bars among poorest families and conduct Trace, Test and Quarantine (TTQ) of the suspected members. The LSO leaders and CRPs performed their due roles diligently and the LSO was awarded with a Best Performance Certificate by the District Health Officer.



CRP raising awareness about Polio drop campaign during a community session

Coordination with District Health Department in Polio Campaign

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, the focus of the Government Health Department was shifted away from Polio drop delivery. When the COVID-19 cases were brought under control with effective

coordination of the organised communities in COs, VO's and LSOs, the Health Department re-started the Polio drop delivery campaign. Since the District Health Officer had learnt about the strength of the LSOs in terms of their able and active leaders and organised network, he decided to invite their support in delivering polio drops as well and hired the services of the LSO CRPs for this purpose. The LSO and VO leaders announced the dates of visit of Polio teams to their villages in advance and motivated the refusal cases to allow their children to receive Polio drops. They also monitored the campaign and reported missing children to the Polio teams which were then covered during the follow up visits. Due to these coordinated and dedicated efforts, almost 100 percent children were covered during the Polio drop campaign across UC Sheikh Berkho.

Water and Sanitation

Based on the good performance of the LSO, NRSP decided to launch its Water, Immunisation, Sanitation and Education (WISE) programme in the UC. The objectives of the programme were to ensure that 100% households have access to safe drinking water sources, 100% coverage of immunisation for children and pregnant women, 100% households become habitual of proper disposal of Solid Waste and improve Sanitation conditions and 100% enrolment of school aged children. A key feature of the WISE programme is that the LSO takes the full responsibility of sustainable implementation of the activities after completion of the project. The LSO implemented the programme very well and took full responsibility of maintenance of the programme components on a sustainable basis.

- The LSO provided awareness sessions to 1,421 women on sanitation through 70 sessions.
- The LSO cleaned the streets of 14 villages through village cleaning campaigns and disposed of the waste properly. Now, they ensure that people dispose of household solid waste into the waste bins constructed by the LSO at 36 sites across the UC instead of throwing waste in the streets.



- The LSO also ensures the cleaning of drainage lines on regular basis. Before the WISE programme, people used to throw their household garbage in the streets. The waste material thrown in the streets blocked the sewage lines running alongside the streets and the drainage water used to overflow on the streets causing serious environmental and health hazards for the residents. Since the streets are clean now, the sewage lines are running properly, and the solid waste collected at the waste bins are burnt on regular basis.
- The LSO also raised awareness among 1,421 women members through 70 sessions on using clean water for drinking purpose. They tested 14 water sources across the UC and found that 11 sources were fit for drinking while 3 were unfit due

to high contamination of arsenic and total dissolved solids (TDS). TDS is a measure of the combined total of organic and inorganic substances contained in a liquid. This includes anything present in water other than the pure H₂O molecules. The LSO leaders labelled the pure sources with green and the polluted sources with red colours and advised the community members not to use water from the polluted sources for drinking purposes. However, they can use that water for other activities such as washing clothes etc.

As a result of these sustainable water and sanitation systems, the entire UC of Sheikh Berkhio is now safe from the health hazards posed by environmental pollution and unsafe water.



Waste bins constructed for solid waste



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