



**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 (LSO) Sobh

 District <b>Kamber Shahdadkot</b>	 Union Council <b>Chaudero</b>	 Date of Formation <b>May 10 2017</b>	 Total Households in Union Council <b>2,137</b>	 Organised Households <b>1,695</b>
 Coverage <b>79%</b>	 Number of Community Organisations (COs) <b>75</b> (all women's)	 Number of Village Organisations (VOs) <b>9</b> (all women's)	 Number of General Body Members <b>18</b> (all women)	 Number of Executive Committee Members <b>7</b> (all women)

(LSO Profiles up to 31 July 2021)

### Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme

**PKR 6,664,000**  
LSO managing CIF Amount

Disbursed CIF loans worth PKR **14,654,500**  
to **884** poor households

**177**  
households benefited from Income-Generating Grants (IGG) worth PKR **2,270,000**

**437**  
households have Micro Health Insurance (MHI) coverage

**120**  
women have received Technical-Vocational Skills Training (TVST)

**7**  
Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) schemes have been implemented: 6 completed and 1 on-going



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

1. Reopened **non-functional school** facilitating **300 students**
2. Improved **Sanitation** by constructing low-cost latrines for **40 poorest** households
3. Distributed **Solar Plates** among the **40 poorest** households
4. Stepped in and stopped **child marriage** practices in the UC
5. Supported **450 women** for CNIC Registration across the UC
6. Conduct COVID-19 awareness sessions
7. Distributed ration to **40 poorest** households
8. Planted **1000 trees** across the UC
9. Promoted **community hygiene** by organising **cleaning campaigns**

*LSO Sobh, from District Kambar Shahdadkot, was formed on 10th May 2017 by 1695 member households which are organised into 75 COs and 9 VOs. Women leaders of LSO 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 taking initiatives to improve their lives.*

### Re-opening of Closed Schools

The Government Primary School of village Memon was closed for a year. Due to the unavailability of teachers, more than 300 students' future was at stake. The VO leaders presented the matter in the LSO meeting and highlighted the significance of education. The leaders of LSO Sobh, then, formed a committee consisting of LSO



office bearers and two representatives of village Memon. This committee conducted a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner and briefed him on the issue of the unavailability of the teacher. The Deputy Commissioner acknowledged the efforts of women leaders in addressing the issue and assured them about the arrangement of teaching staff at the earliest convenience. Within months, the school was facilitated with the teacher. Currently, more than 300 students are enrolled in the school and receive the blessing called education.

### Improving Sanitation: Construction of Low-Cost Latrines

The lack of access to washrooms in rural areas commonly leads to the wild spread of diseases like Typhoid & Diarrhoea. The members of VO Nao Goth were facing the same challenge. After realising the importance of proper sanitation and community hygiene through CAT sessions, the LSO leader decided to approach the office of The Mangi Memorial Trust. She briefed the officials about poor sanitation conditions in the village and requested them for the construction of toilets in the area. The Mangi Memorial Trust responded promptly to the issue and sent one of its representatives to VO Nao Goth to survey and verify the issue. Upon verification, this issue was treated as an urgency and 60 washrooms were constructed in collaboration with the The Mangi Memorial Trust. This activity benefitted 60 poorest households with improved sanitation practices.

## Distribution of Solar Panels

The electric infrastructure of most of the villages is old, unrepaired, or damaged. Electricity is provided in morning hours only and the nights in the villages are pitch black. The residents of village Chudero also faced several hindrances due to poor electric infrastructure. To address the matter, the LSO leaders identified the 40 poorest families which highly needed solar plates for effective functioning. After the identification, the LSO leaders approached the UC Chairman and presented the misery of poor households. Furthermore, they provided the list of identified households for support regarding the concerning matter. The UC Chairman approved their application and distributed 40 Solar panels to the community households. "There is no electricity problem anymore" says one of the residents of village Nao Goth.



## Stopping Child Marriages

According to a UNICEF report in 2013, 21 percent of girls in Pakistan are forced to marry before the age of 18. Early or forced marriages is a violation of child rights. Despite being prohibited by international law, it continues to rob hundreds of girl's dreams. The child marriages often lead to illiteracy, increased risk of violence and abuse, and poor mental health. The residents of village Memon were suffering from the same issue. A case of forced child

marriage was reported in VO Tharri Hashim. A 15-year-old girl was set to marry a man of 60 years of age. The women leaders of LSO Sobh came to know about the case and tried to stop the wedding by convincing the girl's parents. However, the family did not agree to call off the wedding despite their daughter's unwillingness to marry an old man. The leaders of LSO Sobh called the Director of Women Development and raised their voice for the rights of a little girl. Their efforts brought fruitful results and the involvement of officials stopped the child marriage. The girl's parents were advised to not think about their daughter's marriage until she attains the adequate level of maturity and can give her consent for the act. In case of failure to do so, they may face the court of law.

## Registration of new CNICs

The women living in rural areas have not been formally identified by the state due to lack of access to CNIC registration. Lack of national state registration also restricts these women to cast their votes as well. The major challenge includes lack of awareness about the significance of identity card which is coupled with long distance and time required to travel to NADRA office for the registration process. Precisely, the social and cultural factors do not allow women to participate in the electoral process. Therefore, in order to ensure the maximum registration of CNICs, the LSO leaders facilitated the community members. They motivated the community members about the significance of having a valid CNIC and then, approached the NADRA office to arrange a mobile van for their UC. Through this initiative, approximately 450 residents have been able to receive CNICs at their doorsteps. The LSO leaders said that they are highly optimistic to register the CNICs of remaining residents of entire Union Council.

## COVID-19 Awareness Sessions

To safeguard the rural communities against COVID-19, the LSO engaged the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) to undertake awareness sessions on precautionary measures in different villages. The awareness sessions were attended by the community members which has helped them to take care of themselves and their families during the global pandemic. The session also dispels misinformation about the COVID-19 while promoting measures such as frequently washing hands and wearing masks. The women who have attended the sessions have adopted

the preventive measures practically and have also started to encourage other households especially males to adopt safety measures i.e., maintain physical distance in public places or even homes and avoid crowded places. In this regard, a hand washing activity was held where CRPs demonstrated how to wash hands properly.



Handwashing Demonstration Session conducted by CRPs

### Ration Distribution to Poor Households

During the COVID-19 outbreak, food insecurity was one of the many challenges faced by the poorest villagers. Most vulnerable communities living in rural areas are tackling with hunger due to food insecurity. In villages, skipping meals and or selling assets to afford food is a routine practice which leads to unimaginable outcomes. The LSO leaders of Sobh came to know about the ration distribution activity by the UC Chairman during the COVID-19 outbreak. The activity aimed at helping villagers by minimising their difficulties regarding food security. A meeting was arranged with the UC Chairman, and he was briefed about the situation of the starving poor households in the UC. After assessing the situation, the UC Chairman provided ration to 40 poorest households accordingly.

### Plantation of Trees

Plantation has become need of the hour as pollution rates are increasing day by day. Tree plantation is pertinent to maintain a cleaner, safer, and healthier

environment. For this purpose. The community members of UC Chaudero came forward and initiated the tree planting activity in their villages. So far, 1000 trees have been planted in the villages across the UC.

### Promoting Community Hygiene

Followed by the CAT sessions on the topics of health and hygiene by CRPs, the LSO leaders of Sobh formed a supervising committee to initiate the cleaning campaign in the UC in order to promote the community hygiene. The cleaning campaign (Safae Muhim) event is held every month in each village of the UC. The women leaders took up the charge and stated the sweeping and cleaning themselves in their nearby villages. The LSO leaders understand that the pollution and dirt carry diseases, therefore, it needs to be controlled as early as possible.



Women Community Members Participating in Safae Muhim



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