



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 Sindhu

District Dadu Tehsil: KN Shah	Union Council Thalho	Date of Formation March 30 2017	Total Households in Union Council 2,967	Organised Households 2,855
Coverage 96%	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 99 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 20 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members 38 <small>(all women)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members 6 <small>(all women)</small>

(LSO Profiles up to 31 July 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme



LSO managing CIF Amount of **PKR 6,095,000** Initial sub-grant as CIF



Community Investment Fund (CIF) amount of **PKR 5,743,000** disbursed to **278** households



Income Generating Grant (IGG) amount of **PKR 1,240,000** benefited **62** households



Micro Health Insurance (MHI) provided to **315** households providing coverage to **215** individuals



Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST) benefited **39 male** and **176 female** beneficiaries



Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI): **08** schemes



Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

The LSO has implemented **8 different Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)** schemes in the Union Council Thalho, under the SUCCESS Programme. The total worth of these schemes is PKR **4,927,164** and a total of **828 households** are benefiting from these schemes. There are **5,601 beneficiaries** of these schemes. 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. Facilitated the registration of **1,900 CNICs, 40 death certificates, and 13 birth certificates**
2. Enrolled **2,335 children (813 girls and 1,519 boys)** in schools with the help of Sindh Educational Foundation
3. Ensured the vaccination of **4,731 animals** in the UC
4. Planted **6,300 trees** in the UC
5. Facilitated the vaccination of **785 individuals** against COVID-19

LSO Sindhu, from District Dadu was formed on 30-3-2017 by 2,855 member households organised into 99 COs and 20 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Sindhu 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.

Civic Registration

Due to lack of awareness, education and interest, majority of the poverty affected population neglected seeking Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) and birth registration certificates (B-forms). Due to cultural and traditional constraints, the ration of women not having CNICs was higher than men. Realising the importance of citizen registration for voting and access to public welfare services, the leadership of LSO Sindhu decided to launch an awareness campaign through Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and LSO office bearers. The LSO President also contacted NADRA office for Mobile Van registration service to facilitate the villagers, especially women. In the villages where the number of citizens to be registered was really low, the eligible candidates were

guided through VOs and COs to register at the nearest NADRA center. The LSO office bearers also accompanied those women who were unable to go on their own to register for CNICs themselves. In addition to the CNICs, LSO leaders also motivated the community members to get other civic registration documents such as marriage certificate, death certificate, and birth certificates. Through these efforts, LSO Sindhu was able to facilitate 1900 individuals (1353 women and 547 men) in getting CNICs as well as 40 death Certificates and 13 birth certificates.

Enrolment of Children in School

Due to lack of awareness about the importance of education, and child labour at agricultural farms, only 30 % of children in the UC were enrolled in schools. In addition, the parents wrongly believed that instead of educating their children, it would be better to engage them in livelihood opportunities which led to abysmally low literacy rate in the UC. Poverty was also one of the contributing factors to the low education rate in the UC. The parents could not afford to pick and drop their children, especially girls, to schools as there was no school available in the village. The LSO President and General Secretary took the responsibility for enrolment of children in school. During the monthly LSO meeting, LSO leadership urged the VO members to raise awareness on the importance of education and motivate the parents to send their children to school. Furthermore,



LSO worked as a bridge between Sindh Educational Foundation (SEF) and parents. The LSO leaders urged the administration of SEF run school to provide pick and drop to the children from nearest villages. Hence, through the dedicated efforts of LSO, total 2335 children (813 girls and 1519 boys) were enrolled in the schools throughout the UC.

Tree Plantation

Previously, the rural population of the UC Thalho did not accord importance to the trees. Due to unavailability of natural gas and other fuel sources as well as on the pretext of poverty, deforestation continued without the culture of planting any new trees. Therefore, the leadership of LSO Sindhu decided to raise awareness on importance of trees during the monthly meetings and sessions conducted by Community Resource Persons (CRPs). These sessions highlighted the contribution of trees towards improving the overall environment and making our planet a safer place. After mobilising the communities, the LSO leaders mobilised the resources of procuring plants from the EU funded PINS programme and from their own sources as well. Consequently, the LSO succeeded in planting 6300 trees including moringa trees in the UC.



A woman community member participating in tree plantation campaign

Facilitating Access to Maternity Homes

Due to tradition of conducting birth deliveries by untrained dais, there was no culture of regular check-ups and getting service of qualified medical staff for deliveries in the UC. This resulted in aggravating health of mothers and babies and even resulted in deaths in extreme cases. Understanding the seriousness of this matter, LSO arranged health sessions especially focusing on maternal and child healthcare. In addition, the LSO President also

accompanied the pregnant women to the nearby Jeejal Ma Health facility/maternity home and supported them in their safe deliveries. On some occasions, the LSO President even donated her blood to the needy mothers who could not find any donors in the time of need.

Livestock Vaccination

After agriculture, livestock is second main source of income for majority of the rural population in Pakistan. For some families, it is the only source of income. Majority of the livestock owners treat their animals themselves without any training or avail the services of quack vets. There is little or no understanding of livestock vaccination which impacts the health and productivity of the animals in a harmful manner. Under this background, the LSO Sindhu took self-initiative to address this issue by making LSO members seek trainings on livestock care. The LSO President availed 21 days and 6 months training respectively on Livestock. Through the utilisation of that training, 4731 livestock heads have been vaccinated since the LSO formation. This has helped in reducing livestock diseases and has increased the overall productivity, thereby, increasing the income of poor families depending solely on livestock for their livelihood.

COVID-19 Vaccination

Due to propaganda on social media and widespread rumours by misguided elements, a large ratio of rural population was reluctant to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The LSO focused on this issue and tried to resolve the misunderstandings of the reluctant persons by setting an example. The LSO President and other office bearers received the first dose of vaccination to motivate other individuals from UC to get their vaccination shot. With the efforts and facilitation of LSO, 785 individuals received the vaccination against COVID-19.



COVID-19 vaccination drive in the UC



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