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Dissemination Conference
Taraqi ka Safar
Journey towards Development



**Sindh Union Council and Community Economic
 Strengthening Support Programme**

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Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme

Dissemination Conference

Taraqi ka Safar- Journey towards Development

Larkana Sindh
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Introduction

The EU-funded Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening and Support (SUCCESS) programme entered its seventh year and is at maturity stage. At this point, SUCCESS interventions have brought about measurable improvement in the lives of the rural women of Sindh and the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach has ensured the sustainable impacts on the community women and their households. Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) in collaboration with the RSPs and district government authorities started a series of dissemination conferences in all programme districts to share the learning experiences and discuss the sustainable approaches to poverty graduation and women empowerment.

Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) jointly organised a Dissemination Conference “*Taraqi ka Safar- Journey towards Development*” on fostering women empowerment and leadership in collaboration with District Administration Larkana. The conference was conducted at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Hall, Jinnah Bagh, Larkana, where more than 800 organised rural women of the community institutions ensured their active participation. All the women belonging to SUCCESS programme covered 47 Union Councils (UCs) of district Larkana.

Mr Tariq Manzoor Chandio, Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Larkana, AC Bakrani, AC Dokri and other line-department government officials, media personnel, SRSO-SUCCESS team participated at the event. Leaders of Community Institutions (CIs) and



Community members attending the Dissemination Conference



Guests conducting dialogue with the community



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Government and line department officials attending the Dissemination Conference

programme beneficiaries discussed programme's interventions achievements and self-initiatives. Key lessons and way forward were presented by SRSO Team and other stakeholders.

Local Support Organisations (LSOs) and Linkages

Perfectly themed, "Taraqi ka Safar"- Journey towards Development, the dissemination conference highlighted the achievements of the community and paradigm shift in their lives over the past six (06) years. The members of the LSOs shared the initiatives taken under SUCCESS programme and how these initiatives have benefited the community holistically. They showcased the effectiveness of linkages with government or other stakeholders and their contribution to sustainability and prosperity. For instance, SRSO-SUCCESS has linked the business development with the market so that their work can directly be valued by retailers/customers.

Furthermore, the representatives highlighted the enabling factors and challenges faced by the LSOs in effective linkages creation. The LSO leaders shed light on the process of development of the linkages with other stakeholders in the domain of registration of marriage certificates, CNIC, form-B, reopening of schools, construction of roads, tree plantation, awareness sessions and so on.



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Specific cases of self-initiatives by the community endorsed that the Community Institutions (CIs) are now better organised, mobilised and can prepare their sustainability plans keeping in view their social priorities. The community has keen knowledge about the development work that should be done in their areas in collaboration with government and non-government organisations.

The Journey of Social Mobilisation

The event started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by a member of LSO Tabdeeli, Ms Mahnoor.

After that, Ms Samina Barkat, Training Coordinator-SRSO facilitated the event and highlighted women's struggles towards empowerment and stereotypes that are broken by the community. Like *women should live their lives confined in 4 walls, endure domestic violence, girls shouldn't study and get married at a young age, women are not as smart as men so they shouldn't contribute much to the decision making and so on.*

She presented the participants with a brief background of the inception of the programme while talking about the first event of the SUCCESS programme on March 29, 2016 with the rural community. When Mr Shoaib Sultan Khan (Chairman RSPN) conducted first dialogue with rural women at village Imam Bux Mallah, Larkana and familiarised them with the aims of SUCCESS programme i.e. socio-economic empowerment. The journey of programme throughout the years and Community-Driven Development (CDD) or more specifically women-driven development has endured several hardships but the results it has brought are worth the struggle. After that, she shared that all women particularly the rural ones faced an array of accusations during development phase.

The tough part was mobilising the community women, *“how can a women contribute in social mobilisation (formation of Community Organisations (COs), Village Organisations (VOs), and LSOs), starting their business, leaving the boundaries of home and daringly talking with government official in Joint Development Committee (JDC) meeting, conducting Community Resource Persons (CRPs) sessions, generating livelihood, taking step forward to reduce poverty?”*



Community member sharing her life experiences and achievements under SUCCESS programme



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Yet the rural women accomplished everything their fellow community doubt they couldn't achieve.

Asif Khoro-Chief Finance Officer (CFO)-SRSO had an exclusive dialogue with the community women and briefed them about district Larkana. He also thanked the participants and applauded the struggles of the community and motivated them to keep going forward.

After that Ajraks, and folders packs were distributed to the guests.



SRSO Management presenting Ajraks to the guests

SUCCESS programme Components and the Impact

Mr Jamal Mustafa Shoro, Team Lead SUCCESS-SRSO gave a brief overview of all interventions of SUCCESS programme. i.e.,

1. Social Mobilisation

Under social mobilisation 607,412 households are organised, 30,383 women community organisations (COs) are made, 3,473 women village organisations (VOs) were formed and a total of 314 developed LSOs are working on community-driven approach. Social mobilisation approach is supporting to building capacities of the COs, VOs and LSOs. *“We never knew through joint discussions we can find solution to our problems and fulfil our social needs. AT first our male community was not allowing be a part of SUCCESS. But now, everyone is happy with the change”*, the community shared.

2. Community Investment Fund (CIF)

The LSOs manage the CIF as a revolving fund while offering micro loans to women with maximum amount of PKR 30,000 (€ 176) and average amount of PKR 18,000 (€ 94). CIF targets the poor households identified through the Poverty Score Card (PSC) to ensure that only the households with a PSC 0-23 at the baseline access capital and start income generating activities. 114,519 households are benefiting from CIF. *“CIF has taken us out of poverty and we are glad its interest free”*, the community women expressed.



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3. Income Generating Grants (IGG)

The IGGs provide assistance to the poorest community members through a one-time cash grant to start economic/income generating activities. 54,291 households are being benefited from IGG. *“We were able to reduce extreme poverty through investment in livestock”*, shared Ms Parveen Khoso.

4. Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

The purpose of the CPI projects is to improve basic community level infrastructure and productive assets. These projects are identified, implemented, and maintained by the VOs, thus building their institutional capacity and ownership, and meeting their needs. 179,735 households are being benefiting from the CPI schemes. *“Accidents rate has decreased in our area with improved infrastructure”*, the LSO leaders told.

5. Technical and Vocational Skills Training (TVST)

35,339 community members are trained under TVST and are making use of the training through creating market linkages and starting independent entrepreneurial ventures. The SUCCESS programme provides TVSTs to men and women from the households with PSC 0-23. *“It’s skill that makes us competent enough to with-stand poverty”*, shared Ms Ruqaiya.

6. Micro Health Insurance (MHI)

137,532 households are ensured under MHI schemes. MHI is a social protection measure for the most destitute and vulnerable households. The objective of the MHI is to protect these households from health shocks that may push them deeper into poverty due to large expenses commonly incurred on health. The community shared, *“Now we can prioritise our health issues and get treatment of the diseases with the help of Sehat Cards”*.

7. Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skill (ALNS)

The programme aims to establish around 1400 ALNS centres across the eight SUCCESS districts to reach 35,000 women members of the Community Organisations, beneficiaries of CIF, IGG, MHI, TVST and other women who either never attended school or dropped out before completing the 5th grade in school will be benefited from the ALNS component. The present learners in the centres are learning basic language and arithmetic skills that are being used in their day-to-day affairs. *“Learning at ALNS and with support from my family, I can read and write English, Urdu and Sindhi. I can read signboards, perform basic calculations for home budgeting, understand doctor’s prescriptions and can use smartphones to some extent”*, a learner shared.

Team leader SRSO-SUCCESS commended the community for taking self-initiative and trusting SRSO-SUCCESS staff throughout the journey and ensured the cooperation of SRSO after the project closeout.



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Mr Tariq Manzoor was pleased to meet the beneficiaries of the SUCCESS Programme and acknowledged the confidence and initiative of women in developing linkages with the government. Moreover, he congratulated rural women on how they have been able to overcome socio-economic issues through programme interventions. He said, *“I am glad to be a part of this event that I had an opportunity to witness the empowered rural women working for their own development. If we look at the history of Sindh, we find women artisan’s work in spotlight”*. He then ensured his support via JDC meetings and offered to work in collaboration with government of Sindh for future sustainable development ventures for women empowerment.

Showcase of Business Development Groups (BDGs)

On the occasion, stalls were set up by Business Development Groups (BDG Sona Hath, Sughar, Sindhri and Khadee), Young Development Professional (YDP), Zabtech (ZABTech has been partnering with SUCCESS programme for the implementation of Technical and Vocational Skills Trainings (TVST) component at district Larkana and Kamber-Shahdadkot. The project aims to train women in demand-driven trades) and also set up their stall promoting their work and their partnership with the SUCCESS programme. BDG leaders shared, *“these events allowed us to display our work and generate sales. We are delighted to witness our work being valued by the customer”*



Government officials and community visiting stalls



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Stalls for SUCCESS publication and SRSO publication were set up where Mr Abdul Manan Chachar-M&E manager-SUCCESS, Ms Aqsa Tahreem Documentation & Reporting Officer-SUCCESS and Mr Ali Anwar-Assistant Manager Documentation and Reporting-SRSO briefly presented the content of publications to the participants. Based on the data, outcome-oriented programme interventions were discussed extensively. SUCCESS Programme was recognised as a well-documented programme by all guests.



Government Officials visiting SUCCESS

Way Forward

The dissemination conference proved to be successful for the community as they shared their struggles, challenges and achievements directly with government officials and gained motivation from collective efforts. In the end, the DC and all the government line department representatives ensured their cooperation in the developmental activities. Also, the community promised to grasp the opportunities and establish micro-macro linkages to uplift rural lifestyles. Women empowerment and leadership missions are in progressive stages and the efforts to reach maturity are not far if the community keeps up with the CCD approach. The conference was concluded with a pledge to continue the self-initiatives by the community and future collaborations among key stakeholders for sustainable development.



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Annexures

Visibility Items and Communication Material

Banners

TARAQI KA SAFAR
A JOURNEY TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT
Dissemination Conference on fostering
Women Empowerment and Leadership
Organized by SRSO & RSPN in collaboration
with District Administration of Larkana
March 22, 2022

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Income Generating Grant (IGG)

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Community Investment Fund (CIF)


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SUCCESS Publications



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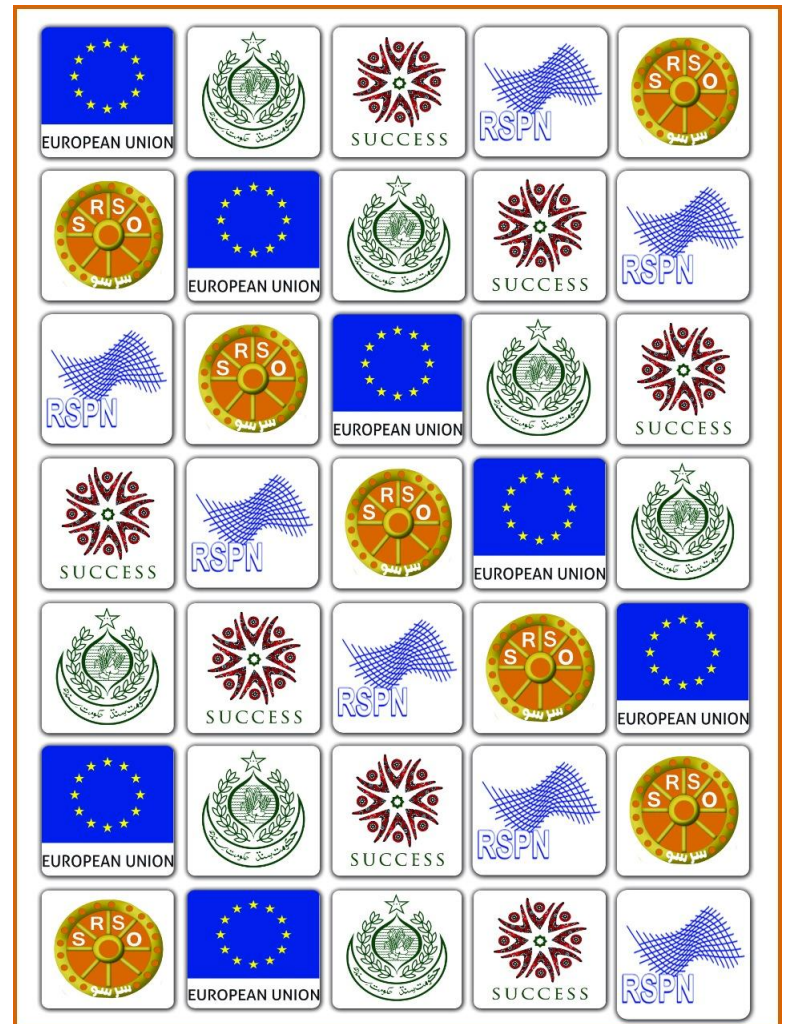



SRSO Publications



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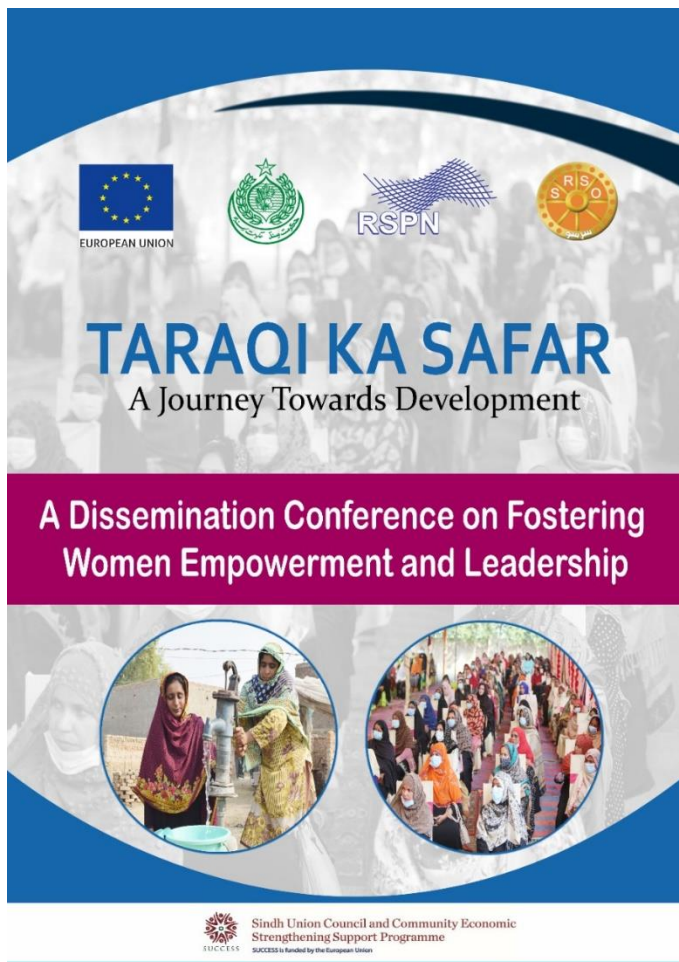
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Brochure

<p>Technical and Vocational Skills Training TVST & Enterprise Development (ED)</p> <p>SRSO Enterprise Development (ED) section is supporting TVST trainees to establish their enterprise, develop market linkages with the potential markets and improving Value Chain components in 2 districts i.e. Larkana and Kambar-Shahdadkot. In which community is being linked with the buyers all across the country and providing support to upgrade their product line and services through technical experts and designers. ED section is also providing different platforms to display their products and sell them to improve their livelihood.</p>	<p>Pakistan Largest Women-Rural Development Venture</p> <p>SRSO is implementing "SUCCESS programme" funded by the European Union and supported by RSPN and Government of Sindh. The basic objective is to stimulate community driven local development initiatives to reduce poverty in 2 districts of Sindh i.e. Larkana and Kambar-Shahdadkot, paying particular attention to empowering women. The programme consists of the key interventions: Community Investment Fund (CIF), Income Generation Grant (IGG), Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI), Adult Literacy & Numeracy Skills (ALNS), Technical & Vocational Skills Training (TVST), Enterprise Development (ED) and Market Linkages.</p>		<p>"SUCCESS" PROGRAMME</p> <p>Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support Programme</p> <p><small>Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support Programme</small></p>		<p>ADDRESS</p> <p>SRSO Head Office Implementation Unit SRSO Complex Near-Taj Petrol Pump, Main Shikarpur Road Sukkur Ph: 071-56271820 Fw: 071-56271820111 Web: www.srso.org.pk</p> <p>District Office</p> <p>Larkana House No. 180/A, Sachal Colony Larkana Contact: 074-4752824</p> <p>Kambar Shahdadkot House No. 314, Bago Dero, By Pass Road Near Shell Petrol Pump Kambar Contact: 074-4210955</p>
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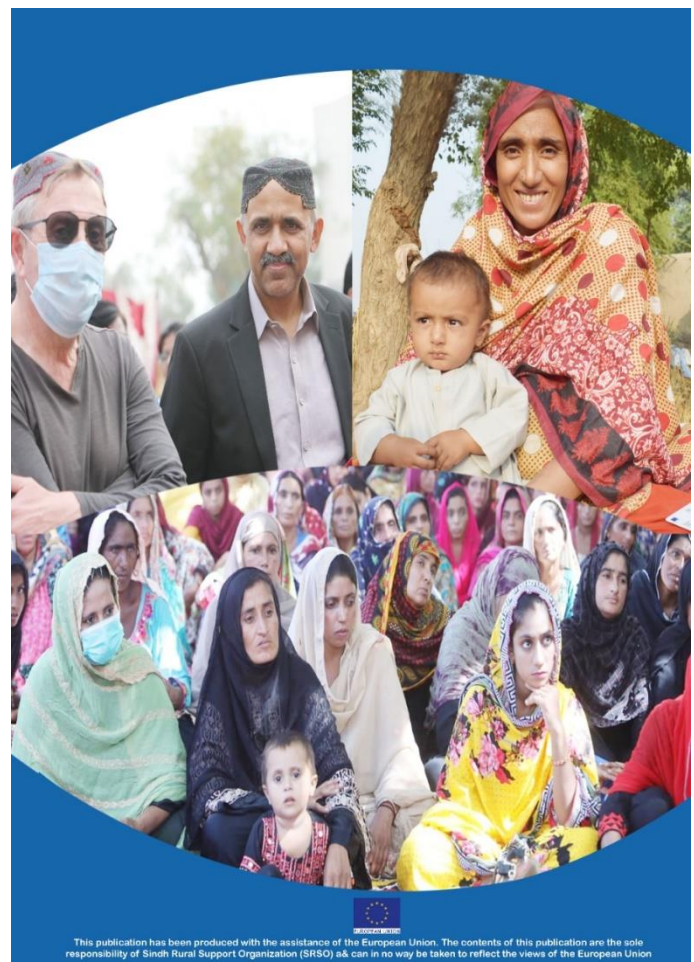
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TARAQI KA SAFAR
A Journey Towards Development

A Dissemination Conference on Fostering Women Empowerment and Leadership

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