



LSO Initiatives

# LSO Fazil Rural Development Organisation

## What are LSOs?

LSOs are union council-level organisations consisting of grassroots communities and are central to the RSPs' approach of Social Mobilisation. Social Mobilisation entails the organising of rural communities (with a special focus on women and the poorest) into their own organisations through a three-tiered structure. LSOs consist of Community Organisations (COs) (neighbourhood-level community groups) and Village Organisations (federations of COs at the village level). These two tiers federate to form the LSO at the third tier in order to carry out community-led development of the union council. LSOs are able to carry out development through self-help initiatives, linkages with NGOs, donors and the private sector as well as work with and hold local government accountable due to their advantage of numbers.

## The LSO

District: Bhakkar, Punjab

Union Council: Fazil

Total Households in union council: 4,079

Organised Households: 3,160

Coverage: 77%

Number of Village Organisations (VOs): 11 (8 mix VOs, 3 women's VOs)

Number of Community Organisations (COs): 224 (90 men's COs, 120 women's COs and 14 mix COs)

Number of General Body Members: 205 (101 men and 104 women)

Number of Executive Body Members: 33 (22 men and 11 women)

## The Initiatives

### CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

The LSO carried out a union council-wide survey of the educational status of children of school-going age. They found that 438 children were not attending school. The LSO then decided to meet the parents of these children and to motivate and inform them of the benefits of sending children to

school. As a result, 247 children started attending school while the LSO found through the survey that 87 children were not attending school because they could not afford books or school uniforms. In order to give them a chance at education, the LSO provided these 87 children with either books or school uniforms.

In addition to this, the LSO has also provided 16 children with scholarships for their education; these have been for admission into Matric and Intermediate.

### HEALTH

The LSO has carried out several initiatives regarding health; the first being the organisation of four health camps in which 438 households benefited. The money for the health camps was obtained from well-to-do families in the union council while a doctor from a local hospital was asked to bring his colleagues for the health camps. The doctors provided their services free of cost as well as bringing along medication for the health camps.

“It saved eight families from flooded areas, provided food for 26 households for 16 days, provided 27 children with clothes, gave food rations to 16 families and Rs. 3,000 each to 45 families.”

The LSO has also lent its members loans in order for them to seek out medical attention for various procedures; 15 people for general procedures while six women were motivated to undergo procedures regarding family-planning.

#### **SUPPORT TO POOREST HOUSEHOLDS IN MARRIAGE-COSTS**

The LSO through its own funds has provided support to the poorest of households in the marriage of their children. In the case of three households who were having difficulties in collecting dowry for their daughters, the LSO provided them with amounts ranging from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 9,000. In the case of one household, the LSO provided them with three bags of wheat.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF BLOOD BANK**

The LSO through its members on numerous occasions had experienced the lack of blood in emergency situations. Therefore they decided to form a Blood Bank whereby they asked for volunteers and got their blood types checked. Their contact numbers were then kept with the LSO and now when any blood type is required, people call the LSO which then contacts the relevant volunteer.



Ahmed Nawaz, a recipient of a medical loan from the LSO



A young woman with dark hair, wearing a vibrant blue shawl with pink and purple floral patterns, is seated outdoors. She is looking down intently at an open book held in her hands. The book's pages are filled with handwritten text in Urdu. She is sitting on a woven mat. To her left is a wall made of light-colored bricks. The background features lush green trees and a clear sky. A semi-transparent blue box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

## Education and Empowerment

Naseem, 17 and a college student is a recipient of a scholarship from the LSO



The LSO has also been able to obtain a project from the USAID's Ambassador's Fund Program in which they are building houses for flood-affected households in two neighbouring union councils.

#### DONATION OF LAND AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES FOR THE POOREST

The LSO has built houses for six households with donations and supplies being contributed by local communities and businesses. In some cases, the LSO has also provided land to needy individuals with local families donating a part of their land and transferring it in the name of the woman of the deserving household.

#### FLOOD RELIEF ACTIVITIES

During the floods of 2010, the LSO did its part in rescuing and helping neighbouring villages from the floods. It saved eight families from flooded areas, provided food for 26 households for 16 days, provided 27 children with clothes, gave food rations to 16 families and Rs. 3,000 each to 45 families. All this was possible through the contribution of LSO members and their efforts in obtaining donations from their local communities.

#### USAID'S AMBASSADOR'S FUND PROGRAM FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

The LSO has also been able to obtain a project from the USAID's Ambassador's Fund Program in which they are building houses for flood-affected households in two neighbouring union councils. Each house costs Rs. 426,000, with a total target of 25 houses to be built (each house will consist of two rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a handpump). The criteria that the LSO has set for recipients of the houses are that first preference would be provided to the poor, disabled and widows.

**Land and material donated by LSO members for constructing a house for Zaitun Bibi**

