











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 BRACE, mobilise rural women and men 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 Naag

<p>District</p>  <p>Washuk</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Naag</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>18-11-2019</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>1,894</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,497</p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p>76%</p>
<p>Number of COs</p>  <p>160 81 WOMEN</p>		<p>Number of VOs</p>  <p>24 05 WOMEN</p>		<p># of General Body Members</p>  <p>41 ALL MEN</p>	<p># of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>11 ALL MEN</p>

Local Support Organization Naag District Washuk, was formed on November 18th, 2019 by 1,497 member households organised into 160 COs and 24 VOs. The leaders of LSO Naag are planning and implementing development activities both on a self-help basis as well as in collaboration with government agencies. The EU-funded BRACE Programme is empowering rural men and women in Balochistan through realising the power they gain from collective action. Organised men and women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Provision of Portable Water

Like in other areas of Balochistan, availability of portable water is a huge issue in most villages of Union Council Naag. Due to lack of a drinking water supply project, the people of village Naag had to fetch water from nearby villages. According to the local tradition, fetching water is the responsibility of women, therefore, the women had to walk long distances on daily basis to bring water for their family members and domestic animals. The lone source of clean drinking water is ground water that has depleted in Balochistan. Therefore, fetching ground water costs huge amount of money, which is beyond the capacity of the poor people. In addition, there is no electricity supply in the entire UC, because it is not connected with the QESCO grid station, therefore, solar energy is required for pumping ground water, which further adds the cost of water supply projects.

Before getting organised in COs, VOs and LSO, the local people had never thought that they can take up their issues with their political leaders and access Government

resources to solve them. However, after getting organised under the EU funded BRACE Programme, they learnt about the ways and means of developing linkages with their elected representatives and Government Line departments. When the issue of scarcity of portable water in village NAAG was brought into the notice of the LSO leaders, they conducted a series of meetings with the Public Health Engineering (PHE) officials and asked them to consider



The inauguration ceremony of the Portable Water Project

their project on priority basis. At the same time, they held meetings with their Member National Assembly (MNA) and Provincial Assembly (MPA) as a team and asked them to allocate Government funds for installation of a solar energy powered drinking water supply project in village Naag. Eventually their efforts bore fruit and the MNA allocated the required funds from his discretionary quota. The PHE implemented the project, which provides portable water to 65 rural families in their village. The local people especially the women are so happy because they are now relieved from the hard and extremely laborious daily task of fetching water from long distances.

Vaccination of Livestock by Government Livestock Department

Livestock is one of the most valuable assets for the residents of UC Naag, as it is the main source of milk and meat for their family members, as well as being a strategic coping mechanism. But their production is constrained by drought and disease. Veterinary interventions especially vaccination has a highly significant impact on animal health and production measures. However, uptake of vaccination is strongly associated with a measure of wealth that includes livestock numbers and economic security of the family. As such, the poor households find it hard or impossible to access the full benefits of the vaccine.

The organised communities in the EU funded BRACE Programme areas of Balochistan has started to bridge the institutional barriers by actively engaging the Government Livestock Department on the basis of their social capital and collective voice. The LSO leaders held meetings with the officials of the Government Livestock Department and brought the livestock issues of draught effected villages where viral diseases were causing considerable damages to sheep and goats. They also offered their full support to the Livestock staff by organising vaccination campaigns at village level. As a result of these coordinated efforts, the Livestock Department staff visited those villages and vaccinated 187 animals belonging to 67 beneficiary households.



Government Livestock department staff vaccinating sheep in UC Naag

Arrangement of Ambulance Service to Shift Seriously Ill People to Hospitals in Town Areas

The health facilities are every limited in UC Naag. Therefore, critically sick people, risky delivery cases and seriously injured patients during accidents have to be shifted to well-equipped hospitals in town areas. But due to lack of a proper ambulance service, the patients and their attendants used to face serious issues in shifting their patients via ill-equipped vehicles. Moreover, the transporters used to charge extra money for booking of vehicles in emergency situation. As such, lack of an ambulance service was causing multiple negative socio-economic impacts on the resident of UC Naag.

The LSO leaders raised this issue with the DSM, PPHI and requested him to provide an ambulance. He provided an ambulance equipped with all necessary medical equipment to the local BHU. Now a key issue was to manage the operation of the ambulance, because the Govt. Health Department has no budget for the fuel of the ambulance. On the advice of the LSO leaders, a Management and Operation (O&M) Committee has been formed to manage the operation of the Ambulance at the BHU level. Along with representatives of Govt. Health and PPHI, the General Secretary and Information Secretary of LSO Naag are also member of this committee. The Committee recovers the cost of fuel from the family of the patient. If the family of the patient is too poor to pay the cost of ambulance fuel, the Committee motivates other well off members to contribute. The ambulance service has proved extremely useful and safe in shifting the men and women patients at risk to hospitals at Quetta city. The 1,894 households of the UC are benefiting from the ambulance service.



The ambulance provided by PPHI to LSO Naag

Resolution of Dispute Over School Construction

A dispute was raised between the local community and the Government over the land compensation for construction of a new school building in in village Bansar. The Govt. wanted 10,000 feet land free of cost and the community wanted a guarantee from the Govt. authorities that after the construction of the school, the post of the Grade 1 in the

school is given to the donor of the land. But Govt. was reluctant to do such commitment. Therefore, the construction work was stopped, and the Govt. contractor who was constructing the school building was suffering loss due to unnecessary delay in work. Therefore, the President of LSO Naag contacted both parties, listened to their point of view patiently and convinced them to resolve the issue through dialogue. As a result of this consultation, both parties agreed to attend a meeting convened by the LSO President and resolved the dispute amicably. Work on the construction of the school resumed soon after their agreement.



The dispute resolution meeting between the villagers and the Govt.

Policy Advocacy for Electricity Supply to UC Naag from QESCO Grid System

UC Naag and two other UCs of Tehsil Basima, District Washuk has no electricity, because they are not connected to the grid system of Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO). The nearest point of grid system is District Panjgoor, which is a distance of 100 km. LSOs have been



LSO Meeting WAPDA Chairman

formed in the other two UC under the EU funded BRACE Programme. The leaders of all three LSOs decided to lobby for electricity connection. They went to Quetta and held a meeting with the Chairman of BoD of QESCO, who himself belongs to Tehsil Basima. The LSO leaders requested him to allocate resources for supply of electricity to their Tehsil from Panjgoor. The local community had requested all Govt. authorities and their MNAs and MPAs for provision of electricity, but they had received nothing beyond their hollow promises. However, when the leaders of LSOs approached the QESCO officials, they could no more push aside their strong collective voice. As a result of this lobby work, QESCO approved budget for laying electricity lines from Panjgoor. The total cost of the project is PKR 200 million. The seminal project will also help provide electricity to other Tehsils of UC Washuk which are still in darkness.

Provision of Ration to Vulnerable Families during COVID-19 Lockdown

A daily wagers and other vulnerable families totally lost their income during the national level lockdown imposed to control spread of COVID-19. Therefore, they faced a famine like situation. The Frontier Corps (FC) provides relief packages to the local people during emergency situation. Therefore, the LSO leaders provided the PSC record of the poorest families to the FC authorities and requested them to provide food items to them. The FC provided ration bags to 40 ultra-poor households and saved them from the famine like situation.



FC officer distributing ration bags among ultra-poor families during COVID-19 lockdown



EUROPEAN UNION

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

More information about the European Union is available on:

Web: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan_en European Union
Facebook: EUinPakistan
Twitter: EUpakistan

Reported by: Mohammad Ali Azizi, Specialist Social Mobilisation, RSPN
Acknowledgment: Amir Hamza, DPM Washuk and Akbar Khan Achakzai, Manager HID, BRSP
Edited by: Zahra Rao, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, BRACE, RSPN



Rural Support Programmes Network

IRM Complex, 3rd Floor. Plot# 7, Sunrise Avenue
(Off Park Road), Near COMSATS University,
Islamabad, Pakistan.

Phone: +92-51-8491270-99, Fax: +92-51-8351791

www.rspn.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BRACEProgramme