



Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support Programme
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LSO INITIATIVES

A PUBLICATION ON THE WORK OF
LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS PAKISTAN



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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 mobilise rural communities 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.



LSOs?



ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Against Hunger
BCDP	Balochistan Community Development Programme
BHU	Basic Health Unit
CAT	Community Awareness Toolkit
CDD	Community Driven Development
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CI	Community Institutions
CIF	Community Investment Fund
CIG	Common Investment Group
CO	Community Organisation
CMST	Community Management Skills Training
CNIC	Computerised National Identity Card
CPI	Community Physical Infrastructure
CRP	Community Resource Person
DDMA	District Disaster Management Authority
DHO	District Health Office
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EELY	Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
EU	European Union
EY	Ernst & Young
GBLA	Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly
GoS	Government of Sindh
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IGG	Income Generating Grant
JDC	Joint Development Committee
KLCP	Kalash Language and Culture Preservation Project
LG & RD	Local Government and Rural Development
LMST	Leadership and Management Skills Training
LSO	Local Support Organisation
LSON	Local Support Organisation Network
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MIP	Micro Investment Plan
MIS	Management Information System
NCHD	National Commission for Human Development
NRSP	National Rural Support Programme
OTW	Orientation Training Workshop
PCP	Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy
PCSIR	Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
PPAF	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
PPHI	People's Primary Healthcare Initiative
PSC	Poverty Score Card
RSP	Rural Support Programme
RSPN	Rural Support Programmes Network
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEF	Sindh Education Foundation
SGAF	Small Grants and Ambassador's Fund
SMC	School Management Committee
SMT	Social Mobilisation Team
SRSO	Sindh Rural Support Organisation
SUCCESS	Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support
TRDP	Thardeep Rural Development Programme
TVST	Technical and Vocational Skills Training
UC	Union Council
UCBPRP	Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme
UCDP	Union Council Development Plan
UDMC	Union Council Disaster Management Committee
VDMC	Village Disaster Management Committee
VDP	Village Development Plan
VERT	Village Emergency Response Team
VO	Village Organisation
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene




EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Support Organisation (LSO) is the member organisation of Village Organisations (VOs) formed in the geographical boundary of a Union Council. The VO is a member organisation of Community Organisations (COs) formed in a particular village settlement while the CO is a neighborhood organisation of 15 to 25 rural households living in close proximity, sharing common interest and willingness to take collective action to meet their individual and group interests. This three-tiered organizational model facilitates rural communities in planning, resource mobilisation, and implementation of their development priorities at household, muhallah, village and union council levels in a collaborative and coordinated manner. The key function of an LSO is to support member VOs and COs in UC level development planning, and in forging linkages with external bodies in local government, government line departments, NGOs and the market for accessing their services and supplies for the benefit of the residents of its UC.

RSPN has been documenting and publishing the innovative activities of LSOs under the title of "LSO Initiatives" since 2012 in the form of two-pager leaflet. The hard copies of these leaflets are distributed among RSPs, donors and other interested readers. Given the rich development experiences encapsulated in these stories, RSPN felt the need to compile them in the form of a booklet, so that they become resource material for development practitioners and LSO activists.

The first series of the LSO Initiative Booklet was published in 2015, 22 LSO Initiatives were included. This is the second publication of the series. In this publication, 27 LSO Initiatives have been included. These initiatives have been published during the first and second years, 2016-17, of the Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) Programme implemented in 8 districts of Sindh with financial support of the European Union (EU).

The 27 LSOs whose activities are included in this book have carried out a range of self-help initiatives which also contribute to various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hence making global development a priority as well. Given below is the list of their activities in relation to the concerned SDGs.

LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
1. Health		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motivate women on birth spacing and maternity care ▪ Vaccination of children and pregnant women ▪ Treatment of malnourished children ▪ Organise medical camps in remote areas/ disaster affected areas ▪ Coordination with government in malaria control campaign ▪ Test drinking water sources and impose ban on dangerous sources ▪ Establish and manage blood donors group ▪ Provide access to ambulance services ▪ Arrange proper medicine for BHU from Health Department ▪ Appointment of medical staff in BHU/Health Centres by Government 	<p>25, 26</p> <p>14, 23, 24, 27</p> <p>23</p> <p>8, 11, 21</p> <p>21</p> <p>20</p> <p>27</p> <p>27</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p> </div> <div>  <p>SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p> </div> </div>



LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
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2. Education

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ▪ Enrollment of out of school girls and boys in schools | 4, 6, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 |
| ▪ Establishment of new schools | 1, 25 |
| ▪ Upgrade Middle Schools to High level | 10 |
| ▪ Construction of additional class rooms in existing schools | 7, 9, 14 |
| ▪ Construction of boundary walls of schools | 23 |
| ▪ Reopening of closed and dysfunctional schools | 7, 23 |
| ▪ Construction of toilets in schools | 3, 7 |
| ▪ Revitalize non-functional School Management Committees | 3, 22, 25 |
| ▪ Open community schools on self help basis | 4, 14, 22 |
| ▪ Assessment and arrangement of missing facilities in schools | 6 |
| ▪ Repair damaged buildings of schools | 10 |
| ▪ Established Adult Literacy centers and provided adult literacy to illiterate women and men | 14 |
| ▪ Train community school teachers | 14 |
| ▪ Appointment of additional teachers in schools by Education Department | 23, 26, 27 |



SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



SDG 9: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure

3. Women's Empowerment

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ▪ Organise women in COs/VOs | 9, 15 |
| ▪ Train women in managerial skills | 1, 7 |
| ▪ Train women in vocational skills | 1, 7, 16 |
| ▪ Train women on active participation in local government politics | 7 |
| ▪ Provision of legal aid to women on their inheritance rights | 7 |
| ▪ Provide poor women with training on livestock management alongwith livestock | 7 |
| ▪ Provision of productive assets to poor women for income generation | 9 |
| ▪ Establishment of Common Interest Group of women entrepreneurs | 13 |



SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 5:

5.5

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life




5.c





Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels





SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
4. Civic Registration		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of CNICs for women and men members Promote marriage registration Promote birth registration 	19, 24, 25, 26 23, 25, 26 23, 25, 26	 SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages  SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls  SDG 16 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels 16.9: By 2030 provide legal identity for all, including birth registration




5. Support Poor and Vulnerable Families		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide food to needy families Provide gifts on the eves of Eid Provide financial support from government programmes Preparation of special CNICs for Persons with Disabilities Arrange medical camps for draught affected families Construction of damaged houses of poor families in earthquake Identify and treatment of blind people Support to BISP beneficiaries in re-activating their closed BISP cards 	3 3 5 19 2 5 9 24	 SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere  SDG 2: 2.2: By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition  SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries  SDG 10: 10.1: By 2030 progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

6. Social Accountability of Government		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control over absent teachers Reopening of closed schools Monitor Govt. funded health programmes (EPI) Revived School Management Committees and made them fully functional 	7 7, 23 26 3, 22, 25	 SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all  SDG 16 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels






LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
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7. Construction of Rural Infrastructure





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of flood damaged irrigation channels and water courses 	17, 13, 18	 SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of School Buildings 	14	 SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of Health Centers/ Dispensaries 	14, 16	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of disaster mitigating schemes 	2, 3, 4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of link roads 	5, 15, 16	 SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of drinking water supply schemes 	9, 15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of Karez system (underground water channel) 	9	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of irrigation channels 	9	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of foot bridges 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of foot paths 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of water reservoirs and water tanks 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of community centres 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of waiting spaces at bus stops 	15	

8. Agriculture and Livestock Development


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce improved wheat varieties 	21	 SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce Seri-culture and silk-worm breeding 	16	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of model orchard in collaboration with Agriculture Department 	13	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grafting of wild fruit plants at a large scale in the natural forest areas 	6	 SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote kitchen gardening 	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training to local farmers on fruite harvesting and processing and distribution of fruite tree management kits 	12	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production and harvesting of high quality apple 	12	 SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training and improved verity vegetable seeds to members 	16	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training to farmers on poultry rearing 	16	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide poultry packagees to poor families from government 	16	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise veterinary camps in collaboration with government 	16	

LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
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
9. Environment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of natural forest 	15	 SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plantation campaigns to increase green carpeting in rural areas 	5, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and implement village level solid waste management system 	20	 SDG 11 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stopped water leakage from irrigation channels to control environmental and health issues in the affected settlements 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Community Forest Committees to control illegal cutting of trees 	15	 SDG 13 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
		 SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

10. Peace and Harmony

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Dispute Resolution Committees 	8, 15	 SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution of communal disputes through arbitration 	8, 15	

11. Youth Development

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey to identify youth and their development needs 	10, 12	 SDG 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of youth in COs/VOs/LSOs 	10, 12	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and execute Youth Employment Programmes 	10, 12	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise sports festivals for boys and girls youth 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Youth Resource Centre 	12	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised awareness campaigns against drug abuse in youth 	12	

LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
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12. Micro Enterprises

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| ▪ Support women members in establishing and running micro enterprises at village level | 1, 2, 9, 13 |
| ▪ Establishment of Women's Market | 13 |
| ▪ Provide Micro Credit to entrepreneurs | 1, 2 |
| ▪ Manage vocational skills development programmes for rural women | 1 |



SDG 5:

5.5

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.c

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels



SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



SDG 9:

9.3: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets



SDG 10:

10.1: By 2030 progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average



LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
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13. Celebration of National/International Days

- Celebration of International Women’s Day 18
- Celebration of National Green Day to promote tree plantation 26



SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

14. Linkage Development with Government

- NADRA: for preparation of CNIC of members especially women 25
- Health Department: for organizing medical camps 8, 11, 23
- Education: for re-opening of closed schools, bringing absentee teachers in discipline 7, 23
- Forest Department: Conservation of natural forest 12
- Obtain planting materials for community members 19, 20, 22
- Agriculture Department: Training for progressive farmers on fruite harvesting and processeing; fruit tree management kits to farmers 12
- Population Welfare: organise awareness raising on family planning 12
- Women Ministry: implemnted a project on empowering local women political leaders 12
- Pakistan Baitul Mal: for provision of support to poor families 12
- PCSIR: for fruit processing training to farmers 12
- Livestock Departmen: to arrange veterinary camps, vaccinate domestic animals 16, 18
- Revenue Department: obtain household data for PSC survey 25
- Public Health: obtain no objection certificate for construction of drainage system 25
- Social Welfare: Registration of LSO 25, 26



SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



SDG 13: Take urgent action to combate climate change and its impacts



SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
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15. Policy Advocacy

- Formation of District Coordination Committee (DCC) chaired by Deputy Commissioner to discuss and decide development matters 7
- Raise community issues in the monthly DCC meetings to take immediate actions 7
- Share Village Development Plans with UC and District Government for incorporation in their annual development plans 8
- Monitor schemes constructed by Government contractors in the LSO area 8
- Nominate and support active and honest LSO leaders in Local Government election 7
- Convince elected representatives to allocate funds at their discretion in the LSO area 8
- Stage protests and motivate Provincial Chief Minister to provide electricity supply lines for the LSO area using funds at his discretionary power 10
- Monitor immunization programme of Government 18



SDG 16:

16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.5 substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.7 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16. Disaster Risk Management

- Establish Village and UC Disaster Committees 2, 3, 4, 11, 13
- Trained community activists in disaster management planning, rescue and relief 8, 11, 13
- Prepared Disaster Management Plans at village and UC level 2, 3, 4, 11
- Collaboration with government for timely arrangement of fire fighting vehicles in fire affected villages 2
- Establishment of temporary schools in disaster hit areas 8
- Arrange medical camps for disaster affected people 8, 11
- Helped government in damage assessment of disaster affected areas 8, 11
- Carried out rescue operations at the time of disaster 3, 11, 17





SDG 11:

11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and sustainably decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations



SDG 13

13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
17. Institutional Development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trained member VO leaders in auditing and community savings management 	12	 SDG 16 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring of activities of member VOs and support weaker/ dormant VOs in meetings, record keeping and dispute resolution 	12, 14	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Train community leaders in Community Management Skills Training 	15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help member VOs for opening of bank accounts 	19	
18. Preservation of Indigenous Cultural Heritage		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop orthography of a local unique language 	17	 SDG 11: 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Document proverbs, folk tales and folk songs 	17	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop community linguists for preservation and revival of local cultural heritages 	17	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celebrate local cultural day 	27	

It is hoped that the development initiatives will inspire other LSOs to take similar and other initiatives according to their specific needs and opportunities. Moreover, the field staff of the member RSPs and RSPN may use these development initiatives to guide new and existing LSOs providing practical ways and means for planning and implementation of their local development plans and to resolve their issues by harnessing their potential hence contributing to global development as well.

Mohammad Ali Azizi

Specialist Social Mobilisation



LSO CHIRAH, ICT



**Date of Formation:
05 July, 2013**

Micro Credit to members

The LSO has been actively working with the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) to provide financial assistance to its members for initiating new and expanding running income generating activities. The LSO members assist NRSP staff in appraisal of loan cases and timely recovery of loan amount. Due to the active support of LSO leaders, the micro loans programme is operating successfully with particular focus on women. So far, 6,427 members have taken micro loans of Rs. 11.6 million. Out of the total, 58% loans have been availed by women. 74%, have been utilised for livestock rearing, followed by 24% loans for enterprise development and the remaining for agriculture. This programme has led to financial inclusion

District:
ICT

Union Council:
Chirah

Total Households in
Union Council:
4,490

Organised
Households:
4,225

Coverage:
94%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):
188
125 women's

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):
7
all mix

No of General
Body Members:
26
19 women's

No of Executive
Committee Members:
8
4 women's

which ultimately leads to increase in income, and assets of the beneficiary members. In addition, this also contributed to increase in education and health outcomes among the community members. Most of the beneficiary women report increased confidence and enhanced social status in family and community circles.

Community Investment Fund

Community Investment Fund (CIF), a grant to LSOs, is to be used for interest free credit to the poorest women who usually cannot access other sources of credit. NRSP provides CIF grant to those LSOs who meet certain criteria, such as proper record keeping, audit and women- inclusive programmes. Once provided, CIF is owned and managed by community having met the set criteria. LSO Chirah qualified for CIF grant in the year 2013. So far, 5 VOs of the LSO have received Rs. 1.328 million. By virtue of the multiplier effect of the CIF grant, 494 women members have received Rs. 7.057,000 million. The recovery ratio is 100%. CIF has contributed to improving leadership and management skills of LSO leaders and increase in income and assets of borrowers.

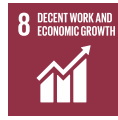
Promotion of Education

Before organising communities into COs, VOs and later in LSOs, the literacy ratio was very low in this UC. In 2003, the literacy ratio was only 7%. The reasons for the low literacy included lack of education facilities and lack of awareness among parents about the importance of education of their children, especially daughters. In the poorest families, children were often involved in child labour. Once formed, the LSO focussed on the establishment of educational institution across the UC. As a result of their continuous advocacy, they were able to establish 19 schools, including 6 for girls. The LSO also established two colleges, one for boys and one for girls in their UC with government funds. In addition to this, they established 5 schools with the help of NRSP and 3 girls schools with the financial support of Development in Literacy (DIL), a non-governmental organisation. The LSO Chirah arranged 22 scholarships per month for bright, needy students with the financial support of Al Khidmat Foundation. On the other hand, the LSO carried out awareness raising campaigns about education among their members from the platforms of their COs and VOs. The enrolment ratio has now reached to 100%. There is no child labour in the UC. The literacy ratio has grown to 82% for men and 78% for women.



Human Resource Development

As the saying goes, “poor people are poor in people”, a key reason for under development of the people is because they lack skills to make use of their available resources. Understanding this fact, the LSO has been consistently endeavoring to provide managerial and vocational skills to its members. So far, the LSO has arranged Community Management Skill Training (CMST) for its 175 members and Leadership Management Skills Training (LMST) to 5 members with the technical and financial assistance of NRSP. Likewise, the LSO has enhanced capacities of its 2,810 members in various vocational skills, including tailoring, embroidery, knitting and sewing, tie and dye, shampoo making, beautician, vegetable cultivation, fruit and vegetable preservation, forest nursery raising and poultry management. The managerial training sessions have contributed to organisational development at CO, VO and LSO levels. The vocational skills training sessions have contributed to increase in their household level income and assets. Besides, these capacity building activities have boosted the self confidence and empowerment of members.



LSO SUJAG, DIPLO

Managing Disaster Risks

The LSO is working to protect its communities from natural hazards through the USAID funded Tahafuz CBDRM Project. As the name shows, the project focusses on several measures relating to Disaster Risk Management in their area. They have 71 trained people working under 7 Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) and 14 trained people under a Union Council Disaster Management Committee (UDMC). The VDMCs are sub-committees of their relevant VOs, and the UDMC is a sub-committee of the LSO. All the VDMCs and the UDMC have developed Disaster Risk Management Plans in a participatory manner and they are busy with the implementation of these plans.

The trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have carried out several awareness raising sessions for the members at VO level. Through this project, the LSO has implemented 11 critical community infrastructure (CCI) projects mainly aimed at disaster mitigation. An emergency tool kit is available with the UDMC. As a result of these concerted efforts, people of the area now keep vigilant eye on hazardous events and communicate promptly for warning and support. These efforts help to reduce the danger of a hazard to turn into a disaster. Recently, in some fire instances affecting some houses in two

Date of Formation:
02 September, 2013

District:
Tharparkar **Union Council:**
Dhabro

Total Households in Union Council:
3,926 **Organised Households:**
2,131 **Coverage:**
54%

No of Community Organisations (COs):
208
117 women's

No of Village Organisations (VOs):
44
all women's

No of General Body Members:
34
13 women's

No of Executive Committee Members:
11
3 women's



villages, the local VDMC members informed the UDMC members. The UDMC members quickly arranged fire fighting vehicles from the local government Fire Brigade office. This instant coordination helped put out the fire which could have spread to and affected a large number of houses otherwise. In another village, fire fighting vehicle could not reach on time due to lack of proper roads and the houses in the entire village were burnt into ashes. Here, the UDMC, on self-help basis, arranged tents to provide shelter to the affected households.

Support to Drought Affected Families

The LSO area has been suffering from drought since 2014. On its part, the LSO activists are continuously helping themselves by providing all types of support to a number of relief and rehabilitation activities carried out by government and other organisations. For example they provided voluntary services to Pak Army teams in organising 10 mobile medical camps and food distribution among 500 drought-hit families. Similarly they helped Pak Army in identifying the most deserving villages for organising medical camps and also provided their voluntary services for management of the crowd and provision of drinking water at the camp site. Moreover, they organised three medical camps with the help of Taluka Medical Officers and two medical camps with the help of the medical students of Liaquat Medical College, Karachi. They also carried out a survey to assess the nutrition status of pregnant and lactating women and children. Also, with the technical support of TRDP, they helped to conduct a survey for identifying common diseases in the livestock in 30 drought affected villages. Later, the LSO assisted the Government Livestock Department in carrying out vaccination and drenching of livestock in 22 villages.

Provision of Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan to Members

The objective of the Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan programme is to make access to finance easier for the vulnerable and marginalized households having Poverty Score of 0-40. At least 50% of the loans are disbursed to women to support female participation and inclusion in economic activities.

The LSO has been closely working with TRDP for implementation of this programme in its area. The LSO validates the identified members and shares the final list with TRDP for appraisal. The Loan Approval Committee

consists of Taluka In-charge Prime Minister Interest Free Loan Programme, Unit In-charge of TRDP and 4 LSO members. So far, interest free loan of Rs. 7.260 million has been disbursed to 365 members; 70% of them are women. The recovery rate of these loans is 100%. The loan programme has proven to be instrumental in improving the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable families and women.

Promoting Education

A number of Primary Schools were closed in the UC due to lack of teachers. When new teachers were recruited last year, the LSO approached the Education Department and requested them to transfer 8 teachers to the closed schools, so as to re-open them. The LSO has opened a Feeder School at village Karli Mahallah. They regularly celebrate the International Literacy Day and organise seminar and rallies to increase school enrolment. As a result of these efforts, the enrolment ratio is steadily increasing in the area.





LSO DAI JARKAS, BADIN



Managing Disaster Risks

According to BISP survey, around 90% households of the UC are very poor, falling in the Poverty Score Card (PSC) range of 0-23. A major reason for the abject poverty is the fact that the area is prone to multiple natural hazards, including cyclone, flood, drought, endemic diseases, and earth quake.

In collaboration with the USAID funded RSPN Tahafuz Project, the LSO has significantly improved the disaster risk management capacities of its member organisations over the last two years. They now have a trained cadre of 108 men and women working under 8 Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) and 16 trained men and women under a Union Council Disaster Management Committee (UDMC). The VDMCs are sub-committees of their relevant VOs, while the UDMC is a sub-committee of the LSO. The LSO has prepared a Hazard Map and Disaster Risk Management Plans, both at UC level and village level. The LSO has nominated two trained members as Operation Leaders and two members as Early Warning Leaders. The two Operation Leaders are responsible for communication and linkages development with government departments and NGOs, while the Early Warning Leaders keep in touch with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and the Metrological Department. They have also formed a four-member First Aid Committee that works closely with the Basic Health Unit (BHU) and the government

Date of Formation: 23 January, 2013			
District: Badin	Union Council: Dai Jarkas		
Total Households in Union Council: 6,110	Organised Households: 3,405	Coverage: 56%	
No of Community Organisations (COs): 227 <small>127 women's</small>	No of Village Organisations (VOs): 16 <small>1 women's</small>	No of General Body Members: 46 <small>27 women's</small>	No of Executive Committee Members: 15 <small>7 women's</small>





hospital; a two member Rescue Committee and a two member Search Operation Committee to coordinate with VDMC members and the common people. It is also worth mentioning that these committees have equal numbers of women and men.. They have completed 11 physical infrastructure projects aimed at disaster mitigation. A toolkit also exists to help them deal with emergency situations. The two trained Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have carried out several awareness-raising sessions for the members at VO level.

Having been organised, trained and connected with government and NGOs, the people of the area are now well aware of their roles and responsibilities and capable of taking actions for reducing the risks during disaster events. They have so far planted 15,000 trees across the UC as a mitigating measure to reduce the impact of cyclones. They mobilised the government for timely repairing breaches made in the irrigation canals by the landlords. A trained couple rescued a boy who was drawn in the canal. The couple dragged out the drowned boy and gave him first aid. They announce hazard warnings on time via the Sindhi TV Channel, and by sending text messages to the vulnerable population through their VDMC members. The area has become much safer and the vulnerabilities of the local people have drastically reduced.

Foster Education

The Union Council has 36 government primary schools for Boys, 10 Primary Schools for girls, 2 Middle Schools for Boys, 1 Middle School for Girls, and one High School, catering to the educational needs of the students. However, the quality of education in these schools was very low. The LSO formed an Education Committee to analyse the education related issues and suggest plans and actions to resolve them. On the recommendation of the Education Committee, they re-vitalised School Management Committees in 25 schools, re-opened closed schools, took measures to ensure regular attendance of teachers in all schools, and started a Community School, on self-help basis, where students pay Rs 100 per month to cover the salary of teachers. They also campaigned for enrolment of 100 percent boys and girls in schools, and conducted awareness-raising sessions on education for parents. As a result of these efforts, 460 children were enrolled in Government Schools and 74 children were enrolled in the Community School.

Health Development

There are only two Government Dispensaries and one Basic Health Unit in the entire UC. The services offered by the health facilities were also very poor. Therefore, the LSO decided to form a Health Committee to ensure consistent efforts for improving the

available health facilities. The community volunteers provide support to the Government staff during polio vaccination campaigns and join the efforts to ensure 100 percent coverage. So far, anti-polio vaccination drops have been administered to 5,234 children in the UC. The LSO members also carried out awareness-raising campaigns about the threats of Measles outbreak, and the importance of timely vaccination.. A campaign is underway for formation of blood donor groups to provide blood to patients of Thalassemia; prevalent in the area, mainly due to intra-family marriages.



Support to the Poorest Families

Vast majority of the LSO members are very poor. Therefore, provision of support to such families is one of the LSO's top agendas. Vulnerable families have been identified through the Village Organizations, and financial support is provided to them during Eid (for Muslims) and Holi (for Hindus), enabling them to enjoy the festivities, like other members of the village community. Two Hindu families have also been helped for reconstruction of their houses gutted by accidental fire.



LSO GARHO, THATTA



Promote Girls Education

The status of education in Garho was miserable before the people of the area were organized into COs, VOs, and LSO. These community organizations enabled the people to resolve their socio-economic issues by employing a balanced combination of self-help, mutual cooperation and linkage development with government agencies. There were 37 boys primary schools in the area, but only 12 were open and functional. There was only one primary school for girls in the entire UC. Parents were totally against educating their daughters. With the technical and financial support of NRSP, the LSO organised awareness sessions for parents at CO and VO level and motivated them for sending their daughters to schools. On the other hand, the LSO constituted an Education Committee, comprising 3 men and 2 women, to address the issues of education in a focussed manner. The Committee surveyed all schools of the UC and identified the missing facilities in them and suggested ways and means for arranging them. The Committee then approached the government Education Department and

Date of Formation:
30 June, 2012

District:
Thatta

Union Council:
Garho

Total Households in Union Council:
6,790

Organised Households:
6,167

Coverage:
91%

No of Community Organisations (COs):
310
140 women's

No of Village Organisations (VOs):
9
all mix

No of General Body Members:
26
6 women

No of Executive Committee Members:
17
3 women

shared their findings with them. So far, they have arranged missing facilities including teachers, furniture, drinking water supply and washrooms to a number of schools. They re-activated the School Management Committees of government schools. As a result of these efforts, 24 schools are now functional in the UC and they are determined to re-open all 37 schools sooner or later. A total of 1,874 children have been enrolled in schools. A large majority of them are girls.

In three villages, the demand for enrolment of children was so high that no space was left in the government schools. Therefore, they opened 3 Community Schools and now a total of 260 children, including 150 girl students, are enrolled in these schools. Parents pay Rs. 50 per child per month to pay the salary of teachers and other related expenses.

Health Development

The health facilities were negligible in the UC before the LSO formation. There is only one government BHU and one Dispensary in the 36,000 square kilometres vast UC. The LSO formed a 6 member Health Committee, including 2 women, to address the health issues. The Committee identified a number of issues including shortage of health staff and medicines and lack of availability of lady doctor. Another issue was very limited coverage of vaccination due to availability of only one vaccinator and refusal cases in case of polio vaccines in various settlement. Out of 224 settlements only 3 were receiving vaccination services and that also with a partial coverage.



The Committee raised the issues with the District Health Officer (DHO), who immediately increased stock of

medicines both at the BHU and the Dispensary. He also posted another LHV and two additional Vaccinators to the UC. On their part, the LSO arranged volunteers to accompany the vaccinators, both, to do monitoring of the activities of the vaccinators and to convince the refusing parents for vaccination. As a result of these integrated efforts, now regular vaccination is carried out in 204 settlements with 100 per cent coverage. A Lady Doctor visits the BHU for 2 to 3 days a week and besides medically checking up pregnant women provides delivery assistance services at the BHU. The LSO also celebrates the World Polio Day, World Hand Wash Day and World Health Day to raise awareness about health and hygiene among the masses.

Managing Disaster Risks

The main livelihood sources of the people of the UC are fishing and agriculture. However, due to frequent occurrence of natural disasters, including high tide, cyclone, flood and fire, around 90 per cent of its inhabitants fall under Poverty Scorecard range of (0-23). Nevertheless, over the last three years, the LSO has significantly improved the disaster risk management capacities of its members with the technical and financial support of donors and government. For example, they have rehabilitated 19 earthen roads which help them in access and safe evacuation during disasters; constructed 17 raised hand pumps to ensure safe drinking water during floods; constructed 22 km protective bund which had reduced the risk of flood. In addition to these physical infrastructures, they now have Disaster Management Committees at village and UC level with 148 trained men and women members. They now have Disaster Risk Management Plans both at UC level and village level and a tool kit at UC level.





LSO VALLEY RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Development of Rural Infrastructure

Strong infrastructure is critical for improvement of economic opportunity, standards of living, and social cohesion. The entire landscape of the Sehra Union Council is mountainous, with very poor road links. Therefore, communication is a key constraint in socio economic development of the local people. The LSO is trying its best to improve communication infrastructure across the Union Council. The LSO raised Rs. 300,000 from local people for construction of a road that linked 70 households of Darah Shair Khan Bala village with the main road.

The European Union has supported the LSO in construction of two link roads, widening of a link road and construction of a foot path during the last two years. These projects made movement and transportation easier for up to 300 households. The local people mentioned a number of direct and indirect benefits of these projects; drastic reduction in the prices of commodities,

Date of Formation: 04 May, 2009		
District: Poonch, (AJK)	Union Council: Sehra	
Total Households in Union Council: 3,108	Organised Households: 1,955	Coverage: 62%
No of Community Organisations (COs): 94 12 women's	No of Village Organisations (VOs): 9 all mix	No of General Body Members: 31 8 women's
		No of Executive Committee Members: 15 4 women's



easy access to hospitals and schools, new opportunities for opening shops and enterprises at village level and saving of travelling time. The total cost of these projects was Rs. 1.88 million; EU contributed Rs. 1.5 million, while the beneficiary communities contributed Rs. 0.4 million in cash.

Cooperation and Coordination with Government Line Departments

Social Mobilisation seeks to facilitate societal change through a range of players engaged in interrelated and complementary efforts. A key objective of RSPs' Social Mobilisation interventions is to motivate local government and government line departments to collaborate with the local community institutions.

Under the European Union (EU) funded "Supporting Inclusive Development through Community – Government Capacity Building and Partnership Project", implemented in four districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), the local government and line agencies hold monthly meetings with LSO leaders at district level. In these meetings, the government line departments share their current and seasonal activities with the LSO leaders and invite them for collaboration. Similarly, the LSO leaders share their annual work plans with the government officials and explore opportunities for support and partnerships. The meetings offer unique opportunities for the LSO leaders to strengthen coordination with government departments for implementation of joint activities. Similarly, the meetings also play an instrumental role in proper and timely implementation of planned activities of

government line departments, using the extensive outreach of the community institutions.

This year, the Government Forest Department shared a plan of tree plantation and invited the LSO to join hand with them. The LSO collected demand resolutions from its member VOs for 8,000 forest plants and submitted to the Forest Department. Due to shortage of stock, the LSO received only 4,000 plants. The plants were transported free of cost to the Tehsil headquarters by the Forest Department and the LSO arranged delivery of the same to the VOs. The VOs distributed the plants among CO members who planted the trees at their private lands. Similarly, the LSO received fruit plants and seed packages from Government Agriculture Department for growing fruit orchards and kitchen gardens and distributed among interested members. By providing fresh and free vegetables for household consumption, the kitchen gardening initiative has proved to be a great help in improving the nutrition standard of the beneficiary households.



Support to Vulnerable Families

As part of its inclusive development agenda, the Valley LSO carried out a survey to identify the vulnerable families across the UC; they found 55 vulnerable families. The LSO then helped them prepare their household level Micro Investment Plans (MIPs), and also arranged technical and financial support for their implementation on need basis. The LSO collected donation of Rs. 2.6 million from local philanthropists for construction of houses for 5 of the poor families. In addition, the LSO arranged poultry packages for 5 widows in order for them to earn some regular income by selling eggs in the local market.



LSO NAWAB JASI KHAN RURAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION



Grafting of Wild Fruit Plants with Improved Varieties

The LSO area is covered with thick rain forests. The following wild fruit species grow widely in the area: olive, fig, pomegranate, apricot, peach, pear, jujube and persimmon. The Government Agriculture Department has successfully demonstrated grafting them with improved varieties. Under the EU project, the LSO coordinated with the Agriculture Department for grafting maximum number of these wild species with tested improved varieties. The LSO carried out a UC wide survey with the help of its member VOs. The data revealed that there were more than 30,000 wild trees in the rain forest owned by local communities. The Agriculture Department provided two trained grafters and also trained 7 local people in grafting. The Department provides grafting material free of cost. In addition, the Department pays Rs. 1,000 per day to the two grafters provided by them and Rs. 500 per day to the community grafters.

Date of Formation: 11 November, 2010			
District: Sudhnoti, (AJK)		Union Council: Sehra	
Total Households in Union Council: 2,430	Organised Households: 1,572	Coverage: 65%	
No of Community Organisations (COs): 60 3 women's	No of Village Organisations (VOs): 10 all mix	No of General Body Members: 40 5 women's	No of Executive Committee Members: 8 1 women's





Since the grafting work involves hard labour, because each person has to graft minimum 150 trees each day, the community grafters were not happy with the wage amount paid by the Department. Therefore, the local community started paying additional Rs. 250 per day to the community grafters. The local community strictly monitors the grafting work and reports to the Department. The community provides accommodation and food to the grafters. By the end of March, 5,000 wild trees have been grafted, while the LSO has planned to graft 30,000 trees by the year 2018. Mr. Muhammad Ishaq, the LSO President rightly expects to earn around Rs. 50 million per year from the grafted fruit trees. He termed this initiative as a “game changer” in the local farming sector because it can be replicated in the vast majority of rain areas of AJK.

Enrolment of 100% Girls and Boys in Schools Verities

A survey conducted by the LSO showed that 243 children including 112 girls and 131 boys were out of schools. The survey also revealed that the reason for not sending these children to schools was poverty of their parents who could not afford to buy books, copies, bags and uniform to their children. The LSO collected donations of Rs. 64,200 from their well to do members and provided necessary education materials to these students. By end of March 2016, all 243 children were enrolled in schools. The LSO plans to motivate 243 local people to adopt these poor students for paying their education expenses in future. So far 3 students have been adopted by 3 families.

Repair of Girls Primary School Buildings

The buildings of two Government Girls Primary Schools were partially damaged during the 2005 earth quake. These schools were temporarily shifted into tent schools provided by UNICEF. Despite several efforts by the local community, the school buildings were not repaired by any government or non-government agency. With time, the tent schools were conked out and students again became shelter less. The LSO, therefore, decided to repair the school on self-help basis. The estimated the cost of repair and collected Rs. 90,000 from local well off families. In addition to that, the local people contributed free labour. After restoration of the school buildings, the LSO arranged other missing facilities including desks and furniture. Thus the LSO arranged proper furnished schools for their 150 girls students.

Construction of Link Roads

The terrain of the area is hilly, therefore, road communication plays significant role in the socio economic improvement of the people. But due to lack of funding from the government, a large number of settlements are still inaccessible by road. The LSO therefore, is striving for building link roads on self-help basis. So far, they have constructed 12 kilo meter roads under 6 projects on self-help basis. The local people contribute in cash, kind and free labour and also takes responsibility for operation and management of the competed roads. They maintain these roads on weekly basis. Each beneficiary household sends one person on their turn. The families who cannot send people contribute Rs. 300 per turn. This money is used for the entertainment of the labourers.





LSO RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT ORGANISATION KARNOL

Women's Empowerment

The overall socio economic conditions of the majority of the women in the LSO area were very poor. They work in field along with men and do all household work, but carry little rights and have very little control over income and assets. Therefore, the LSO pursued to empowering women by giving them equal opportunities in all walks of life. The LSO has steadily being trying to organise maximum women in COs and VOs. So far, they have formed 54 women COs and 6 women VOs and brought 1,458 women in organised fold under them. The LSO has trained 42 men and women in gender sensitisation through different workshops. They have trained 210 women in various management skills, human and women's rights, youth development, democracy and peace. They have arranged awareness raising workshops for 55 women on violence against women. They have prepared CNIC of 440 women and trained 13 women on "participation of women in politics". They registered 200 missing women as voters. They provided awareness sessions on women's inheritance rights by two local

Date of Formation:
29 May, 2010

District:
Mansehra

Union Council:
Karnol

Total Households in Union Council:
3,800

Organised Households:
2,980

Coverage:
78%

No of Community Organisations (COs):
140
54 women's

No of Village Organisations (VOs):
17
6 women's

No of General Body Members:
30
7 women's

No of Executive Committee Members:
13
3 women's



religious leaders and provided legal aids to two women in getting their inheritance rights. They have provided livestock management training to 60 poor women and arranged livestock package to 30 women. Similarly, they have trained 30 deserving women in poultry management and arranged poultry package for them. They have established a Women's Coordination Centre, dedicated one room in the LSO office for it and appointed a trained woman as Women's Coordinator. She provides guidance and support to women in social mobilisation, education, health, women's basic rights and inheritance rights etc. As a result of these integrated efforts, positive changes started happening in the socio-economic conditions of the women of the area.

Promotion of Education

The necessity of education is viewed to be more social than a personal obligation. A society needs to have qualified and well educated citizens as it helps create a smooth and developed society. The state of education was also quite poor in the LSO area. The government schools lacked basic facilities; teachers' absenteeism was common; the School Management Committees were dysfunctional; there were very few middle and high schools for girls, and they had no proper information about the out of school girls and boys across the UC.



With the help of trained Community Resource Persons the LSO collected information about the missing facilities in all government schools in the UC. They also identified all out of school children across the UC. The LSO arranged awareness sessions for the parents of these children and managed to enrol 125 children to schools last year. They achieved the landmark achievement of 100% enrolment of children to schools this year. They revitalised the School Management Committees of 57 schools in collaboration with the Education Department and provided them with school management training with the help of SRSP. They lobbied with the government Education Department and constructed boundary walls and toilets of 8 schools costing Rs. 3.1 million.

Policy Advocacy with Local Government

The LSO leaders decided to actively participate in the 2015 Local Bodies Elections. They nominated 16 LSO activists, including 2 women for contesting election of the Village Councillors and won 14 seats, including both the women's seats. The LSO activists now fully control all 4 Village Councils of their UC. This allowed them to allocate government resources for the best interest of the local people. The Chairman of the LSO motivated the local Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner for establishment of a District Coordination Committee and Tehsil Coordination Committee with members from LSOs three months ago. The Coordination Committees meet on monthly basis. In these meetings, the LSO activists bring burning issues in the fields of rural infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, livestock, forestry and the like on the table. The issues are discussed thoroughly by all parties and decisions are made immediately on the spot. Both the Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner are quite happy with this arrangement. To quote some examples of the issues resolved through these meetings, a government hospital was running in a shelter house since the 2005 earth quake, as there was no proper place available for construction of a proper building. The DC allocated government land for construction of the building. The hospital building is now under construction. Similarly, a bridge had become quite old and dangerous. The DC ordered for its repair immediately. In meanwhile survey work has been carried out for construction of a new bridge.



LSO Chairman addressing Parents Ittehad Convention



Women receiving awareness raising training on the Right to Education



THALAY LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION



Disaster Risk Management

Thalay is a high altitude valley in the Karakorum Range located in District Ghanche of Gilgit-Baltistan region. Global warming is effecting Thalay valley very badly. Since 2010, the area is hit by floods and mud flow during summers due to excessive melting of glaciers. The floods wash away roads, bridges, heads of irrigation channels and cropped fields. Due to destruction of roads and bridges the entire valley remains cut off from rest of the world for months. This makes relief and rehabilitation efforts for the affected areas very difficult; access becomes impossible for external agencies, shortage in supply of goods including edible items causes difficulties for the residents, and students cannot attend their schools for months. Delays in repair of irrigation channels have dire consequences for the standing crops, orchards and forest trees. Diarrhoea and skin diseases are wide spread due to use of polluted flood water.

The LSO leaders quickly respond to the needs of the affected families. So far they have arranged 4 medical camps for the affected communities in collaboration with Pakistan Army, Government Social Welfare Department and Health Department. They managed 7 temporary schools for up to 2 months to provide education to students who could not go to their schools due to lack of road access. Local educated people volunteer their teaching services in these schools. They

Date of Formation: 27 February, 2007			
District: Ghanche (GB)		Union Council: Thalay	
Total Households in Union Council: 1,246	Organised Households: 1,246	Coverage: 100%	
No. of Village Organisations (VOs): 47 22 women's	No. of other Civil Society Organisations: 8	No of General Body Members: 87 44 women's	No of Executive Committee Members: 10 2 women's





LSO members repairing damaged road on self-help basis

collaborate with the government departments for preparation of damage assessment and ensuring that the lists are correct and inclusive. They carried out rehabilitation of 12 kilometre valley road, 1 kilometre link road to a Hydro Power Station and 4 bridges with financial assistance of government and non-government agencies, restoring road access to 1,246 families. They also rehabilitated 5 damaged irrigation channels with the financial assistance of RSPN and provided irrigation water to 792 families on time. They trained 5 Master Trainers in DRR with the technical help of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), who, in turn, rolled out DRR training to 120 women and 120 men across the valley. Moreover, they now have 20 trained people in First Aid with the help of the Government Health Department. In short the LSO has not only been able to mobilise internal and external resources for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people at times of emergencies, it is also now adequately trained and prepared for minimising the impacts of natural disasters.

Conflict Resolution

Though the rural communities of Thalay are mostly focussed on development and growth under the leaderships of their VO/WOs and the LSO. However, rural development most likely doesn't happen without some conflict among people in the community. If the conflicts are not addressed on time, they may have serious damaging effects on the community's cohesion, and not only hamper their growth and development, but at times can also rollback their development

achievements. Therefore, conflict resolution is a key focus area of the LSO. The LSO has a 7 member Conflict Resolution Committee. The Committee resolves disputes through reconciliation and arbitration. So far the committee has resolved 58 cases out of 63 registered cases over land disputes, 38 out of 40 cases of marriage and family disputes, 27 out of 30 property related disputes and 30 cases related to disputes over loans, trading of animals, infighting among families, friends and neighbours and grazing rights in pastures and fuel wood collection rights from the mountains. With the consent of both parties, the Committee takes the cases back from Police Station, District, Civil and High Courts, and resolves them through arbitration and submits the decisions to the relevant courts for validation. This not only helps the local community maintain their peace and harmony intact, but also facilitates them in saving millions of rupees on litigation and court fee etc.

Policy Advocacy

One major reason for underdevelopment of the rural areas is mismanagement of government resources allocated for their development. To counter this nuisance, the LSO first developed Village Development Plans (VDPs) of all villages in the area in consultation with their members in 2010. The LSO then developed UC Development Plans by incorporating the development projects identified in the VDPs. The LSO shared these plans with Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) authorities and convinced them that in the future, LG&RD will allocate annual development funds in Thalay valley only on the recommendation of the LSO.

The LSO submits development plans to the LG&RD at the time of budget formulation and ensures that their proposed plans are incorporated in the budget. Moreover, the LSO monitors implementation of these projects by contractors hired by LG&RD and ensures quality inputs and services by them. The LSO also contacted the local member of Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA) and convinced him to allocate 7 million rupees for construction of an eight kilometre long truck-able road to Thalay Broq, where people grow potato as a commercial crop. The truck-able road will reduce cost of transportation of potato to less than 50% of the current rate. On the recommendation of the LSO the GBLA member has also allocated funds for recruitment of 14 staff for the newly constructed Government Girls Middle School in Thalay. The school building was completed several years ago but was unutilised due to lack of staff.



LSO members meeting with GBLA member



LSO GWARAKH, BAGHBANA, KHUZDAR



Promotion of Education

The key focus of the LSO since its establishment has been on promoting education. The literacy rate in the Union Council was really low, around 17% (21% in men and 11% in women), and over a vast area of 525 Sq. Km there are very few education facilities: 11 Boys and 7 Girls Primary Schools and 1 Boys High and 1 Girls Middle School. In addition to that, the facilities in these schools are very poor; number of teachers is very few, and they are not adequately trained. The LSO focused on promoting education in the UC and the LSO first established a five member Education Committee comprised of its Executive Committee and General Body members. The Committee reviewed and analysed the main causes of low literacy in the UC, both in terms of quantity and quality, came up with improvement measures and has implemented the following activities so far:

1. Constructed three classrooms in each one of three Girls' Primary Schools in collaboration with Girls Promoting Education funded by the World Bank. As a result, 185 additional girls were admitted in these schools.
2. Repaired four rooms in Boys' Primary and Middle Schools and constructed their boundary walls with the financial support of PPAF.
3. Upgraded Girls' Middle School to High School. As a result, a large number of girls could get matriculation level education in their villages. This also opened

Date of Formation:
13 March, 2013

District: Khuzdar	Union Council: Abi Noghay
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Total Households in Union Council: 1,421	Organised Households: 659	Coverage: 46%
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No. of Community Organisations (COs) 82 40 women's	No. of Village Organisations (VOs): 28 13 women's	No. of General Body Members: 62 27 women's	No. of Executive Committee Members: 12 3 women's
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opportunities for higher education to the bright girls of poor families who do not afford to send their daughters to cities.

4. Provided training to 17 teachers of Boys' High School in Science, Mathematics and English. Also arranged teacher training for 47 temporary female teachers in Science and English subjects from UNICEF.
5. Two female teachers were working on honorary basis for the last six years. On the recommendation of the LSO leaders, the Secretary Education issued appointment letters to them as permanent teachers.
6. Established a Computer Lab in the Boys' High School and arranged training for seven teachers in computer training. Now interested boys are getting computer literacy in the morning times while girls are getting computer skills in the afternoon. A solar light project is in process to provide uninterrupted power to the computer lab.
7. Arranged safe drinking water facilities in 32 schools with the help of UNICEF.

AS a combined effect of these measures, both the quantity and quality of education has substantially been improved in the LSO area.



Inclusive Development

Realising the fact that mainstream development activities do not serve the marginalised segments of the society, the LSO has been trying its best to reach out to the left out groups in the UC. The LSO has carried out Poverty Score Card survey which showed that an overwhelming majority of 75% households fall under 0-23 category. The rural women are generally excluded from development programmes. Thus, the LSO has so far organised 656 women in 40 Women Community Organisations and 13 Village Organisations and provided them leadership positions in the LSO. It is also trying to provide financial support to the poor women from BISP and Baitul Maal. The LSO raised funds from donors and provided stitching machines to 42 poor women and 55 goats to 18 poor women and these women are using these productive assets to increase their income on a sustained basis. With the financial and technical assistance of PPAF, the LSO has trained 110 women as TBAs and they are effectively serving their communities. The LSO has also provided employable skills to 47 unemployed educated youth from poor families with the help of PPAF and now most of them are either self-employed or employed in the job market in cities and towns. It has also provided loan to four poor members to start micro enterprises and they are running their enterprises successfully. The LSO identified four poor blind people and provided them treatment. In short, the LSO is using all possible ways and means to reach out to the marginalised and vulnerable families in the UC and support them both through its own sources as well as accessing resources for them from external sources.



Promoting Rural Physical Infrastructure

Prior to the formation of the LSO, the condition of the rural physical infrastructure in the UC was very poor. However, due to the efforts of LSO, the conditions have improved immensely. With the financial assistance of PPAF, the LSO has been able to establish drinking water supply schemes in four villages that supply safe drinking water to around 416 families. The LSO has cleaned and re-habilitated four Karez (underground water channel) systems and provided irrigation water to cultivate 415 acre of land owned by 150 poor families. With the help of UNDP, the LSO has been able to level 570 acre of uneven land owned by 740 rural families. Due to this, the productivity of the levelled land has increased to double. With the financial support of UNDP, 33,320 foot long PVC pipe was laid down to reduce wastage of irrigation water due to seepage. This project helped in providing more water to 135 families resulting in increase in their farm income.

LSO GIDDAN, KHUZDAR



Conservation of Irrigation Water

The issue of water losses through irrigation systems has a major impact on surface water supplies and management. The main causes responsible for water losses in watercourses are leakages from turnouts, curves in the watercourse, high density of vegetation in the unlined canals, deposition of sediments, weak and un-compacted banks and lack of maintenance. Proper lining of irrigation channels is a proven solution to this problem.

There are 13 irrigation channels in the LSO area, and only small portions of them are lined. Therefore, a significant amount of precious surface water is lost every year due to leakage. Lining of irrigation channels cost huge amount and the local people cannot do it themselves. Thus, the LSO strives for accessing funds from government and donors. With the help of BRSP, the LSO received Rs. 5.02 million from PPAF for lining of 6,200 feet of three irrigation channels in villages Chakrani, Whandari and Gulfam. The local communities contributed Rs. 1.3 million in the form of cash and free labour and completed the projects with a total cost of Rs. 6.3

Date of Formation:
30 November, 2011

District: **Khuzdar** Union Council: **Abad**

Total Households in Union Council:	Organised Households:	Coverage:
2,495	1,639	66%

No. of Community Organisations (COs)	No. of Village Organisations (VOs):	No. of General Body Members:	No. of Executive Committee Members:
109 41 women's	16 5 women's	98 All men	11 All men

million. These three projects are not only providing sufficient water to 391 acres of existing land but also brought 55 acres of additional land under cultivation. The 434 beneficiary families of these projects report sustainable increase in their household income and assets. In addition to that, the water leakage from the irrigation channel of Whandari was creating health and hygiene issues for the local settlers and damaging mud houses of people and a large number of buildings of government Education and Health departments, PTCL and Levies. The lining of the channel resolved all these issues once and for all and significantly reduced the environmental and health hazards.

Promote the Cause of Education

The LSO area is characterized by low literacy rate; 43% in men and 21% in women, and the enrolment rate is around 69%. Illiteracy has adverse effects on the society, in several aspects. It not only jeopardizes the future of individuals but also has a significant unfavorable social and economic effect on the society. The LSO has taken the following steps to improve the literacy level of its members:

1. Established five Literacy Centers with the help of NCHD and provided basic literacy and numeracy skills to 750 women.
2. Run school enrolment campaign and provided admission to 47 boys and 35 girls in local schools.
3. A large number of students especially girls used to drop out of schools after Primary level due to lack of Middle and High Schools in the area. In consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and Education Department, the LSO was able to persuade to upgrade one Girls Middle School to High School, and three Girls Primary Schools and one Boys Primary School to Middle Schools. These steps helped provide Middle and Metric level education to the students of poor families in their own villages.

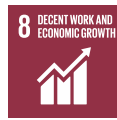
4. With the financial support of PPAF, the LSO carried out necessary repair and maintenance work in the Boys High School, Girls Middle School, one Girls and one Boys Primary Schools. Moreover, provided furniture, course books and sports goods and equipments to these schools.
5. Established Science Lab and a Library in the High School with the financial support of PPAF.

These activities, though not enough to bring a transformation in the existing education system, are proving quite useful in terms of creating awareness among local communities about providing quality education to their children, increasing school enrolment and improving literacy ratio of the men and women of the area.

Policy Advocacy for Electricity

Tehsil Krakh Baluchistan is deprived of electricity. Despite their repeated request to their Members of National and Provincial Assemblies, the people of the area could not break through the bureaucratic hurdles of Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC). When KESC started laying the Dadu-Khuzdar transmission lines which was passing through Krakh, the LSO requested to the KESC authorities for electricity connection to their area. But KESC authorities told them that there were no such provisions in the project plan. The LSO leaders requested to KESC for making revisions in the project plan, but it was to no avail.. The LSO leaders then lobbied with the leaders of LSOs of neighboring Union Councils and they stopped the construction work of Dadu-Khuzdar transmission line at Gulbhat. In the meanwhile, they staged demonstrations at the Press Club Quetta. This resulted in the Chief Minister of Baluchistan inviting them to his office. The Chief Minister listened to their demands and allocated Rs. 220 million from his discretionary funds during 2014-015 for installing electricity poles and laying out transmission lines to Tehsil Krakh. Currently, the project is under construction.





BIYAR LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION



Annual Cultural Mela

The Biyar Local Support Organisation (BLSO) was formed by the locals of Biyar Valley on 4th June 2005. Due to the continued efforts of its members, and as a result of capacity building activities carried out by the European Union, and other organisations, BLSO has been able to emerge as a strong organisation, increasing its reach and impact in the region.

Youth Development

Harnessing the energy of youth for constructive engagement is the most sensible investment for creation of a better world, because young people naturally embrace change and development, and they have a longing to belong to a cause, and look for happiness and fulfilment. Therefore, starting from 2011, AKRSP has been implementing a new programme with a focus on 'Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth (EELY)'. The EELY programme is implemented by the LSOs, while AKRSP provides technical and financial support.

The Biyar LSO first convened a day long workshop to identify and prioritise youth development activities. Young women and men, civil society representatives, and

Date of Formation: 04 June, 2005	
District: Chitral	Union Council: Charun and half of Laspur, Mastuj
Total Households in Union Council: 3,390	Organised Households: 3,329
Coverage: 98%	
No. of Village Organisations (VOs): 110 106 women's	No. of other Civil Society Organisations: 20
No. of General Body Members: 236 91 women's	No. of Executive Committee Members: 15 7 women's





Awareness raising workshop on voting rights for youth



Training on Disaster Risk Management

government officials attended the workshop. The LSO then carried out a household survey for mapping of the youth population. The survey showed that the total number of youth, in the age group of 15 to 35, is 10,337 including 5,301 men and 5,037 women. The survey also helped in classification of the youth in four categories: Educated, School Drop-out, Illiterate and Disabled. This categorisation helped the LSO in developing specific development activities for each group, according to their needs and potentials.

The LSO then convened meetings of the village organisations (VOs) and Women Organisations (WOs) and guided and helped them in updating their members' lists by taking out the names of the deceased, and replacing them with the names of the young member, and electing new presidents and managers. A total of 387 young people including 198 men and 189 women were thus inducted into the V/WOs. Training sessions on leadership and management, as well as financial record keeping, were conducted to build the capacity of the revitalised V/WOs.

The LSO also designed and implemented skills and business development programmes for the youth, based on their needs, local resources and potentials, and the capacities of the target groups, in close consultation and coordination with the member V/WOs. So far, 280 young men and women have benefited from these activities and a large number of them have either been absorbed in the job market, or become self-employed.

The LSO organises a 4-day annual sports festival in March. Traditional games like polo, shooting with traditional guns, and music are some of the highlights of the festival. Gradually, the government is also taking interest in the festivals and investing funds. Around 7,000 people attend the festivals. The event has become so popular that now people from Sawat and Dir also attend it. Separate sport arrangements are made for women so that they also can take part in such healthy activities.

The youth development activities are helping improve professional skills, increase support for enterprises and, ultimately, enhance participation of youth in the community and civic activities and institutions.

Disaster Risk Management

The area is vulnerable to a number of natural disasters, including

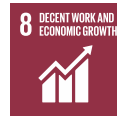
glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), landslides and avalanches. Massive glacial floods are resulting in unprecedented devastation of human lives, houses, transport networks, irrigation channels and cultivated land in the area.

In 2007, 111 families of Sonoghur village lost their houses, farm land, orchards and other belongings. In 2010 and 2013, similar floods hit Booni and Reshun. Over 200 families lost all their belongings while another 110 houses suffered due to partial damages. In partnership with Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) Pakistan, the Government of Pakistan and AKRSP, the LSO is supporting the efforts to reduce the risk of natural disasters in the high risk areas of the UC.

The LSO regularly carries out rescue and relief activities right after the occurrence of the disasters. They provide shelter, medical aid, food, clothes etc. to the affected families. They carry out damage assessment surveys and try to provide rehabilitation support to the disaster victims from government and other resources. They have developed Disaster Risk Reduction Plans for the villages and trained 55 men and women master trainers who further trained 100 men and women in disaster risk management. The trainings have resulted in greater familiarity with the strategies and techniques of reducing losses during future flash floods and other climate change related disasters. The LSO has procured stockpiles of tents, tools and necessary equipments. These efforts of the LSO not only helped to organize and train local communities to make them resilient towards disaster risk management, but also initiated measures to build community understanding of climate change induced natural hazards.



Distribution of relief goods among disaster affected families



AL-KARIM DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION



Institutional Development

The Local Support Organisation (LSO) is the umbrella organization of Village Organizations and Women Organizations (V/WOs). Since the V/WOs are the foundations of the LSO, their organisational health and strengths have lasting impacts on the LSO. Therefore, the LSO strives continuously to improve the organizational strength of the V/WOs. Right after its formation, the Al-Karim LSO supported the weaker and dormant V/WOs in resolving their conflicts and disputes, auditing their savings and credit operations, and regularizing their meetings and savings. The LSO organized training sessions for 20 men and 22 women in auditing V/WO savings. As such, 15 VOs and 22 WOs were fully revitalized. The LSO staff and board members visit the V/WOs on need basis and evaluate their progress. The LSO conducts audit of V/WO accounts on annual basis and the audit reports are shared with the members in V/WOs meeting. Recently, the LSO has started monthly meeting of V/WOs managers in LSO office to share experiences and ideas with one another and get help in terms of record keeping and other procedures. The members of V/WOs contribute Rs. 5 per month towards the LSO fund.

Date of Formation:

15 February, 2005

District:

Ghizer

Union Council:

Taus, Tehsil Yasin

Total Households in Union Council:

1,702

Organised Households:

1,447

Coverage:

85%

No. of Village Organisations (VOs):

37

22 women's

No. of other Civil Society Organisations

5

No. of General Body Members:

42

22 women's

No. of Executive Committee Members:

14

6 women's





The Al-Karim LSO keeps updated financial and non-financial records. Its accounts are audited regularly on annual basis. It has developed a five-year development plan and shares progress on it regularly with all stakeholders. It has been generating resources from various internal and external sources to finance its operational expenses. Due to these and similar other healthy institutional indicators, the LSO scored 814 marks out of 1,000 and has been ranked in the 'A Category' by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) under the LSO Assessment exercise carried out in April 2016.

Youth Development

Experience has proved that youth development results in positive effects on their behaviors and skills including self-efficacy, self-determination, communication, and problem-solving. Therefore, youth development is one of the main development agenda of the LSO. With technical and financial support of AKRSP, the LSO has conducted numerous exploratory meetings and workshops with youth and other stakeholders in order to identify and prioritize the challenges of young men and women of the area. The LSO then developed a five-year Youth Development Plan (2013 – 2017) in a participatory manner.

A key priority component of the Youth Development Plan is making maximum young men and women members of VOs and

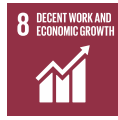


WOs. Accordingly, the number of young members has increased from 20% to 54% over the last three years. Employment generation has been another key component of the Plan. In this respect, the LSO has arranged capacity building activities for the youth in business development, fruit processing, painting, tailoring, mobile repair, electrician, beautician and hotel management etc. Moreover, the LSO established a Youth Resource Centre equipped with a computer lab and training facilities in various vocational skills. The Centre also provides youth with information about jobs available in the market. Over 75% trained youth reported that the employment generation efforts have helped them starting their small scale income earning undertakings, as well as getting them jobs in the local market. Addiction to various types of drugs is steadily increasing among the youth. The LSO, therefore, arranges awareness campaigns against drug abuse and motivates the youth to engage in healthy activities, like sports.

These integrated youth development efforts of the LSO are not only positively impacting personal growth of the beneficiary young men and women, but also yielding socio-economic dividends to their families and the local society at large.

Collaboration with government and other organisations

One of the main functions of the LSO is creating development linkages with government and non-government organisations to be able to make resources accessible and available for the local communities. The Al-Karim LSO has been successful in establishing linkages with: 1) Forest Department District Ghizer for planting forest trees, 2) Agriculture Department Dist. Ghizer for distributing wheat seed among farmers and arranging training for the progressive farmers on fruit harvesting and processing and distribution of fruit tree management kits, 3) Environmental Protection Agency Govt. of Gilgit-Baltistan for tree plantation and training of local farmers in forestry, 4) Population Welfare Department Dist. Ghizer for organizing awareness raising programmes about family planning, 5) TB-Control-ACSM Project for awareness raising workshop and community events about TB diseases, 6) Women Ministry Islamabad Govt. of Pakistan to implement a project on empowering local women political leaders, 7) First Micro Health Insurance Agency for facilitating Family Group Health Insurance to interested members, 8) Pakistan Baitul Mal for providing financial support to needy families, 9) PCSIR for Fruit Processing Training, 10) LG&RD for construction of hall for the LSO Office, 11) FMFB for facilitating loan to local entrepreneurs, 12) AKEPB for organizing Business Training to local entrepreneurs, and 13) JICA for production, harvesting and marketing of high quality apple. As a results of these efforts, huge investments have been made in the development of the area resulting in steady improvements in the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiary members.



CHATORKHAND LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION



Establishment of Women's Market

Women and girls still face unacceptable levels of discrimination in the society, which prevents them from playing an effective role in the decision-making processes. This is especially true for women who have not been to schools. The work done by less skilled women are generally taboos, while the functions performed by the more educated, skilled, women are looked up to in awe, generally. For instance, there's less acceptance for a woman opening a shop, or working as a carpenter, compared to a woman teaching at a school, or working at a bank, or hospital. This practice leads to creation of a class-based society, in which there's more space for the educated, who are often well off, compared to those who are left behind. To challenge this, the Chatorkhand LSO, with the technical and financial support of AKRSP, created a women's market in 2006. The purpose of the initiative was to promote entrepreneurship for local women, especially those who have not been to school, or left after studying a few classes.

The LSO, initially, identified women who were interested in starting their own businesses. They were then provided with training on how to start, run, and manage a business in an organised manner. Emphasis was laid on record keeping and estimating profit and loss. Shops were rented at one location for women entrepreneurs and the rents for the first six months were paid by AKRSP. Today 25 women entrepreneurs are successfully running their businesses in the market.

Date of Formation: 02 February, 2007		
District: Ghizer	Union Council: Chatorkhand	
Total Households in Union Council: 1,495	Organised Households: 1,474	Coverage: 99%
No. of Village Organisations (VOs): 34 18 women's	No. of other Civil Society Organisations 12	No. of General Body Members: 64 34 women's
		No. of Executive Committee Members: 13 5 women's





Common Interest Groups (CIGs) have been formed, and each CIG meets on monthly basis to discuss and solve issues, support each other and pool collective savings. A micro loaning programme was started with an initial fund of Rs. 38,000, which has now grown to Rs. 114,000. Micro loans are given to member women to meet their working capital needs. The initiative is so successful that more and more women now want to start their businesses in the market. However, due to lack of shops, they are unable to start for now. It is hoped that investors will soon construct more shops around the women's market allowing them to expand their businesses.

Establishment of Orchards in Collaboration with Government Agriculture Department

Though the area produces fruits like apple, apricot and grapes in large quantities, these are local varieties having very limited shelf life. Transporting fresh fruits to the markets, therefore, is a challenge. Moreover, the local farmers lack horticulture skills; there is no concept of tree management, giving fertilizer to the trees and protecting fruits from pest attacks using modern methods. Therefore, farmers do not reap the benefits of their fruit produce. There is a huge potential for producing jam, jellies and pickles using the cheap local fruits and sell them at prime prices in Gilgit and down country markets, but due to lack of required food technology expertise tons of fruit pulp are wasted annually.

The LSO, therefore, collaborated with the Govt. Agriculture Department to introduce modern orchards for the first time in the area. Interested families having 4 Kanals of land, with boundary wall, were selected by LSO for the initiative. The Agriculture Department supplied them with improved variety fruit plants and also trained them in soil preparation, planting trees, pruning grown up trees, making and using organic matters, like green



manure and green pesticides, and picking and packaging the ripe fruits. So far, 36 farmers have established modern orchards and are earning good profit annually. They seek technical help from Agriculture Department on need basis.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department has trained 90 women in producing jam and jelly using pulps of local fruits. Around 45 of the trained women produce jam and jelly at their homes and sell in the market, besides consuming these health products at their homes.

Managing Disaster Risk

Recent scientific opinion is that global climate change is happening and will present practical challenges to local ecosystems. Analysts are projecting an increase in the magnitude of climate change with altitude in terms of both temperature and variation in precipitation. Gilgit and Baltistan are practically facing the adverse effects of climate change on regular basis. The magnitude of disasters was unprecedented in 2010 and 2014 when heavy rains caused flash flood, mud slides and erosion of river banks in Ghizer and its adjacent valleys. Hundreds of houses, cattle sheds, boundary walls and river embankments, irrigation channels, bridges and roads were damaged. Domestic animals, standing crops, fruit and forest trees were washed away. Hundreds of families became homeless.



The LSO leaders organized relief activities, including evacuation of people at risk to safe places, establishment of shelters and provision of food and medical care for the displaced families. They also arranged funds from various donors for rehabilitation of damaged houses, irrigation channels, bridges, roads and protective walls at river sides. Moreover, the LSO managed to construct more protective walls at riskier river sides.

The LSO has now 90 men and women trained in disaster management by FOCUS Pakistan, an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network. These trained men and women are organized in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Village Emergency Response Teams (VERTs). These teams respond quickly and in a professional manner whenever a disaster takes place. For example, during the 2014 flood the team members watched the water flow in the rivers day and night for ten days, strengthened the protective walls and shifted people and domestic animals at risk to safer places, on time. The teams used blankets to put off a fire that erupted in a precious juniper forest, saving it from complete annihilation.



LSO ITTEFAQ BADANZAI, ZHOB



Institutional Development

Social mobilisation was started in the Union Council in 2007, and almost 25 Community Organisations (COs) were formed under the Government funded Livestock Development Project. However, when the Government abruptly closed the project at a pre-mature stage, the COs gradually lost their interest, and became inactive. With the start of the EU funded Baluchistan Community Development Programme (BCDP), not only were the old COs re-activated, but more than 90 new COs, including 38 women's COs, were formed across the UC. The 118 COs federated to form 28 Village Organisations (VOs). Later on, the VOs formed their Local Support Organisation at the UC level.

This three-tier institutional landscape has opened up multiple opportunities for the local communities in terms of improving their socio-economic conditions through integrated approaches. The VOs support their member COs, and the LSO supports its member VOs in planning and execution of development initiatives at the household and communal level. Currently, all member VOs have developed their Village Development Plans (VDPs), and are in the process of implementing them. The LSO has also developed a Union Council Development Plan (UCDP). The LSO also plays key monitoring roles to ensure that the VOs are functioning well and the programmes and

Date of Formation: 28 November, 2015			
District: Zhob		Union Council: Badanzai	
Total Households in Union Council: 1,544	Organised Households: 1,244	Coverage: 81%	
No. of Community Organisations (COs): 118 38 women's	No. of Village Organisations (VOs): 28 all men's	No. of General Body Members: 120 all men's	No. of Executive Committee Members: 11 all men's



projects implemented by them are running properly. Under BCDP, 10 Community Physical Infrastructures (CPIs) have been identified and approved. The LSO leaders have been able to create effective linkages with Government and donor agencies. In a nut shell, the institutional development has been proved instrumental in mobilising not only the local communities but various other stakeholders for poverty reduction of the people of the UC.

Improve Health Facilities and Services

The LSO's area of operation is known for the lack of access to basic health care services, infrastructure and personnel. There is only one Basic Health Unit (BHU) and one Dispensary to serve the 11,981 people living in the Union Council. On top of that, due to misconceptions, there was an overwhelming opposition to the vaccination of children and pregnant women. During the Union Council level planning process, health issues ranked top of the list. The LSO, therefore has been trying to address the health issues on priority basis.



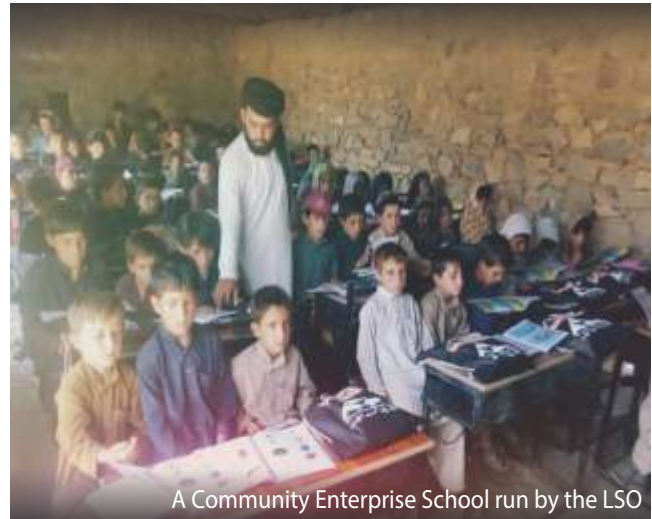
Distribution of hygiene kits among school students

The LSO has conducted several awareness sessions on health related issues across the UC with the technical and financial support of donor agencies. They support government's vaccinators and have managed to vaccinate around 800 children in the area. They also support polio vaccinators and helped convince the households that refused anti-polio vaccinations for their children and pregnant women. The buildings of the BHU and the Dispensary were in very poor condition. The LSO arranged funds from People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) and not only constructed new buildings for both facilities, but also arranged a freezer and solar electrification system for the BHU. The LSO conducted personal hygiene sessions at local schools and distributed hygiene kits among students.

Improved Educational Facilities and Services

The condition of educational facilities and services in the area was also very poor. There were only 7 Government boys' primary schools and one girls' primary school in the UC; there was no middle and high school. Basic facilities, like furniture, washroom, drinking water and electricity, were none existent in majority of these schools. There was a huge question mark on the quality of

the teachers, both in terms of their professional skills, and commitment. The catastrophic state of education is reflected in the literacy ratio among the UC's men and women, i.e. 18% and 4%, respectively.



A Community Enterprise School run by the LSO

The LSO members are aware of the state of affairs, and they are trying to change it for better. They have, so far, been able to carry out various programmes to promote the cause of education. The most significant achievement, probably, is bringing the issue to the limelight, by prioritizing it in the UC Development Plan. They are trying to raise awareness about the missing facilities, and the impact it has on the quality of education and quality of life.

In addition, they are also working to fill the gap by arranging resources for the missing facilities. They have constructed buildings for three boys' primary schools with the financial support of UNICEF. Up to 70 children are enrolled in these schools. They have also arranged furniture for four schools, by approaching the Government Education Department; 139 students of these schools now have proper desks. They organised enrolment campaigns and were successful in convincing parents to send over 400 children, mainly girls, to schools. They also established five Community Enterprise Schools with the technical and financial support of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). PPAF has conducted a 10-day training session for the teachers of these schools, and will also pay salaries of the teachers for the first six months. The parents have agreed to pay Rs. 200 per child per month to remunerate the teachers of these schools after the PPAF salary support comes to an end. PPAF also trained 10 teachers of government schools.

With the technical and financial support of National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), the LSO members have established three adult literacy centres to provide basic literacy and numeracy abilities and vocational skills to adult women. These initiatives are not enough to tackle the wide-spread, multi-pronged issues of education. But they have boosted the community's confidence, and given them hope, and an actionable way forward, for gradual and steady steps that will help them overcome the issues in the near future.



LSO NARIAN, AJK



Community Physical Infrastructure Projects

The LSO has effectively established linkages with government and other development agencies to access resources for construction of physical infrastructures. So far, the LSO has successfully completed 15 drinking water supply schemes, 100 hand pumps, 15 foot bridges, 20 foot paths, 30 link roads, 5 water



A Foot Bridge completed with EU funding

Date of Formation: 28 August, 2008			
District: Sudhnoti		Union Council: Narian Sharif	
Total Households in Union Council: 2,681	Organised Households: 1,931	Coverage: 72%	
No. of Community Organisations (COs): 125 47 women's	No. of Village Organisations (VOs): 5 all mixed	No. of General Body Members: 35 15 women	No. of Executive Committee Members: 15 6 women





Foot Bridge and Bus Stop constructed with EU financial support

reservoirs, 10 water tanks, 4 community centres and 5 waiting spaces at bus stops.

Recently, the LSO has completed two foot-bridges and a waiting space at a very busy bus stop with financial support of European Union. The two foot bridges serve 150 families of the surrounding villages. The beneficiary communities regularly maintain the completed schemes.

Increase Household Coverage

Before the formation of the LSO, only 33% of the area's households were organised. The LSO hired seven CRPs, (5 women and 2 men) and within six months they increased the household coverage to 70% by organising 940 additional households in 59 new COs (15 men, 41 women and 3 mixed). Moreover, they re-activated a number of dormant COs and updated their records. NRSP provided honorarium to the CRPs and trained them in scaling up social mobilization while the LSO leaders managed and supervised the entire project. The LSO also trained 100 CO leaders (70 women and 30 men) in Community Management Skills Training (CMST) and provided them the required skills and exposure to manage the CO effectively.



LSO leaders meeting with VO/CO members at village Budhani Bari

The LSO has carried out a Poverty Scorecard survey of the entire Union Council. According to the survey, the number of poor households in the UC is 1,468, out of which 1,192 (81%) households have already been organised into men, women and mixed COs and are member of the LSO. The LSO is trying to organise the remaining households into COs.

Conservation of Natural Forest

Four out of the five villages in the UC have natural forest. The local people are allowed to cut dead and fallen trees as well as green trees for local usage, like construction of houses, after paying a nominal fee to the government Forest Department. However, timber mafia was using this provision for cutting green trees on large scale and depleting the natural endowment, in collusion with some corrupt officials within the Forest Department. After the LSO was formed, its leaders discussed the issue with the Forest Department and resolved to form Community Forest Committees in all four VOs. The Committees are registered with the Forest Department. They monitor illegal cutting of trees and immediately report illegal incidents to the Forest Department for timely action. Whenever local families need timber, they first put up their request to the Community Forest Committee. The Committee considers their request and recommend to the Forest Department for the number of trees according to their actual needs. The Forest Department accepts their recommendations. In this way, the LSO has controlled illegal and indiscriminate felling of trees and protected their natural environment from potential disasters.

Dispute Resolution through Local Committees

The legal system of our country is faced with many challenges. It takes our courts years to decide a criminal case. Many cases run for generations without conclusion, and the parties ultimately decide to settle the issue on their own, outside the courts. Accusations of bribery and nepotism in the judicial process are rampant. Trust of a common person in the judicial system has been eroding continuously. This abysmal state of affairs has led to the creation of a low-cost alternate disputes resolution system, through which people can access justice, resolve issues, without refereeing to the courts of law. The LSO Narian has also established a Community Dispute Resolution Committees at local level to ensure that justice is quick and affordable.

LSO Narian has established 4 such committees at the VO level. The Committees consist of 15 to 20 members. People register all types of disputes with them. The village level Committees sets up sub-committees for the registered cases and they investigate the cases and take decisions in one or two hearings. The Committees resolve 60 to 70 cases annually, saving millions of rupees of the parties involved. On the other hand, the dispute resolution structure also enhances and strengthen social capital of the COs and VOs.



LSO SEHNSA, AJK



Women's Development

The LSO Sehnsa believes that no sustainable and equitable socio-economic development is possible without active participation of women. Analysis of the local socio-economic conditions reveals that lack of proper skills is a key impediment restricting women's active involvement in economic activities. Therefore, the LSO has been trying its best to impart skills straining for the women.

The LSO has provided tailoring skills to 316 women, beautician skill to 16, tie and die skills to 26 and candle making skills to 56 entrepreneurial women to start homebased small businesses with financial and technical support of various donors. They have also provided 30 women a three-month extensive tailoring training using their own sources. The LSO has also provided financial and technical support to 6 poor women to start small tuck shops in their villages.

These initiatives of the LSO provided unique opportunities to the women for starting home-based micro-enterprises. The women are now supporting

Date of Formation:
27 April, 2008

District:
Kotli

Union Council:
Sehnsa

Total Households in
Union Council:

4,001

Organised
Households:

2,905

Coverage:

73%

No. of Community
Organisations (COs):

155

71 women's

No. of Village
Organisations (VOs):

11

all mixed

No. of General
Body Members:

35

18 women

No. of Executive
Committee Members:

14

6 women



their families with the income earned from their micro-enterprises. Apart from economic benefits, these women report increased status in their families and friends, increased self-confidence to scale up their micro enterprises and a boost in their empowerment, within their families, and also in the society.

A poor widow Begum Jan of CO Ratali said that after the death of her husband, she and her three children became extremely poor. The LSO helped and guided her to start a tuck shop, and now she runs it and meets the basic needs of her family from the income of the shop.

Management of Natural Resources

A large number of LSO members, especially the poor ones, still depend heavily on farm income. Therefore, agriculture, livestock and forest are important sectors of the local economy. Due mainly to centuries old farming practices, the net yield from the farming sector has been going down continuously. Therefore, the LSO has been trying to introduce new farming practices and efficient breeds of livestock in the area in collaboration with government departments and NGOs. The LSO has provided poultry rearing training to 110 families, vegetable cultivation training to 168 families. The LSO has provided six types of improved variety vegetable seeds to 118 progressive farmers. The farmers are producing vegetables for their household consumption, as well as selling the extra produce in the market.



Cultivation of vegetables for commercial purpose

Sericulture, the practice of breeding silkworms for the production of raw silk, has been under way for centuries in the AJK region. These days only few families are practicing sericulture. The LSO is trying to revive the industry and boost silk production in the area. A silkworm's preferred food is white mulberry leaves. Therefore, the LSO has provided training to interested families on modern sericulture practices and also supplied, two years ago, 40,000 plants of white mulberry to them for planting in

their farms. After another two years, the mulberry trees will become mature and the interested families will start sericulture. Moreover, mulberry leaves are useful as fodder for domestic animals and its twigs are used for making baskets which will be sold in the market.

The LSO, in collaboration with government Forest Department, has planted 10,000 rooted forest plants on common lands. This will increase the forest cover of the area leaving positive impacts on the local environment.

The LSO has organised veterinary camps two times in collaboration with the government Livestock Department with the aim of covering livestock diseases. The local breed of domestic animals is not efficient in terms of production. Therefore, the LSO provided improved breed of goats to 45 families and cows to 64 families with the financial support of government and donors.

Construction of Social and Economic Physical Infrastructure

Realising the long-term social and economic dividends of modern infrastructure, the LSO always tries to attract resources for their development in their area. The LSO has constructed two link roads, one culvert, and a dispensary building using donor funds, as well as a school building on self-help basis. The two link road projects facilitate 235 families and the culvert project facilitate 32 families in communication and transportation of goods. The school project facilitate education of 112 children from 80 families, while the dispensary buildings has increased access to health services to 150 families.

The LSO has recently completed construction of a culvert and soling of two link roads with the financial support of the European Union. The beneficiaries of the culvert project and two link road projects are 35 and 100, respectively. The local community contributed around 20% of the cost of the donor funded projects. Unlike the government projects, these projects are managed and maintained by the local community, therefore, they are sustainable in the long run.



Soling of a Link Road with EU support



AYUN AND VALLEYS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, CHITRAL

Preservation and Promotion of Indigenous Culture

Out of 24,804 people living in the LSO area, 3,872 (16%) belong to Kalash community. Kalash are an Indo-Aryan Dardic indigenous people residing in three valleys of Chitral. They are considered unique among the peoples of Pakistan, because of their different religious and cultural heritage. They are also considered to be Pakistan's smallest religious community. They speak a unique language and maintain their own separate cultural traditions. However, due to various socio-economic reasons, they are facing difficulties in preserving their culture. Therefore, the LSO has been trying to preserve and promote their culture.

The LSO submitted a proposal titled as "Kalash Language and Culture Preservation Project (KLCP)" to Small Grants and Ambassador Fund (SGAF) USAID. SGAF approved Rs.7,775,170 while the LSO contributed Rs. 550,000 to the project. The project aimed at: 1) Development of Orthography of Kalash language, 2) Documentation of Kalash proverbs, folk tales and folk songs, 3) Development and printing of three books on Kalash language in Kalash script, and, 4) Development of Community Linguists for preservation and revival of the unique culture.

Date of Formation:
04 June, 2005

District:
Chitral

Union Council:
Ayun

Total Households in
Union Council:

3,488

Organised
Households:

2,753

Coverage:

79%

No. of Village
Organisations (VOs):

125

41 women's

No. of Civil Society
Organisations (CSOs):

33

No. of General
Body Members:

148

34 women

No. of Executive
Committee Members:

13

4 women



The KLCP project proved very effective in achieving its objectives. A key feature of the project was to involve the local community in in the development process through different ways and means. The project engaged the community in culture and literacy committee, and also conducted a five-day orthography workshop and an eight-day writers' workshop. A large number of community members and other influential personalities attended the project opening and closing ceremonies. Six Community Linguists and two project staff were trained on language documentation in a two-weeks residential training by Forum for Language Initiative (FLI) Islamabad. Kalasha culture was highlighted in different ways through print and online media. A group of Kalasha elders visited Gilgit-Baltistan to see how people there have preserved their cultural heritage. A two-day Kalasha language, artisans at work exhibition and seminar was held at Lok Visra Islamabad, where the community members briefed government officials, diplomats and general public about Kalasha language and culture.

The community linguists were divided into two groups and assigned the task of collecting data from Kalasha Qazis (Religious leaders). After consultation with Kalasha literacy and culture committee, the six community linguists were deployed in three valleys where they collected information, in line with the guidelines set by the committee.

As a result, around 175 proverbs were collected by community linguists from the three Kalasha valleys; 100 plus proverbs have been published and translated into Urdu; 22 folk tales have been recorded and preserved in written form in Romanized Kalasha script; over 80 folk songs were collected and digitally written on CDs, and; four writers workshop were conducted in the three valleys.

Initially, there were 22 Roman Alphabets of Kalasha language, including 17 consonants and 5 vowels. After the project intervention, the number of alphabets increased to 51, including special characters, 31 consonant and 20 short and long vowels. More than 100 people were trained in Kalasha alphabets. Most importantly, 9 people were trained as community linguists to carry on the cultural preservation and development task on a sustainable basis.

Rehabilitation of Flood Damaged Rural Infrastructures

Unpredictable and extreme weather patterns are causing devastating calamities in the high valleys of Chitral area. Heavy rains and consequent flash floods in 2013 and 2015 brought devastation and destruction of unprecedented nature in union council Ayun, including the three Kalasha Valleys. The UC suffered damages to public and private properties, communication and irrigation infrastructure which paralyzed the day-to-day life of the people living in the upper valleys. Floods severely affected irrigation channels and in many places, directly affected farmlands and standing crops. Water Mills, Electricity and Drinking Water Supply schemes damages created alarming situation in the upper valleys.

During both floods, the LSO leaders were the first to come forward to help the affected families. They made emergency arrangements of food, clothing and medicines and gave hope and confidence to the affected people. In a joint meeting with the

government administration, when the Deputy Commissioner (DC) said that due to lack of funds at his disposal he cannot start relief work, the LSO provided Rs. 280,000 on loan to him out of their endowment fund. The DC refunded the amount to the LSO later when he received funds from government. Moreover, the LSO leaders approached the government and donor agencies and accessed funds for reconstruction of damaged roads, bridges, irrigation channels and water supply projects.

The LSO rehabilitated two flood affected bridges and three irrigation channels with the financial support of Concern Worldwide. A total of 955 families benefited from the two bridges while 128 families benefited from the rehabilitation of three flood damaged irrigation channels.



Jaw Kuru Birir Bridge before rehabilitation



Jaw Kuru Birir Bridge after rehabilitation

The two rehabilitated bridges are vital because they connect Rumboor and Birir valleys, where the Kalasha live, to Ayun and Chitral town, where facilities for health, education, trade and access to government and legal services are located. The rehabilitation of the three irrigation channels provided immediate relief to the small farmers as they are now capable to cultivate their land to ensure their livelihoods and food security.

The LSO also rehabilitated 10 Water Supply projects in 10 villages of the UC and provided clean water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources to 1,599 families with financial support from the same donor. Moreover, 128 health and hygiene awareness sessions were conducted to the beneficiary families. As a result of these projects, clean drinking water has now been provided and sanitation conditions have improved. More to it, the practice of appropriate hygiene behaviours is expected to have improved among a vast majority of the community members who attended the hygiene sessions.

LSO BHIT SHAH, MATIARI

District Matiari	Union Council Bhit Shah	Date of Formation Dec 19 2016	Total Households in Union Council 1,984	Organised Households 1,187	Coverage 60%
	No of Community Organisations (COs) 61	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 7	No of General Body Members 28	No of Executive Committee Members 15	

Celebration of International Women's Day

For the very first time in the history of district Matiari, LSO Bhit Shah celebrated the International Women's Day on 8th March, 2017. International Women's Day is all about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action - whatever that looks like globally at a local level. Around 77 women, mainly including LSO, VO and CO leaders, participated in the event. Representatives of Pakistan Baitul Maal, HANDS Pakistan and Alif Ailaan Project also attended. Chairman District Council Matiari was the Chief Guest. The purpose of the event, according to the LSO leaders, was to celebrate the achievements of the LSO, and its member VOs and COs, in organising area's women, and harnessing their individual and collective potentials to improve their socio-economic condition in an equitable manner. The women said that one of their vision was to convince each LSO member to plant at least one tree in schools, health centre and other common spaces. This, they said, would improve the UC's environment. They asked the District Council Chairman to provide saplings for the plantation drive. The Chief Guest expressed his pleasant surprise over the awareness level of the women of the area and promised his full support to



Figure 1: World Women's Day Celebration

the LSO/VO/CO leaders and members in pursuing their development goals. He also promised to arrange plants for the LSO members from the government nurseries.

Vaccination of Domestic Animals in Collaboration with Livestock Department

Domestic animals, especially goats, play a key role in the economy of the rural families. Goat is a source of milk for domestic consumption. Moreover, people sell goats at times of cash need; hence, it is a valuable household asset. Therefore, a large number of LSO members rear goats.

However, viral diseases are common in the area, and these diseases not only reduce the productivity of goats, but often take their lives, leaving the poor families with significant losses.



Figure 2: Government Vaccinators in action

Before organising the people of the area into COs, VOs and LSOs, they had little idea about accessing services of the government departments to resolve their common issues. However, once the community members got organised and received trainings under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, they realised that they can take advantage of government facilities. The LSO leaders first discussed the issue with member VOs and the VOs discussed in their COs and they jointly decided to contact Government Livestock Department for vaccinating their domestic animals against common diseases.

The Livestock Department offered its full support and constituted two vaccination teams headed by Veterinary Doctors. A date was fixed for vaccination, and the LSO, through its relevant VOs, informed all community members about the vaccination date three days in advance, so that they keep their animals at home, instead of taking them out from grazing.

A total of 700 animals were vaccinated in two villages, free of cost, with the stock of vaccines available with the Livestock Department. The officials of the Livestock Department were very happy with the joint initiative of the LSO. They have submitted demands for acquiring more vaccines to their management and have promised to vaccinate the remaining animals whenever the fresh stock of vaccines is received.

Monitoring Health Project

The Government of Sindh's Health Department is running Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in the LSO area, under which pregnant women and children of 0 to 23 months are vaccinated. The LSO listed 19 pregnant women who had not been vaccinated. The list was shared with EPI authorities who sent a team of vaccinators, and vaccinated them all.

In this way, the LSO ensured 100% vaccination coverage in its area. In addition, through this initiative, the LSO indirectly sent a message to EPI authorities that now the LSO is monitoring the project activities in a positive manner. This will hopefully contribute towards increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of EPI and other projects.



Figure 3: Pregnant Women vaccinated by EPI staff



LSO SHAH INAYAT RIZVI

District Tando Allahyar	Union Council Shah Inayat Rizvi	Date of Formation 2017	Total Households in Union Council 3,765	Organised Households 1,719	Coverage 46%
	No of Community Organisations (COs) 91 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 10 <small>(all women's)</small>	No of General Body Members 30 <small>(all women)</small>	No of Executive Committee Members 15 <small>(all women)</small>	

Preparation of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC)

A CNIC is an essential document for a Pakistani national to get basic citizen's rights, including voting rights in Local Government, Provincial and National Assembly elections. The LSO leaders knew that majority of people especially women do not have a valid CNIC. Therefore, they are deprived of their basic citizenship rights. The LSO leaders raised this issue in the Activists Workshop organised under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme. The SUCCESS staff briefed them about National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) mobile van arrangement, which on the demand of the community visits their village and issues CNIC at their door steps saving them significant amount of money and labour.

On the advice of the LSO, the leaders of VO Khair Muhammad Jarwar prepared a list of those women and men who are eligible to get CNIC but have not availed yet. They also checked the existing CNICs and listed down the expired ones. The LSO leaders approached NADRA office and submitted an application for sending their mobile van for issuing CNICs to their villagers. During the month of May NADRA sent their mobile van to the village for three days and issued CNICs to over 400 women and men. The LSO requested NADRA to send the mobile van to other villages of the UC and NADRA assured them that once they



get approval from their Head Office, they will visit other villages as well. It is worth mentioning that the LSO arranged CNICs for all people in the village irrespective of whether they are CO members or not.

Support member VOs and COs in opening of bank accounts

Transparency and accountability are two key values of community institutions. The financial transactions through institutional bank accounts are considered as a key measure for assurance of transparency and accountability. However, due to the State Bank of Pakistan's regulations, the opening of bank accounts for the community institutions has been difficult. Therefore, the LSO leaders are supporting member COs and VOs for opening their bank accounts in The First Micro Finance Bank and NRSP Microfinance Bank. The COs will use the bank accounts mainly for safe keeping of their savings and VOs will use the bank account for safe keeping of VO Fund and implementation of projects etc.



Support persons with disabilities in getting Special CNIC

There are several facilities available for persons with disabilities in government institutions. For example, they can receive medical treatment in government facilities free of cost or at subsidized rates. They are exempt from standing in queues for getting token in government facilities. Therefore, NADRA issues a special CNIC to the persons with disabilities. However, due to lack of information, the persons with disabilities in rural areas normally apply for the standard CNIC.

The LSO leaders learnt about the benefits of Special CNIC for the persons with disabilities in an Activists Workshop

held under the SUCCESS Programme. After identifying persons with disabilities in their area, the LSO leaders helped them getting special CNICs. So far, 19 persons have received their special CNICs with the help of the LSO.











Establishment of linkage with Government Forest Department

Forest trees are invaluable assets for rural communities. These may grow in unused farm lands, in the courtyards, in the sides of streets and roads etc. However, due to lack of awareness and planting materials, people do not plant forest trees. The SUCCESS Programme raised the awareness of forest trees among the LSO leaders in one of the awareness sessions. The LSO leaders discussed it with their member VOs and COs and they all decided to carry out a plantation drive. The LSO then approached the Government Forest Department for provision of planting material. However, as the plantation is seasonal, they could only obtain 100 rooted forest plants. The LSO is planning to get maximum plants during the next planting season in August.





LSO DIGH MORI

District  Tando Muhammad Khan	Union Council  Digh Mori	Date of Formation  2016	Total Households in Union Council  3,208	Organised Households  1,380	Coverage  43%
	No of Community Organisations (COs)  64 (all women's)	Number of Village Organisations (VOs)  8 (all women's)	No of General Body Members  24 (all women)	No of Executive Committee Members  15 (all women)	

Village-level Solid Waste Management

A lack of proper system for cleaning the village from garbage, human and animal wastes was a major reason for pollution and unhygienic conditions in the LSO area. People used to dump their garbage either in the corner of a room or the courtyard. Sooner or later, the garbage used to spill out and spread across the house again. Even worse was that the land lord and other large farmer families used to dump their cow dung in the corner of the streets in the villages. These heaps of garbage were the main breeding centres for flies, mosquitos and other harmful insects and bacteria. During the rainy seasons, the cow dung heaps used to spread dirt and foul smell all over the village.

After the formation of LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme last October, their leaders went through awareness-raising sessions on public health and hygiene in January 2017. The sessions also included training on solid waste management. The LSO leaders conducted similar sessions with their respective VO leaders, and the VO leaders conducted sessions in their respective COs to aware the community members of the benefits of cleanliness and hygiene. The VOs





resolved to clean their villages. They first negotiated with the land lords and other farmers and motivated them to store their cow dungs out of the villages. Then they fixed a date for cleaning their villages on self-help basis. All 8 VOs decided to clean their villages. They prepared land-filled sites by digging the ground in the outskirts of their villages. However, digging and transporting the mounts of cow dungs already dumped in the corners of the streets was a problem for them. They, therefore, requested NRSP for support. NRSP provided each VO with a set of tool kits for digging, collecting and transporting the garbage to safer places and arranged tractor trollies on rent to transport the garbage to the land-filled sites. All 8 VOs carried out village cleaning campaigns in turn. On the invitation of the VO, men, women, young boys and girls and even children actively participated in the campaigns which continued over two to three days. They also constructed garbage collection points in their villages and asked the families to put their household level garbage into them. They burn the garbage in the evening, which is also helpful in driving out mosquitos. Each VO now repeat the cleaning campaign on monthly basis. The activity not only proved instrumental in providing the local people with a healthy environment but also boosted the self-confidence of the LSO and VO leaders for carrying out similar other initiatives in future.

Testing of drinking water sources

Waterborne diseases are very common in rural Sindh. The main reason of waterborne diseases is use of un-safe water. However, the general masses had never thought that their water sources might be polluted. As a result of awareness session received under the SUCCESS Programme on the causes and solutions of waterborne diseases, the LSO leaders decided to test all 6 public water sources in their union councils (UCs). They collected water samples and sent them to the laboratory of Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR) Badin. The result showed that 5 water sources were safe while one water source was un-safe to be used as drinking water. The LSO painted the safe water sources with green colour and the un-safe one with red colour and announced to the general public that the red-colour source is not good for human consumption, so they should use it only for washing clothes and other such purposes. The water testing cost the LSO Rs. 18,300 which was contributed to them by their members. This initiative helped reducing waterborne diseases in the area.

Plantation Campaign in Collaboration with Government Forestry Department

The government nurseries in Sindh are mandated to provide rooted plants to community organisations at a subsidised rate of Rs. 2 while they charge Rs 8 to others. Before formation of the LSO, the local people had no information about this subsidy. But after formation of the LSO they learnt about it and they submitted a resolution to the Government Forest Nurseries for providing rooted plants for plantation.

The Forest Nurseries provided 600 plants to the LSO, which then distributed the plants among VOs. The VOs further supplied them to interested members. The LSO is planning to procure more plants from the Government nurseries in future by submitting their demand resolutions well on time.





LSO LAKHAT

District Tando Muhammad Khan	Union Council Lakhat	Date of Formation 2017	Total Households in Union Council 2,517	Organised Households 1,412	Coverage 56%
	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 70 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 9 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members 27 <small>(all women)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members 11 <small>(all women)</small>	

(LSO Profile as of August 2017)

Partnership with Global Fund for Awareness Raising about Malaria

Malaria is one of the most common causes of fatal diseases in the area. The Global Fund, a financing institution, providing support to countries in the response to three diseases: AIDS, TB and Malaria, is collaborating with NRSP for prevention and treatment of Malaria in ten districts of Sindh, including Tando Muhammad Khan. The Global Fund has established latest facilities for testing and treatment of Malaria patients in the local government hospitals and health centres. However, due to a lack of information and awareness, very few people take benefits from these facilities.

When the LSO was formed under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, it hired Community Resource Persons (CRPs) who started delivering sessions on social issues through the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) to the community members. Looking at the effectiveness of these sessions, The Global Fund staff contacted the LSO leaders and negotiated an MoU for using the services of the CRPs for conducting awareness sessions about Malaria in the union council. The Global Fund trained four CRPs on session delivery and provided them with the awareness-raising materials. The LSO organised awareness sessions across the UC and the CRPs conducted the sessions for 833 community members. The result was quite encouraging as





the average number of people coming for Malaria test to the local health centres increased from 10 to 35 per day. The Global Fund paid Rs. 65,000 to the LSO for payment of honorarium to the CRPs, and of record keeping, monitoring and reporting of the awareness sessions. After paying all expenses, the LSO managed to save Rs. 9,000 which was deposited into LSO fund.

Introduction of improved wheat cultivation method

The majority of the farmers of the union council cultivate wheat, but due to mainly traditional farming practices and shortage of water, the yield is so poor that wheat cultivation is not cost efficient. The wheat production is not sufficient enough to meet their annual home consumption; therefore, they have to buy flour from market on high rates. After formation of the LSO under the EU supported SUCCESS programme, the community leaders contacted the Agriculture Department, Government of Sindh, to seek their advice and technical help to improve wheat farming. The department was not of much help, however looking at the interest of LSO leaders, the district team of NRSP linked them with the local office of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) that works on sustainable maize and wheat farming. The CIMMYT provides training to local farmers on new methods and tools about wheat farming.



The LSO nominated 9 farmers to get training as master trainers from CIMMYT at Tando Muhammad Khan town. The master trainers are then to train other farmers in the improved method of wheat cultivation. Two of the master trainers experimented the new wheat farming method during the last season. These farmers contacted Engro Fertiliser Company for their advice on proper use of chemical fertiliser. Engro sent two Field Officers who taught them proper use of fertilisers in wheat fields to get maximum production with minimum use of fertiliser. According to the master trainers, the new method is quite beneficial. Under the traditional method, the cost of production per acre amounts to Rs. 17,000 and the gross production is Rs. 30,000 leaving the farmers with only Rs. 13,000 net income per acre. Under the new method, the cost of production is Rs. 18,000 but the gross production amounts to Rs. 55,000 resulting in a net profit of Rs. 37,000 per acre to the farmers. The new method also requires less water.

The farmers are very happy with the new cultivation method of wheat and the LSO is planning to train maximum farmers to scale up the new method across the UC during the coming years.





LSO AITABAR DHABOON

District Jamshoro	Union Council Dhaboon	Date of Formation 2017	Total Households in Union Council 4,089	Organised Households 2,119	Coverage 52%
	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 86 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 10 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members 30 <small>(all women)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members 15 <small>(all women)</small>	

(LSO Profile as of August 2017)

Procurement of Forest Plants from Government

In February, the Government of Sindh launched a plantation campaign called Green Day. The members of the LSO participated in the campaign and as a result of their motivation, a large number of people planted trees in their homes, streets and fields. However, the main issue was a lack of availability of planting materials, and unaffordability of plants being sold at private nurseries. The LSO leaders went to meet the local Deputy Commissioner and asked him to give them planting materials from the government-owned nurseries free of cost. The Deputy Commissioner issued 400 plants from the Government Forest Nursery. The LSO leaders collected the plants and distributed them to the members who planted them in their homes and fields. The LSO leaders are planning to get more planting materials from the government-owned nurseries for next plantation season.



Opening of a Community School

In the village of Hari Camp, Jamshoro, there was no school. The village was, in fact, established in the year 2007 to provide shelter to the drought affected families that migrated from Tharparkar. The Government of Sindh constructed houses for 75 families in the village, and a single-room community centre was also constructed. As there was no school in the village, the local community decided to turn the community centre into a school. Despite a number of efforts, the government line departments did not assist and open the school there. Therefore, their children were unable to get education, which was a great loss for them.



The EDO Jamshoro visiting the Community School

After formation of the LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, the issue came under discussion at VO and LSO level. Finally, they decided that instead of waiting for any government department to help and open a public school, they would start a school on self-help basis. A local educated young man was hired as teacher and the community centre was turned into a school. The parents of students pay Rs. 100 per month as fee which is used for payment of salary of the teacher. Till now, 35 girls and boys are enrolled in the school.

Recently, on the request of the LSO leaders, the District Education Officer visited the school and was greatly impressed by the self-initiative of the community. "If everyone had the same zest and zeal for education of their children, the light of education

would illuminate each and every part of Sindh very soon" he remarked after visiting the school. He promised to try to obtain formal approval for the school from government, arrange teachers and construct a proper building.

Improving Functions of School Management Committee

Before getting organised into COs, VO and LSOs, the community members had no understanding about the function of the School Management Committee (SMC). It is mandatory for every government school to form a SMC with representatives from both the school and community. The government provides funds to these SMCs on annual basis for repair and maintenance of the school. However, the funds are mostly never used properly. The LSO members learnt about the functions of the SMC and its funds through an awareness session conducted by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs). The LSO leaders went to visit one school in village Goth Wadero Muhammad Khan Dhaboon and found that the school had no furniture and the students were sitting on the floor. They asked about the SMC fund and found that it was lying in the account of the SMC. So on their demand, the SMC purchased carpets for the school using the school fund. Moreover, the SMC promised to arrange proper furniture for the school very soon. The LSO demanded to take one of their active leaders as a member in the SMC so that she can keep a close eye on its activities and utilisation of resources.



Ms Kathryn Ennis, Team Leader EU SUCCESS Technical Assistance visiting the LSO



LSO KHUSHALI JHANGARA

District Jamshoro	Union Council Jhangara	Date of Formation 2017	Total Households in Union Council 2,902	Organised Households 1,799	Coverage 62%
	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 89 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 12 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members 24 <small>(all women)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members 15 <small>(all women)</small>	

(LSO Profile as of August 2017)

Campaign for Enrolment of Children in Schools

In the union council of Jhangra, a large number of school-going age children including both girls and boys were out of school. The main reason for this was a lack of awareness about the importance of education among the parents. However, as a result of awareness raising sessions carried out by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) under the EU supported SUCCESS Programme, the community leaders and members understood the strategic importance of education for the bright future of their next generation.

The LSO leaders rightly decided to transform this mass awareness into action. They therefore, motivated all VO leaders to lead enrolment campaigns for admission of girls and boys into schools. They identified the out-of-school children and then visited each house in their respective villages to motivate and guide the parents. Simultaneously, they held meetings with the head teachers of the schools and sought their support for maximum enrolment of students. As a result of these efforts, 1,400 girls and 1,022 boys were enrolled in the local government schools during a six-



month period. The LSO leaders are committed that they will ensure 100% enrolment of school age girls and boys in schools by the next academic session.

Opening of Closed Government Schools and Construction of Boundary Wall of a Government School

During the enrolment campaign the LSO leaders learned that four government schools are closed in their area due to unavailability of teachers. The members of LSO Executive Committee went to meet the District Education Officer (EDO), briefed him about their enrolment campaign and its successful gains. The LSO leaders explained the issue of unavailability of teachers and submitted an application for appointment of teachers to these four schools. The EDO appreciated the efforts of the LSO leaders and he immediately appointed teachers to these schools. All four schools are now functioning well, and a total of around 261 girls and boys have been enrolled in these schools.

One of the government schools had no boundary walls. The LSO approached TRDP for support. The TRDP provided funds from a project and constructed the boundary wall. The LSO also contributed some funds collected from their own members to complete the project.



LSO leaders meeting in their office

Support to Malnourished Children

After getting sensitised about the importance of nutrition during the awareness-raising session on nutrition, the LSO conducted a survey in the union council to identify the number of malnourished children. A total of 26 children were identified who were suffering from malnourishment, out of which seven children were in critical condition. The LSO generated funds from their members and took these children to the nutrition centre established by Action Against Hunger (ACF), a global humanitarian organisation,

in Dadu town, where they were properly checked by nutrition experts and provided with required food and food supplements. The LSO leaders are taking these children to Dadu town for regular check-up on monthly basis. As a result of the treatment and proper care, the health status of these children is improving steadily.

Support to Members for Registration of New-born Children and Nikah Nama

There was no tradition of birth registration and nikah (marriage) registration among the common people. If the birth registration is not done on time, people face immense difficulties at the time of admission of children in schools and later on getting National Identity Card. Similarly, if the nikah is not registered, the woman cannot claim anything from her husband in case of disputes and divorce.

The awareness sessions delivered by the CRPs on the need and importance of basic registrations was instrumental in inspiring the LSO leaders for launching campaign on birth and nikah registration. So far, they have been successful in registering 400 births and 12 nikah.

Medical Camp in Remote Villages

The LSO leaders learnt that in three villages close by Manchar Lake that have no health facilities there was a serious outbreak of measles among children as well as diarrhoea and skin diseases among both children and adults due to pollution of water. The LSO brought the issue in the notice of the Government Health Department and offered their support in arranging Medical Camps in the effected villages. As a result of this quick response, the Health Department immediately arranged three Medical Teams with vaccines, necessary medicines and testing equipment in these villages. The Medical Teams vaccinated the children against measles and treated both children and adults suffering from diarrhoea and skin diseases.



Opening ceremony of LSO Office



LSO BULANDI, KAMBAR

District Kambar Shahdadkot	Union Council Kor Kamal	Date of Formation 25 2017	Total Households in Union Council 2,340	Organised Households 2,025	Coverage 87%
	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 69 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 16 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members 32 <small>(all women)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members 11 <small>(all women)</small>	

(LSO Profile as of October 2017)

Plantation of Forest Plants

The community members remember that in the old days, even in the hot summer months, their villages used to be cool. However, gradually, the weather conditions in summer seasons turned to extremely hot. They learnt about the reason behind this change during an awareness-raising session on environmental impact after formation of their community institutions (COs/VOs and LSO). In old days, there were trees everywhere that helped keep the atmosphere cool. When the price of fuel wood rose people cut most of the trees, either for their own consumption or to sell in the market, without planting new ones to replace them. Due to this, the villages started experiencing extreme weather conditions during the summer.

After learning the adverse effects of cutting down trees, the members of LSO Bulandi resolved to plant trees in their area. During the last planting season, they planted 6,201 forest trees in and around their villages. They are planning to plant more trees in the next planting season to cover their villages with forest trees. The plantation of forest trees will not only make the environmental conditions more pleasant, but will also produce abundant forage for the domestic animals and fuel wood for domestic consumption.



The LSO member with her newly planted tree



Vaccination of Pregnant Women Against Tetanus Toxoid

In the UC of Kor Kamal, the Government of Sindh had established a number of Basic Health Units (BHUs). These centers provide vaccination services for both adults and children. However, due to some myths and cultural taboos associated with vaccinations such as, children become impotent with the vaccinations, people were reluctant to get themselves and their children vaccinated.

After organising themselves into COs/VOs/LSOs under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, and attending awareness sessions on health issues, the women learnt that the rumors around vaccinations were baseless and in fact, vaccination is the most effective and efficient health practice to prevent oneself from diseases. Due to this awareness, over the last three months, around 250 pregnant women have taken vaccines against Tetanus Toxoid, and people have been getting their children vaccinated as well.

Enrollment of Girls and Boys in Schools

A large number of community members were of the view that school education serves no serious purpose in their daily lives. They thought that there was no visible difference between literate and illiterate people in terms of carrying out daily routines, agriculture activities, running a small grocery shop and labour work. Therefore, they were not interested in sending their children, especially girls to schools. However, after the formation of the CO and VO and later LSO, they realised that there are certain activities which could be carried out by only literate people, such as record keeping of their CO and VO, operation of their bank accounts, and being eligible to serve as a Community Resource Person (CRP), one needs to meet certain qualification criteria.

The realisation of importance of education motivated the people of UC Kor Kamal to send their children to schools. So far, 334 children have been enrolled in government schools. The LSO leaders are planning to continue the enrollment movement and have fixed a minimum target of enrolling 500 children over the next year.

Obtain Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) for Community Members

People of the area had learnt about the importance of the CNIC when the government started Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to provide cash grants to the eligible members. But even then, only those women took interest in getting their CNICs made who were eligible for BISP payments. A large number of other women and men of the community did not show much interest in obtaining their CNICs.

During the awareness raising sessions organised by SUCCESS Programme at the LSO level, the members first time learnt about the utility and importance of CNIC. They realised that the little card in fact was extremely powerful as it signified that the person was a citizen of the country and has all the rights that others have. Therefore, gradually people started developing interest in obtaining their CNICs. The LSO leaders guide them and also support the members in preparation of the basic documentations necessary to obtain their CNICs. So far, they have been able to aid 250 women in getting their CNICs made and are planning to help 500 more women in the near future to be able to obtain their CNICs.



Reactivation of Cards of BISP Beneficiaries

Around 70% BISP beneficiaries are already members of the LSO. Some of them reported to the LSO leaders that their ATM cards, as well as of other women in the villages, had been blocked due to unknown reasons. The LSO leaders took notice of the case and raised the issue with NADRA and BISP authorities. So far, they have been successful in reactivating the blocked BISP cards of 143 beneficiaries.



LSO DUAA, SEHWAN

District Jamshoro	Union Council Channa	Date of Formation 2016	Total Households in Union Council 3,361	Organised Households 2,066	Coverage 61%
	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 118 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 12 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members 24 <small>(all women)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members 15 <small>(all women)</small>	

(LSO Profile as of October 2017)

Education

The village of Haji Gul Muhammad consists of 375 households. Since the village is close to Sehwan town, people usually send their children to schools in the town. The general impression was that all school-going aged children are enrolled in the town schools. Therefore, no need was felt to open schools inside the village. After formation of the LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, the LSO enquired about the enrollment status of the school-going aged boys and girls in its member VO areas and learnt that a large number of children were out of school in the village. Upon asking the villagers the reason stated was that long distances had to be covered to reach the schools in the town. As this was a matter of concern, the LSO leaders, therefore, contacted Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) and motivated them to establish a school in the village centre. The SEF was extremely responsive to the request and within a six months established a primary school in the village. This resulted in increase in enrolment, with 55 girls and 65 boys (120 students) enrolling in school.



In April 2017, the LSO started a union council wide campaign to enrol maximum out-of-school children in schools. The LSO took out a rally in the bazaar of their main village, Haji Gul Muhammad, to highlight the importance of education and to motivate parents to send their girls and boys to government, community and private schools. This resulted in enrolment of 252 students, including 120 girls and 132 boys.

Furthermore, the LSO leaders are regularly holding meetings with the School Management Committees (SMCs) of the local government schools to discuss, among other things, the status of the school fund. If they find that the fund is lying unused, they identify repair and maintenance needs of school buildings or missing facilities in the school and motivate the SMC to spend the money for improvement of the school in a transparent manner. The LSO leaders, so far, have met with 8 SMCs regarding the utilisation of the school fund.

Civil Registration

Civil registration is the system by which the government records the vital events (births, marriages, and deaths) of its citizens and residents to create a legal document that can be used to establish and protect the rights of individuals. Another purpose of civil registration is to create a data source for the compilation of vital statistics. Mainly due to a lack of awareness about the importance of civil registration, people of the area, especially the women, were least interested in preparing their CNICs. Moreover, they did not know where and how to obtain birth certificates and marriage certificates.

However, during the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) session on Basic Registrations, given by the community resource person to the members of CO, they learnt about the importance of civil registration and the way to obtain all the certificates. Since then around 70 women and men have obtained their CNICs from NADRA office, 25 children have received birth certificates, and 18 couples have obtained their marriage certificates from the local UC Office.

Health

When the Community Resource Person (CRP) delivered awareness-raising session on birth spacing, the community women learnt the importance of birth spacing between pregnancies and its effects on the health of a mother and her baby. Frequent pregnancies without birth spacing result in a number of issues, including an increased risk of low birth weight, small gestational size, preterm birth, infant death and labor issues such as uterine rupture. As a result of these learnings, more and more women are motivated to adopt birth spacing methods. So far, 298 women have visited the local Family Planning Centre to get advice and measures for birth spacing. In addition to that, the LSO is advising pregnant women to go to hospitals, local health centers and LHWs for delivery of new born. So far, 36 deliveries have been reported to be taken place in hospitals.



Developing Linkages with Government Departments

One of the primary objectives of the LSO is to establish productive linkages with government line departments to access their services and supplies for its members. The leaders of LSO Duaa have so far held meetings with various government line departments to highlight the issues they are facing and to obtain their support. The meetings have been held with departments such as NADRA for obtaining their support in preparation of CNICs; Revenue Department to obtain household data to ensure 100% inclusion in the Poverty Scorecard survey; Public Health Department for obtaining no objection certificate for a drainage system scheme planned under the SUCCESS programme; Education Department to take actions against absentee teachers; Social Welfare Department for registration of the LSO; and Local Government for civil registrations. The results of these meetings have been encouraging and the linkage development efforts have so far been fruitful. Building upon these successes, the LSO leaders are planning to establish cooperative relationship with other government departments as well in future.





LSO AJRAK, JAMSHORO

District Jamshoro	Union Council Unerpur	Date of Formation 2017	Total Households in Union Council 3,235	Organised Households 2,270	Coverage 70%
	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 132 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 15 <small>(all women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members 32 <small>(all women)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members 15 <small>(all women)</small>	

(LSO Profile as of October 2017)

Networking with Government Agencies

A key objective of the LSO is establishment of linkages with local government authorities and other line agencies. These linkages are imperative for the LSO in seeking collaboration and cooperation, as well as accessing the government services to implement the planned development activities of the LSO for socio-economic progress of its members.

The office-bearers of LSO Ajrak contacted the local Social Welfare office to seek guidance on the registration of the LSO. For registering any entity, the Social Welfare Department charges Rs. 10,000 as registration fee. As this was a large amount that the LSO could not afford at this initial stage of formation, the LSO contacted the Chairman of the Union Council for help. The UC Chairman aided the LSO in getting registered by paying for the fee from the UC funds.

After being registered, the LSO started tackling the issues that the members were facing. There were complaints from the members about the Government Vaccinators not regularly performing their duties in far off villages of their UC. In collaboration with the Health Department, the LSO ensured regular visits of the vaccinators in those areas. In addition to this, the LSO also observed that there were no teachers in three of the public schools



Shoaib Sultan Khan Chairman RSPN, CEOs NRSP, SRSO and TRDP inaugurating the LSO office



in their UC. The LSO brought this in the notice of the Education Department and ensured appointment of teachers in these schools.

The LSO leaders are also establishing development links with the private sector entities. For instance, member VOs of the LSO were experiencing difficulty in getting their bank accounts opened in the commercial banks. The LSO leaders met with the Branch Manager of the bank and convinced him of opening organisational bank accounts of their member VOs.

Celebration of National Green Day

The Federal Government celebrates 9th February as 'National Green Day' to increase Pakistan's forest cover to mitigate the adverse effects of deforestation and climate change. During the National Green Day, around 100 million indigenous species saplings are planted. On 9th February 2017, LSO Ajrak also celebrated the National Green Day in collaboration with Government Forest Department, where the Director of Forest Department was the Chief Guest. On this occasion, the Chief Guest and other speakers highlighted the importance of plantation of trees across the country. They said that trees play a vital role in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change as they control temperature and are helpful in the elimination of pollution from the surrounding environments. Trees are a source of oxygen for human beings, and are a major source of wood in the rural areas for various purposes. Most importantly, trees provide fruits and food for human, livestock and other living organisms, and have medicinal purposes too. The LSO members were given 200 rooted plants which they distributed among their members for planting on their lands. In addition to that, the CO members planted a large number of trees on their own.



The LSO celebrates National Green Day on 9th February 2017

Campaign for Enrollment of Children in Schools

A key problem in the education of the children in the LSO area is the fact that people do not enrol their girls and boys in schools. There are multiple reasons behind this, including a lack of availability of teachers and other missing facilities in schools. However, these could only be resolved once parents send their children to schools, and then demand from the Government Education Department for provision of teachers and other

missing facilities. Therefore, the LSO first initiated enrolment campaign in each village by their respective VOs and at the UC level by the General Body members of the LSO to increase the enrollment of girls and boys in schools. As a result of that, a large number of new students were enrolled in the local schools. The LSO leaders then contacted the Education Department and demanded to appoint teachers in three schools where there were no teachers. Upon seeing a large number of students already enrolled in the schools, the Education Department immediately arranged three teachers for those schools.

Civil Registration

The LSO, realising the importance of civil registration, is practicing it as an ongoing activity. The emphasis is on preparation of CNIC of newly eligible men and women as well renewal of expired CNICs. The added benefit of CNIC is that according to the new electoral rules, the holder becomes eligible for casting vote in local, provincial and national level elections. The LSO also motivated and supported over 100 members to obtain birth certificates of their new born. The registration of marriage with NADRA is a difficult task, therefore, most couples do not register their marriages. However, after the awareness raising of the LSO, 10 couples have registered their marriages with NADRA.

Awareness Raising on Maternity Issues

The rural women face serious health problems due to mishandling during pregnancies and deliveries. The most common causes of maternity related health issues include a lack of practice of birth spacing measures, delivery at homes in the hands of inexperienced local women, lack of vaccination of pregnant women and no timely check-up of pregnant women by a professional health worker. The LSO, through its CAT awareness programmes, conducted by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in monthly meetings of COs is providing knowledge and awareness to its members on these subjects. As a result of these efforts, women are now increasingly adopting birth spacing measures, and getting vaccinations.



LSO meeting in progress



LSO IBTIDA, KAMBAR

District Kambar Shahdadkot	Union Council Dhori	Date of Formation July 31 2017	Total Households in Union Council 5,293	Organised Households 3,330	Coverage 63%
	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 146 (all women's)	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 19 (all women's)	Number of General Body Members 38 (all women)	Number of Executive Committee Members 11 (all women)	

(LSO Profile as of October 2017)

Management of Blood Donors' Group

In, and around, the LSO UC, there is no hospital facility available. Before the formation of the LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, a large number of women had succumbed to death during delivery due to a lack of availability of trained health workers. After the formation of LSO Ibtida, the LSO leaders started supporting their members in times of need. Whenever the members had any problem, they started contacting the LSO leaders and other members for help. Similarly, the daughter-in-law of one of the poorest LSO members had complexities during her delivery at midnight, the member asked the other LSO members for help. The members arranged a vehicle and took her to the government hospital in the town only to find that there was no staff to attend her at that time. They then took her to a private hospital where the doctor said that she needs a caesarean delivery. They convinced the owner of the hospital to carry out the surgery free of cost.

However, the patient had lost a lot of blood and required two to three bottles of blood, which unfortunately could not be arranged on time. The LSO members had great



LSO briefing visitors on their plans and activities

difficulty in motivating people to donate blood and to identify their blood groups. After this incident, they decided to form a group of blood donors in cases of emergencies. The members enlisted 107 blood donors with their name, blood group, contact number and address in a register maintained in the LSO office. The benefit of this has been that so far these donors have given blood to 102 needy people.

Celebration of Cultural Day

Co-existence among different cultures has been a pride of the communities of UC Dhori. People belonging to Barohi, Balochi and Sindhi cultures have been living in harmony for centuries in the LSO area. The respect of women is a common cultural thread among these three different cultures. With the view of highlighting this important practice, the LSO decided to celebrate a Cultural Day in the LSO office. Around 170 women members of the LSO attended the event. Girls presented tableaux on the importance and strategic role of providing women with equal opportunities in the society. The beauty of cultural diversification was highlighted and the need for respecting cultures of other groups was emphasised. The immediate result of this event was that the women not only developed a proper understanding about the ethos and cultural practices of other groups, but also learnt the benefits and needs for respecting them.

Enrollment of Girls and Boys in Schools

The leaders of VO 121 realised that a large number of school aged girls and boys are not going to schools due to lack of awareness in their parents and lack of space in local schools. The VO leaders raised this issue during one of the LSO meetings and asked for their support. The LSO leaders contacted the officials of Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), which is mandated to provide free education in Sindh by the government with financial support of donors. They managed to enrol 121 children, including 53 boys and 68 girls in two SEF schools. The SEF officials said that they need four teachers to teach the newly enrolled students and asked the LSO to identify good teachers. The LSO leaders identified four educated girls from their members and after following the due process, SEF recruited them as teachers.

Motivated Members for Vaccination

Due to a lack of proper awareness and misunderstandings about vaccinations, people of the UC were not ready to vaccinate their children and pregnant women. After the CAT awareness sessions by Community Resource Person (CRP) in CO meetings on importance of vaccinations for children and pregnant women, a large number of the members understood the benefit of vaccination and as a result, started vaccinating their children and pregnant women. According to the LSO reports, 285 children and 53 pregnant women had taken vaccines.

Opening of LSO Office

The LSO Ibtida needed a proper office for holding meetings and safe keeping of records. The rented premises were expensive, therefore, the LSO President offered the guest room of her house

for the LSO office free of cost. When the local landlord, who lives in the same village, learnt about this decision, he called on the brothers of the LSO President and asked them to leave the village immediately as they had brought disgrace on him by first allowing their women to form the LSO and then opening the LSO office next to his house. The brothers of the LSO President told her that they have no other option except to leave the village and settle themselves down in a rented house in the town. The LSO leaders, however, did not lose the hope, and they went and talked to the wife of the landlord so that she could convince her husband to allow them to continue their work. They explained that the LSO plays an imperative role in changing the lives of so many poor village. However, she was unable to convince her husband. The LSO leaders, therefore, jointly went to the land lord's house and directly spoke with him and told him that they had formed the LSO to support poor families of their members, which has nothing to do with his honour. Finally, the landlord understood their point of view and allowed them to continue their LSO and open its office in his village.

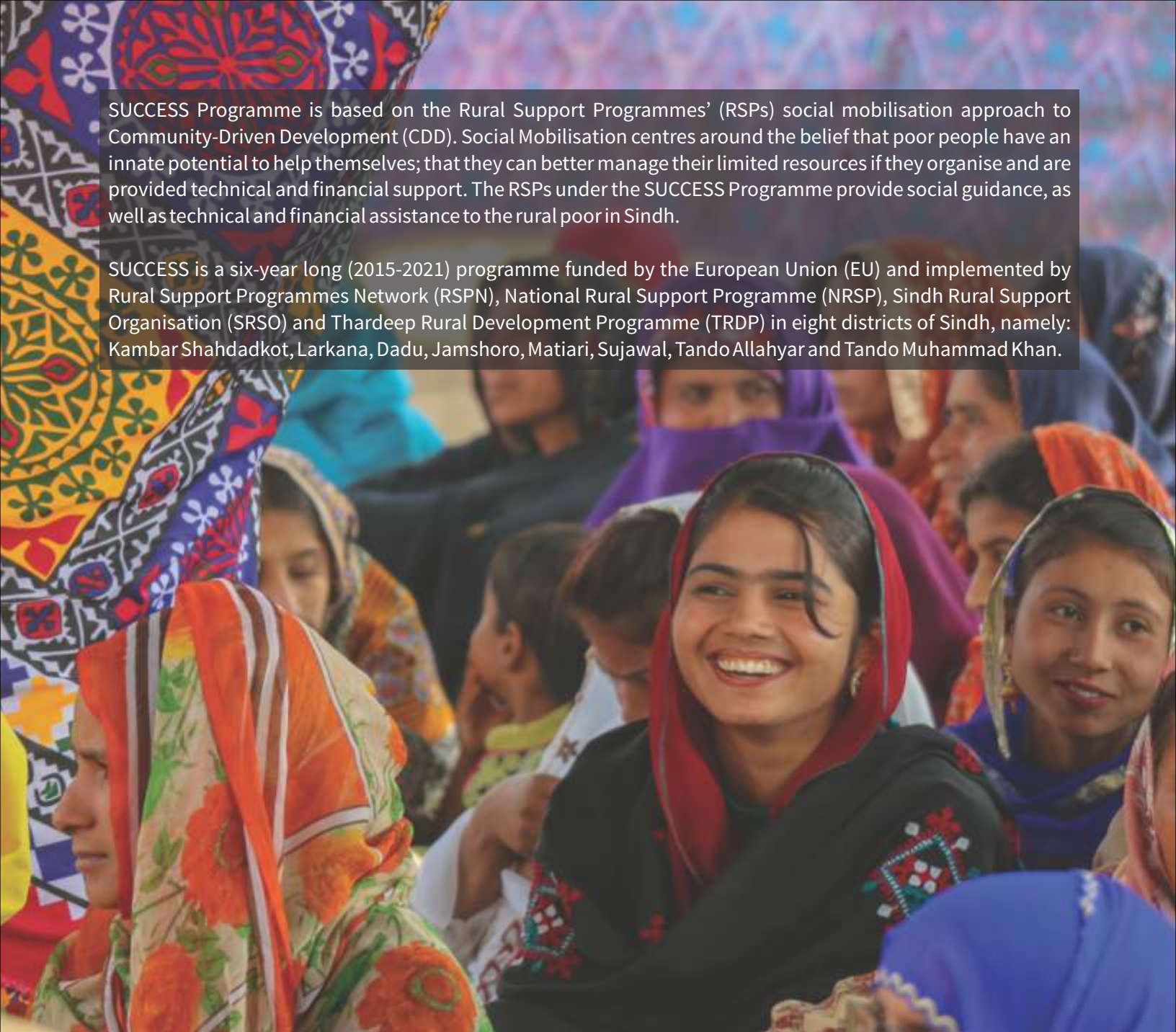
Provision of Access to Ambulance Services

There is no hospital and health facility available in UC Dhori. Therefore, patients are taken to the government or private hospitals in the town nearby in privately rented vehicles, which are expensive and unaffordable for the majority of the poor LSO members. To resolve this issue, the LSO leaders contacted Ali Gohar Trust who provides ambulance services free of cost. All VO leaders have been given the contact number of Ali Gohar Trust, and at the time of need the members contact their VO leaders who in return arrange for the ambulance service on time. So far, 8 families have received free ambulance services.



CEO SRSO opening the LSO office





SUCCESS Programme is based on the Rural Support Programmes' (RSPs) social mobilisation approach to Community-Driven Development (CDD). Social Mobilisation centres around the belief that poor people have an innate potential to help themselves; that they can better manage their limited resources if they organise and are provided technical and financial support. The RSPs under the SUCCESS Programme provide social guidance, as well as technical and financial assistance to the rural poor in Sindh.

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SUCCESS

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