



LSO INITIATIVES

A PUBLICATION ON THE WORK OF
LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS 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

BHU	Basic Health Unit
CDD	Community Driven Development
CIF	Community Investment Fund
CO	Community Organisation
CMST	Community Management Skills Training
CNIC	Computerised National Identity Card
CPI	Community Physical Infrastructure
CRP	Community Resource Person
DHO	District Health Office
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWMA	District Water Management Authority
EELY	Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth
LG & RD	Local Government and Rural Development
LMST	Leadership and Management Skills Training
LSO	Local Support Organisation
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MIP	Micro Investment Plan
NCHD	National Commission for Human Development
PCSIR	Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
PPHI	People's Primary Healthcare Initiative
PSC	Poverty Score Card
RSP	Rural Support Programme
RSPN	Rural Support Programmes Network
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMC	School Management Committee
SMT	Social Mobilisation Team
SRSO	Sindh Rural Support Organisation
TRDP	Thardeep Rural Development Programme
TVST	Technical and Vocational Skills Training
UC	Union Council
UCDP	Union Council Development Plan
VDMC	Village Disaster Management Committee
VDP	Village Development Plan
VO	Village Organisation
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene




EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Support Organisation (LSO) LSO is the federation of Community and Village Organisations (COs/VOS) at the union council level. As a result of their size, LSOs are able to meet the needs of communities (especially the poorest) which can not be carried out by organisations at the neighbourhood and village levels. In addition to this, because these are institutions of the people, they instil a greater sense of ownership into the communities. They enable the communities to work with larger organisations, such as local government and donors to carry out activities required by their member communities. 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. The second publication of the series was published in September 2018, including 27 LSO Initiatives. This is the third publication in the series and it is comprised of 25 LSO Initiatives.



The 25 LSOs whose activities are included in this book have carried out a range of activities both on self-help basis as well in collaboration with Government bodies, national and international donors and corporate sector 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"> Organise medical camps in remote areas Coordination with government in Polio control campaign Establish and manage blood donor group Establish and manage Dispensary Support to NGO in construction of a Free Hospital Make UC Open Defecation Free (ODF) Management of Community Health Centre Establishment of water filtration plants Distribution of hygiene kits among school children to control diarrhoea Improved management of BHU Provision of transport to patients 	<p>20</p> <p>16</p> <p>20</p> <p>13, 25</p> <p>3</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>8</p> <p>8</p> <p>12</p> <p>25</p>	<div>  <p>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> </div> <div>  <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>




LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
2. Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrollment of out of school girls and boys in schools Upgrade Middle Schools to High level Started Higher level classes in Middle school Construction of additional class rooms in existing schools Construction of boundary walls of schools Reopening of closed and dysfunctional schools Run summer coaching centres Provision of books to poor students Approved Girls College from Govt. Education Department Establishment of English Medium School Admission of Special Children into Govt. Special Schools Establishment of Adult Literacy Centres Formation of new School Management Commettes (SMCs) and revamping dysfunctional old SMCs Control over teachers' absenteeism 	<p>4, 16, 20, 25</p> <p>9, 13</p> <p>3</p> <p>12</p> <p>12</p> <p>18</p> <p>8</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>25</p> <p>7</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p>	<div>  <p>SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p> </div> <div>  <p>SDG 9: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure</p> </div>
3. Women's Empowerment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise women in COs/VOs Trainin women in vocational skills Provision of legal aid to women factory labours on their labour rights Provision of micro credit to poor women for income generation Establishment of Common Interest Group of women entrepreneurs Reduced women's work load by construction of roof water harvesting projects Provision of Zakat to women headed families 	<p>11, 12</p> <p>1, 14, 19</p> <p>13</p> <p>22</p> <p>16</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p>	<div>  <p>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> </div> <div>  <p>SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p> </div>

LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
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4. Civic Registration







- | | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of CNICs for women and men members | 4, 7, 10, 13, 16 |  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 |

5. Support Poor and Vulnerable Families

- | | | |
|---|--------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide food to needy families | 12 |  SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide financial support to poor families from government programmes | 5 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of micro credit and CIF to poor families | 2, 5 |  SDG 2:
2.2: By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of Special CNICs for Special Persons | 10 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped poor families in getting BISP Cards | 23 |  SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to BISP beneficiaries in receiving their money from Post Office | 10 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of Watan Cards to eligible families | 11 | 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in marriage of daughters of poor families | 20 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission of Special Children in Govt. Special Schools | 25 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of Zakat to poor from Zakat Department | 24, 25 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of support to poor families from Pakistan Baitul Mal | 24, 25 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of food items among poorest families | 21 | |



6. Social Accountability of Government

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reopening of closed schools | 18 |  SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved management of BHU | 12 | |
| | |  SDG 16
16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels |


LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs	
7. Construction of Rural Infrastructure			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construction of link roadsConstruction of drinking water supply schemesConstruction of irrigation channelsWidening of link roadConstruction of roof water harvesting plantsConstruction of water filtration plantsConstruction of flood protection wallsConstruction of Squash Complex for womenConstruction of boundary wall of play groundConstruction of street pavementEstablishment of Post OfficeConstruction of micro hydel projectsConstruction of culverts on roadCarpeting of roads	<p>6, 9, 11, 13</p> <p>13</p> <p>7</p> <p>6</p> <p>8</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>9</p> <p>13</p> <p>13</p> <p>15, 22</p> <p>7</p> <p>7</p>	<div><p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p></div> <div><p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p></div> <div><p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p></div> <div><p>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages</p><p>SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p><p>SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</p></div>	
8. Agriculture and Livestock Development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce improved wheat & maiz seed varietiesEstablish wheat & maiz seed villagesControl over pests through promoting environment friendly methodsEstablishment of Buckwheat grinding plant to promote its productionManaged cultivation of second crop by controlling free grassingTrained locals as livestock specialistsIntroduced improved cattle management practicesImproved cattle breed through artificial insemination	<p>14</p> <p>14</p> <p>3</p> <p>8</p> <p>8</p> <p>14</p> <p>14</p> <p>14</p>	<div><p>1 NO POVERTY</p></div> <div><p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p></div> <div><p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p></div> <div><p>SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p><p>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p><p>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</p></div>	

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of natural forest Plantation campaigns to increase green carpeting in rural areas Promote environment friendly pest control methods Make UC open defecation free Promote bio-gas plants to provide green energy Campaigns to make UC plastic bag free Preservation of the natural habitat of natural lake Establish environment committee and clean UC from solid waste and dirt Constructed micro hydel plants to promote green energy 	<p>23, 24</p> <p>8, 16, 18, 24</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>8</p> <p>8</p> <p>10, 23</p> <p>15, 22</p>	<div>  <p>SDG 11: 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage</p> </div> <div>  <p>SDG 13 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p> </div> <div>  <p>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</p> </div>
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10. Peace and Harmony

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Dispute Resolution Committees Resolution of communal disputes through arbitration 	<p>21, 24</p> <p>18, 21, 24</p>	<div>  <p>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</p> </div>
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11. Youth Development

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of youth in COs/VOs/LSOs Plan and execute Youth Employment Programmes Organised awareness campaigns against drug abuse in youth Train and employ youth Construction of Squash Complex for Girls Construction of boundary walls for Cricket and Football ground 	<p>17</p> <p>17</p> <p>24</p> <p>3, 18</p> <p>9</p> <p>9</p>	<div>  <p>SDG 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training</p> </div>
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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 |
| ▪ Promotion of honey bee enterprise as additional source of income | 1, 8 |
| ▪ Establishment of stitching centre for women | 1 |
| ▪ Establish Women's Business Development Groups | 16 |
| ▪ Establishment of Buckwheat Grinding plant | 8 |
| ▪ Establishment of Stone Craft Project for women | 22 |



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



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

13. Celebration of National/International Days

- | | |
|--|----|
| ▪ Celebration of International Women's Day | 16 |
|--|----|



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

LSO Activities	Reference to LSO Initiative	SDG/SDGs
14. Linkage Development with Government		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NADRA: for preparation of CNIC of members especially women Education: for re-opening of closed schools, Forest Department: for conservation of natural forest Fotest Department: for plantation campaign Agriculture Department: to establish improved variety seed villages and provision of improved variety seeds of wheat, maiz and buckwheat Pakistan Baitul Mal: for provision of support to poor families Zakat Council: for accessing Zakat to eligible members Revenue Department: for retaking illegally occupied link road by local influentials Provincial Govt: for carpeting main road WAPDA: for electricity connection NCHD: for non-formal education centres BISP: for accessing BISP cards to eligible members Minority Fund Department: for obtaining monitory support to women headed families Local Govt: for construction of variuos rural projects 	<p>4, 7, 13, 16</p> <p>18</p> <p>4, 5</p> <p>18</p> <p>8, 14</p> <p>24, 25</p> <p>24, 25</p> <p>9</p> <p>7</p> <p>7</p> <p>7</p> <p>7</p> <p>7</p> <p>6</p>	<div>  <p>SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> </div> <div>  <p>SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p> </div> <div>  <p>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> </div> <div>  <p>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</p> </div> <div>  <p>SDG 13: Take urgent action to combate climate change and its impacts</p> </div> <div>  <p>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</p> </div>

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

- | | |
|---|----|
| ▪ Fixing of corporate responsibility of a Salt Mining Company | 7 |
| ▪ Stopped illegal re-allocation of govt. funds through litigation | 7 |
| ▪ Protected farmers from abduction of farm land by a govt. department | 13 |



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

- | | |
|---|--------|
| ▪ Trained community activists in first aid during disaster | 3 |
| ▪ Distribution of food and other essential supplies among flood affected families | 11, 20 |
| ▪ Distribution of agri-inputs among flood affected farmers | 21 |
| ▪ Construction of houses for flood affected families | 21 |




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"> Created permanent source of income for LSO through social enterprises and CIF management Training of VO leaders on VDP/UCDP Resource mobilisation for LSO by introducing toll tax on link road Revamp dormant COs/VOs Promote collective savings of VOs/WOs Construction of LSO office 	<p>1,4</p> <p>5</p> <p>9</p> <p>17</p> <p>17, 22</p> <p>18</p>	 <p>SDG 16 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p>

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 Support and Development Association



Sawera Sewing Center

In the recent past, a number of women from poor families have received tailoring training to earn some income to support their families. However, due to fierce competition from professional tailoring houses in the area, the majority of them failed to earn any income from tailoring. The LSO, therefore, initiated the Sawera Sewing Centre in February 2011 as a social enterprise. Under this project, a production center was established where initially 10 women from as many poor families have been employed. The center takes orders from wholesalers of school uniforms from the main Skardu market, buys raw material from Faisalabad and produces finished products for garment houses at wholesale rates. The total investment in the center is Rs. 600,000, out of which 50% has been invested by the LSO while the remaining 50% has been provided by two private investors. One of the partners is a professional tailor, and has been appointed as the supervisor of the production center, while the other partner specialises in marketing and has been made responsible for procurement of raw

Date of Formation:
5 December, 2004

District:
Skardu

Union Council:
Hussainabad

Total Households in
Union Council:
903

Organised
Households:
743

Coverage:
82%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):
3
0 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):
27
8 women

No of General
Body Members:
38
14 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:
11
2 women

material from down country and the marketing of finished products. The LSO receives 30% of net profit while the partners receive 35% of the net profit. The women tailors earn Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 per month, a reasonable regular income to support their families. The LSO and its partners expect to earn 15% to 20% on their investments on an annual basis. In other words, the LSO will earn around Rs. 50,000 annually from this social enterprise.



Sada Honey Bee Farm

The LSO contacted the Hashoo Foundation for the provision of honey bee boxes and training to its members. The LSO established the SADA Honey Bee Farm in April 2011. A Honey Bee Production Group comprising of 20 couples, from as many local poor families were nominated based on their poverty level and interest. The Hashoo Foundation arranged a week-long training for the Honey Bee Group members in April 2011. After the training, 80 Honey Bee boxes (4 per family) and tools were provided to the group.

The honey is collected in the presence of the group leader and other interested members and after weighing, it is handed over to the marketing people. The honey collected from each member is properly documented. The LSO receives 5% commission on the total production. Due to cold climatic conditions, the honey making season is very short, around 3 months, in the area. Therefore, the production is relatively low. Despite this, the LSO received Rs. 15,000 as commission income last year. The commission income is expected to increase in the future because the honey bee members will increase the number of their honey bee colonies over the years. Moreover, 20 additional families will receive 80 more boxes this year. So by the third year, the LSO is expecting to earn around Rs. 40,000 as commission income from the honey bee enterprise, besides providing a reasonable annual income to 40 poor member families.



Fruit Dehydration Plant

The area is rich in high value perishable fruits of mulberry and apricot. But due to the lack of proper dehydration plants, only 5% of the total production is dried properly for marketing. LSO SADA submitted a proposal for the construction of solar dehydration plants to the USAID funded Small Grants and Ambassador Fund Program (SGAFP). SGAFP has approved its proposal, under which 4 dehydration plants at 4 different localities of the union council will be established. The total cost of the project is Rs.11.9 million, in which the LSO's share is Rs. 3.7 million and SGAFP will provide Rs. 8.2 million for the construction of the dehydration plants and training of the plant operators by the Skardu chapter of the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR).

Each dehydration plant has the capacity to dry 1,000 kg of fruits in 3 normal sunny days. The fruit dehydration season in Baltistan is around 8 weeks. Therefore, the 4 plants will be able to process around 64 tons of high quality dry fruits every year.

The LSO will establish 4 production units, one for each plant. The production units will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the plants. The project will be able to increase the farm income of the poor farmers of the area. The LSO will receive a modest commission on the net profit of the operations on an annual basis.



LSO MAMTA (Lands of Solar Lights)



The Problem

A majority of the people of the area are very poor. Out of 47 villages, only 8 have electricity. Due to lack of electrification, lighting of houses at night is both an economic and safety issue. The alternative source of lighting is kerosene oil, but due to its high price it has become difficult for most villagers to buy this. The average expenditure on kerosene oil can be as high as Rs. 1,000 per month (US \$ 12), or one third of a household's monthly income. Therefore, a majority of houses spend the entire night in complete darkness. There are dangerous snakes in the area that come out at night looking for food, resulting in a large number of people being bitten and even dying. The highest ratio of snake bites in Pakistan is in Tharparkar District. And the main reason is lack of proper lighting at night.

"The highest ratio of snake bites in Pakistan is in Tharparkar District. And the main reason is lack of proper lighting at night."

Date of Formation: 26 November, 2006			
District: Tharparkar		Union Council: Mithrio Bhatti	
Total Households in Union Council: 3,923	Organised Households: 2,972	Coverage: 75%	
No of Community Organisations (COs): 264 All Mixed	No of Village Organisations (VOs): 0 0 women	No of General Body Members: 0 0 women	No of Executive Committee Members: 0 0 women

The Solution

Some years ago, TRDP had successfully experimented with solar powered lights in the area and several villages have since been provided solar light projects by government and donors. A solar light agency called Malir Solar Energy has opened its outlet in Mithi Town, the main town of Tharparkar which has a 40% Hindu population, and provides complete solar lighting systems with back up services.



A number of MAMTA LSO members asked the LSO to provide them with credit to buy solar lights for household use. The LSO discussed the issue in its monthly meeting in April 2010. It constituted a three member Solar Credit Committee headed by the LSO Chairman. This committee did credit appraisals, and the verification of the installation of the lights. The members of the Solar Committee met with the solar light agency staff and explored options for the most suitable plants at the household level. They finally decided to finance a 20 watt plant which provides power to 5 low energy consumption bulbs throughout the night, with a battery that is charged for four hours during the day. The cost of one plant was Rs. 10,677 (US \$ 124).

The LSO decided that loans would be given for the solar lights for a six month period, payable back in six equal instalments with a service charge of 7.5% or Rs.801 per plant (US \$9). An amount of Rs.600 (US \$7) was added to cover transport and installation charges. The total cost of one unit came to Rs.12,078 (US \$140) and the monthly loan repayment instalment was fixed at Rs.2,000 (US \$ 23).

The LSO then took in loan applications from interested members through the CO/VOs. It received 30 loan applications from 12 villages. The Solar Credit Committee members reviewed the applications, visited applicants' houses and confirmed their loan repayment ability and finally approved the applications. One member of the Committee received training from the staff of the solar shop in the installation and repair of the solar units.



The Committee hired transport, loaded all 30 plants into it, and installed them at the houses of the applicants in three days. The Committee members did the installation work voluntarily. Thus the LSO had to pay only the total transportation charges of Rs 10,000 (US \$ 115) and it saved money on installation i.e. about Rs. 8,000 (US \$ 93). The total amount of the loans, the service charge and installation charges amounted to Rs. 362,340 (US \$ 4,201). The members paid their loan instalments on time.

"Apart from having light at night, they can recharge their cell phones and v-phone sets now. Due to extended light hours, the children now study longer hours and women do embroidery work at night. Snake bite incidents have dramatically reduced."

The members are quite happy with the project. They said that apart from having light at night, they can recharge their cell phones and v-phone sets now. Due to extended light hours, the children now study longer hours and women do embroidery work at night. Snake bite incidents have dramatically reduced. There is no maintenance cost except replacement of one or two bulbs that costs around Rs. 200 to 250 per bulb (us \$ 2-3). The agency has given a ten year warrantee for the units.

Inspired by the success of the project, more people started applying for loans to buy solar lights. Thirty more members are in line to light up their lives.

Since its formation, LSO MAMTA has taken several initiatives, including bringing the poorest households into the COs that are part of the LSO and the provision of Rs. 7.2 million (US \$ 82,500) of loans to 429 poor and poorest members. These loans were provided from the Rs one million (US \$11,500) LSO endowment fund provided to them by the TRDP. The average loan size is Rs 16,800 (US \$ 195) mainly taken for small enterprises and livestock rearing.



LSO SERMAN Gole-Sermik

High School Classes at the Girls and Boys Middle Schools, Gole

There are two Middle Schools in Gole village; one for girls and one for boys. The nearest High School for boys is in Keriss, at a distance of six kilometers. So only a few boys would dare to continue their higher education by going to Keriss on a daily basis. Some well-off families send their boys to Skardu for their higher education. However the majority of boys and almost all girls have to discontinue their education at the eighth level.

LSO SERMAN Gole-Sermik motivated the community and created awareness regarding the importance of education. The LSO organised meetings of the community with local teachers and the Government's Education Department and started classes for ninth and tenth grades at the Boys Middle School, Gole and at the Girls Middle School, Gole in 2008 and 2009. Due to this facility a large number of students (both girls and boys) from poor families have also been receiving higher education at their door step.

Date of Formation:
3 April, 2007

District:
Baltistan

Union Council:
Gole

Total Households in
Union Council:
1,228

Organised
Households:
918

Coverage:
75%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):
34
9 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):
60
14 women

No of General
Body Members:
15
2 women



Ninth Class Students Studying at the School



F.G. Boys High School, Gole

Training in First Aid and Disaster Preparedness

Due to its fragile environment, the area of Sermik-Gole is prone to different types of natural and man-made disasters, including avalanches in winters and mud oods in summers due to snow melting in the surrounding high mountains. The LSO signed a Terms of Partnership (ToP) with the Pakistan Red Crescent Skardu (PRCS). PRCS organised a three day training workshop for 36 young girls and women activists from Gole at the Girls High School, Gole and provided them with training regarding first aid during disasters. Moreover, the LSO has registered 100 volunteers from across the union council. Their names and contact numbers are with the LSO so that in times of emergencies and disasters, they can be easily contacted.



Practical Exercise during First Aid Training



Certificate Distribution Ceremony

Campaign Against Hairy Caterpillars

The area is rich in fruit trees (mainly apricot and apple) which are the main cash crops of the poor people. Over the last few years, a type of caterpillar called the Hairy Caterpillar has been eating the leaves of the fruit trees in the area; with the result that the affected trees have not been able to bear fruit. In extreme cases, the entire fruit tree can also die. Thus it brings heavy losses of income and assets to the local farmers.

The common practice of control for Hairy Caterpillars is the use of pesticides. However large scale spraying of pesticides has a disastrous environmental impact on the local people. Therefore the LSO used a traditional method of eradicating the Hairy Caterpillar.

The Hairy Caterpillar hibernates during winters in their nests, made at the top of the tree branches. Therefore, the LSO initiated a method of picking these nests and burning them before the spring season. This requires cooperation from each and every family so that they pick 100% of the nests of the Hairy Caterpillar well in time. Failure of cooperation from only a few families can spoil the efforts of others. The LSO activists led a campaign during March 2010 through which they ensured maximum coverage across the union council. As a result of this joint effort, the entire union council became a Hairy Caterpillar-free zone.



Technical Training for Unemployed Youth

Unemployment is the biggest problem of the youth in the Sermik-Gole area. With the help and cooperation of Marafie Foundation Skardu, the LSO managed to train 20 young boys in Islamabad in different employable disciplines, including building electrician, motor electrician and crane operator, etc. All of these young men are now employed, earning Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 per month.

Zubeda Khaliq Memorial Hospital (ZKMH) Sermik

A Doctor from Sermik village, who practices in Lahore, established a dispensary in his home village a few years ago. Looking at the local demands, he decided to expand it into a 70 bed hospital, well equipped with modern medical and laboratory equipment. He asked for support from the LSO. The LSO arranged 30 free labourers on a daily basis for six months to assist in the construction work. The Board of Director (BoD) members of the LSO are also members of the governing body of the hospital. The hospital is not only providing free medical facilities to the neighbouring villages, but also to the entire people of Baltistan.



Rural Community Support Organisation (RCSO) LSO Degwar



Management of Community Investment Fund

One main reason for low income of the poor families in AJK is limited opportunities for alternative sources of income due mainly to lack of financial resources. On 30th May 2007, RSPN paid Rs. 2 million to the LSO as Governance Fund. The LSO is now utilizing the fund as Community Investment Fund (CIF). Initially, they had some problems in running the CIF, however, they rectified their mistakes overtime, and now they are running its operations smoothly. So far, they had disbursed Rs. 9,036,400 to 538 members. Only 39 are repeat loans, so the actual beneficiaries are 499. Out of the total amount Rs.9,036,400, Rs.5,385,000 has been taken by 327 men while Rs.3,651,400 had been given to 211 women borrowers. The LSO has so far earned Rs.1,285,710 as service charge income, which plays a key role in its financial viability. The LSO had audited their CIF operations from a recognised auditing firm.

Date of Formation:

13 May, 2007

District:
Haveli

Union Council:
Degwar

Total Households in
Union Council:

1,980

Organised
Households:

1,688

Coverage:

85%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

96

30 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

11

All Mixed

No of General
Body Members:

30

10 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:

15

4 women



Coordination and Linkages with Government and Donor Agencies

A key strategy of the LSO is working closely with government agencies and other development actors operating in the area. Such coordination efforts not only maximise the impact of the development activities on the beneficiaries but also enhance the efficiencies of all stakeholders by reducing the knowledge gape, cutting overlapping cost and allowing each partner to perform at their best. The LSO is member of the District Planning Meeting and plays its role in allocation of resources on merit. The LSO has established good working relationship with government line departments, including LG&RD, Livestock, Agriculture, Forest, Education, Health, NCHD, Wild Life and Kashmir Council. In addition to that, the LSO has developed linkages with donor agencies and local philanthropists to access maximum resources and services for the well being of its constituent communities.



Efforts to achieving Universal Primary Education

Education is one of the most important investments in human capital. Basic education is the right of every school aged child. Unfortunately, Pakistan is far behind its neighboring South Asian countries in school enrolment targets under MDGs. The LSO has been playing its part in enhancing the school enrolment within its jurisdiction. The LSO, in collaboration with its member VO's and Cos, campaigns for enrolment of out of school children during the admission season. Moreover, the LSO has established new School Management Committees and re-vitalized the dormant Committees in the Government Primary Schools of the UC. The LSO also closely collaborates with the government Education Department to control the teachers' absenteeism. As a result of these integrated efforts, they are able to enroll 234 children into schools and re-enrolled 221 students into their exiting classes.



LSO Sangum Development Organisation



Working towards a "Poverty Free UC"

Since the initiation of social mobilisation in the area in the year 1995 by the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), the organised communities under the able and honest leadership of their activists have been undertaking development activities on a self-help basis as well as through linkages with government and other donors. By August 2013, the organised communities of the union council (UC) had implemented several development projects worth over Rs. 30 million. In the year 2007, Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman RSPN motivated the LSO members that if they could declare their entire UC as open defecation free, then why could they not make it poverty free? The LSO accepted the challenge and are trying every effort to improve the livelihood conditions of the poorest families. As a combined result of these development activities, especially the poverty targeted projects, the socio-economic indicators of the families of UC Bhattian have significantly improved. This is evident from the improvement in the poverty status of the families residing in the UC between 2004 and 2011.

Date of Formation:

13 May, 2007

District:
Haveli

Union Council:
Degwar

Total Households in
Union Council:

1,980

Organised
Households:

1,688

Coverage:

85%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

96

30 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

11

All Mixed

No of General
Body Members:

30

10 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:

15

4 women

Survey year	Extremely poor	Chronically poor	Transitory poor	Transitory vulnerable	Transitory non-poor	Non poor	Total HHS
2004	33	280	452	651	87	12	1515
2008	18	256	448	664	121	11	1518
2011 BISP	2	45	NA	NA	NA	NA	1518

It is interesting to note that over a period of seven years, 31 extremely poor families and 235 chronically poor families improved their poverty status and moved upward. Today the LSO is just a few steps behind the victory point of declaring their UC a Poverty Free UC.

Open Defecation Free UC Since 2007

The topography of the area is hilly and mostly covered with rain forest. The population is scattered meaning that the population density is quite low. Therefore, the environment is naturally clean and healthy. However, due to the traditional practice of open defecation, the settled parts of the area became seriously polluted. In addition to that, the scarce water sources of the area were also polluted. Therefore diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases become widespread especially in the summer months.

In the year 2007, RSPN initiated a pilot programme in four UCs to transform the entire UCs into Open Defecation Free (ODF) areas under its Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) project. UC Bhattian was one of the pilot sites. According to the baseline survey, out of 1,573 households, only 410 had latrines in UC Bhattian while the remaining were practicing open defecation. After receiving the initial training, 40 men and 10 women activists spread the message throughout the UC by holding sensitisation meetings, asking religious leaders to sensitise people in their sermons and Friday prayers and asking school teachers to sensitise students in schools. They managed to convince 1,163 households for construction of latrines on a self-help basis and therefore were able to declare their UC as an ODF UC. For the last six years, the UC has been able to



Sungam - President

keep its ODF status by continuous monitoring. "Apart from drastic reduction in diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases, we now enjoy a civilised culture and clean and healthy environment" says Zafar Parvez, the Chairman of the LSO.

BIOGAS Project

Another landmark achievement of the LSO is the construction of 100 biogas plants for as many households of the area. Due to its hilly landscape and long and harsh winters, an average household consumes around 3,400 kg of fuel-wood annually for cooking and heating purposes. They extract fuel wood from the forest; which results in each household burning eight to nine pine trees every year. Due to heavy logging, the forest coverage is receding at an alarming rate. "We knew that we were cutting our own legs with our axes however we were helpless at the face of the ever increasing cost of alternative fuel sources" said the community people.

Moreover, cutting trees and their transportation from the forest to the houses is mainly the chore of women. Therefore, women were under immense physical stress; added to which the damage caused by inhaling the smoke and tar produced as a result of burning wood.

In the year 2012, the LSO submitted a proposal to the USAID-funded Small Grants and Ambassador's Fund Program (SGAFP) for construction of 100 biogas plants for as many households. SGAFP approved a grant of Rs. 5.48 million while the community contributed Rs. 1.5 million. The project started in February 2012 and completed in December 2012.

The project provides free biogas for four to five hours daily to each beneficiary household. They use the biogas mainly for cooking and lighting. Apart from significant savings in fuel cost, the smoke-free gas has been contributing towards a healthier environment, reduction in the workload of women and decline in logging of precious forest trees.

Management of Health Centre

Before 2005, there was no proper health facility in the entire UC. Due to long distances and lack of a regular transport system in place, the people had to pay a lot of money for transporting seriously sick people to Rawalpindi or Islamabad. The nearest Basic Health Unit (BHU) was at a distance of 35 km from the UC. In the cases of complications during pregnancy and delivery, the cost of hiring private vehicles for taking the women to the BHU or hospitals in Islamabad was so high that it was beyond the reach of the majority of the poor families. As a result of that, the mortality ratio of mothers and children was very high.



Sumgam - Biogas Plant



Sungam - Biogas beneficiary

In the year 2005, the women members of the COs and VOs shared their plight to visiting members of NRSP's Management and requested for their support. NRSP referred their case to the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). PPAF agreed to provide the operational cost of a Health Centre in a central place of the UC. PPAF provided medical equipment and furniture, rent of the Health Centre, salaries of staff and a revolving fund of Rs. 50,000 for the purchase of medicines. The Centre became operational in October 2005. The management of the Centre was entrusted upon the LSO.

The LSO established a Health Committee comprising of seven members, five men and two women. The Committee is elected by the LSO General Body for a two year term. The Health Committee oversees the operation of the Health Centre, purchases medicines and manages its financial affairs. The patients pay Rs. 10 per visit as token money, a moderate fee on blood and other tests and the cost of the medicines. The Health Committee re-deposits the token money plus commission income on medicines into the revolving fund which has been kept in a bank account. At the moment, the revolving fund amount has increased to Rs. 1.4 million. The PPAF support was ceased in December 2012. Since then, NRSP is providing the cost of operation of the Centre. The LSO is trying to engage other donors into the project and in this connection a series of meetings have been held with Jubilee Insurance.

The Health Centre provides vital health services such as check-up, basic blood and urine tests, minor operations, delivery facilities and medicines from patent companies in a central location to the entire population of the UC plus the surrounding villages of other UCs. In addition to that,

the Centre frequently organises medical camps for distant villages. As a result, besides getting timely health services, the cost of health care has significantly reduced. Thus, the poor and marginalised families also get equal access to basic health facilities from the centre. The community reports that besides timely check-up of pregnancy cases, now maximum deliveries are carried out at the centre resulting in a marked reduction in mother and child mortality cases.



Sungam - Community Health Center



LSO Darnouian



Annual Development Planning

Proper planning is a prerequisite for achievement of organisational goals and objectives. However, planning is not an easy task. It requires proper capacity and full commitment of the organisational management and active participation of beneficiary members. Therefore, very few grassroots organisations maintain a culture of proper planning. Research studies and field observations of the LSOs also reveal that a majority of them do not have proper plans in hand.

Keeping these factors in mind, the Rawalpindi region of the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) has initiated a plan to ensure proper planning by all COs, VOs and LSOs in their programme area. Under this project, NRSP has developed planning formats at each level of CO, VO and LSO. They then provide training to VO and LSO leaders in development planning. The trained activists then help COs, VOs and the LSO in preparing their annual plans in a participatory manner.

Date of Formation:
2 July, 2008

District:
Rawalpindi

Union Council:
**Darnouian,
Kotli Sattian**

Total Households in
Union Council:

1,212

Organised
Households:

720

Coverage:

59%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

9,658

13 women

No of General
Body Members:

25

12 women

No of Executive
Committee Member

10

3 women

In the case of LSO Darnioan, NRSP trained the President, Manager and a woman member of its 10 VOs. Since the same trained activists are also members of the LSO, there was no need for a separate training for the LSO leaders. After receiving training and planning materials, the trained activists of each VO first supported their member COs in preparation of their Micro Investment Plans (MIPs). The UC has three revenue villages and ten villages. The VOs are formed at village level. However to save time and resources, they decided to develop annual plans of their VOs at revenue village level. So instead of developing 10 different Village Plans, they developed three plans and incorporated the development plans of individual VOs separately under the revenue village plans. This integration of VO plans into revenue village plans is expected to help smooth cooperation and coordination across villages.

In the light of the CO and VO plans, the LSO leaders then developed the Union Council Development Plan. This systematic planning process helped gauge the communication gaps between the three tiers.

Another unique feature of the planning process is that it has activities at three levels. At the first level all activities are 100% self-help based. These are targeted activities to support the poorest, destitute and physically and mentally-challenged people and families. The second level activities are planned on a 50:50 cost sharing basis, i.e. 50% cost will be met from internal sources while the remaining 50% will be received from external sources. These are projects to support women members of the community. The third level activities are planned at a 20:80 cost sharing ratio. These are mainly physical infrastructure schemes.

The LSO members are very happy with the planning outcomes and they seemed fully determined to execute 100% programmes and projects planned under level 1 and 2 and around 80% activities planned under level 3. They had already identified various internal sources of fund raising.

Development Cooperation with Local Government

The LSO leaders maintain a good working relationship with the Local Government. Every year, they identify rural infrastructure schemes and other development projects on a priority basis. They then take up these issues with the Local Government authorities at the union council (UC), Tehsil and District level according to the nature of the development issues. In this way they manage to incorporate their development demands into the annual development budgets of these councils. Since the

formation of the LSO in 2008, they have implemented four link roads, two trail paths, six water tanks and three hand pump projects in different villages with the financial support of the local councils.



Roof Water Harvesting Project

Water for drinking, cleaning and irrigation, is the scarcest commodity in these hilly areas. The level of underground water is also going deeper and deeper due to over pumping. Therefore, creation of alternative sources of water is extremely useful and profitable for the people of the area. In the year 2010, the LSO entered into a development partnership with the Sustainable Livelihoods Barani Area Project (SLBAP). SLBAP provided technical support and the cost of essential materials for a Roof Water Harvesting Project. Under this project, 110 households which had tin-roofed houses were provided pipes and plastic tanks for storage of rain water from their roofs. Besides providing valuable clean water at their doorsteps, the project reduced the work load of women who previously would have to collect water from as far as two to three kilometres.





Establishing Development Linkages with External Agencies

Establishing linkages with external agencies is essential for accessing external resources for local development. However, development of linkages is not an easy task. In fact, linkage development is a key indicator of institutional maturity of the grassroots organisations, because external agencies support only to those organisations who demonstrate a critical level of transparency and accountability and management capacity in implementation, financial record keeping, monitoring, reporting and maintenance of completed projects. The development activities carried out by the LSO through linkages speaks volumes about its institutional capacity in carrying out different types of development projects to the satisfaction of the donors and the community at large. The table below shows a summarised list of the development activities carried out by the LSO with financial support of external donors.



LSO Surhan Bhakuo



The Initiatives

People's power protects their common rights Before the formation of the LSO, there was no tradition of using people's power to protect their common social and economic rights. However, the LSO has been instrumental in using people's voice to protect their rights. Here are two examples from Tharparkar, Sindh:

Fixing Corporate Responsibility

The government had constructed a 12 feet wide carpeted road in 2003 to provide transportation facilities to the rural settlements of the area. This 83 km road links the rural settlements with Mithi, the main Town of the area.

Date of Formation:

30 September, 2008

District:

Tharparkar

Union Council:

Bhakuo

Total Households in Union Council:

4,039

Organised Households:

3,570

Coverage:

88%

No of Community Organisations (COs):

328
104 women

In the year 2008, Mr. Ismail Sattar, a businessman from Karachi leased the salt lands of Thraparkar from the government and established a salt factory there. He hired 22-wheeler trucks to transport salt to Karachi from the salt factory. Around 30 trucks travel on the road on a daily basis. However the road was not designed for heavy traffic. Therefore, the heavy trucks have created several problems for the rural masses, including:

Due to their huge size, the 22-wheeler trucks occupy the entire road. Therefore, the road has become extremely dangerous for any other type of traffic. In addition to this, it takes public transport buses an average of 10-15 minutes to get around these trucks.

The main source of livelihood of the people of the area is livestock. Their livestock grazes openly in the semi-desert terrains and more often than not happen to cross the road. Road accidents of livestock has increased manifold because of these trucks. To make matters worse, the drivers manage to safely escape because nobody can catch them on the spot as most of the accidents take place in the late hours of the day and at night as well.

There are 70 culverts on the 83 km long road. These culverts are not designed for heavy trucks which ordinarily carry up to 100 tonnes of weight. Therefore, gradually the culverts have been damaged and occasionally these trucks also manage to make holes in them. Due to this, the road has now become extremely dangerous for buses, cars and even motor bikes, especially in the evenings and at night when road visibility is at its worst. Even though the rate of accidents has increased, no one dared to lodge a complaint against the factory owner as they feared from his influence with the local government functionaries.

In November 2010, the female members of LSO Surhan Bhakuo were travelling by bus to attend a LSO meeting. The bus met with a serious accident

due to a hole on one of the culverts (made by one of the heavy trucks). Fortunately nobody obtained any serious injuries but there were several passengers that had minor injuries. The women members complained of the accident in the LSO meeting and urged the LSO to take action against the transport trucks.

The LSO discussed it in their meeting and decided to block the road in order to demand that the trucks should not be allowed beyond Mithi. Around 200 people blocked the road. They informed the Manager of the salt factory and asked him to notify the factory owner to come to meet the protesters for negotiations. The Manager initially tried to threaten the people by saying that he would call the police if the protesters did not clear the road immediately. By that time 20 trucks loaded with salt had been stopped by the protesters. The protesters become angered due to the Manager's uncivilised attitude and threatened to burn the trucks if the factory owner refused to turn up to meet with them on time.

Looking at their commitment, the Manager telephoned the factory owner in Karachi and briefed him about the situation. The factory owner asked the protesters to talk to him on the telephone but they rejected his offer and asked him to personally come to the location of the accident for negotiations.

Finally the factory owner travelled from Karachi and met the people at the road side. On behalf of the community, the Chairman of the LSO briefed him about the problems they were facing due to his trucks and demanded that they should be resolved. He apologised to the people for the damages caused by his trucks and offered to repair all the damaged culverts. An agreement was thus signed between the two sides whereby Seth Ismail Sattar (the factory owner) took responsibility for the repair and reconstruction of the culverts damaged by his trucks. The LSO took the responsibility of managing the construction work properly.



A culvert being repaired

The LSO activists estimated Rs 250,000 for the repair of one culvert. Seth Ismail Sattar immediately paid Rs. 500,000 to the LSO in order to repair two of the culverts. Later on he paid an additional amount of Rs. two million to repair eight more culverts. The LSO hired contractors and repaired all the damaged culverts.

On 7 February 2011, a fatal accident of a public transport bus near village Bhakuo, took the precious lives of 10 men and women (who died instantaneously on the spot) and seriously injured 48 others. Later on five of the injured people also succumbed to death, raising the total number of casualties to 15.

The road accident was caused due to a hole in a culvert made by one of the 22-wheeler trucks. The LSO immediately decided to block the road again. This time, around 300 people come out onto the road and blocked it for three consecutive days. The LSO activists arranged water, tea and food for the protesters.

At such sensitive moments, when angry crowds quickly take the law into their own hands and indiscriminately damage government and private property, the LSO activists successfully managed to keep the people's emotion in control. They also arranged to shift the injured people quickly to Liaquat Hospital, Hyderabad for treatment and also transported the dead bodies to their families.

The LSO then held its meeting and finalised a charter of demand. It submitted an application addressed to the District Coordination Officer

(DCO) Tharparkar, with copies sent to the District and Session Judge/Director Human Rights Tharparkar, Regional Ombudsman Tharparkar, District Police Officer Tharparkar, Executive Engineer Road/Highways Tharparkar and the President of the Thar Press Club Tharparkar demanding that:

1. The trucks should not be allowed to travel beyond Mithi Town.
2. The culverts should be re-built using quality materials urgently.
3. The number of public transport coaches on the road should be increased.
4. The traffic police should be ordered to check overloading in public transport vehicles.
5. People should not be allowed to travel on the roofs of coaches.
6. Proper compensation should be provided for all the deceased and injured people in the accident.

The DCO Mithi formed a six member committee comprising of four members from the LSO's General Body including its Chairman and Vice Chairman, EDO Roads and Mr. Ismail Sattar, the factory owner to resolve the issues. The committee ended up discussing the matter for three hours and decided on the following:

The Seth would pay Rs. 50,000 to the family of each one of the deceased persons who had expired as a result of the accident (even those that might succumb to their injuries in hospital). Moreover he would pay Rs. 50,000 to those injured persons who had become permanently disabled while paying Rs. 30,000 to other seriously injured persons. As a result of this, the total compensation money turned out to be Rs. 1,180,000.

He would have to re-build all 70 culverts on the improved design of the District Officer Road at an estimated cost of Rs. 599,000 each. Thus total cost of the culverts came to Rs. 41.93 million. He would have to fill in both sides of the carpeted road with mud instead of sand. He would have to provide employment to the local people in the factory on priority basis.

A new committee was formed, comprising of four LSO members and Mr. Shafi Muhammad Rajo, the Road Manager of the salt factory and Mr. Ramazan, District Officer Roads to oversee and monitor the construction of culverts and the extension of the road. One member of the committee routinely monitors the physical work on a daily basis.

The Seth extended both sides of the carpeted road by six feet and made it compact using heavy rollers. The extension work was completed on 22 July 2010. The construction of the culverts is in progress and will be completed by November 2011.

The LSO also successfully negotiated with the factory owner to provide employment to local people in the salt factory. Twenty local people have already been given jobs. The Seth also agreed to install 20 hand pumps in as many villages for drinking water. Ten hand pumps have already been installed. He has also promised to provide an ambulance for the Rural Health Centre of Bhakuo.

A dialogue is also in process between the LSO and the Seth to set up a welfare hospital in the area. Seth Sattar Ismail prefers to set up the hospital in Mithi, while the LSO argues that Mithi is too far away for their people, so the hospital should be established near the salt factory. The LSO offered the services of two male doctors and one female doctor (local to the area) to serve at the hospital in response to the factory owner's excuse for not wanting to make the hospital in a rural area.

The LSO also discussed the condition of the road with government functionaries and motivated them to allocate funds for widening the carpeted road. As a result of these consultations, the authorities allocated funds for widening of the carpeted road to 18 feet. The first portion consisting of 18 km has already been tendered.

LSO stops illegal Re-allocation of Government Resources on Political Grounds

Unfortunately, the political parties in power use all types of unfair means to favour their voters in the country. In the past, such undue favours used to remain unchallenged. However the LSO provides a platform for poor communities to successfully lobby against such unfair decisions and protect their due rights.

Village Organisation Bhakuo was formed around two years before the formation of the LSO. Village Bhakuo is the central village of union council Bhakuo and comprises of around 450 households. The village has a Middle School for boys that provides education to interested students up to 8th class in the comfort of their own village. Due to extreme poverty, people are unable to send their children to Mithi for higher education. Therefore, most students simply discontinue their education after the 8th class. As a result a need for a High School became the dream for the people of the area for which they left no stone unturned in order to obtain it. But despite promises from different political parties during election times, their dream remained unfulfilled.

After the formation of the Village Organisation, the community formed a committee to lobby for the school building. The committee finally succeeded in its efforts as allocations of funds were made by the Government for their school on special recommendation of a local politician in the year 2007. Before the finalisation of the lengthy internal processes of the government, new elections were held in 2008 and a new government came into power. In the meanwhile, the organised communities of union council Bhakuo also formed their LSO.

The LSO learned that the funds allocated in the name of their school had been shifted by the Department of Education for construction of a Middle School in another area. They learned that



the re-allocation was based on a false note submitted by the Department of Education suggesting that the strength of the students was not enough in village Bhakuo in order to qualify for a High School. This was an entirely false statement as the transfer was entirely politically-driven. The politician who made this distortion was an active member of the new government and the Department of Education submitted the false note on his advice. However the LSO decided to fight against his decision.

The LSO formed a committee for this purpose. The committee met with politicians, representatives of Thar Press Club and the Education Department and presented their case with them. They published several articles against the illegal decision in the local newspapers but nothing happened. The LSO met the Session Judge in Mithi who was also a local member of the Human Rights Commission and discussed the matter with him. The Session Judge suggests that the LSO should file a petition to his court. However he warned the LSO that if they failed to prove that there were enough students to qualify for a High School, he would have to make them pay for the entire cost of the litigation.

The LSO thus filed a petition with the Session Judge and won the case resulting in the fact that the funds were re-allocated for their school. The High School has already been completed and the

students of the area are enjoying their Matriculation level education in their own village. Interestingly, embarrassed by the decision of the court, the politician arranged funds for the Middle School of the other village from other sources. Therefore both schools managed to get completed almost at the same time.

In addition to these two great achievements, the LSO has also carried out several other activities, mentioned below:

1. Organised four mobile camps with the support of NADRA, for the provision of Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) for the entire population. As a result a total of 1,300 people received their CNICs
2. The LSO maintains a death and birth record at the village level
3. Three girls schools and one community centre have been sanctioned from MNA and MPA development funds
4. Two villages in the union council have obtained electricity, namely villages Bhakuo and Vee Hingorja
5. Repaired brick pavements and bridges through self-help in three villages in the union council
6. Established three non-formal education centres with the support of NCHD
7. Through linkages with the corporate sector, installed micro drip system for 20 vegetable plots and constructed two rainwater storage tanks
8. A total of 323 families received micro credit from the LSO (from their Community Investment Fund provided by RSPN) to start businesses and purchase livestock. This includes 155 male borrowers and 168 females
9. Obtained Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) grants for 160 very poor women, through the MPA and MNA
10. Linked 50 poor households with the Minority Fund in order to obtain financial assistance and 100 women-headed households with the Zakat Fund.



LSO Marapi

Provision of Safe Drinking Water

Safe drinking water is a serious challenge for the LSO members. Due to the unavailability of safe drinking water plants, the entire population of Marapi has to drink and cook their meals with water from a polluted and unsafe water channel. Therefore, water-borne diseases are common in the area. Marapi Local Support Organisation (MLSO) approached the Local Government & Rural Development (LG&RD) department in 2010 and constructed a water filtration plant in village Ghzwapa with the nancial help of UNICEF. The ltration plant supplies safe drinking water to 130 households in the village.

Arrangement of Improved Quality Seeds to Farmers

The farmers of the area complained of the low production of their crops due to sub quality seeds and asked the LSO to arrange for improved quality seeds. The LSO contacted the Government's Agriculture Department to arrange certied and quality seeds of maize, wheat and buckwheat to its members. The LSO procures the seeds and distributes them among the interested farmers in the UC. In 2011, The LSO distributed 2,800 kilograms (kg) of improved quality wheat seed, 1,900 kg of maize seed and 1,400 kg of buckwheat seed among the farmers. As a result, the farmers are now getting more output from the crops in their elds.

Initiatives to Improve Quality Education

Since its establishment MLSO is working hard to improve the educational system in the union council. In this regard MLSO has conducted many meetings with the headmasters of government and private schools to discuss and decide ways and means for improving the education quality in the area. In addition to this, in 2011 MLSO hired two teachers from Middle School, Kothang and two teachers from Aliya Girls Public school, Shigar for two months to prepare the students for the annual examination 2011. The results of the both schools were better than the previous years.

Construction of Buckwheat Grinding Plant

Buckwheat is a plant cultivated for its triangular grains. After they have dried, they are threshed — a process where the hard, outer shell is removed so that the grains can be packaged for sale and use. Nutritionally, buckwheat is generally considered to be quite

Date of Formation:
15 November, 2008

District:
Baltistan

Union Council:
Marapi

Total Households in
Union Council:

645

Organised
Households:

623

Coverage:

97%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

26

12 women

No of General
Body Members:

52

26 women

No of Executive
Committee Member

14

3 women



healthy. It does have a high fat content, and therefore requires special handling because it can go rancid. Beekeepers use buckwheat to produce honey because it flows well into the summer and produces a large volume of rich, avourful nectar. This arrangement is mutually beneficial to the beekeeper and the farmer, because the plant requires pollinators to reproduce. So due to its multiple purposes, buckwheat cultivation is quite productive for the farmers. However its production is in decline because the farmers are not getting proper prices for it from the market, due to a lack of proper grinding plants in the area. MLSO, in close collaboration with the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is working on a buckwheat grinding plant in the union council. The construction work of the grinding plant is in progress. After the installation of the machine, the production of buckwheat crop is bound to increase.

Plantation Campaign

MLSO launched a plantation campaign and planted 46,000 plants in two phases in the union council with the help of the World Wide Fund for Nature Pakistan (WWFP) and Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP). With the financial support of CKNP, the LSO has hired a guard to look after and water the plants. The guard is paid a monthly honorarium of Rs. 5,000.

Construction of Protective Work

MLSO constructed a protective wall in two phases to control river erosion at Marapi Ranga with the help of WWF and CKNP. The river had eroded thousands of *kanals* of cultivated and forest lands in the past few years. Moreover, a beautiful lake locally called the Blind Lake was also in danger of river erosion. After the construction of the protective wall, thousands of *kanals* of pasture lands and thousands of forest trees have been saved from erosion.



Honey Bee Enterprises

MLSO developed linkages with Hashoo Foundation and asked them for honey bee boxes. Hashoo Foundation organised a training programme in September, 2011 for 50 women. The LSO selected 50 poor and deserving women from various villages in the union council; namely Marapi, Markunja and Churkah Shigar. They learned about the process of honey making, looking after honey bees, their common diseases and ways and means of protecting them from such diseases. MLSO later received 255 honey bee boxes from Hashoo Foundation and distributed them amongst the trained women.

Control over free Grazing And Cultivation of Second Crops

Though the area falls into a two-crop zone, there was no tradition of growing a second crop. The main reason for this was a lack of control over free grazing of animals after harvesting the first crop. MLSO, in consultation with member COs, imposed complete ban on free grazing of animals and appointed watch men, traditionally called *Lurapa* or shepherd, in each village of the union council so that the farmers could grow the second crop. The farmers grew maize, buckwheat and millet as their second crop. According to a rough estimate, the farmers produce second crops worth Rs. 40 million each year. They are planning to grow more buckwheat in the coming years on areas where they currently grow maize and millet which will yield the farmers almost double of this amount.

Health and Hygiene activities in Collaboration with the Health Department

MLSO managed several health related functions in the union council in collaboration with the Government's Medical Officer (MO), Shigar. For example MLSO distributed 350 hygiene kits among school children with the help of UNICEF (with whom they were linked through the support of the Government's MO) to control diseases especially diarrhea. MLSO also launched an awareness campaign to free the union council from plastic bags. The LSO gave training to six girls and six boys for this purpose, who went door to door and told the people to keep their village clean by disposing plastic bags properly. They also motivated them to use cloth bags instead of the plastic bags for purchase of goods from the market.



Distribution of Health and Hygiene bags among School Children

Protection of the Natural Habitat of the Blind Lake

MLSO is working on the protection and development of the Blind Lake in Shigar. MLSO organised the villagers of Kothang, the nearest village to the lake, and provided them guidance and awareness about protection of this natural habitat. The lake is the habitat of sh and wild birds which

were shed and hunted by visitors. Now the villagers are protecting the sh and wild birds. In the summer, hundreds of thousands of tourists come to visit the lake. The villagers have hired two people on the lake to guard the sh and the birds. The villagers provide tent and carpets on rent for visitors and also sell food and local fruits to them. MLSO is developing a project proposal on protection and development of the Blind Lake site into a proper tourist attraction so that the local people can establish tourist enterprises around it and provide employment to youngsters.



Distribution of honey bee boxes among trained women entrepreneurs



LSO Saleem Khan



RE-claiming Illegally Occupied Link Roads

Communication has become a key determinant of development and welfare in the modern world. Link roads play vital roles in communication of rural areas. There were three link roads in the main town of Union Council Saleem Khan, Swabi. These link roads were 22 feet wide, and 1,500, 1,700 and 2,000 feet long respectively. The first road was constructed for the Higher Secondary School (Boys) and the other two were access roads for two villages with 1,200 households. But these roads were illegally occupied by people and merged in to their irrigated fields. Due to which, students of the school and residents of the villages had to travel longer distances on foot. The villagers had problems in accessing the main road, markets, schools, health centers etc. The occupants of these roads were influential families, therefore even the local Jirga was unable to act against them.

Date of Formation:

29 May, 2009

District:
Swabi

Union Council:
Saleem Khan

Total Households in
Union Council:

1,722

Organised
Households:

1,222

Coverage:

71%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

2

All Mixed

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

68

0 women

No of General
Body Members:

42

0 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:

12

0 women



A link road re-claimed by the LSO

The LSO leaders discussed the matter among themselves and considering the complexity of the issue decided to tackle it tactfully. With the help of the local *Patwari*, they first identified and demarcated the road sites. They then asked for a meeting of the local *Jirga*, handed over the revenue records of the occupied access roads and asked the *Jirga* to take action in their own way. Emboldened by the support of LSO leaders, the local *Jirga* called the respective land occupiers and made them vacate the occupied portions immediately. The LSO quickly constructed shingle roads on them on self-help basis. The cumulative cost of the three projects was around Rs. 300,000.

Land Consolidation and Construction of Access Roads for Common Land of the Area

The UC has common land of around 8,000 *Kanals*. There were two main obstacles in the proper management of this valuable land. First, there was no access road to the land. Therefore, transportation of inputs to and agri-products from the land was extremely cumbersome and expensive. Second, the land rights of each household were divided into a number of smaller pieces, due to that the labour and other management cost was quite high and disputes over land boundaries were numerous. The only solution to this matter was re-distribution of the land by consolidating dispersed pieces in to single larger pieces. But this was an extremely sensitive issue, because different pieces of land had different values in terms of fertility, water rights and distance from the road. However, the LSO leaders convinced the people about the benefits of land consolidation for the majority of the owners. With the help of the local *Jirga*, the LSO leaders arranged consolidation and re-distribution of the land amongst its owners. As a

result of that, each household received one large piece of land in the commons. This helped them bring down their cost of farming and land management substantially. Moreover, it will reduce land disputes in future resulting in further savings from unnecessary litigations.

Moreover, the LSO managed to construct 8 access roads to the new land costing Rs. 4.3 million. The money was arranged by the local *Jirga* from different sources. This has not only reduced their transportation cost but also increased the net value of the land significantly.

Resource Mobilisation Locally

There are 7 stone crushing plants in the nearby mountains. After formation of the LSO, they realised that they can generate substantial revenue by charging a modest amount of toll tax on the vehicles that use their link roads to transport crushing material from the plants. The LSO took charge of all access roads to the crushing plants and transparently auctioned toll tax on each one of them at Rs. 516,000 annually. Since the local *Jirga* is traditionally the custodian of all common resources, they decided to keep the toll tax income in the bank account of the *Jirga*. However, the *Jirga* can use the money only at the recommendation of the LSO.



The Stone Crushing Plants

Construction of Stadium for Sports

The LSO realised that there were no sports facilities for the youngsters of the area. The LSO formed a Sports Committee to address the issue. The Committee recommended construction of a stadium in the center of the town and identified 26 *Kanals* of land for it. The LSO leaders and the local *Jirga* negotiated with the owners of the land, and motivated them to swap their land in the

main town with equal amount of land in their commons. Although the price of land in the town was 100% higher than the land in commons, they successfully negotiated deals with each and every landowner.

After occupying the 26 *Kanals* of land, the LSO approached the Provincial Director Sports for funding. The Director Sports constructed a 6 feet high boundary wall. The boundary wall costs Rs. 5 million and it was constructed by a government contractor. The LSO organises cricket, hockey and volleyball tournaments in the ground. They receive donations and advertisement fees from local shopkeepers to buy trophies, while tea to the players and organisers is served by 10 community member households in turn on a daily basis.

Squash Complex for Women

On the request of the LSO, the Provincial Director Sports approved a Squash Complex for women, which is under construction. This project is also being executed by a government contractor. The squash complex will cost Rs. 7.5 million of public funds. This will be a landmark project in the history of the country.

Provision of Education Facilities

While planning for education development, the LSO realised the need for a high school in the UC for girls and a higher secondary school for boys. Due to lack of these educational facilities, most girls were unable to continue their studies after class 8 and most boys used to stop their studies at Matriculate level. This was a long-felt issue but despite several efforts in the past, the community was unable to convince the concerned government authorities to resolve their problem. However, after formation of the LSO, their social capital and hence power has significantly been improved. Therefore, when they approached their local MPA from the platform of the LSO, he provided them with one girls' and one boys' high school and upgraded the old boys' high school into Higher Secondary school within a short time.

LSO Kalu Khan



Support to Beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme

Around 400 poor women in the LSO area are receiving support from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). The LSO learnt that the postmen of the area were misbehaving as well as receiving Rs. 50 to 100 from these poor women for the delivery of their bi-monthly support funds. The LSO formed a three member committee to help these poor women. The committee held meetings with the post office management and offered their services to help them in delivering timely payments. The committee then prepared village wise lists of the beneficiary members. They then divided the union council in different clusters and asked the post office staff to distribute BISP funds on various dates. The LSO committee now takes the post office staff to each locality, announces information about the distribution point and times in advance and oversees the entire distribution process. Due

Date of Formation:
16 December, 2009

District:
Swabi

Union Council:
Kalu Khan

Total Households in
Union Council:
4,094

Organised
Households:
2,887

Coverage:
71%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):
7
All Mixed

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):
127
37 women

No of General
Body Members:
92
0 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:
20
0 women

to this initiative, the 400 poor families have been relieved from exploitation and financial loss. Moreover, it has established a healthy practice of good governance at the local level.



Village Cleaning Campaign



Community hall for Funeral Prayers

Preparation of Special CNIC for Men and Women with Special Needs

The LSO leaders realised that there are many special men and women, mainly polio affected, in the union council. They learnt that NADRA makes a special CNIC for such persons, which bears a clear mark to indicate that the holder of the card is a special-needs person. The special CNIC makes its holder automatically eligible for special treatments in a number of situations. The LSO formed a committee of three Executive Committee members. The Committee prepared lists of 220 special persons with the help of member VOs. The committee then transported each and every special-needs person to the NADRA office and arranged special CNICs for them. The transportation cost was met by donations from the LSO members.

Preparation of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC)

CNIC has become an important document in the country. People with no CNIC or with an expired CNIC are no longer considered as legal residents of Pakistan. Therefore, such men and women become ineligible for a number of government services and facilities. Unfortunately, a large number of people, mainly women, either have no CNIC or their CNICs are expired in the LSO area. Realising the importance of CNIC, the LSO activists prepared a comprehensive list of such men and women with the help of member VOs. They then contacted NADRA officials and arranged mobile teams for the union council. The mobile team stayed in the union council for one week and prepared CNICs of around 6,000 people, mainly women.

Proper utilisation of Local Resources

Kalu Khan, the main village of the union council, has a huge grave yard. There were a number of old trees in the grave yard. Due to dispute and disagreements amongst the villagers, nobody has been allowed to cut these trees. A number of them were getting rotten, presenting a huge loss to the local community. The local Jirga was also unable to resolve the dispute. Due to their track record of impartiality and transparency in dealing with community development activities, all rival groups and parties had full confidence in the honesty of the LSO leaders. Therefore, the LSO leaders discussed the issue in their meetings and resolved their disputes in close collaboration with the local Jirga. The LSO then transparently auctioned the trees for Rs. 2,040,000. The LSO then sought the agreement of all parties on utilisation of the fund and bought land for a hall for the purpose of holding funeral prayers for Rs. 1.4 million and spent the remaining amount on its construction.

Celebration of the Environment

The LSO leaders attended a workshop where they were sensitised about the importance of clean environment for the health and general wellbeing of the men and women of the area. The LSO leaders decided to celebrate the environment through a 3 day event. They first identified the common environmental hazards across the union council and found that uncontrolled dumping of solid waste and animal dung and mosquitos were the main issues. They formed a group of volunteers in each of the six villages and cleaned the entire villages under the supervision of specially created environment committees. Moreover, they collected donations from the general public and purchased chemicals for anti-mosquito spraying. They then contacted the local supplier of the spraying chemicals. They first arranged proper training for their volunteers in spraying from the supplier, who bought the chemicals, spraying equipment and hygiene kits, and then sprayed throughout the union council. A total amount of Rs. 17,000 was spent on the cost of the chemicals and spray kits. As a result of the 3 day environment event, the awareness of the residents has been raised tremendously. They are now motivated to not only keep their own houses and animal sheds clean and hygienic, but are now also committed to keeping their streets, open areas and water ponds neat and clean.



A special-needs person with his special CNIC



LSO Wartair



Social Mobilisation

At the time of the formation of the LSO, only 532 households were organised into 47 men's COs. The LSO has so far been able to organise 344 more households into 26 new COs. Before the formation of the LSO, no women's CO was formed in the area due to customary traditions. However, the LSO has been able to change this mind set and has formed 12 women's COs. They have plans to elect women into the General Body and Executive Committee of the LSO in future, so that women can also play an active role in the development of the area and its people.



Date of Formation:
23 February, 2010

District:
Malakand

Union Council:
Wartair

Total Households in
Union Council:
1,469

Organised
Households:
876

Coverage:
60%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):
73
12 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):
3
0 women

No of General
Body Members:
36
0 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:
12
0 women



Condition of the road before and after widening and repair

Flood Relief

Despite the fact that the LSO was only 5 months old at the time of the July 2010 flash floods across the country, they managed to collect Rs. 100,000 in cash and 3 suzuki van loads of clothes, shoes and kitchen items and distributed them among flood affected families at various locations in Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Widening and Extension of Farm Roads

The area is mountainous and therefore road communication is quite difficult. Their farm fields and commons, i.e. pastures, farm and natural forest are 2 km above their residential areas. A narrow 6 foot wide road was the lifeline for them that linked them with their natural resources. Since both sides of the entire road was private property of people, where they had farmland and fruit and forest trees, it was extremely difficult to convince each one of them to voluntarily donate precious land and cut down their trees for extension of the road. Therefore, despite repeated efforts by the local Jirga and other influential people, no progress was made.

Acknowledging the complexity of the matter, the LSO first formed a larger committee of 22 people, comprised of the Executive Body of the LSO and members of the local Jirga to resolve the road issue. The committee discussed the matter and resolved to widen the road to 14 feet on a self-help basis. The committee surveyed the road side, and convinced each and every family to donate their land and cut those trees that fell in the area of the road site. The concerned people agreed to not only donate their lands but also to cut over 100 large trees for widening their road. The next challenge was mobilisation of resources for the construction of the road. They estimated the cost and

started fund raising from all available sources. The sources included cash donation from community members, the local Malik, migrant labourers to the Middle East and free labour from those who could not contribute cash. Moreover, a contractor who was working in the area provided his bulldozer and blade for leveling uneven sites and fallen trees. This significantly saved their labour work. For the execution of the project, the LSO formed a Project Committee and a Finance and Audit Committee. They have so far raised around Rs. 500,000 in cash and another Rs. 300,000 in the shape of free labour to complete the 2 km road. Land is extremely expensive in the area as 1 *Kanal* of land costs between Rs. 1.5 million to 3 million depending upon the locations. With the minimum rate of Rs. 1.5 million per *Kanal* of land, the estimated cost of donated land comes to around Rs. 400 million.

Poverty Targeted Initiatives

The area had been severely affected due to heavy rains during 2010 and the houses of many people were fully and partially damaged. When the government launched the Watan Card Programme for flood affected people, their area was also notified under the affected areas. Therefore, the LSO quickly conducted a survey to identify the truly eligible people in its constituency and helped to support them to get registered with NADRA. They identified 20 widows, 2 divorced women and 35 special needs persons whose houses were damaged in the rains and got them registered with NADRA. Due to their efforts, 6 families had already received the first tranche of their funds from the government.





LSO Roshni



Social Mobilisation

When the LSO was formed, 1,054 out of 2,483 households were organised under 65 COs (38 men's and 27 women's) in the UC. Over the last two years, the LSO leaders organised 455 additional households under 36 new COs (24 men's and 12 women's) on a self-help basis.

Improved Management of Basic Health Unit (BHU)

Due to poor management and facilities, the local BHU was unable to address the health needs of the community in an acceptable manner. The LSO organised a meeting to discuss and resolve health related issues. As a result of the meeting, a Local Health Council was established. Each village nominated 2 representatives in the Health Council. These representatives are active members of the LSO. A 5 member Executive Committee was also elected out of the general members. The President and the Manager of the LSO

Date of Formation:

8 April, 2010

District:
Gujrat

Union Council:
Chak Kamala

Total Households in
Union Council:

2,486

Organised
Households:

1,509

Coverage:

61%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

101
39 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

10
All Mixed

No of General
Body Members:

20
2 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:

10
0 women

were appointed as the President and Manager of the Local Health Council. The Health Council is actively supporting the BHU. It has so far been able to arrange an ambulance, a generator for electricity during load shedding hours and an ultrasound machine. Moreover, the LSO checked the eye sight of 145 children and provided glasses for 49 of them free of cost with financial support of NCHD. In addition to that it arranged spraying against Dengue mosquitos in the entire union council. With the help of the Local Health Council, the BHU has become a model health facility.



Ultrasound machine at BHU Chak Kamal arranged by LSO

Poverty Targeting

The LSO conducted a poverty scorecard survey of the entire UC and identified the poorest and destitute families. In addition to that, the LSO has so far arranged monthly food rations to 10 poorest families in villages Jasso Saria and Jhammat Abad through Al-Khidmat Foundation and also arranged scholarships for 5 poor students from Al-Falah Scholarship Scheme in villages Chak Kamala and Chak Meeran. The LSO also collected cash donations of Rs. 16,200 and clothes and *qurbani* hides worth Rs. 10,400 for the flood victims of village Jasso Saria.



Girl student who was injured by teacher



LSO meeting in progress

Child Rights

Recently a lady teacher in the Girls' High School Kalyan Wala hit a girl student with a stick that badly damaged one of her eyes. The girl belonged to a very poor family. The LSO discussed the matter in its meeting and decided to protect the rights of the children in the school. The LSO contacted the ex- Nazim of the UC to seek his support. They met the school administration and arranged Rs. 4,000 for treatment of the injured girl from school funds. Moreover, they made the Headmistress of the school agree to bear the cost of any additional treatment of the poor girl. In addition to that, they made the school administration permanently ban the use of sticks in the school to punish the students.

Promotion of Girls' Education

The LSO has been trying its best to promote girls' education in the area. A local Girls' Primary School was in very poor condition in terms of educational facilities. It had no boundary wall. Due to lack of class rooms, two to three classes had to sit in a single room. The LSO contacted the Punjab Education Reform Programme and managed to construct the boundary wall, two class rooms and a veranda for the school. The LSO also arranged floor mats for the class rooms because there was no furniture in the school and the girls had to be seated on the cement floor. The LSO has converted it into a children friendly school by introducing a number of extra curricula activities. The LSO also celebrates an annual event and arranges prizes and medals for the top scoring students in their annual exams. The prize distribution event is attended by parents, community leaders and school students and teachers.



LSO Hum



One key objective of the LSO is establishing development linkages with the government, NGOs and the corporate sector to channel funds and services from them for the development of the LSO's constituent rural communities. LSO HUM has formed a 5 member Linkage Development Committee to foster development partnership with external agencies. The Committee has achieved the following during the last two years:

Linkages

1. Established development coordination with Rural Development Project (RDP), an active local NGO, regarding implementation of physical infrastructure projects funded by PPAF. The projects were implemented by 16 member community organisations (COs) of the LSO while the LSO played a mediation and monitoring role. The total cost of the projects was Rs. 18 million, of which PPAF's share was Rs.14.4 million and the community's share was Rs 3.6 million. The

Date of Formation:
1 June, 2010

District:
Haripur

Union Council:
Hattar

Total Households in
Union Council:
2,452

Organised
Households:
1,716

Coverage:
70%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):
74
22 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):
15
5 women

No of General
Body Members:
40
10 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:
11
4 women

types of infrastructure constructed included link roads, street pavements, water channels and pressure pumps.



A link road under Construction

2. Hattar is an industrial site. The Bestway Cement Factory was running a free medical dispensary in the union council for its employees. The Committee motivated the factory management to extend the services of the dispensary to the entire population of the neighbouring villages. The dispensary now provides diagnostics services and medicines for free. A lady doctor and a dispenser are employed full time in the dispensary. Around 2,000 families of the neighbouring areas benefit from the dispensary. In addition to this, the Committee successfully negotiated with the Mustahkam Cement Factory and Ghani Glass Industries for establishing similar dispensaries in two other locations of the union council. Around 600 families are benefiting from the services of these free dispensaries.



LSO leaders meeting at their office

3. The LSO collaborated with the Aurat Foundation in conducting 5 awareness sessions about ending violence against women, underage marriages, forced marriages and dowry. The Aurat Foundation is providing legal aid to the affected women.
4. The LSO has formed a committee, in collaboration with the Sahara Development Foundation, to provide legal aid to factory labourers, especially women labourers, against sexual harassment at the work place.
5. The LSO contacted NADRA and prepared CNICs of 1,590 persons (935 women and 655 men).
6. The Sarhad Development Authority (SDA), a government agency, was acquiring land from local farmers at very cheap prices by force. The agency had already acquired 3,400 *Kanals* of farm land and was planning to acquire 3,396 *Kanals* in additional land from the community. The LSO decided to protect the rights of poor farmers through advocacy. They held meetings with concerned government authorities and political leaders and shared the concerns of the poor farmers with them. They protested against this unjust action by staging anti-SDA rallies. Ultimately the SDA gave up its plans of grabbing further land from the farmers.
7. The LSO approached the District Water Management Authority (DWMA) and shared the issues of water scarcity of local farmers. The Authority approved three water channels for irrigation purposes. The total cost of the three projects was Rs. 4.05 million, of which Rs. 3.24 million was provided by the DWMA and Rs. 0.81 million was contributed by the local community. The channels have substantially solved the water scarcity issues of some 450 farmers.
8. Due to heavy industrial installations, the area has become a victim of serious air, noise and water (both surface and underground) pollution. Skin and respiratory diseases are spreading fast amongst the locals. So far, no comprehensive research has been conducted by any government or donor agencies to evaluate the impact of industrial pollution on the residents of union council Hattar. The LSO discussed the issue with the district government and asked them to play their due role in it. The LSO staged rallies and handed over resolutions to the factory owners for taking corrective actions promptly. The LSO leaders met with the DG for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at his Islamabad office and showed him a

documentary on the adverse impacts of air pollution on the residents of the area. The DG promised to take the issue seriously within his department. The LSO leaders approached the media and as a result, Geo News prepared a documentary on pollution effects in the area and aired it. The LSO leaders also showed the documentary to the management of the factories and made them realise how their industrial units were systematically poisoning the entire environment of the area and how the people of the area were suffering from it. Notwithstanding there being many challenges, the LSO is committed to pursuing its environmental activism until it transforms the area into a pollution free zone.

9. They met with their local Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) and motivated him to grant Rs. 4 million for the upgradation of government schools and construction of projects identified and managed by the local communities. This was the first time in the history of

the area that the MPA channeled development funds through community organisations. The LSO upgraded two middle (one boys' and one girls') schools to higher level and provided them with latrines and water pumps. Moreover, they did a number of street pavement projects in the union council.

10. There was no post office in the area and the nearest post office was 25 KM away from the union council. Local people had to travel long distances just to post a letter. The LSO leaders met with the Chief Post Master of Pakistan in coordination with the local MPA to open a post office in the area. The initiative proved successful and a post office has been opened in the area.
11. The LSO met with PEPSI COLA INC and received a grant of Rs. 100,000 for providing school uniforms and books for the children of poor and vulnerable families. They identified 166 such children through their member VOs and COs, and provided them with school uniforms, books, bags and shoes.



LSO leaders debating food security issues



LSO Rabita

The Initiatives

As LSO leader Shah Nawaz Khan said, “These initiatives were only possible because we were organised as a group and trusted each other. At rst, only one or two of us implemented the ideas and when the results were there for all to see, the remaining LSO members followed.”

Livestock Management Initiatives

In order to improve the livestock practices and management for higher protability, the LSO decided to reach out to the Pakistan Livestock and Dairy Development Board (LDDDB). After an initial discussion and assessment, the LSO formed their own Dairy Association and a partnership was established between LDDDB and the LSO. When combined, the resulting initiatives created a sustainable 100% increase in dairy product prots for the LSO. The combined initiatives resulted in healthier animals that lived longer and produced over 50% more milk as well as a substantial increase in the number of healthy young cattle. Initiatives taken included:

- Training of a livestock specialist The LDDDB trained a member of the LSO to become a livestock specialist. The specialist received training and was responsible for the treatment of the livestock. The responsibilities included quarterly de-worming of the animals as well as semi-annual vaccinations. This resulted in healthier animals that enjoyed longer lives.
- Improvement of cattle maintenance practices Before the initiative, the cattle were tied up throughout the day and were given water at set times. This resulted in unhappy and unhealthy animals that only produced a modest amount of milk. Through the LDDDB, the LSO learned that through simply keeping the animals open and free to wander with a constant access to water, the animals would be happier, healthier, and produce more milk. The key benet of this initiative was a 50% increase in milk production from the cattle.
- Artificial insemination of cattle Instead of buying a costly and high-maintenance bull and forcing the cattle

Date of Formation:
4 June, 2010

District:
Haripur

Union Council:
Mankaray

Total Households in
Union Council:

2,847

Organised
Households:

1,725

Coverage:

61%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

58

30 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

12

6 women

No of General
Body Members:

28

10 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:

13

6 women

Seed Villages

The low quality of seeds being planted by the farmers resulted in low crop yields, frequent replanting on the seeds, and high costs to maintain the plants. To improve the quality of wheat and maize seeds, the Ministry of Agriculture and the LSO together signed a Certified Seed Agreement and the Ministry provided the LSO with a limited quantity of high quality certied seeds to grow wheat and maize. Since the quantity of seeds was limited, the farmers developed Seed Villages. Entire elds that were earlier growing the low quality seeds were now dedicated to maximizing production from the certied seeds. The seeds planted, in turn, generated even more seeds. The primary benets from this initiative were cost savings and increase in profits. More specically, seed production was doubled. Further, seeds that were surplus to the LSO’s requirements were sold back to the Ministry of Agriculture for a profit.

to mate, the LSO's livestock specialist was trained in artificial insemination of the cattle. Semen of healthy bulls was provided to the LSO by the LDDDB and the specialist was trained to artificially inseminate the cattle through an injection. This resulted in a higher number of healthy young cattle produced.

- **Chilling Machine** As a result of the initiatives, the LSO was now producing more milk than it could consume or sell at once. To overcome the problem of storage, the LSO was provided a chilling machine by the LDDDB on a cost-sharing basis. The purpose was to store the excess milk so that when a vendor measured the contents of the milk several days after production, it had the same level of protein and fat as when the milk was freshly produced.



Healthy Livestock and Chilling Machine



Agriculture Management

In order to generate ideas about how to improve the relatively low land productivity, the LSO invited the Pakistan Ministry of Agriculture to conduct an assessment

of the LSO's agricultural practices. The Ministry of Agriculture concluded that the land for crop production was uneven and that the seeds planted were of low quality, which resulted in lower crop yield and higher costs for the LSO. Combined, the initiatives implemented to solve these issues (mentioned below) more than doubled LSO and individual farmer profits, an increase of over 100%.

Laser Land Levelling

Together, the LSO and Ministry determined one of the solutions to this problem was for the fields to undergo laser land levelling, a process of smoothing the land surface from its average elevation using laser-equipped tractors and soil movers. The laser land levelling process resulted in cost savings on water of over 50% as well as a tremendous increase in germination. After implementation by a few LSO members, others could see the benefits and also adopted the practice. Although the cost of laser land levelling could be up to Rs 40,000 per acre, the consequent revenues and cost-savings from the process meant that within three years all costs were recovered. Subsequent profits were for the LSO to keep.



Omni Bank

Without a bank in the village of Bajeeda, the residents had to plan a day trip to Haripur, a commute that cost Rs 30, in order to pay utility bills. This was both costly and time consuming. To solve this problem, the LSO partnered with United Bank Limited Pakistan (UBL) and the Pakistani Government in June 2012 to open a branch of Omni Bank in Bajeeda.

The LSO's contribution to the initiative was an LSO member to run the branch as well as a Rs 50,000 initial deposit. For each transaction at the Bank, the government contributes Rs 10 to Omni Bank, which is split evenly between the LSO and UBL.

The result is that in an average month, the LSO receives between Rs.12,000-14,000 from government contributions. One third of this, around Rs 4000, is given to the LSO member running the bank as a salary while the remainder is retained by the LSO. In approximately six months, the LSO earned back its initial deposit of Rs 50,000 with all income from January 2013 onwards earned by the LSO as prot. In addition to the nancial benets, the LSO members also benet from reduced travel time and costs from having to commute to Haripur once a month to make utility bill payments or receive payments from relatives living outside the village.



Women Employment

Due to increased technology and initiatives of the LSO, the required manual agriculture work was substantially reduced and female members had much spare time on their hands. The LSO decided to brainstorm ideas for how women members could utilise their time more productively. One of the members, Nazia Bibi, was found to be doing independent embroidery work at home, mostly as a hobby. The LSO and the Nazia Bibi agreed that it would be a good idea to turn her hobby into a large-scale business.

At rst, Nazia Bibi trained other female LSO members on how to design and tailor women's clothes, bed sheets, and tablecloth. The demand for this embroidery turned out to be higher than expected and soon, Nazia Bibi, who was not earning any income before was earning up to Rs 10,000 a month. When orders became large, women trained by Nazia Bibi started training other women, creating a multiplier effect for women employment in the LSO.

The LSO's role in this initiative, other than assisting in generating the idea, is to help create a market for the embroidery. For example, the LSO has set up secondary schools for both boys and girls and plans to send all uniform orders to this women's initiative. According to Shah Nawaz, "The women should only need to focus on creating the product. It is the job of the LSO to bring orders for them." Further, the LSO has provided microcredit to community members through the LSO's Community Investment Fund in order to open stores to sell raw materials to the women. This will both create further employment for LSO members and assist the women in easily purchasing the raw materials required to create their product.



LSO Abasind Rural Support Organisation



LSO Abasind Rural Support Organisation (ARSO) was formed in district Kohistan in 2010, with technical assistance and social guidance from the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) Kohistan. LSO ARSO is one of the vibrant LSOs of district Kohistan and has taken various initiatives since its formation for the socio-economic development of the local community. LSO ARSO has implemented a UNDP funded project in collaboration with DTCE for the revival of local government bodies in two union councils. Besides this, the LSO had played a tremendous role in relief and rescue operations after the deadly July 2010 floods in Kohistan. The LSO has established strong linkages with several government and non-government agencies besides mediating access to their services and resources for the benefits of its members.

Innovation in Micro Hydel Projects

District Kohistan is one of the most backward and underdeveloped districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There are several factors

Date of Formation:
4 June, 2010

District:
Kohistan

Union Council:
Komila

Total Households in
Union Council:
1,649

Organised
Households:
1,058

Coverage:
64%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):
62
0 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):
9
0 women

No of General
Body Members:
27
0 women

No of Executive
Committee Members:
11
0 women



Wooden Turbine in operation

responsible for their backwardness, including far flung and cut off locations, poor infrastructure, lack of attention from government in development of the area etc.

On the other hand, Kohistan is a resource rich area. It has the capacity to serve as the hydel electricity power house for the whole country because it has been enriched with numerous rivers and streams flowing from high mountain areas down to the river Indus. But little efforts have been made regarding their utilisation on a larger scale by the government. As a result of this, around 80% population of the district is still deprived of electricity. To cope with the situation, local communities construct micro hydel projects (MHPs) with technical and sometimes with partial financial assistance from donor agencies to generate electricity. The bulk of the cost of MHPs is contributed by the local people in the form of free labour, local material and cash. However, the cost of conventional machinery used in the construction of MHP is quite high. Therefore, several communities are still deprived of electricity simply because they are unable to bear the high cost of the project.

The average cost estimate for a standard 3kv MHP with conventional machinery is around Rs. 158,000. The main item is the water turbine pulley that alone costs Rs. 120,000. Conventionally, the water turbine pulley is made from iron. So besides its initial high cost, it has several maintenance related demands. For example, it can easily get rusted and become obsolete if not maintained regularly. Second, it often breaks and needs welding for repair, which is extremely costly, because the entire turbine has to be transported to a town area. Third, it is heavier, therefore requires more water to rotate it.

Keeping in view these issues, the LSO leaders decided to find out alternative means to replace the iron turbine that is cheaper in price and also requires minimum maintenance and management cost. This, they thought, would bring down the cost of the entire unit.

Taking the idea from the wooden turbines of local water mills, they decided to experiment it in the MHPs. For experimental purposes, the LSO selected a small village called Jan Bela situated in union council Komila. The people of Jan Bela were deprived of electricity for a long time and they were desperately seeking it. Hence, the villagers easily agreed to partner with the LSO to implement the pilot project.

It was decided to copy the design by using wood as manufacturing material instead of iron. For this purpose, the LSO contacted an experienced local carpenter. The wood of cedar was opted for this purpose, which is locally called "de-yar". Cedar wood is a precious wood used in construction and is known for its strength and long life. After the completion of the wooden turbine, it was fitted with a 3kv generator. Fortunately, the source of water was nearby the project site, therefore, no channel was required to bring water. The project started working in March 2012. It worked quite efficiently. The total cost of manufacturing the wooden turbine was Rs. 12,000 only, while the cost of an iron turbine is around Rs. 120,000. So the wooden turbine proved ten times cheaper than the iron turbine. As a result of this, the total cost of the pilot MHP came down to as low as Rs. 50,000 compared to Rs. 158,000 by the conventional method. Below is the cost comparison of conventional and newly made systems:

The electricity generated by the pilot MHP is being provided to 30 houses successfully. The project runs from sunset to 10am the next morning and provides uninterrupted electricity for lighting, mobile charging and watching TV etc.

Primary Parts of the system	Cost of conventional system (PKR)	Cost of newly formed system (PKR)
Generator	15,000	15,000
Fan Belt	1,000	1,000
Water Turbine-Pulley	120,000 (Iron Turbine)	12,000 (Wooden Turbine)
Iron pipes	12,000	12,000
Water tank	10,000	10,000
Total	158,000	50,000

An Operation and Management Committee comprised of three CO members has been established for the smooth operation of the project. A user fee of Rs. 50 per month is received from the beneficiary households and is deposited into the CO account. The LSO leaders oversee and monitor the project on a regular basis. Earlier, they used to burn kerosene oil for lighting that cost each household Rs. 800 to 1,000 per month. The local community therefore is very happy for having reliable electricity at such a cheap price.

After running the project for a month and a half, the LSO evaluated it and found it to be much more efficient and cost effective than they initially had thought. The following are the positive points of the pilot project:

- Wooden turbine is 10 times cheaper than iron turbine.
- Wooden turbine is rust free. Therefore, its project life is much longer than the iron turbine.
- Wooden turbine is unbreakable. Thus, there will be a considerable saving both in the maintenance cost and time. Moreover, it will ensure uninterrupted provision of electricity to the beneficiary households.
- Due to its light weight, the wooden turbine rotates much faster than the iron turbine. Moreover, it requires less water pressure. Hence, it can generate more electricity with lesser amounts of water. Therefore, it is more feasible during the winter season when water volumes decrease in the streams.
- There is no need of welding while repairing a wooden turbine, which saves both money and resources.
- No special expertise is required for repairing a wooden turbine. It can easily be repaired or even replaced by any local carpenter with locally available wood.

Future Plans

After the successful implementation of the pilot project and evaluating its impacts, LSO ARSO is now looking for improving and polishing the system further. For example, they are going to experiment the viability of wooden pipes to replace iron pipes to save both initial and replacement cost of the pipes.

Moreover, the LSO is now planning similar projects for other interested villages of their union council. For this purpose, an initial survey of electricity-deprived villages has been conducted. The villages identified include Chichar, Bara Komila, Kuz Komila, Zed Khar, Shamaal and Rangao. The LSO will provide technical assistance while the concerned village people will bear the financial cost and undertake any required labour work, free of cost.



LSO Mehran

Education

Education is one of the key priority areas of the LSO. The issue of out-of-school children was discussed in the General Body meeting of the LSO and the member VOs were given the responsibility of preparing the list of those children who were out of school and to share it with the Executive Body of the LSO. The Executive Body launched an enrollment campaign and enrolled 654 children (242 girls and 412 boys) in schools. In addition to that, the oce holders of the LSO are conducting regular meetings with the teachers of the schools to ensure their regular presence and effective delivery of education to all children.

Environment

In collaboration with the Government's Forest Department, the LSO has planted 1,450 trees across the union council. The plantation initiative will help improve the environment conditions and will also enhance the natural beauty of their villages. The recent oods had created the sense of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the minds of the rural masses. They, therefore, are planning to plant trees at the banks of river and canals to reduce the breaches of water during the rainy and ood seasons. The LSO leaders also conducted sessions in member VOs and COs in order to sensitise them about the importance of health and hygiene. As a result of that, its member VOs are carrying out village cleaning campaigns before VO meetings every month.



EC Members During Plantation of Trees at the LSO Oce

Date of Formation:
30 December, 2010

District:
Shikarpur

Union Council:
Bhirkan

Total Households in
Union Council:

2,534

Organised
Households:

2,453

Coverage:

97%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

139

All women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

33

All women

No of General
Body Members:

33

All women

No of Executive
Committee Members:

13

All women

Employment Generation and Business Development

Enterprise development is a key component of economic development. The women trained in vocational skills under the Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Project (UCBPRP), had been organised into village level Business Development Groups (BDG). Recently four women BDGs of the LSO had linked themselves with SABA Pakistan which has helped them to open new avenues for business. The LSO takes product orders from SABA Pakistan, and passes them on to its BDGs. The BDGs produce the orders which are then sent to SABA Pakistan. The LSO receives 10% commission for its services from the BDGs.

Internal Resource Mobilisation

The LSO is planning to construct its oce building for which it has collected donations worth Rs. 124,500 from its member VOs. Some VOs preferred to pay wheat instead of cash, and therefore donated 48 mounds of wheat.

Health

Around the globe and in Asia especially, many countries have eradicated polio but Pakistan is still struggling to combat this issue. On the request of the District Officer (DO) Health Shikarpur, 14 LSOs of the area, including LSO Mehran, are providing their support in administering polio drops. They signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the District Health department in this regard. During the recent polio campaign, 47 women from these 14 LSOs performed duties with the Health Department for three days in their respective union councils and the VO leaders provided monitoring reports on any leftover children in their respective villages. The District Health department paid remuneration of Rs. 1,200 to each one of these women. A total of 71,895 children benefited from the joint efforts of the District Health department and LSO members.

Women's Rights

The LSO organised an event on International Women's day on 8th March 2011 with the technical and financial assistance of the Gender and Development section of the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO). Around 250 women from the union council participated in the event along with staff of SRSO. In this event, several issues were discussed through debates, speeches, role-plays and songs of which some were: the importance and role of the Anti-sexual Harassment Bill 2010 in women's development, importance of awareness raising about gender-based violence, providing a forum for dialogue and information sharing on gender based issues, lobbying with the public sector stakeholders regarding the national and international commitments on gender, expressing solidarity with survivors and victims of gender-based violence and celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of the women of rural Sindh. As a result of the event, the LSO realised that a large number of women and men do not have Computerised National Identity



Cards in the union council. The LSO conducted village wise surveys to identify women and men without CNICs and with expired CNICs and arranged mobile camps of NADRA. As a result, a total of 1,500 CNICs of their women and men members were made.

Annual General Meeting

The LSO organised its Annual General Meeting on 31st December 2011, the date of its 1st anniversary. The meeting was attended by around 200 people from VOs and COs, along with the General Body members of the LSO. The participants discussed and approved progress reports of the previous year and planning for the next year. It provided an unprecedented opportunity for the general members to closely see the achievements and challenges of the LSO. This tremendously increased the transparency and accountability of the LSO towards its members as well as the members' confidence in the LSO.



Annual General Body Meeting of the LSO in Progress



LSO Baltit Rural Support Organisation



Revamping Social Mobilisation

Social Mobilisation started in Karimabad in early 1980s. By the year 2004, around 90% of the households in the area were organised into 21 Village and Women Organisations (V/WOs). The collective savings of these V/WOs was Rs. 9 million which was mainly used for internal lending amongst its members. In the year 2004, the First Microfinance Bank was established and AKRSP shifted its responsibilities of monitoring the savings to the Bank. The Bank was able to monitor savings of those V/WOs who transfer their savings into its branches. Since the V/WOs of Karimabad did not transfer their savings to the Bank, the Bank could not oversee their savings. After a while, the internal lending operations became ceased due to loan defaults. Consequently, 18 out of 21 V/WOs became dormant. When the Baltit Rural Support Organisation (BRSO) was formed in 2011, it reactivated dormant V/WOs and helped them to recover the defaulted loans. In addition to that, the leadership of LSO motivated member V/WOs to increase their savings. As a result, the cumulative savings of

Date of Formation:

1 May, 2011

District:

Hunza-Nagar

Union Council:

Karimabad

Total Households in
Union Council:

1,185

Organised
Households:

1,125

Coverage:

95%

Number of Youth
Organisations:

6

0 women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

24

12 women

No of General
Body Members:

104

44 women

No of Board
of Directors

15

7 women

V/WO sincreased to Rs. 13.15 million in 2014, an incredible increase of 46% over a period of three years. Instead of keeping into a bank account, they invest their savings locally through internal lending to its members. The LSO monitors the internal lending operations of V/WOs . Therefore, their savings are having cementing impacts. on the cohesiveness of V/WOs as well as the LSO.



representation to these YOs in its General Body and Board of Directors. Being well educated, dynamic and energetic, the youth members are in a better position to tackle emerging socio-economic and cultural challenges faced by the local communities.

Financial Viability

Financial viability comes only through internal sources. The LSO, therefore, chalked out a resource mobilisation plan from internal sources. A key feature of the resource mobilisation plan is diversification of resources with the aim of minimizing the risks. During the year 2014, the LSO raised Rs. 714,000 from diverse internal sources, which range from membership fee from V/WOs, YOs and CSO, monthly contributions by General Body members, potato seed supply commission, loan registers and form fee, and local donations to registration fee of vocational centre. In other words, the LSO is able to generate Rs. 59,500 per month which is more than enough to cover its operational costs.

Engagement of Youth

While reactivating the dormant V/WOs, the LSO focused on the youth of the area. It served two fold purposes. First, new blood was injected into the V/WOs that made these grassroots organisations very healthy and energetic. Second, the youth members of the V/WOs and members of YOs played crucial role in implementing the Enhancing Employability and Leadership in Youth' (EELY) project of AKRSP. Through this project, the LSO provided managerial, entrepreneurial and vocational skills to a large number of the young men and women of the area. BRSO helped bringing the youth of the area into organised folds by forming 6 Youth Organisations (Yos). Later on, BRSO gave



LSO Awaz

Conflict Resolution

In village Mud Khoso, union council Mungrani, two Baloch tribes of Khoso and Shar were living together in peace and harmony for centuries. In the year 2000, a conict arose between the two tribes over the ownership rights of a 120 acre piece of land. This led to armed clashes which took the lives of 36 people on both sides. In addition to this, it has seriously deteriorated the socio-economic conditions of the entire village over the last 10 years.

Despite their internal feuds, COs were formed in both tribes. However, at the time of the LSO's formation, the COs of Shar tribe abstained from joining it because practically it was impossible for them to sit with people from Khoso. When Ms. Nasim of the Khoso tribe was elected as the LSO president, she led a delegation of women from her tribe to the rival Shar tribe without regard of their personal safety and invited their women to join the LSO. The women of Shar tribe said that the people of the Khoso tribe would kill them if they go to their area. But Nasim and the other women members of the delegation took the responsibility of their security. When the women of Shar tribe visited Nasim's village, they were received with full respect and due cultural honour. Therefore, they decided to join the LSO. Then the women of both tribes jointly appealed to their men to settle the never-ending dispute. As a result of this courageous initiative, the elders of the rival tribes sat together and settled the dispute. The piece of land which was the bone of contention between them was eventually distributed among the families of those who had been killed in the conict.



Ms Nasim, LSO President Sharing her Experiences with Community Leaders in a Workshop

Date of Formation:
23 July, 2011

District:
Shikarpur

Union Council:
Mungrani

Total Households in
Union Council:

2,890

Organised
Households:

2,023

Coverage:

70%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):

122

All women

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):

31

All women

No of General
Body Members:

42

All women

No of Executive
Committee Members:

13

All women

Education

Education is the basic right of every child. In union council Mungrani, there were three non-functional government primary schools. One school building was occupied by a landlord who had converted it into a grain store. In the other two schools, the teachers were not coming regularly to teach their students. Therefore, the parents were not sending their children to these schools. The LSO resolved to recover the school building from the landlord and regularise the other two dysfunctional schools in its meeting. The members of the Executive Committee first met with the landlord and asked him to hand over the school building to the Government's Education department. But he arrogantly ignored their humble demand. Therefore, the LSO women went to the school, vacated it by force, cleaned the school themselves and locked it with their own lock and key. The landlord had never expected such a bold action from the women, so he simply remained stunned. Later on they handed over the school to the Education Department. They visited the other two schools and warned the teachers to attend the school regularly and on time. They then met with the District Education department official and asked him to ensure that the teachers of these schools were regular in their duties and offered their full support to making the schools fully functional. On the other hand, they also motivated parents to send their children to the schools. There are now 800 students (545 boys and 315 girls) enrolled in these schools.

Health, Hygiene and the Environment

During a planning meeting, the General Body members of the LSO realised that health and hygiene conditions play a critical role in the general wellbeing of people hygiene. They therefore decided to form an 11 member *Sehat Safai* or health and hygiene Committee to systematically address the issue. The Committee formed sub-committees in each VO and made them responsible for cleaning their villages on a regular basis. The village cleaning campaign is held on a monthly basis. The Committee members regularly visit villages in turn to ensure that they are cleaning up their villages properly. The General Body of the LSO monitors the performance of the Committee on a regular basis. As a result of that, the settlement areas of the entire union council have become clean and healthy.

The Committee coordinated with the Government's Forest Department and planted 3,000 forest trees in 30 villages of their union council by the community members. They have decided to continue tree plantation in the future to make their union council more green and environmentally-friendly.

The Committee also extends full cooperation to the District Administration in polio campaigns. They supervise the campaign and report to the District Administration regarding uncovered areas and families. There are no-go areas in District Shikarpur, where government officials cannot administer polio vaccines. Therefore the Government recruited eight women from the LSO, trained them and sent them in these difficult areas for administering polio drops.



Mr. Nazar Memon, Member BoD SRSO Addressing an Experience Sharing Workshop in Shikarpur

Women's Rights

Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) have become important documents. Besides providing people with an identity as a bona fide citizen of Pakistan, it is an instrumental document for accessing a number of services and facilities from government, donor and even private sector agencies. It is a prerequisite for marriage licenses, voter registration and other types of legal and contractual matters. A large number of women of the union council had never made their CNIC, thus they were practically deprived of their basic rights. The LSO therefore decided to make CNIC for all eligible persons; especially women. On one side they motivated women to prepare their CNIC and on the other side they contacted NADRA officials and arranged for their mobile teams. Thus in a short period of time, they were able to prepare 650 new CNICs; mostly of women.



Dr. Shireen Mustafa, Project Director UCBPRP, Government of Sindh taking interest in the Products of Trained Women by LSOs

Employment Generation for Youth

Due to lack of economic opportunities locally, a large number of young people are unemployed in the union council. The root cause of the deadly tribal conflict over a small piece of land was unemployment. The Army is a large employment agency for young boys. But due to their fear, parents were not ready to send their boys in the Army. The women leaders of the LSO, therefore, convened VO level meetings where they explained to the parents of young

boys about the benefits of employment with the armed forces and made them realise that their fear was amplified. They also guided the parents and youngsters about the recruitment criteria and procedures for enrolling in the armed forces. As a result of these efforts people started sending their youngsters in the armed forces. During the last one year, 52 young men have been recruited in the armed forces from the union council. This is a commendable initiative as it will eventually help in taking the families of the employed people out of the vicious cycle of poverty.



A Young Woman doing Embroidery Work

Construction of LSO Office Building

The Executive Committee of the LSO meets on a monthly basis. In addition to this, they had to come together time and again for receiving visitors from the Government of Sindh, the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO), other LSOs and donor agencies. Due to lack of a proper office

space, they had to arrange these meetings at either a house of a member, and if the weather conditions allowed, then in an open space. Therefore, they felt the need of establishing a proper office for the LSO. In the General Body meeting held on 17th July 2011, they decided to construct the LSO office on a self-help basis. They initially levied a donation of Rs. 5,000 from each one of their 31 VOs. The father of Ms. Nasim also donated a piece of land for the LSO office building.

The LSO collected Rs. 150,000 in a week's time and started the construction work with this fund. In the meantime, Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan, Chairman SRSO visited the LSO and in the appreciation of their efforts to settle the tribal dispute awarded Rs. 100,000 to them, which they decided to invest into the LSO office building. With these funds, they were able to complete the walls up to roof level. Then Ms. Naheed Shah, a SRSO BoD member visited the LSO and donated Rs. 100,000 for the roof of the building from her personal sources. The construction work was supervised by the women leaders of the LSO and the project was completed in a short span of six months. The office building has a 30*20 foot hall, a 14*13 foot room and two bathrooms. This step has further strengthened the capacity of the LSO to work together for poverty reduction and women's empowerment. Moreover, the project will prove a milestone in the sustainability of the LSO in the long run.



The LSO President Briefing the Trainees in the LSO's Newly Constructed Office

LSO Bagh Rural Development Organisation



Establishment of Vocational Centre

The LSO has established a vocational centre for its members in which they are taught sewing and stitching; something which had been demanded from all of their Community Organisations (See Picture Above). The vocational centre has 20 sewing machines on which an average of 15 students per batch learn how to sew. The LSO charges a nominal fee but waives the fee in the case of the poorest girls. In addition to this, the LSO also has an I.T centre which consists of five computers.

District: Bagh		Union Council: Bagh	
Total Households in Union Council:	Organised Households:	Coverage:	
3,156	1,375	44%	
Number of Community Organisation (COs):	No of Village Organisations (VOs):	No of General Body Members:	Number of Executive Body Members:
55	9	55	17
All women	All women	All women	All women

Awareness-raising Regarding Women's Rights and Women Rights Forum

The LSO specialises in delivering awareness-raising sessions on women's rights where the entire LSO Executive Body delivers the training in their own areas and Community Organisations. Two organisations have trained the LSO activists in this area namely Save the Future and Women and Children's Voice. Both are local NGOs but funded by Action Aid and Oxfam respectively. As a result of these sessions, several women have started to earn a living for themselves by joining the workforce as teachers, development workers and nurses.

One such example can be seen in the case of Salma Fatima, 25. Salma has five children; the eldest being eight years old while the youngest is nearly two. Following the devastating earthquake of 2005 which hit at the heart of AJ&K, Salma was compelled to work for an NGO because her husband had experienced a mental breakdown due to the earthquake and the personal loss associated with it. Salma recalls how she was ridiculed by her relatives and neighbours for working in an NGO and coming back home late in the evenings. That changed however when the LSO started providing awareness sessions to the communities. Salma states that now even the neighbours' daughters work without any judgement. "I can see a clear positive change now; not only in my own home but also in the people around me".



Salma – Free from judgment

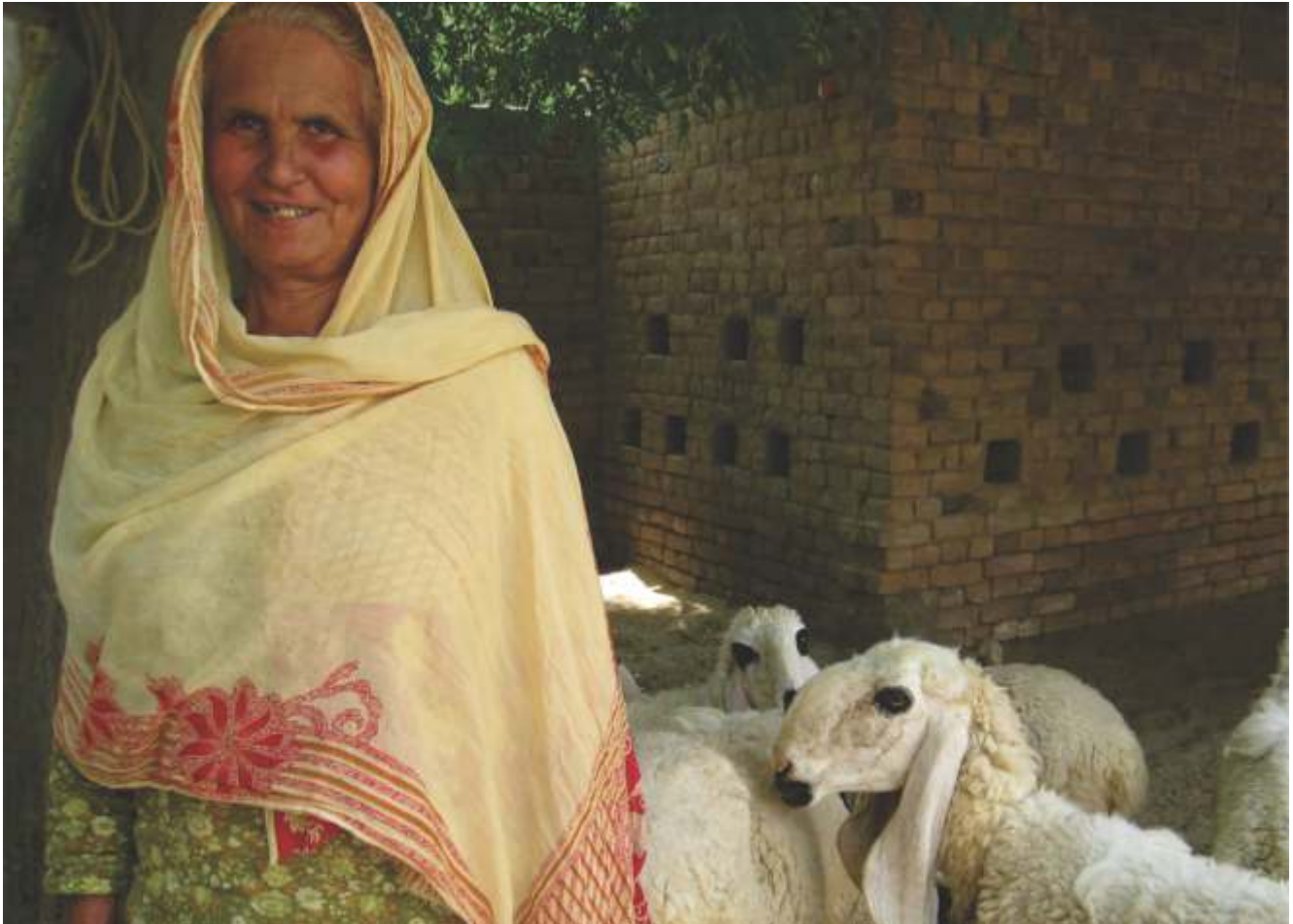
In addition to the awareness-raising sessions, the LSO is a part of a forum called "Aurat Ki Awaz" or Women's Voice. This forum consists of members from other local organisations as well; all with the purpose of ensuring that no woman suffers injustice. The LSO has ensured that Forum members' telephone numbers are provided to all Community Organisations' members who may want to call the Forum, should they be suffering any injustice. The Forum has saved numerous women from various situations, such as young women being forced to marry elderly men, crimes against women such as throwing acid, snatching children from women, etc. In these cases, the Forum has stepped in by ensuring that the police are involved in the protection of the victim and in ensuring that justice is provided. For example, in the case of the young woman who was forced to marry a very elderly man; the woman managed to escape on the second day of her marriage and call the Forum. Immediately Forum members came to her assistance and took her in police protection. They then went to the local courts and managed to get an immediate annulment of her marriage. Now the community members and especially her family know that if they try to carry out a similar injustice on her again, there is a group of people who would and are able to intervene to stop such activities.



A class taking place in the LSO's Vocational Centre

"I can see a clear positive change now; not only in my own home but also in the people around me".

LSO Fazil Rural Development Organisation



Children and Education

The LSO carried out a union council-wide survey of the educational status of children of school-going age. They found that 438 children were not attending school. The LSO then decided to meet the parents of these children and to motivate and inform them of the benefits of sending children to school. As a result, 247 children started attending school while the LSO found through the survey that 87 children were not attending school because they could not afford books or school uniforms. In order to give them a chance at education, the LSO provided these 87 children with either books or school uniforms.

District: Bhakkar		Union Council: Fazil	
Total Households in Union Council:	4,079	Organised Households:	3,160
		Coverage:	77%
Number of Community Organisation (COs):	224 120 women	No of Village Organisations (VOs):	11 3 women
		No of General Body Members:	205 104 women
		Number of Executive Body Members:	33 11 women

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

Health

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

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

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



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

Support to Poorest Households in Marriage-Costs

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

Establishment of Blood Bank

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



Education and Empowerment

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

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

Donation of Land and Construction of Houses for the Poorest

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

Flood Relief Activities

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

USAID's Ambassador's Fund Program for Flood Victims

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



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



LSO Mohar Welfare Organisation



Identification of Beneficiaries and Distribution of Goods

The LSO has developed several linkages with various local and international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and helped them to distribute their inputs by making sure that the recipients are those that are the most deserving.

- Tarang Wasaib, a local NGO visited union council Kamar Mashani after the floods of 2010 and decided to distribute agricultural inputs (for the wheat season) to those that were returning back to their homes. The LSO decided to distribute the inputs at the village level using their Village Organisations

District: Mianwali		Union Council: Kamar Mashani	
Total Households in Union Council: 2,139	Organised Households: 1,817	Coverage: 85%	
Number of Community Organisation (COs): 170 0 women	No of Village Organisations (VOs): 10 5 women	No of General Body Members: 156 35 women	Number of Executive Body Members: 33 7 women

(VOs). Each Village Organisation provided the inputs to those that had land which was in a cultivatable position but were lacking the means of purchasing agricultural inputs. 300 deserving households were given agricultural inputs (each package enough to plant a two acre piece of land) consisting of:

50 kg of Urea x 1
Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)
fertilizer packets x 2
Pesticide bottle x 1
50 kg of seed x 1

- b) In July of 2011, the Qatar Foundation heard about the LSO and its activities in the union council and decided to use the LSO platform in order to distribute date packages for the upcoming month of Ramadan to deserving households. They provided the LSO with 500 packages of dates (each package consisting of six kg of dates) which were to be distributed. The LSO did so at the village level, with each Village Organisation identifying poor and deserving households; both member and non-member households.

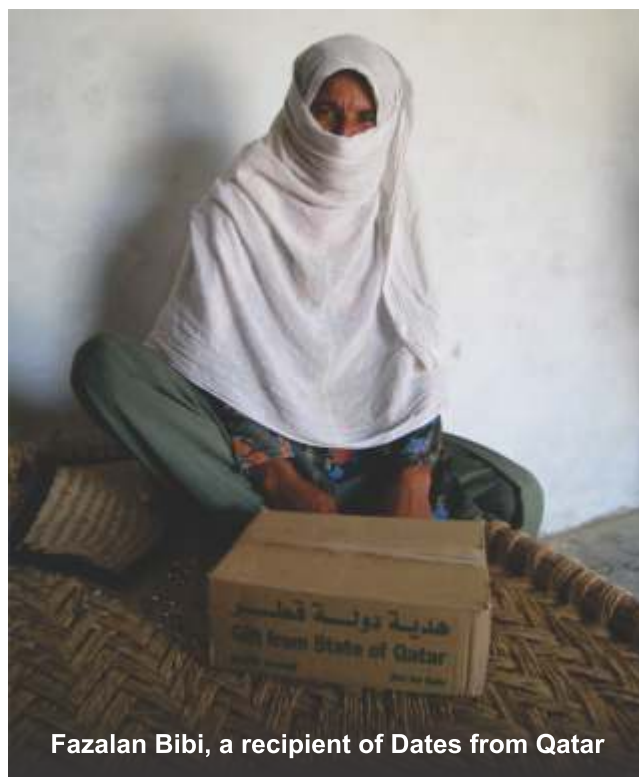
Conflict-resolution Committee

A conflict-resolution committee exists at the *Thana* level which had always been redundant in the past. However since the last two years, the LSO has managed to revamp the committee by ensuring that along with local government officials, ordinary representatives from the community are present as well; previously the committee had been overrun by local influential figures. The conflict-resolution committee now includes four LSO members who have successfully made the committee into an essential part of local affairs. The committee has been able to quell numerous local issues; ranging from land disputes, robberies, internal family-disputes as well as inter-family issues; including the case of two neighbouring households which had been each other's sworn enemies for the past 60 years due to a murder. The committee was able to bring a resolution between the two households in which the guilty family was asked to pay Rs. 500,000 for their crime (later on this amount was returned as a sign of good will).

Input Supply Centre

As a result of increasing prices of basic products and their shortages, the LSO decided to open an input supply centre. The centre provides both its members and non-members with basic supplies such as fertilizer, animal-feed, wheat and sugar at reasonable market rates and discounted rates for its deserving members. For example, the LSO

purchased 100 kg bags of wheat for Rs. 2,403 each, which later on they were able to sell for Rs. 2,450. Because the LSO maintains supplies of these basic necessities, they are able to supply their clients even in times of shortages in the market.



Fazalan Bibi, a recipient of Dates from Qatar

USAid Ambassador's Fund Program for Victims of Flood

The LSO has managed to obtain a much-coveted project funded by the USAID's Ambassador's Fund Program. The LSO designed a project which will aim to build the houses of 35 poorest households in the period from January to September 2011. Each household will be provided with a one-room house and a bathroom. As of June, the LSO has built 18 houses; all for those that need it the most.

"The committee has been able to quell numerous local issues; ranging from land disputes, robberies, internal family-disputes as well as inter-family issues; including the case of two neighbouring households which had been each other's sworn enemies for the past 60 years due to a murder."

Subsidised Retail

The input supply centre provides both its members and non-members with basic supplies such as fertilizer, animal-feed, wheat and sugar at reasonable market rates and discounted rates for its deserving members.



Essential supplies in the LSO's Input Supply Centre

i.e. widows, households with no shelter at all and for those households that earn less than Rs. 4,000 per month.

Donations for Flood-affected in Sindh

Some of the LSO members had met representatives of a NGO from Dadu, Sindh in a meeting in Multan regarding agriculture in March 2011. The representatives told the LSO members of the dire situation of the poorest households in Dadu where they had not been able to harvest wheat resulting in them having no rations for their own consumption.

Upon their return, the members told the rest of their LSO and it was decided that donations would be collected from the LSO members and other locals. Each household donated wheat resulting in a total amount of 10,000 kg of wheat. In order to avoid high transportation costs, the LSO sold the wheat for Rs. 220,000 in Mianwali which then four

LSO members used to purchase rice in Dadu. With the money, the LSO members were able to purchase 50 kg of rice for 150 poor households and to distribute it themselves.

Women's Empowerment

Since the formation of the LSO, the women of union council Kamar Mashani, especially those that were members of the LSO have felt a tremendous change in their lives. Women belonging to this highly conservative area were traditionally never allowed to leave their houses. However because of the LSO and its efforts in first mobilising those women who were related to male LSO members, slowly women have been able to enter the public arena. Examples of this are the increased number of women attending meetings (both at the village and union council level), women going to banks as well as to relatives and neighbours' houses. These strides however were not achieved easily as many women members had to undergo ridicule and were ostracised for their membership. That has changed now with those very same people becoming members of the LSO. The fact that the LSO represents a united body has also made a difference to the lives of women; an example being of a LSO member who was beaten by her son because of her membership. The LSO confronted her son and told him that if he ever repeated his behaviour, they would report him to the police. As a result, the son asked for his mother's forgiveness and now does not interfere in her activities.



Kulsoom Bibi, an energetic activist of the LSO who is able to work because of the LSO's influence



LSO Karimabad Area Development Organisation



Saving Mobilisation

Micro savings by VOs and WOs was facing a situation of stagnation due to lack of motivation. KADO decided to mobilise community savings with specific focus on women by introducing different saving programs like Community Based Saving Groups (CBSG) in collaboration with AKRSP. As a result of these mobilisation efforts, the cumulative savings of the V/WOs increased from Rs. 19 million rupees to Rs.30 million in the last 10 years.

Resource Mobilisation

The LSO has been making efforts for strengthening its member Vos and facilitating economic and social development projects for its members. A key success area of the LSO is resource mobilisation through developing linkages with external agencies. Over the last ten years, KADO has mobilised Rs. 250 million from Government, donor agencies, Patient Capital Funds and local communities.

Date of Formation 1997			
District: Chitral		Union Council: Karimabad & Shoghere	
Total Households in Union Council: 3,123	Organised Households: 3,027	Coverage: 97%	
Number of Youth Organisation 30 0 women	No of Village Organisations (VOs): 162 81 women	No of General Body Members: 162 81 women	Number of Bord of Directors 19 5 women

KADO Mobilised 40 million rupees from PPAF, 5 million rupees from Acumen Fund and 8 million rupees from local community to construct a 500KW Hydel Power project. Similarly Rs.50 million were mobilised from PIDSA to develop Stone Craft Value Chain project as a potential income sector for the local youth population.



Management of Community Investment Fund (CIF)

Another successful initiative of the LSO is management of a community Investment fund (CIF) for internal lending to deserving members. In 2008 KADO received Rs. one million from RSPN for this purpose. KADO added Rs. 0.8 million in the CIF from its own resources and developed diversified products of micro credit according to the consumption and investment needs of the members. So far KADO has provided soft term loans to 780 members, including 473 men and 310 women. As a result of CIF activities, employment opportunities have increased and the head count poverty has decreased in the LSO area. The volume of the fund has increased to Rs. 3 million during this period. The LSO plans to expand the community fund to serve to 7,000 potential borrowers, including 4,000 men and 3,000 women.

Stone Craft Project

With the objective of improving livelihood opportunities for the young population of the area around the local potentials, KADO mobilised Rs. 50 million from Pakistan Italy Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA). With this fund KADO developed the Stone Craft Value Chain project. The project was jointly implemented by KADO and CESVI – an Italian NGO. As a result of this project 600 young artisans (both male and female) were trained in various stone crafting skills including, stone mosaic, stone carving, stone faceting and Jewelry making. The project also constructed a training and production facility consisting four training halls, well equipped with state of the art machineries, warehouses, and an office block.





LSO Society Development Foundatoin



Stipends for the Poorest

The LSO carried out a survey in its union council to find out how many widows and women-headed households there were. As a result, 50 were identified as the poorest and facilitated to obtain Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) stipends. Before the BISP programme was changed (to identifying beneficiaries through the Poverty Scorecard), beneficiaries would be identified through a quota system given to Ministers. These government representatives would identify beneficiaries in their constituencies. At that time, the LSO tapped into their political connections in order to ensure that stipends were provided to those women which had been identified in their survey.

District: Bagh		Union Council: Rawali	
Total Households in Union Council:	3,577	Organised Households:	2,666
		Coverage:	75%
Number of Community Organisation	151 69 women	No of Village Organisations (VOs):	16 All Mixed
		No of General Body Members:	125 54 women
		Number of Executive Body Members	24 10 women

Training for other LSOs

The LSO was provided the task of giving various training sessions to surrounding LSOs, in LSO management, record-keeping and developing village development plans. The LSO also was assigned the task of carrying out the Poverty Scorecard survey in two neighbouring union councils by the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in order to ascertain the level of poverty in those areas.

Recycling Waste

The LSO has taken a lead in ensuring that its pristine environment is maintained. To this end, besides carrying out extensive forest plantations, the LSO has also started recycling waste. It has provided awareness-raising sessions to its member Community.



Asthma 24 - an avid recycler of bottles into decoration-items and paper into envelopes

Organisations about the benefits of recycling. As a result, several of the households in the union council recycle different waste material e.g. medicinal bottles. Having used the medicines, households clean the bottle and return it to the pharmaceutical stores. In return they are provided with Rs. 2-5 per bottle. The same is also true for other glass bottles, which are sold to various shops. In addition to this, the LSO has provided its members with

training on how to make shopping bags out of cloth; in order to discourage the use of plastic bags. Along with being environmentally friendly, these cloth bags are preferred by shoppers in the union council because they are stronger than plastic bags and last longer over the period of long walks to and fro from the bazaar. Several women members in the LSO now make these bags and sell them on a regular basis in the bazaar; ranging from Rs. 20-50 which then adds to their household income.

Old Book Centre

The LSO realised that poor children in the union council were not able to pursue their studies because of their inability to afford school books. In order to combat this, the LSO now actively collects school books from students that no longer require them at the end of each academic year. The books are then provided to less advantaged children who will be entering those grades in the coming academic year. So far a total of 225 children have been provided with entire book sets for their classes for one academic year.



"The LSO has provided its members with training on how to make shopping bags out of cloth; in order to discourage the use of plastic bags. Along with being environmentally friendly, these cloth bags are preferred by shoppers in the union council because they are stronger than plastic bags and last longer over the period of long walks to and fro from the bazaar."



LSO Rural Community Development Organisation



Stipends for the Poorest

The LSO organised for 338 people to get monthly stipends from the Zakat Committee¹ of Rs. 1,000 each. The people identified by the LSO were all either widows or orphans.

Zakat is an obligatory payment made annually under Islamic law on certain kinds of property and used for charitable and religious purposes. The Zakat Committee is a Government committee which manages and decides how collected Zakat should be spent.

District: Bagh		Union Council: Topi	
Total Households in Union Council:	Organised Households:	Coverage:	
3,500	2,452	70%	
Number of Community Organisation	No of Village Organisations (VOs):	No of General Body Members:	Number of Executive Body Members
119 45 women	14 All Mixed	103 28 women	22 9 women

Forest Plantation and Protection

The LSO has invested its time and energy into ensuring that its surroundings maintain its beautiful forests. In this regard, the LSO has contacted the Forestry Department and obtained over 370,000 plants. In addition to this, the LSO has Forest Protection Committees in each of its villages in order to stop people from illegal logging and to quell forest fires.

Girls' College and Vocational Centre

Through the local government, the LSO has managed to get a Girls College and Vocational centre approved. The approval was granted in 2010 and at the moment the buildings are under construction (See Picture Above).

Awareness Regarding Drugs

The LSO, being aware of the dangers of drugs and the risk that it poses to its youth, organised an awareness session regarding the danger of drugs. The LSO contacted the District Health Officer (DHO)-Poonch, a doctor and a professor to deliver the session.

Conflict Resolution Committee

The LSO has formed a conflict resolution committee which consists of eight Executive Body Members and 25 General Body members. The committee deals with local disputes so that they do not have to go to the local courts. Only in extreme cases, when the committee is not able to resolve an issue, do the courts step in. So far the committee has solved a total of 113 cases including one murder case, 55 land dispute cases, 13 kidnapping cases, 15 robbery cases and 29 fights. In any particular case, the committee nominates three members to go and investigate the case in detail and to report back their findings. The committee then gives its judgement. Those that do not abide by the judgement are socially boycotted by the entire union council; resulting in the fact that within a week, the guilty party is ready to carry out their punishment.

Building of Madrassahs in Every Village

The LSO through local donations have set out and installed a Madrassah in each and every village. The purpose of this is so that young children have a place to learn how to read the Quran while at the same time providing elderly women with Quran-reading lessons in the evening. In some cases, a Madrassah was already present but in bad condition

while some villages did not have any Madrassah at all. In addition to one-off donations, the wealthy households in the villages have been asked to make monthly donations to their Madrassah; an example being of one wealthy household providing Rs. 3,000 per month.



Rainwater Harvesting

The LSO through its linkages development is taking part in a project being implemented by the Maqsood Welfare Society. The project aims to combat some of the problems regarding access to clean water (a common problem in mountainous areas) by harvesting rainwater. The pilot project will be implemented throughout the UC and is scheduled to start in the coming month.



"The LSO has contacted the Forestry Department and obtained over 370,000 plants. In addition to this, the LSO has Forest Protection Committees in each of its villages in order to stop people from illegal logging and to quell forest fires."

LSO Jharkal



Establishment of English-medium School

The LSO formed an English-medium school in 2009 through its own funds at a cost of Rs. 280,000 by purchasing and obtaining donated land and constructing the school building by themselves. The need for a school arose because the nearest school to the communities was nine kilometres away resulting in the fact that many children were not being sent to school. At the moment, the school has 50 children (of which 20 are girls) who are being educated till class six. The school has four teachers including its principal. The school charges a fee of Rs. 100 per student per month.

District: Khushab		Union Council: Noorpur Thall	
Total Households in Union Council:	3,315	Organised Households:	3,195
		Coverage:	96%
Number of Community Organisation	232 137 women	No of Village Organisations (VOs):	8 All Mixed
		No of General Body Members:	37 10 women
		Number of Executive Body Members	15 6 women

Stipends for the Poorest

The LSO has supported the poorest of households in its communities in availing provincial and national government social security programmes. It has obtained funds for its members from the Zakat Committee¹ for support to eight poor households for completing their daughters' dowries, obtained support for 325 people from Bait-ul-Maal², obtained membership into the Punjab Food Stamp Scheme for 56 households and finally, attained

- Zakat is an obligatory payment made annually under Islamic law on certain kinds of property and used for charitable and religious purposes. The Zakat Committee is a Government committee which manages and decides how collected Zakat should be spent.
- Bait-ul-Maal is an autonomous body set up through the 1991 Act. It aims to alleviate poverty by focussing on the poorest of the poor by providing them with social protection.

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) support for 570 poor women. The Benazir Income Support Programme is the largest social protection programme which provides Rs. 1,000 (nearly \$12) to poor women per month in order to help them meet their monthly expenditure.

Support to the Physically and Mentally Challenged

The LSO has worked hard to provide help and support to those individuals who are physically and mentally challenged. It has supported 47 people to get their disability certificates from the Government. As a result, three of those people have also obtained government jobs.



Enayatullah, 30 now a government employee - with his disability certificate

In addition to this, the LSO has been able to gain admission of 25 children into the government's special education programmes.

Children and Education

The LSO carried out a "Walk for Education" in which members of the LSO walked throughout the main bazaars of the union council. As a result of the walk, a total of 325 girls and 430 boys were admitted into schools.



A lady doctor in the LSO managed Dispensary

Management of Dispensary

Through the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), funds for a dispensary were provided (for its establishment and operational costs). The LSO has been managing it for the past year with another year of PPAF support left. The LSO in addition to managing the dispensary is also making strides in trying to expand the services available to patients. For example, the LSO has recently obtained an X-Ray machine from Share Society. In addition to this, it is in the process of obtaining an ambulance from an NGO called Khidmat-e-Khalq.

Emergency Transport

Although striving to obtain an ambulance, the LSO decided to make alternative arrangements in the mean time. The LSO provides transportation to the households in its villages in cases of emergency; especially of a medical nature. As medical clinics and hospitals tend to be in town, people from the villages have trouble accessing them quickly especially at night when there is a scarcity of public transportation. Therefore the LSO has assigned one taxi and its driver for each of its villages. These taxi drivers are members of the LSO and are on call at night. They charge nominal fees from their passengers and that too only after the household has passed its emergency.

Vision

Realising people's potential for social
and economic development

Mission

Strengthen the Rural Support Programmes
to foster institutions of the people



RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK

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