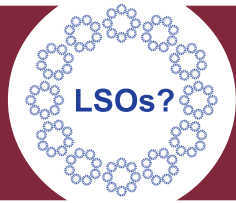




## AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS



LSOs or Local Support Organisations are central to the 'Social Mobilisation' approach of the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs). In a bid to reduce poverty and empower marginalised people (especially women), the RSPs under BRACE, mobilise rural women and men into a three-tiered structure, which consists of Community Organisations (COs) - neighbourhood level community groups, Village Organisations (VOs) - village level federations of COs, and LSOs - union council level federations of VOs. LSOs are able to carry out community-led development at a much greater level due to the advantage they gain from numbers. As the tertiary tier, LSOs are also uniquely able to develop linkages with government and non-government organisations, donor agencies and the private sector.

## LSO INITIATIVES

# Gowarikh Local Support Organisation

|   |  |  |   |  |                            |
|---|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| District<br><br><b>Khuzdar</b>                      | Union Council<br><br><b>Abi Noughy</b> | Date of Formation<br><br><b>17/03/2010</b>                           | Total Households in Union Council<br><br><b>1,063</b> | Organised Households<br><br><b>955</b>                         | Coverage<br><br><b>90%</b> |
| Number of COs<br><br><b>88</b><br>39 WOMEN • 49 MEN |  | Number of VOs<br><br><b>21</b><br>13 WOMEN • 8 MEN                   |   | # of General Body Members<br><br><b>21</b><br>18 WOMEN • 3 MEN |                            |
|   |  | # of Executive Committee Members<br><br><b>09</b><br>4 WOMEN • 5 MEN |   |  |                            |

LSO Gowarikh, from District Khuzdar, was formed on March 17th, 2010 by 955 member households organised into 88 COs and 21 VOs. The leaders of LSO Gowarikh are planning and implementing development activities both on a self-help basis as well as in collaboration with government agencies and corporate sector through linkages developed. The EU-funded BRACE Programme is empowering rural men and women in Balochistan through realising the power they gain from collective action. Organised men and women are now acquiring awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

### Constructed Eidgah by and for the Community

Muslims offer Eid prayer in an open space called an Eidgah, in their villages and cities. There was no Eidgah in village Hinar Noughy of UC Gowarikh, therefore, people had to prepare a temporary Eidgah by clearing some land on each Eid day, which was a laborious task for them. After organising the community members in COs, VOs and LSO, under the EU supported BRACE Programme, they discussed the need of an Eidgah in their LSO meeting and decided to construct a proper Eidgah. However, they realised that this activity would require a lot of money and labour. The organised members decided to construct the Eidgah by pooling economic resources as well as volunteer-based labour from within their own membership. They collected contributions from each village household, provided free labour themselves and constructed a 115/75 ft Eidgah for their community. It was a great challenge to construct the Eidgah with their limited resources, but the collective approach and unity of the community strengthened their spirits and helped them achieve their goal of constructing the Eidgah for the community. Eighty-five families now have access to a proper Eidgah.



Eidgah, constructed by the LSO members

### Vaccination of Livestock by Government Livestock Department

Livestock is one of the most valuable assets for the residents of UC Abi Noughy, as it is the main source of milk and meat for their family members, as well as being a strategic coping mechanism. In the times of economic hardships and emergency, people sell their livestock to meet their financial needs. People also rear livestock and sell on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha and earn a handsome amount to meet other domestic needs. In Balochistan, people generally keep goats and sheep. Both goats and sheep graze openly in the form of herds. So, if any animal gets infected by a communicable disease, the entire herd is affected quickly, causing reduction in milk production and loss in body weight, and even death of the animals; this leads to colossal economic losses to the community. Before the formation of the LSO Gowarikh, there was no functional system for the community to get their animals vaccinated by the Government Livestock Department. However, after the formation of the LSO, the community leaders have established a conducive relationship with the Government



Vaccination of domestic animals by Government Livestock Department



Line Department. Since then, they have visited the Government Livestock Department, described their problems and offered their support in the vaccination of their domestic animals. The Government Department visited their villages and vaccinated their animals against the common communicable diseases. On the advice of the LSO leaders, the concerned VO leaders announced the vaccination date and venue in advance, therefore, the community members brought their animals on the designated venue on time for the Livestock Department staff to vaccinate them in an efficient manner. So far, the Government Livestock Department has vaccinated 4,645 animals belonging to 110 beneficiary households across UC Abi Noughy.

### Installed Solar System in the Government High School through Corporate Social Responsibility Linkage

With the CSR support, the LSO had established a computer lab in the local Government High School comprising of seven computers. Due to the frequent and long-hours of electricity load shedding, the ceiling fans in the classrooms and teachers' common rooms in the Government High School and the computer lab was almost non-functional. The lack of electricity was negatively affecting the 255 students and 14 teachers of the High School and causing a disruption to their education. The LSO leaders committed to solving the issue by finding way to ensure an undisrupted electricity supply to the High School. Using the personal network of a worker from the LSO area, they met the General Manager of Bolan Construction Company, a private construction company, and explained the problems faced by the students of the school. They requested a solar electricity system to be installed in the school. On the advice of the General Manager, a team from the Construction Company visited the school for the assessment of the situation. The Bolan Construction Company installed a solar electricity system costing PKR 200,000 in the High School. Now the school has uninterrupted supply of electricity which has significantly improved the learning environment of the school and quality of education for the students. Moreover, the students are benefiting from the computer lab and are learning computer skills.



Solar Panels and the computer lab in the High School



### Construction of Water Supply Project through linkages with Local Government

The LSO leaders have established a productive rapport with the Local Government Authorities. The LSO provides needful support to the Union Council authorities for carrying out their community-based activities. Therefore, the Union Council authorities considered the recommendations of the LSO leaders while investing in rural infrastructure. As an example, the Local Government installed a water supply project in village Hinar Noughy of the UC on the recommendation of the LSO leaders. The bore

and water tank project provides portable water for 42 households of the village. The project has not only improved the health and hygiene conditions for the villagers but has also saved hours of women's labour which they had to spend fetching water from far off water sources.



Water Supply Project in village Hinar Noughy

### Hepatitis Vaccination for 700 Community Members

Safe drinking water is very scarce in UC Abi Noughy; and majority of the residents of the UC use unsafe water for drinking and cooking purposes. As a result, water borne diseases like diarrhoea and Hepatitis C are common in the local community. Using their collective voice and friendly relationships with the Health Department Authorities, the LSO leaders requested them to launch a vaccination campaign in their Union Council (UC) against Hepatitis C. The Health Department team visited the villages of their UC and vaccinated 700 community members against the Hepatitis virus. The LSO leaders as well as the VO leaders provided their support to the Health Department in terms of announcing the date and time of visit of the Health Department staff and the venue of the vaccination campaign, so that men, women and children come to the announced place on time. It is expected that the vaccination campaign will significantly reduce the prevalence of Hepatitis C in the area.

### Prepared CNIC of Community Members

Due to long distances, travelling to NADRA office for getting CNICs (Computerised National Identity Cards) is a time consuming and costly task for the members of the community. Therefore, the leaders decided to call NADRA mobile van to their villages. On their request, NADRA sent its mobile van to the designated villages. The LSO leaders helped the community members organise their documents in advance so the NADRA team could arrange CNICs of the people easily. So far, 310 men and women have managed to get their CNICs at their doorsteps. The initiative especially helped Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) get their CNICs as they were previously unable to visit NADRA office because of mobility issues.



NADRA mobile van preparing CNICs of LSO members at their door step



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**Reported by:** Mohammad Ali Azizi, Specialist Social Mobilisation, RSPN  
**Acknowledgment:** Khadim Hussain, Sr. M&E Officer, Khuzdar, BRSP  
**Edited by:** Zahra Rao, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, BRACE, RSPN



**Rural Support Programmes Network**

IRM Complex, 3rd Floor, Plot# 7, Sunrise Avenue  
(Off Park Road), Near COMSATS University,  
Islamabad, Pakistan.  
Phone: +92-51-8491270-99, Fax: +92-51-8351791  
[www.rspn.org](http://www.rspn.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BRACEProgramme](http://www.facebook.com/BRACEProgramme)