



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

LSO INITIATIVES

Local Support Organisation Zawag

District Washuk	Union Council Zawag	Date of Formation 13-6-2019	Total Households in Union Council 2,263	Organised Households 1,135	Coverage 50%
	Number of COs 102 28 WOMEN'S	Number of VOs 21 03 WOMEN'S	# of General Body Members 71 05 WOMEN'S	# of Executive Committee Members 11 00 WOMEN'S	

(LSO Profiles by 30 November, 2020)

LSO Zawag from District Washuk, was formed on June 13, 2019 by 1,135 member households organised into 102 COs and 21 VOs. The leaders of LSO Zawag are planning and implementing development activities both on a self-help basis as well as in collaboration with government agencies. The EU-funded BRACE Programme is empowering rural men and women in Balochistan through realising the power they gain from collective action. Organised men and women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Combating COVID-19 Pandemic

When Pakistan was affected by coronavirus pandemic, the Government imposed a nation-wide lockdown to prevent its fast spread. UC Zawag is located near Iran border and a large number of the UC's residents are engaged in border trade. When the government closed cross country borders, many of the daily wagers of UC Zawag, involved in border trade with Iran became jobless. Furthermore, due to closure of transport, availability of food items became scarce and expensive in the UC area. As a result, the region was hit by a nutrition crises on top of the already prevalent health crises. The leaders of LSO Zawag were the first who started helping the worst affected community members in their area. Later on, they also collaborated with the Government Authorities in providing required support to their members. The following activities were carried out by the LSO leaders in collaboration with VO and CO activists and Government Authorities:

- The relatively well-off families provided food items to their poor relatives and neighbours on voluntary basis. This

support saved the members of these poor families from starvation and malnourishment.

- When the Federal Government announced the EHSAAAS Emergency Cash Grant, the poorest and the most deserving families were unable to register themselves under the programme. The LSO formed a committee to help register such families under the programme. As a result of this timely action, 163 poor families communicated their profiles to the LSO Committee who registered them under the EHSAAAS programme. All these families received PKR 12,000 each, which means that these poor families in the area received PKR 1,956,000 in total.
- On the advice of the LSO leaders, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are delivering awareness sessions in CO meetings along with the Community Awareness Toolkits sessions. This is an ongoing activity.
- The LSO and VO leaders spread awareness raising messages about the disease and preventive measures against it through WhatsApp and text messages in various social media groups as well as to their relatives and friends.

- The LSO and VO leaders made announcement on awareness raising and preventive measure against the pandemic from 21 local mosques and educated the general masses.
- With the support of BRSP staff, the LSO leaders made

loudspeaker announcements at 23 crowded market places and appealed both the shopkeepers and buyers to observe the SOPs announced by the Government to control the spread of the virus.



LSO Committee members registering poor families under EHSAAAS Cash Grant Programme

Electricity Supply for the Local Market in Collaboration with WAPDA

The local market located at the town area of UC Zawag had no electricity for street lights. Therefore, the owners of the general shops, motor mechanics, electricians, tailors and other artisans had to close their business right after sun set. The issue was brought up in the LSO meeting. The LSO leaders approached the



WAPDA staff providing electricity connection for the street lights in the local market

Sub Divisional Officer (SDO) WAPDA and put up an application to him for provision of electricity supply to the local market. The SDO approved their demand and provided electricity supply to the market. The LSO leaders contributed funds to buy holders and bulbs and installed them on the electric poles in the market area. Now the market remains open till 10:00 pm; this has significantly increased the business volume and income of the artisans and shop keepers.



The LSO Leaders meeting the SDP WAPDA in his office

Vaccination of Goats and Sheep by Government Livestock Department

One of the main sources of livelihood of the people of UC Zawag is rearing goats and sheep. Each family keeps four to twelve goats and sheep. They produce meat, milk, butter, wool and hide. All these products are mostly consumed by the community members themselves, hence livestock plays a key role in their everyday nutritional intake. They also sell their livestock at the time of Eid-ul-Azha, to meet their financial needs. They graze their livestock round the year in the dessert. Outbreak of transmissible viral diseases is common both in goats and sheep. The diseases adversely affect the livestock farmers income and assets in terms of reduction in milk production, loss of animal weight and their death. Before organising into community institutions and formation of the LSO under the EU funded BRACE Programme, the local community did not know about the services the Government Livestock Department can provide to them. However, after they were organised in community institutions, and interacted with the BRACE staff, they learnt that the Livestock Department can vaccinate their animals free of cost. The LSO leaders visited the

Livestock Department office and requested them to vaccinate their animals against the common disease of foot and mouth. The Livestock Department cooperated with them and sent their staff to the UC villages for vaccination. On the advice of the LSO leaders, the concerned VO leaders support the Livestock Department staff. They prepared a visit plan in consultation with the Livestock Department for each village and then informed the community members about the date and time of the visit so they could keep their livestock at home for the vaccination campaign to be carried out efficiently and effectively. So far, 2,310 animals have been vaccinated from 213 beneficiary families.

Another issue was that goats and sheep were eating plastic bags thrown out around the village by the community members; this causes severe constipation and consequently death of the affected animal. The goat and sheep owners were suffering huge losses due to this, but had no idea how to cure such animals. When the goat and sheep owners discussed the issue with the Livestock Department experts, they prescribed an injection and a syrup to treat the affected animals. This proved to be very successful, and now they are able to effectively treat the affected animals. On the other hand, the LSO leaders are sensitising the community members about the negative impact of plastic bags and are advising them to dispose of them properly instead of throwing them out in the streets.



Vaccination of goats by Livestock Department

Support to the Flood Affected Community Members

In the month of February 2020, heavy rain caused flash flood and washed away a large portion of the farm fields of UC Zawag along with many other neighbouring UCs. The farmers suffered huge losses. The LSO leaders went to visit the Assistant Commissioner (AC) and briefed him about the losses their UC members had suffered due to the flash flood and requested him to compensate their losses from Government resources. The AC sent the relevant patwari to the UC who compiled the details of damages suffered by each family. These details were submitted to the AC office. The community members are waiting for their compensation.

The flash flood damaged and polluted the community's drinking



Scene of flash flood in the area

water sources, so the community members were using polluted water for drinking and cooking. Moreover, the flood water pooled in low areas forming small lakes and ponds; this created environmental hazards for the local people. As a result, a large number of people, mainly children and elderly women and men became sick due to diarrhoea, flu and fever. The LSO leaders complained about this grave situation to the Government Health Department and requested them to arrange a medical camp in the UC to treat the sick people. The LSO leaders offered their required support for arrangement of the medical camp. As a result of their efforts, the Health Department organised a health camp in the UC, examined the sick people and provided them free medicines. In addition, the Health Team advised the community members to boil the water before consumption, so that people do not affect by the bacteria and germs that pollute the water. The LSO leaders announced the date, time and venue of the health camp in advance and so apart from the people of UC Zawag, sick men and women from two neighbouring UCs also came to the medical camp and received treatment. A total of 640 sick people, including around 292 girls and boys, 197 elderly women and 151 men benefited from the medical camp.



Health Department staff treating sick people in the medical camp

Preparation of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC)

When the LSO was formed, they realised that a large number of men and women either have not prepared their CNICs at all or they have not renewed the expired ones. Due to awareness sessions in the Community Awareness Raising Toolkits (CATs), the LSO leaders understood the importance and benefits of having a valid

CNIC. They started motivating the people to prepare the CNICs of all adult men and women on priority basis. As a result, people are now going to the UC centre, where the NADRA office is located and are preparing new CNICs and renewing the expired one. So far, 233 people, including 130 women and 103 men have prepared their CNICs.



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