











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 Zamal

 District <b>Khuzdar</b>	 Union Council <b>Ghatt Balbal</b>	 Date of Formation <b>13-06-2019</b>	 Total Households in Union Council <b>1,785</b>	 Organised Households <b>961</b>	 Coverage <b>54%</b>
Number of COs  <b>100</b> 50 WOMEN		Number of VOs  <b>34</b> 17 WOMEN		# of General Body Members  <b>50</b> 16 WOMEN	# of Executive Committee Members  <b>15</b> ALL MEN

as of 31st September 2021

LSO Zamal, UC Ghatt Balbal from District Khuzdar, was formed on June 13, 2019. The total households of the union council are 1,785 and households organised are 961. The number of total COs are 100, 50 men's and 50 women's. The total number of VOs is 34, 17 men's and 17 women's. The leaders of LSO Ghatt Balbal are planning and implementing development activities both on a self-help basis as well as in collaboration with Government Departments and other organisations. 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.

### Repair of Electricity Transformer

A transformer is a device that transfers electric energy from one alternating-current circuit to one or more circuits, either increasing (stepping up) or reducing (stepping down) the voltage. Each village in UC Ghatt Balbal has its own transformer. These transformers break down frequently, causing power outage in the entire village. Repairing a transformer instead of replacing it, substantially reduces investment costs and provides a faster turnaround. However, government Power Department does not repair broken transformers. Before the community members were organised into COs, VOs and LSO, it used to take months to get the broken transformers repaired by contributing funds from the community members. Due to lack of electricity, the bore water supply projects also become defunct. Women and children had to fetch drinking water from far off places. However, after the formation of the LSO, the community leaders decided to form village level committees to repair the broken transformers quickly. Whenever a transformer would break down, the committee

of the concerned village would contact a private electrician and ask them to check the transformer and assess the repair cost. They then collect the money from the villagers and get the transformer repaired within a few days. This way, the electricity supply is resumed quickly and relieve the entire village from the difficulties faced by lack of electricity.



Repair of transformer in progress

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNER





Repair of transformer in progress

### Construction of Water Supply Project through linkages with MPA MNA

Availability of safe drinking water is a grave issue all over Balochistan. The main source of drinking water is underground water which requires bore and pumping using solar energy given the supply of electricity from the grid system is completely unreliable. These water pumping projects cost a lot. and thus, the community members cannot afford such projects. In an effort to find a solution to the problem the LSO leaders contacted their Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) and requested him to allocate funds for drinking water supply projects. He allocated funds for construction of five water supply projects in villages Mahammadani, Mulghozar, Morainki, Salmanjo, and Rastari on the recommendation of the LSO leaders. Two projects have been completed and three are in progress, to be completed soon. The total cost of these five water supply projects is PKR 17.5 million. A total of 565 households will benefit from these schemes. This will relieve women and children from travelling long distances to collect drinking water on a daily basis. Moreover, availability of safe drinking water will result in reduction of water-borne diseases, like diarrhoea, hepatitis and gastritis.

### Awareness Raising about COVID-19 Pandemic

Pakistan saw the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. In light of the situation, the government started spreading awareness raising messages via print and electronic media, but the rural people of Balochistan were still in the dark about the threat of the disease and the precautionary measures to prevent its fast spread. The LSO leaders took notice of this grave situation and decided to spread awareness sessions across their UC. They asked the VO leaders to take lead at village level, and the VO leaders conducted awareness sessions in VO meetings and local mosques. The LSO leaders asked the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) to conduct awareness sessions in the CO meetings along with their routine CATs sessions. The VO and CO leaders went door to door and conducted

awareness raising sessions with their community members. They then spread awareness raising messages via loudspeakers in the market areas and other places of community gatherings. They also made rules about price control of food items in the local market. They stitched 450 face masks and prepared 400 sanitisers which were distributed among community members who frequented relatively crowded places for various reasons.

One of the main mosque of the UC was facing a shortage of water. When the LSO leaders gave awareness session to the people and showed them how to wash their hands properly with soap, the people said that they have no water supply for the mosque and thus are unable to wash their hands with soap to prevent the spread of COVID-19 disease. The LSO leaders arranged water supply to the mosque from one of the water supply projects they had completed with the financial support of the MPA. The mosque committee now ensures that all people who come to the mosque to say their daily prayers follow the COVID-19 SOPs recommended by the government. As a result of these measures, their UC has remained safe from COVID-19.



Provision of water supply to a local mosque by LSO

### Provision of Ration to COVID-19 affected families

When government of Pakistan imposed strict lock down during the early days of COVID-19, the poor households in



A poor member taking a ration bag home



UC Ghatt Balbal faced challenges in earning a livelihood. The daily wagers lost their jobs in the cities and many of them had to return back to their native villages. This created a food crisis across the UC. At such a critical time, the LSO leaders came forward and supported the community. They prepared list of vulnerable families with the help of VO leaders and coordinated with various philanthropists and NGOs for provision of food items to these families. As a result, they were successful in providing food items to 170 poor families with the financial support of Al-Khidmat Foundation, Zehri Online and some local well off families. This timely action saved the poor beneficiary families from falling into a vicious cycle of poverty.

### Activities to improve Education

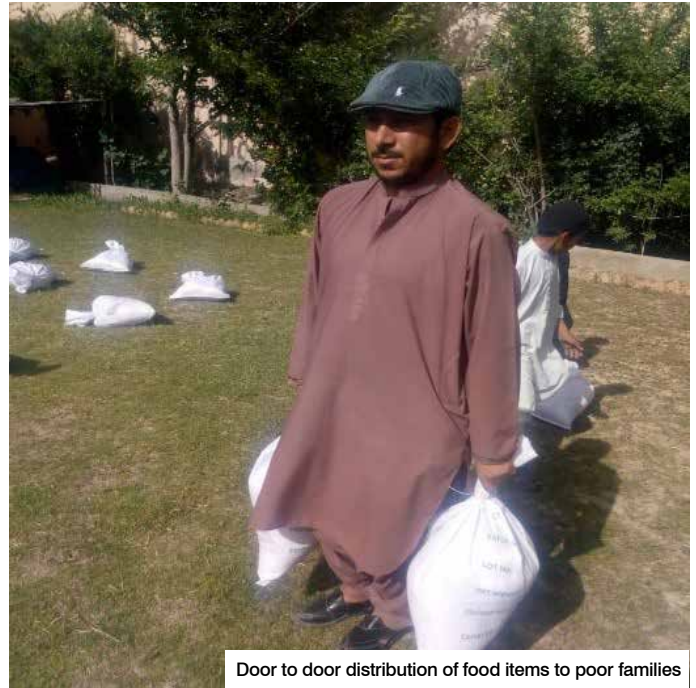
The LSO leaders are also dedicated to improving the status of education in their area. They launched an enrolment campaign and enrolled 135 girls and boys in government schools. The High School building lacked a proper boundary wall and did not have sufficient number of class rooms. The LSO leaders met with their Member National Assembly (MNA) and requested him to build the boundary wall and a class room. The MNA allocated funds and both the class room and the boundary wall were constructed with a total cost of PKR 2.8 million.

### Plantation Campaign

The community members learnt about the importance of trees during the Community Awareness Toolkits sessions at CO meetings. This led to a demand for planting material from the CO members. The LSO contacted Green Zehri Online, a local NGO, and procured 250 fruit plants, including 170 mulberry and 70 apple tree saplings free of cost. They then distributed the plants among their VOs who distributed them among interested CO members. The leaders of VOs Gatt Balbal, Trasani and Mahammadani decided to carry out plantation campaigns on an annual basis, and they have developed linkages with Green Zehri Online for procurement of planting material in the coming plantation season.

### Distribution of Jackets among deserving people

Winter season is very harsh in the LSO area. Poor people cannot afford warm clothes for their children to wear during the cold season. The LSO contacted a local philanthropist who provided 200 warm jackets. The LSO identified children of poor deserving families via their VO leaders and distributed the jackets among them in a transparent manner.



Door to door distribution of food items to poor families



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Door to door distribution of food items to poor families



Door to door distribution of food items to poor families



Education Campaign in UC Awareness session on COVID-19



Door to door distribution of food items to poor families



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Education Campaign in UC Awareness session on COVID-19

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