













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 Mushtarka

District  Loralai	Union Council  Ponga	Date of Formation  30-11-2015	Total Households in Union Council  967	Organised Households  581	Coverage  60%
	Number of COs  51 22 WOMEN	Number of VOs  26 11 WOMEN	# of General Body Members  29 ALL MEN	# of Executive Committee Members  15 ALL MEN	

LSO Mushtarka of Union Council Ponga, Tehsil Bori, District Loralai, was formed on 30th November 2015 by 581 member households organised into 51 COs and 26 VOs. The leaders of LSO Mushtarka 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.

Inauguration of LSO Mushtarka Office by Senator Yaqoob Khan Nasir

After formation of LSO Mushtarka under the EU-funded BRACE Programme, the LSO leaders established its office in a rented house. BRSP provided furniture, a computer and carpet to furnish the LSO office. The LSO leaders organised an inauguration ceremony of their office, and invited honourable Senator Yaqoob Khan Nasir as the chief guest. The honourable senator graced the inauguration ceremony with his presence. Due to his presence, the district level officers of government line departments, local notables and elders also attended the ceremony. Thus, the LSO leaders used the occasion for developing contacts with the government line department officers and good will for their LSO.



The honourable Senator inaugurating the LSO office

CNIC Registration through Mobile Registration Van

Union Council Ponga is scattered over a large area. Therefore, travelling to district headquarters for preparation of CNIC is both expensive and time consuming due to lack of public transport and good road network. Therefore, a large number of people, mainly women had never prepared their Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC). Since CNIC is the document that provides a person valid citizenship rights of Pakistan, these people were deprived of their basic rights, like casting votes, registering themselves with government safety net programmes of Zakat, Baitul Mall and EHSAAAS Cash programme. Therefore, the LSO leaders decided to launch a CNIC preparation campaign across their UC. They met with their Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) and Senator Yaqoob Khan Nasir and asked for their support and favour in arranging Mobile Registration Van (MRV) by NADRA. On the recommendation of the honourable Senator, NADRA provided their MRV for 15 days to the LSO leaders. The LSO leaders guided the NADRA mobile team and provided them necessary support like informing the village people about the date and place of the mobile team in advance, arranging water and tea etc. A total of 1,390 CNICs, including 990 women and 400 men were prepared during these 15 days. This joint activity saved a large amount of money and precious time of the local communities. Now these women and men are eligible for casting their votes during the local body, Provincial and National Assembly elections. Moreover, they can access services and supplies of government and other development agencies and service providers.



NADRA Mobile Registration Van in action in the UC

Land Levelling for Agriculture Purpose by Government Bulldozer

The main source of income of the people in union council Ponga is agriculture. A large part of the agriculture land in the UC was uneven, and therefore required proper levelling. Land levelling increases yield to a large extent because it improves weed control. Improved water coverage from better land levelling reduces weeds by up to 40%. This reduction in weeds results in less time for crop weeding. Moreover, good land levelling enables larger fields. The cost of land levelling is quite high, and it requires bulldozers which are available only with The Communication and Works Department (CWD) Balochistan. Therefore, the LSO leaders met with the honourable Senator Yaqoob Khan Nasir and requested for his favour to get bulldozers from the CWD free of cost. Due to the personal influence of the honourable Senator, CWP allocated 450 hours of bulldozer

time for land levelling across UC Ponga by paying nominal charges. The LSO leaders used the bulldozer hours efficiently and levelled 65 acres of agriculture land, that included levelling of existing farm fields as well levelling high rising spots nearby the existing farm fields. The activity significantly improved both the quality and quantity of the farming asset of the local community.



Agricultural land levelling using a bulldozer provided by B&R Department

Construction of Drinking Water Supply Scheme

Drinking water is a scarce commodity in the LSO area. Due to the persistent draught conditions over the last two decades, a large number of water sources have been dried. Therefore, fresh water for human consumption has become very scarce. Pumping of ground is the only source of drinking water in the area. However, such drinking water project is quite expensive and beyond the financial capacity of the local community. The LSO leaders, therefore, decided to contact their MPA, MNA and Senator to request them to divert some funds to provide drinking water for their people. Fortunately, the Senator agreed to fund two drinking water supply projects. The LSO leaders identified villages Sheikhan and Pogna for this purpose. The two drinking water projects cost PKR 3.5 million. They provide safe drinking water to 90 rural families. The members of the concerned communities have established operation and maintenance committees who run the projects and meet their day to day maintenance expenses by collecting funds from the beneficiary households.



The LSO President monitoring the construction work of one of the drinking water projects

Provision of Electricity to its Members

There are villages in UC Ponga which do not have electricity. The main reason was that these villages are located too far away from the main grid lines, and it costs lot of money to link them up with the main grid system. After formation of the LSO, the leaders of those villages raised the issue with the LSO leader and requested for their support to get them electricity connection. The LSO leaders met with different political figures from their area and put up their request. Finally, Senator Yaqoob Khan Nasir came to their help and influenced the concerned government department to

provide electricity connection to two villages of Mahole Sheikhhan and Ponga. The LSO leaders provided extra labour to the government department to speed up the installation of electric poles and wire. Now 105 families of the two villages are enjoying electricity. Besides domestic use, people are using electricity for business purposes. Earlier, these businesses were using their own generators for producing electricity, which was quite expensive. Therefore, availability of electricity has significantly reduced their cost of production and hence increased their income.



LSO members installing an electric pole

Formation of LSO Aman committee Jirga

Due to illiteracy and poverty, local disputes over land, natural resources and family relations are common in the LSO area. These disputes bear big losses in the shape of life and money. The worst impact of disputes is felt on the social harmony, mutual cooperation and social capital of the local community, which are quite important for social mobilisation for poverty reduction and socio-economic empowerment of the marginalised segments of the society. The legal system of Pakistan is corrupt, inefficient and expensive, therefore people receive just decisions only in rare cases. Moreover, it takes years to settle a simple case in these courts, so as the saying goes "justice delayed is justice denied", meaning that if justice is not carried out at right time then even if it is carried out later it is not real justice, because when there was demand of justice there was lack of justice. Therefore, the LSO leaders formed a 3 member Aman Committee to resolve family and communal disputes through arbitration. The Aman committee listens to both parties, make them take back all cases registered with the Police Station and Courts and settle the cases through arbitration and other locally accepted dispute resolution techniques. So far, the Aman Committee has settled 15 cases. This saves the rival parties from paying court fees and fee of Advocates. Disputes normally take half a day or one day to get settled. This saves the precious time of the local people from attending the court hearing sessions year after year.



LSO Aman Committee settling a local dispute

Distribution of Mosquito Net

Malaria is a complex disease and a grave public health problem in Pakistan. Pakistan is reported to account for more than 95% of regional malaria burden. Mosquitoes are in abundance in the LSO area, causing malaria to people of all ages. A proven safety measure is using mosquito nets while going to sleep. However, this requires behaviour change and availability of proper mosquito nets. BRSP is implementing a mosquito distribution project with the financial support of Indus Hospital. On the request of BRSP staff, the LSO leaders, in close collaboration with their VO leaders, collected household data to BRSP. BRSP then allocated mosquito nets as per the age and number of the family members. The LSO leaders accompanies BRSP staff at the time of distribution of mosquito nets to ensure that all families have received their required mosquito nets. In addition, they orient the family members on the proper use of the mosquito net. Due to this activity, the ratio of malaria prevalence is coming down gradually in the UC area.



The President of the LSO distributing mosquito nets among local people

Support in Construction of World Hundred Dams

The Government of Pakistan is sponsoring construction of 100 dams in Balochistan. The purpose of construction of dams is harnessing of flood flows for, inter-alia, direct irrigation, drinking and recharging the underground water. One such dam is under construction in UC Ponga area. LSO leaders have been providing all necessary help to the government authorities. They accompanied the government survey teams and guided them about acquisition of land for the dam. They provided labour force and frequently visit the dam site to offer any support they need any time. The dam will provide both irrigation and drinking water to UC Ponga and its two neighbouring UCs of Pathankot and Zingiwai. The dam is also expected to recharge the underground water of the three UC areas. Therefore, they provide all support to the government for timely completion of the dam.



The LSO President visiting the dam site

Arranged Recreational Facilities for Youth at UC level

The LSO realised that there is no proper playground at UC level to organise sports activities for youth of the area. Besides having fun and enjoyment, sports activities create sportsmanship, discipline and team work spirit among youngsters and youths. The LSO leaders, therefore, allocated a piece of land for playground in the UC. They also organised village level youth football teams and organised football matches for them. The LSO bears the cost of these tournaments through donations they collect from members and notables in the UC. They are now motivating youth football teams to organise the matches on their own by raising funds from local business men, notables and wealthy people.



Celebration of Important National Days

The LSO leaders celebrated Pakistan Day, Independence Day and also other national days with the district administration. Deputy Commissioner Loralai invited the LSO leaders to participate these days, and they actively participate in them. Apart from strengthening patriotism, these activities also strengthen their ties and linkages with the district administration and other government line agencies.



The LSO leaders celebrating Kashmir Solidarity Day

Construction of Check Dams

Due to persistent draught like climate in Balochistan over the last two decades, the under-ground water level has been going down sharply. Therefore, cost of drinking and

irrigation water has become very expensive. On the motivation of the LSO leaders, the members of villages Mahole Shiekhan and Poti decided to construct check dams in appropriate sites in their villages to store rain water. The villagers constructed these check dams on self-help basis. People provided free labour and collected donations to hire tractors. The cost of each check dam goes into millions. The check dams provide irrigation water to the farmers of the concerned villages. Moreover, the level of under-ground water around the dam sites has recharged in both villages. A total of 150 families from the two villages are benefiting from the check dams.



A check dam constructed by the community members on self-help basis

Distribution of Solar Panels among Local People

As mentioned earlier, a number of remote villages of UC Ponga do not have electricity. The villages who have electricity connection suffer long hours of load shedding. Well off families install solar panels, but poor people do not afford the cost of solar panels. On the request and identification of poor families across the UC, MPA Haji Mahmood khan provided solar panels to 217 HHs. Now these poor families also enjoy uninterrupted solar energy.

Tree Plantation

The LSO leaders are making efforts to plant maximum fruit and forest trees in their area. They contacted Agriculture Department and received 5,000 fruit trees which they distributed among their members for planting on their farm lands. The President of the LSO received training in establishing nursery from an NGO. He established a nursery on his own land and provided rooted plants to interested members on nominal price. He had planted 3,500 trees at the dam site. These planation drives are not only increasing he farm asset of the local farmers but also improving the local environment and aesthetic beauty of the villages.



Reported by: Mohammad Ali Azizi, Specialist Social Mobilisation, RSPN
Acknowledgment: Mueeb Rehman, PMER, Loralai and Akbar Khan Achakzai, Manager HID, BRSP HO
Edited by: Muhammad Omer Farooq, Communication Officer, BRACE-RSPN



EUROPEAN UNION

More information about the European Union is available on:

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan_en

[EUinPakistan](#)

[EUpakistan](#)

"This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of. Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union."



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 | www.brace.org.pk

www.facebook.com/BRACEProgramme

www.twitter.com/BRACE_BRSP

www.linkedin.com/company/brace-programme

www.instagram.com/braceinbalochistan

BRACE Programme in Balochistan