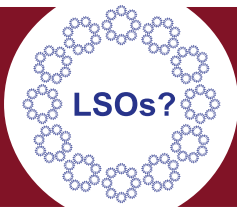




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AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS



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



Local Support Organisation Tarqati Tanzeem Shahabzai

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| District: Zhob | Union Council: Shahabz | Date of Formation: Nov 04 2019 | Total Households in Union Council: 2,222 | Organised Households: 1,320 |
| Coverage: 59% | Number of Community Organisations (COs): 115 (45 women) | Number of Village Organisations (VOs): 25 (08 women) | Number of General Body Members: 49 (All men) | Number of Executive Committee Members: 11 (All men) |

LSO Tarqati Tanzeem Shahabzai, District Zhob, was formed on November 04, 2019, by 1665 member households organised into 115 COs and 25 VOs. The leaders of LSO Tarqati Tanzeem Shahabzai are planning and implementing development activities on a self-help basis and in collaboration with government agencies. The EU-funded BRACE Programme empowers rural men and women in Balochistan by realising the power they gain from collective action. As a result, organized men and women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and taking the initiative to improve their lives.

Construction of Water supply scheme in Collaboration with the HDF

The villagers of Shahabzai and Qila Sherak called a meeting with LSO. They requested the LSO representatives to resolve their problem by constructing a water supply scheme for villagers to resolve the drinking water issue. The LSO representatives checked the proposed site of the area and estimated that it would cost 1.5 million. Therefore, they decided to do resource mobilisation to construct the water supply scheme. The first held meetings with



Constructed water supply by HDF

the BRSP district officials and the Secretary of their Union Council (UC) and requested them to allocate funds to construct the water supply scheme. After a series of several meetings, they were able to convince BRSP to allocate PKR 1.5 million for the construction of a water supply scheme. The construction work started in July 2019 and was completed at the end of December 2019. The water supply scheme provided the resource of water to all villagers of Bobi Irabzai in UC Shahabzai.

Construction of Funeral Hall in Collaboration with the UC Chairman

The residents of the Union Council Shahabzai requested the LSO leaders to construct a funeral hall for their village cemetery. The LSO leaders checked and estimated that it would cost millions. Therefore, they decided to do resource mobilisation to construct the funeral—the first held meetings with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of their Union Council. Then held meetings with tehsil Nazim and requested his favour for allocation of funds using his discretionary power. After several meetings, they contacted the UC chairman of Shahabzai with the cooperation of Tehsil Nazim and got Rs. 1.5 million for the village funeral hall and the funeral home was built in February 2018 in the village cemetery. People, especially the dead, will benefit from shade and rain from the funeral home. And the dead will be buried with dignity.



Activities to Combat COVID-19 Pandemic

When the Government imposed a country-wide lockdown in March 2020 to control the spread of the Coronavirus disease, the poor people of UC Shahabzai, who mostly live on daily wage labour lost their income sources. This created serious economic and nutrition crises in these families because, on the one hand, they lost their daily income. On the other hand, the food items disappeared from the market and became very expensive. Realising the plight of these families, the LSO representatives came forward to

support them on an emergency basis. When the LSO representatives conducted a situation analysis in consultation with their VOs, providing food items to the poorest families ranked as the top priority. Since the number of vulnerable families was quite large, the LSO representatives realised they could not meet their demand through local resource mobilisation. Therefore, they decided to approach elected representatives, NGOs, and rich local people for resource mobilisation. They first conducted a survey and identified vulnerable families across the UC. Then they held meetings with potential philanthropists and requested them to provide ration to needy families. As a result of their efforts, DC Zhob provided rations bags to the LSO representatives, who distributed them among the 68 poor HH, s identified by the LSO representatives.



Later, the District Administration asked the LSO representatives to cooperate with them to distribute ration bags among low-income families. The LSO representatives shared the list of the poorest families in the UC with them and helped them distribute ration bags. As a result of this coordinated work, the LSO representatives successfully provided ration bags to 77 poor HH, s in the UC. The monetary value of these ration bags goes over PKR .8 million. Awareness session by CRP.Umar Shah, President of LSO Tarqiati Tanzeem Shahabzai said that it was the platforms of the LSO and its member VOs, organized under the EU-funded BRACE Programme that facilitated the identification of all eligible households so



Awareness session by CRP

quickly and accurately. Without such a network of well-connected community institutions, they would never have reached out to all the needy families so quickly to help them in their critical times. In addition, on the instruction of the LSO representatives, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) delivered awareness sessions in COs on the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus disease. They also guided the community about the preventive measures to remain safe from getting infected by the dangerous virus, like wearing face masks, washing hands frequently with soap, and avoiding crowded places.

Construction of Foot Ball Ground in Collaboration with Haji Meta Khan Kakar MPA

The youngsters of village Shahabzai conducted a meeting regarding the construction of a football ground in the village for a good and healthy environment. They meet with LSO representatives and Shahabzai Committee for the demand of ground. LSO decided to do resource mobilisation for the construction of the football ground. After that, the LSO representatives contacted Minister Haji Mitta Khan Kakar and asked for a football ground for the boys of his UC village Shahabzai. Finally, Minister Haji Mitta Khan Kakar set aside a fund of Rs. 3.8 million for the village, and the union council approved it for the village football ground. The ground was made in the month of July-2021. The youth of the village are very happy. And they thanked LSO, Shahabzai Committee, and Minister Haji Mitta Khan Kakar



Shahabzai Foot Ball Ground

Construction of Karez (an underground irrigation tunnel) scheme in Collaboration with the Taraqee Foundation

The people of Shahabzai called an LSO meeting and requested the LSO representatives to construct a Karez in the union council to resolve their issues related to agriculture and drinking water. The LSO

representatives visited the proposed site and estimated the cost of PKR 3 million. To manage the funds, they decided to mobilise the resources through local government. They held meetings with the representatives of the local government and Taraqee Foundation and requested them to allocate some funds for the construction of the Karez. Taraqee Foundation allocated PKR 3.8 million for the scheme and the construction work started in June 2015 and was completed in December 2015. From this underground irrigation tunnel, 220 households are being benefited.



Construction of the road repairing in Collaboration with MPA Haji Meta Khan Kakar

The LSO representatives and LSO Tarqati Tanzeem Shahabzai Committee arranged a meeting to reconstruct the main road of the area in collaboration with the government and other local representatives. The first meeting was held with the MPA Haji Meta Khan Kakar whom the LSO members requested funds for the construction of the road.

The MPA Haji Meta Khan Kakar allocated PKR 600 million for the construction and the work started in April 2022 and was completed in August 2022. From this newly constructed road, about 340 households are benefiting, and all the villagers feel grateful to Haji Meta Khan Kakar, and the Committee of LSO Tarqati Tanzeem Shahabzai for their fruitful efforts.



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