











What are LSOs?

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 mobilise rural communities 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

LSO Bulandi, Kambar

<p>District</p>  <p>Kambar Shahdaktot</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Kor Kamal</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>2017</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>2,340</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>2,025</p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p>87%</p>
	<p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p>69 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p>16 <small>(all women's)</small></p>	<p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p>32 <small>(all women)</small></p>	<p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>11 <small>(all women)</small></p>	

(LSO Profile as of October 2017)

Plantation of Forest Plants

The community members remember that in the old days, even in the hot summer months, their villages used to be cool. However, gradually, the weather conditions in summer seasons turned to extremely hot. They learnt about the reason behind this change during an awareness-raising session on environmental impact after formation of their community institutions (COs/VOs and LSO). In old days, there were trees everywhere that helped keep the atmosphere cool. When the price of fuel wood rose people cut most of the trees, either for their own consumption or to sell in the market, without planting new ones to replace them. Due to this, the villages started experiencing extreme weather conditions during the summer.

After learning the adverse effects of cutting down trees, the members of LSO Bulandi resolved to plant trees in their area. During the last planting season, they planted 6,201 forest trees in and around their villages. They are planning to plant more trees in the next planting season to cover their villages



The LSO member with her newly planted tree



with forest trees. The plantation of forest trees will not only make the environmental conditions more pleasant, but will also produce abundant forage for the domestic animals and fuel wood for domestic consumption.

Vaccination of Pregnant Women Against Tetanus Toxoid

In the UC of Kor Kamal, the Government of Sindh had established a number of Basic Health Units(BHUs). These centers provide vaccination services for both adults and children. However, due to some myths and cultural taboos associated with vaccinations such as, children become impotent with the vaccinations, people were reluctant to get themselves and their children vaccinated.

After organising themselves into COs/VOs/LSOs under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, and attending awareness sessions on health issues, the women learnt that the rumors around vaccinations were baseless and in fact, vaccination is the most effective and efficient health practice to prevent oneself from diseases. Due to this awareness, over the last three months, around 250 pregnant women have taken vaccines against Tetanus Toxoid, and people have been getting their children vaccinated as well.

Enrollment of Girls and Boys in Schools

A large number of community members were of the view that school education serves no serious purpose in their daily lives. They thought that there was no visible difference between literate and illiterate people in terms of carrying out daily routines, agriculture activities, running a small grocery shop and labour work. Therefore, they were not interested in sending their children, especially girls to schools. However, after the formation of the CO and VO and later LSO, they realised that there are certain activities which could be carried out by only literate people, such as record keeping of their CO and VO, operation of their bank accounts, and being eligible to serve as a Community Resource Person (CRP), one needs to meet certain qualification criteria.

The realisation of importance of education motivated the people of UC Kor Kamal to send their children to schools. So far, 334 children have been enrolled in government schools. The LSO leaders are planning to continue the enrollment movement and have fixed a minimum target of enrolling 500 children over the next year.

Obtain Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) for Community Members

People of the area had learnt about the importance of the CNIC when the government started Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to provide cash grants to the eligible members. But even then, only those women took interest in getting their CNICs made who were eligible for BISP payments. A large number of other women and men of the community did not show much interest in obtaining their CNICs.

During the awareness raising sessions organised by SUCCESS Programme at the LSO level, the members first time learnt about the utility and importance of CNIC. They realised that the little card in fact was extremely powerful as it signified that the person was a citizen of the country and has all the rights that others have. Therefore, gradually people started developing interest in obtaining their CNICs. The LSO leaders guide them and also support the members in preparation of the basic documentations necessary to obtain their CNICs. So far, they have been able to aid 250 women in getting their CNICs made and are planning to help 500 more women in the near future to be able to obtain their CNICs.



Reactivation of Cards of BISP Beneficiaries

Around 70% BISP beneficiaries are already members of the LSO. Some of them reported to the LSO leaders that their ATM cards, as well as of other women in the villages, had been blocked due to unknown reasons. The LSO leaders took notice of the case and raised the issue with NADRA and BISP authorities. So far, they have been successful in reactivating the blocked BISP cards of 143 beneficiaries.



"This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union."

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Designed & Printed by: Masha ALLAH Printers

THE LSO INITIATIVES SERIES IS BY THE
RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK



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