



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 under SUCCESS, mobilise rural women 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 SOONHAN, KAMBER SHAHDADKOT

District  Kamber Shahdadkot	Union Council  Seelra	Date of Formation  Dec 12 2012	Total Households in Union Council  5,133	Organised Households  3,044
Coverage  59%	Number of Community Organisations (COs)  138 (all women's)	Number of Village Organisations (VOs)  14 (all women's)	Number of General Body Members  28 (all women)	Number of Executive Committee Members  5 (all women)

(LSO Profile as of December 12, 2019)

LSO Soonhan, from District Kamber Shahdadkot was formed in December 2019 by 3,044 member households organised in 138 COs and 14 VO. Women leaders of LSO Soonhan are planning and executing development activities both on self-help basis as well as in collaboration with government agencies. EU-funded SUCCESS programme is empowering rural women in Sindh through realising the power they gain from collective action. The organised women now are gaining awareness about their rights and making the service providers accountable and also taking self-initiatives to improve their lives.

Provision of Clean Drinking Water Supply

Availability of potable water is a fundamental health problem in almost all rural areas of the Sindh Province. According to reports issued by various organisations, District Kamber Shahdadkot falls in the category of the "Worst Situation Districts" in terms of availability of safe drinking water. The community members of UC Seelra also face the same problem. Before getting organised in COs, VOs and LSO under the EU-funded SUCCESS programme, they had no idea as to how they can play a part to resolve their collective development issues. However, when the women of the UC were organised, they started discussing development issues in their meetings. During these meetings, the members identified lack of clean drinking water as a basic problem. The issue was discussed in a monthly meeting of



LSO Soonhan and they decided to raise the issue with the UC Chairman. The women leaders of the LSO went to visit Mr. Noor Ahmed Brohi, the UC Chairman, at his office. LSO leaders briefed the UC Chairman about their LSO and asked for his support to resolve the problem of potable water in their area. The UC Chairman was pleased to see women organised in community organisations to resolve the collective problems of their members. Hence, the Chairman offered to fund the installation of hand pumps for the provision of clean drinking water. He offered the LSO leaders to identify five locations to install these hand pumps where the community is ready to do the borework on their own as he could only provide the hand pumps machines and required materials.

