



Newsletter

The Quarterly Newsletter for
SRSO Outreach &
Interventions
October-December
2016



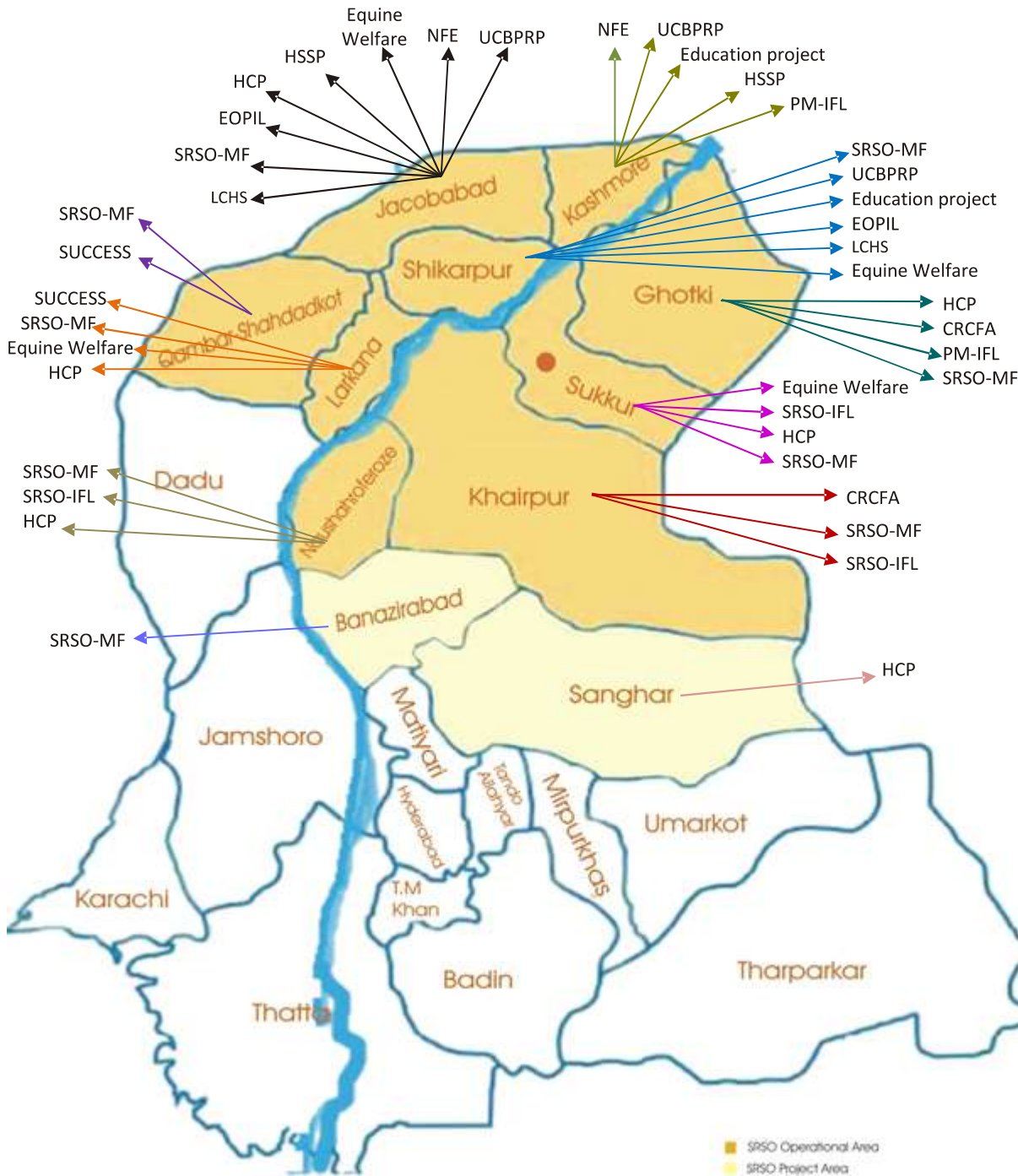
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Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) Operational Area



ON GOING PROJECTS

- UCBPRP**
(Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme)
Funded by: P&D-GoS
- NFE**
(Non Formal Education)
Supported by: USAID
- Equine Welfare Project**
Funded by: BROOKE
- HSSP**
(Health System Strengthening Project)
Funded by: USAID-RSPN
- HCP**
(Health Communication Project)
Funded by: USAID-RSPN
- EOPIL**
Empowering Older People Improve Lives
Funded by: HelpAge - BLF
- SRSO-Microfinance**
Funded by: SRSO
- Construction of Low Cost Housing Units (LCHS)**
Funded by: BHC-GOS
- Education Project**
Funded by: CDP-GoS
- PM-IFL**
(Prime Minister Interest Free Loan)
Funded by: PPAF
- CRCFA**
(Child Rights in Cotton Fallow Areas of Sindh)
Funded by: UNICEF-RSPN
- SUCCESS**
(Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support Program)
Funded by: European Union (EU)
- SRSO-IFL**
(Interest Free Loan)
Funded by: GOS

VISION

To perceive Socially and Economically empowered Communities especially the marginalized ones and helping create a proactive Community Organizations by attitudinal change by setting free people's Potentials and willingness to alleviate poverty.

MISSION

To meet the challenge of battering poverty and help the poor to get above the poverty line and have a standard life. To help marginalized rural people harness their potential to bring about change in their quality of life on a self help basis.

OBJECTIVES

- To unleash people's potential and willingness to alleviate poverty in Sindh
- To reinforce and compliment Government of Pakistan's policy of Poverty Alleviation
- To support and strengthen Government of Sindh's efforts to translate Poverty reduction strategies into actions

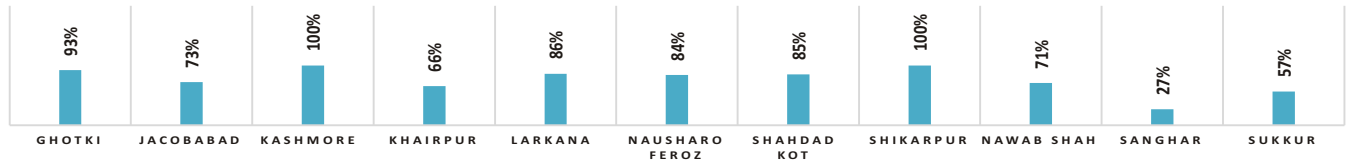


SRSO Cumulative Achievement as of December 2016

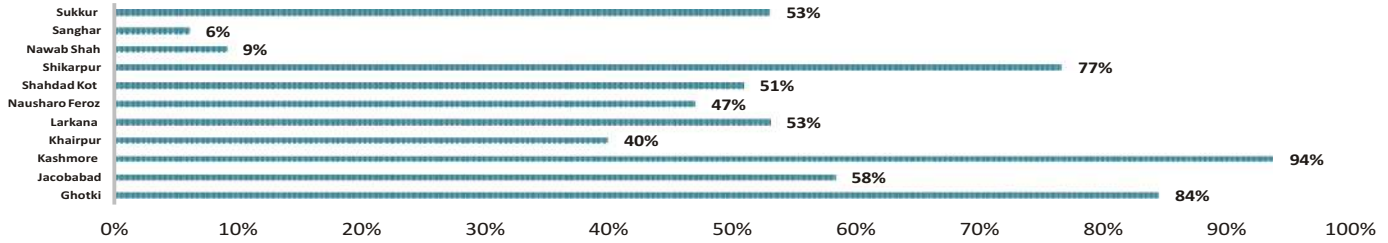
S.#	Key Performance Indicators	Achievement as of September-2016	Achievement as of December-2016	% increase during Qtr	
1	No. of Operational Districts	11	11	-	
2	No. of Union Councils with SRSO presence	395	395	-	
3	No. of Taluka with SRSO presence	52	52	-	
4	No. of villages with SRSO presence	12,964	12,964	-	
5	No. of Household Organized	604,862	680,614	13%	
6	VO Formation	7,501	7,702	3%	
7	LSO Formation	130	131	1%	
8	CO- Formation	Female	35,399	39,460	11%
		Male	2,383	2,383	-
		Mix	40	40	-
		Total	37,822	41,883	11%
9	CO-Membership	Female	566,200	641,952	13%
		Male	38,662	38,662	-
		Total	604,862	680,614	13%
10	Community Saving (In million)	Female	116.58	120.67	4%
		Male	6.80	6.80	-
		Total	123.383	127.474	3%
11	Income Generating Grant (IGG) Amount Disbursed (In Million)	82.93	82.93	-	
12	No. of IGG Beneficiaries	7,608	7,608	-	
13	Community Investment Fund (CIF) amount disbursed (In Million)	1,064.64	1,064.64	-	
14	No. of CIF Beneficiaries	101,702	101,702	-	
15	Total amount of Microcredit disbursed (In Million)	8,210.23	8,427.70	3%	
16	No. of Beneficiaries of Micro Credit Programme	457,740	466,504	2%	
17	No of Community members trained in vocational skill Training	53,330	53,589	0.4%	
18	No of Community members trained	252,334	252,581	0.1%	
19	Community Members trained as TBAs	4,777	4,777	-	
20	Micro Health Insurance (Clients)	487,334	533,117	9%	
21	Community Members Insured in Micro Health Insurance (Head Count)	619,197	619,197	-	
22	No. of Community Physical Infrastructure (CPIs)	26,428	26,428	-	
23	Total amount of CPIs (In Million)	1,304	1,304	-	
24	Total Beneficiary Households	222,095	222,095	-	
25	No of Low Cost Houses	17,578	18,418	5%	



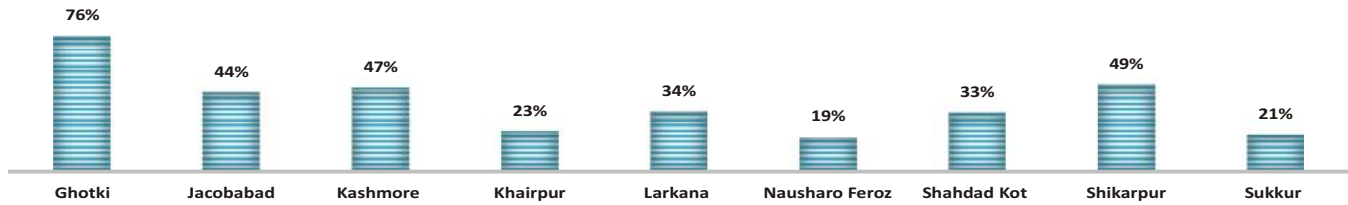
DISTRICT WISE UNION COUNCIL COVERAGE AS OF DECEMBER 2016



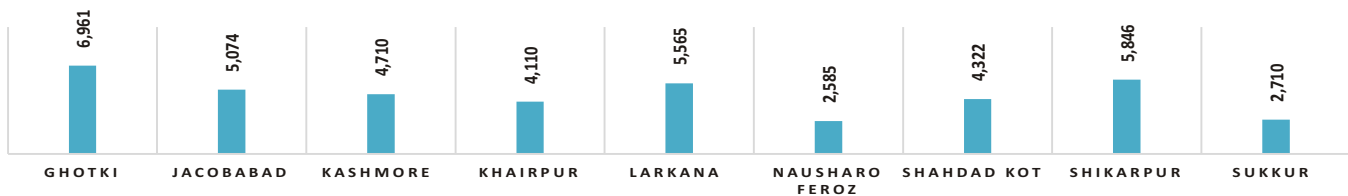
DISTRICT WISE VILLAGE COVERAGE AS OF DECEMBER 2016



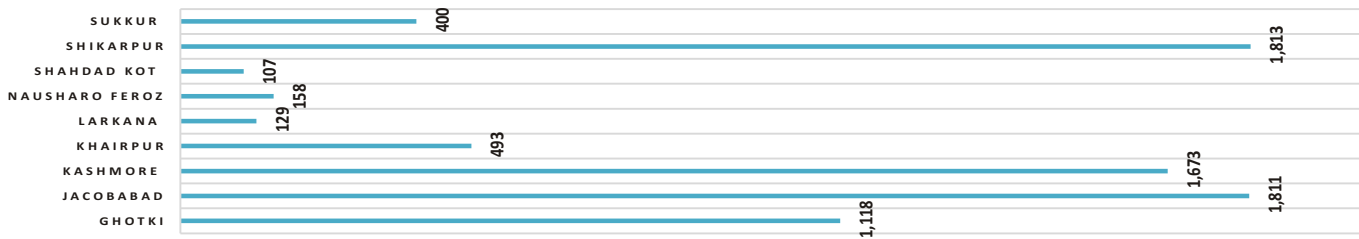
DISTRICT WISE HOUSEHOLD COVERAGE AS OF DECEMBER 2016



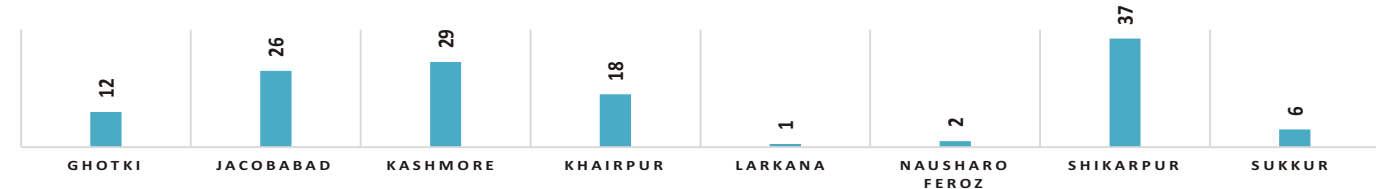
DISTRICT WISE BREAK UP OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (COS) AS OF DECEMBER 2016



DISTRICT WISE BREAK UP OF VILLAGE ORGANIZATION (VOS) FORMATION AS OF DECEMBER 2016

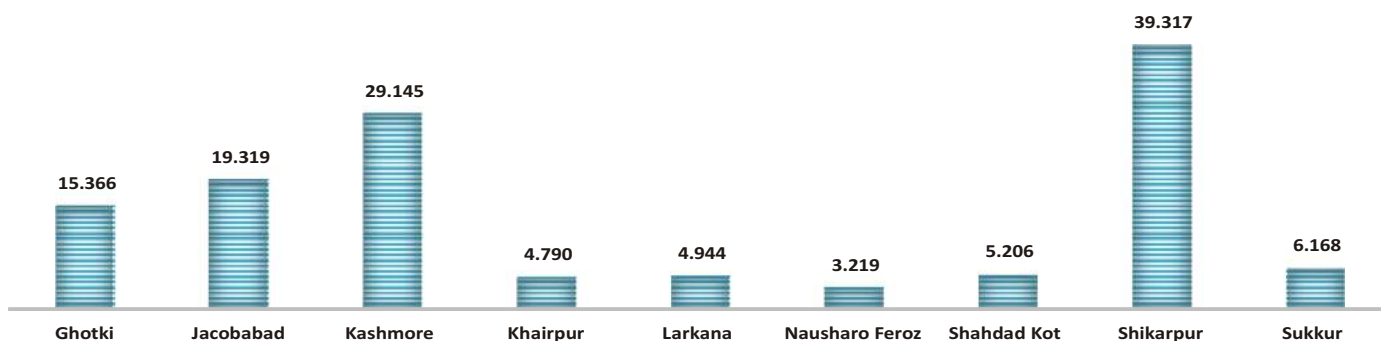


DISTRICT WISE BREAK UP OF LSOS AS OF DECEMBER 2016

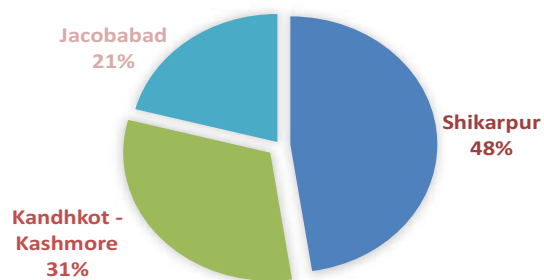




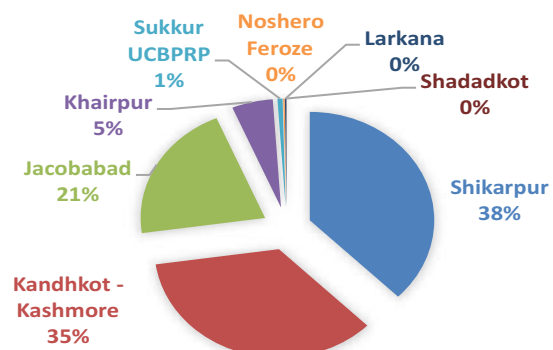
DISTRICT WISE BREAKUP OF COMMUNITY SAVING AS OF DECEMBER 2016



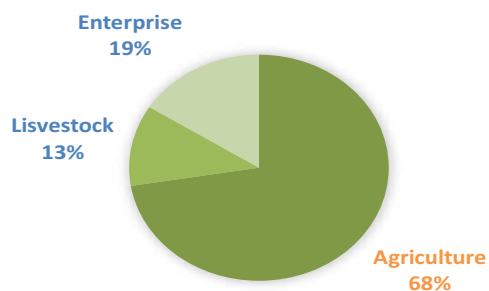
DISTRICT WISE BREAK UP OF INCOME GENERATING GRANTS (IGG) AS OF DECEMBER 2016



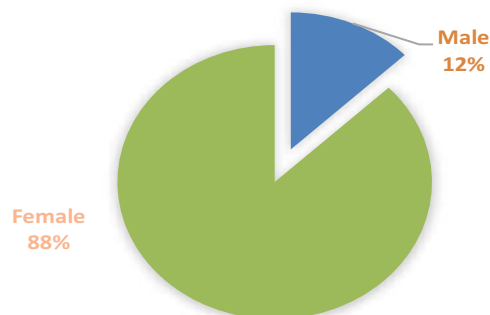
DISTRICT WISE BREAK UP OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (CIF) AS OF DECEMBER 2016



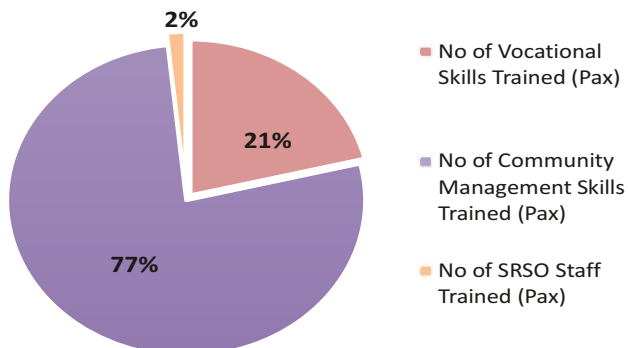
SECTOR WISE MICROCREDIT DISBURSEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 2016



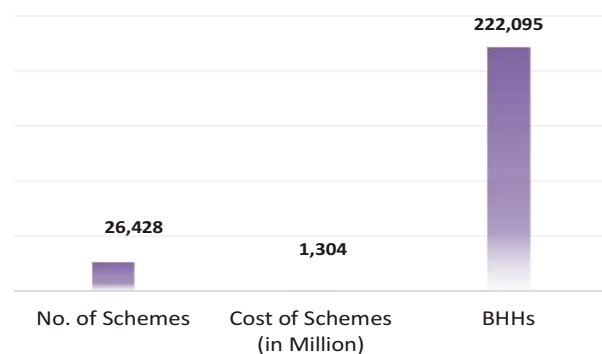
GENDER WISE MICROCREDIT DISBURSEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 2016



SUMMARY OF STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED AS OF DECEMBER 2016



SUMMARY OF CPI AS OF DECEMBER 2016





Sr.#	District		Geographical Coverage				
			Total No. of area in the District	# of SRSO intervened area as of Sept 2016	# of SRSO intervened area as of Dec 2016	% increase during Qtr	% of total area coverage as of Dec 2016
1	Ghotki	Union Council	40	37	37	-	93%
		Village	2,464	2,080	2,080	-	84%
		Household	159,314	120,767	120,767	-	76%
2	Jacobabad	Union Council	40	29	29	-	73%
		Village	3,110	1,811	1,811	-	58%
		Household	191,633	84,893	84,893	-	44%
3	Kashmore	Union Council	37	37	37	-	100%
		Village	1,786	1,673	1,673	-	94%
		Household	170,421	80,345	80,345	-	47%
4	Khairpur	Union Council	76	50	50	-	66%
		Village	3,254	1,296	1,296	-	40%
		Household	305,137	68,694	68,694	-	23%
5	Larkana	Union Council	44	38	38	-	86%
		Village	1,590	842	842	-	53%
		Household	217,208	37,589	72,949	94%	34%
6	Naushahro Feroz	Union Council	51	43	43	-	84%
		Village	2,192	1,028	1,028	-	47%
		Household	219,772	42,852	42,852	-	19%
7	Shahdad Kot	Union Council	40	34	34	-	85%
		Village	1,561	793	793	-	51%
		Household	211,612	29,475	69,867	137%	33%
8	Shikarpur	Union Council	50	50	50	-	100%
		Village	2,414	1,848	1,848	-	77%
		Household	210,530	102,306	102,306	-	49%
9	Sukkur	Union Council	46	26	26	-	57%
		Village	1,664	881	881	-	53%
		Household	183,500	37,941	37,941	-	21%
10	Nawab Shah	Union Council	51	36	36	-	71%
		Village	4,104	362	362	-	9%
		Household	213,304	-	-	-	-
11	Sanghar	Union Council	55	15	15	-	-
		Village	5,700	350	350	-	-
		Household	221,845	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL		Union Council	530	395	395	-	75%
		Village	29,839	12,964	12,964	-	43%
		Household	2,304,276	600,921	680,614	13%	36%



Sr.#	District		Organized Coverage		
			# of CO/VO/LSO formed as of Sept 2016	# of CO/VO/LSO formed as of Dec 2016	% increase during Qtr
1	Ghotki	Community Organizations (COs)	6,961	6,961	-
		Village Organizations (VOs)	1,118	1,118	-
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	12	12	-
2	Jacobabad	Community Organizations (COs)	5,074	5,074	-
		Village Organizations (VOs)	1,811	1,811	-
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	26	26	-
3	Kashmore	Community Organizations (COs)	4,710	4,710	-
		Village Organizations (VOs)	1,673	1,673	-
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	29	29	-
4	Khairpur	Community Organizations (COs)	4,110	4,110	-
		Village Organizations (VOs)	493	493	-
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	18	18	-
5	Larkana	Community Organizations (COs)	3,605	5,565	54%
		Village Organizations (VOs)	35	129	269%
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	0	1	1%
6	Naushahro Feroz	Community Organizations (COs)	2,585	2,585	-
		Village Organizations (VOs)	158	158	-
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	2	2	-
7	Shahdad Kot	Community Organizations (COs)	2,221	4,322	95%
		Village Organizations (VOs)	0	107	-
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	0	0	-
8	Shikarpur	Community Organizations (COs)	5,846	5,846	-
		Village Organizations (VOs)	1,813	1,813	-
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	37	37	-
9	Sukkur	Community Organizations (COs)	2,710	2,710	-
		Village Organizations (VOs)	400	400	-
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	6	6	-
GRAND TOTAL		Community Organizations (COs)	37,607	41,883	13%
		Village Organizations (VOs)	7,429	7,702	3%
		Local Support Organizations (LSOs)	130	131	1%



Community Saving

Sr.#	District	Community Saving as of Sept 2016 (In Million)	Community Saving as of Dec 2016 (In Million)	% increase during Qtr
1	Ghotki	15.37	15.37	-
2	Jacobabad	19.12	19.31	0.9%
3	Kashmore	29.66	30.14	2%
4	Khairpur	4.53	4.79	5%
5	Larkana	3.171	4.94	55%
6	Naushahro Feroz	3.26	3.26	-
7	Shahdad Kot	3.073	3.21	4%
8	Shikarpur	39.06	39.31	0.6%
9	Sukkur	6.168	6.168	-
TOTAL		123.382	127.474	3%

Income Generating Grants (IGG) (Women Beneficiaries 100%)

S.no	Districts	as of Sept 2016		as of Dec 2016		% increase during Qtr
		# of Benf:	Amount disbursed (In Million)	# of Benf:	Amount disbursed (In Million)	
1	Shikarpur	3,717	39.50	3,717	39.50	-
2	Kandhkot - Kashmore	2,543	26.13	2,543	26.13	-
3	Jacobabad	1,348	17.31	1,348	17.31	-
4	Total IGG Disbursed	7,608	82.94	7,608	82.94	-

Community Investment Fund (CIF)

S. No	Districts	as of Sept 2016		as of Dec 2016		% increase during Qtr
		# of Benf:	Amount disbursed (In Million)	# of Benf:	Amount disbursed (In Million)	
1	Shikarpur	40,239	396.51	40,239	396.51	-
2	Kandhkot - Kashmore	35,863	374.07	35,863	374.07	-
3	Jacobabad	18,371	220.87	18,371	226.43	-
4	Khairpur	6,044	56.44	6,044	56.44	-
5	Sukkur UCBPRP	513	7.05	513	7.05	-
6	Noshero Feroze	370	1.85	370	1.85	-
7	Larkana	236	1.98	236	1.98	-
8	Shahdadkot	66	0.33	66	0.33	-
9	Total CIF Disbursed (In Million)	101,702	1,064.64	101,702	1,064.64	-

Micro Finance (MF)

S.no	Districts	Amount disbursed as of Sept 2016	Amount disbursed as of Dec 2016	% increase during Qtr
1	Total Amount of Micro Credit Disbursement (In Million)	8,210.23	8,427.70	3%
	Men	1,010.63	1,027.28	2%
	Women	7,200.15	7,400.96	3%
2	No. of Loans	457,74	466,50	2%
	Male	57,08	57,63	1%
	Female	400,66	408,87	2%
3	Sectoral Disbursement	8,210.23	8,427.70	3%
	Agriculture	5,677.63	5,729.61	1%
	Livestock	1,004.73	1,109.20	10%
	Enterprise	1,526.82	1,588.83	4%



Community Physical Infrastructure (CPIs)

S.#	Types of CPI Schemes	Achievement as of December 2016		
		No. of Schemes	Cost of Schemes (In Million)	BHHs
Total of CPI Schemes		26,428	1,304	222,095
1	Sanitation	15,952	196.89	86,995
2	Street Pavement & Sanitation	44	209.07	9,022
3	Drinking Water Supply Schemes (DWSS)	9,517	344.00	47,727
4	Low Cost Village Improvement Schemes (LCVI)	72	127.09	7,248
5	Communication	340	186.81	25,383
6	Irrigation	429	181.11	11,828
7	IAUP	1	2.09	75
8	Water Filter Plants by GoS	40	23.58	28,570
9	Street Lighting on solar system	5	5.00	301
10	Schools Renovation/Construction	28	29.00	4,288

S.#	Housing Schemes	No. of Houses	Cost of Houses (In Millions)	BHHs
Total of Housing Schemes		13,868	1470.66	13,868
11	Low Cost Housing Schemes (2007-2015)	13,504	1368.46	13,504
12	Benazir Housing Cell (2015-2016)	364	102.2	364

Human Resource Development (HRD)

Sr.#	Key Performance Indicator	Achievement as of Sept-2016	Achievement as of Dec-2016	% increase during Qtr
1	No. of Community Members provided scholarship for Vocational Skill Training	53,385	53,589	0.4%
2	No. of Community Members trained in Community Management Skill Training	198,949	198,992	0.02%
3	No. of SRSO Staff Trained in different programme/project training	5,007	5,105	2%

Micro Health Insurance (MHI)

Sr.#	Key Performance Indicator	Achievement as of Sept-2016	Achievement as of Dec-2016	% increase during Qtr
1	No. of Community Members provided Micro Health Insurance Cover	487,334	533,117	9%
2	No. of Community Members Treated through MHI	7,481	7,648	2%
	Men	2,740	2,740	-
	Women	4,741	4,908	4%
3	Amount of claims availed by Community (In Million)	97.99	101.91	4%



Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS)

District Larkana & Kambar-Shahdadkot

Project Activities	Unit	Programme Targets	Cumulative Achievement	%
Poverty Scorecard Census	UC	99	99	100%
Households Census	Household	280,823	267,823	95%
Population Census	Person	1,939,008	1,849,246	95%
Number of HHs organized	Household	200,867	75,752	38%
Formation of Community Organizations (CO)	CO	10,043	4,061	40%
Formation of Village Organization (VO)	VO	1,255	201	16%
Formation of Local Support Organizations (LSO)	LSO	99	1	1%
CMST of COs office bearers	Person	25,108	6,527	26%
LMST of VOs office bearers	Person	3,138	292	9%
Activists workshops for office bearers of LSO / VO / CO	Event	252	25	10%
Training of field staff on Community Awareness Training (CAT)	Person	79	79	100%
CRP Training on CIF and CAT (VO based CRPs)	Person	1,569	91	6%



Prime Minister's
Interest Free Loan Scheme

Prime Minister Interest Free Loan Project (1st & 2nd Cycle)



Project Activities	Total Project Target	Total Progress as on December 2016	% of ach: against total target
No: of branches established	12	12	100%
# of application received	12,000	10,514	88%
# of Applications Approved	12,000	9,792	82%
# of Application Disbursed	12,000	9,792	82%
Amount Disbursed	240,000,000	188,330,998	78%
Total Recovery due as of Dec 2016	94,242,580	105,169,052	112%

European Union (EU) Ambassador Visits SRSO

In December 2016, European Union Ambassador H.E. Mr. Jean-François Cautain with his wife Mrs. Sonia Cautain visited SRSO. During their three-day stay at SRSO, they visited district Shikarpur and Larkana Districts to see interventions/impact of the UCBPR program and activities of SUCCESS program respectively. In addition to the field visits, EU ambassador also had meetings with Commissioner Sukkur, Sukkur Mayor, elected representatives and officials from local government. They also had an exclusive dialogue with women community leaders who participated from various VOs, LSOs and their networks formed in UCBPRP. During 3 days visit, Government of Sindh's representative from UCBPRP and RSPN colleagues also participated.

A dinner and musical night were also arranged to welcome the esteemed guests by commissioner Sukkur. During the visit, H.E interacted with leaders of the VOs and the beneficiaries. He also witnessed various interventions of UCBPRP and other projects. Stalls were set up in village Samano, which depicting the work done under UCBPRP, and other projects implemented by SRSO in Shikarpur.

Mr. Cautain said that "visit like this is very much important for people like me especially who is sitting in capital city Islamabad where usually we don't really see what Pakistan is about. Going to Sindh, meeting with women who are so well organized, having leadership gives another and I must say clearly very positive image of Pakistan, which I am taking back to Islamabad from this visit".



In addition to the visit of village Moorani and Samano in Shikarpur (UCBPRP Program), honorable guests also attended an LSOs' dialogue at the SRSO Complex, where women community leaders representing various community institutions of three districts of UCBPRP shared their experiences and success stories. Speaking at the occasion, ambassador congratulated the women for their dedication and commitment to the cause of rural development & poverty alleviation. He said that work continuously being done by the women is inspirational and it should be continued. On third day, the ambassador visited the areas under the EU funded SUCCESS programme. First, he visited at village Karan, UC Moen-Jo-Daro, district Larkana. A formal Programme Introduction dialogue was organized by field team. UC chairman welcomed the distinguished guests on behalf of communities. Later, a detailed presentation was given which revealed the information in terms of socio-economic conditions. Team leader-SUCCESS programme SRSO component made interactive dialogue with women. He described in detail the benefits of three-tiered social mobilization. CEO-SRSO, Ms. Shireen Narejo (BoD-member SRSO) and Ms. Shandana Khan (CEO-RSPN) also interacted with women. At the occasion, the ambassador also spoke to the rural women and said that the EU working with an apparent aim to reduce rural poverty in Pakistan. For this purpose, resources are being provided to the federal and provincial governments, to ensure that people live better and improved lives. Mrs. Sonia Cautain also addressed the women, sharing her admiration and appreciation for their resilience and urging them to organize and stand up for their rights.



The ambassador also participated in a VO leader's meeting at village Imam Bux Mallah, UC Moen-jo-Daro. The women leaders warmly welcomed the honorable guests in their village. A detailed presentation was given by the VO leaders on the profile and overall outreach and plan of their VO. followed by this, women leaders unveiled their experiences, stories and recent success after formation in short span of few months' time. Talking to the women leaders, the ambassador said that the people of Europe would be quite happy to know that their tax money is being used by the organized women of remotest areas. He said that rural women are doing simply inspirational work. All the guests planted lemon plants over there.



CEO Brooke Pakistan Visits Different Locations



Mr. Mohammad Farooque Malik (CEO-Brooke Pakistan) along with a delegation made an official visit on 18-Nov-2016. Manager NRM, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Pathan briefed about the SRSO. He specifies the ongoing activities of Brooke-SRSO Project. Also mention the way forward with innovative ideas regarding improving the welfare of working animals. The Brooke delegation visited the different locations of Shikarpur and Qamber-Shahdadkot districts. They visited the TGC donkey's places of congregation and BKs donkey community to see the impact for equine caring and equine work with available resources. The CEO Brooke Pakistan recognized the eminent work of BROOKE-SRSO teams especially integration with other projects. He said the equine communities are getting benefit from community development initiatives, capacity building and assisting them in poverty reduction. In last,

a MoU was signed between two organizations (SRSO & Brooke) in order to further expand the partnership by 2019

UCBPRP Retreat-2016



The Union Council based Poverty Reduction Program (UCBPRP) Retreat 2016 was organized at SRSO Complex Sukkur from 2nd to 4th October 2016. The event was chaired by Mr. Shuaib Sultan Khan (Chairman-SRSO) and Mr. Muhammad Dittal Kalhoro (CEO-SRSO). The event was started formally with the welcome note by the CEO-SRSO. The objective of this event was to develop a way forward future strategy for strengthening and sustainability of community-based institutions. Among participants were the distinguished guests and notable, different stakeholders, government representatives, RSPs representatives, CEOs from RSPs, women leaders from CIs and SRSO UCBPRP program staff. Group work and presentations were given on various topics by the participants. Revealing and proposing the future strategies for the active engagement of community-based institutions.

Inauguration of Community Cluster Secondary School

An inaugural ceremony with respect to the opening of Community Cluster School Wahid Bux Bijarani was organized on 20-Dec-2016 by SRSO district Kashmore. The DC Kashmore honored the event as the chief guest, who also inaugurated the opening of this school formally. Followed by the inauguration, the DC visited the different portions and classrooms and interacted with students. The DC also oversaw the teaching arrangement and facilities being part of this new school. While commenting, the DC appreciated the efforts and said that it is highly beneficial that this school will provide quality of education in this area. He also applauded the SRSO team for continued efforts for the vital cause of education. The community cluster school component is financially assisted by the Government of Sindh



ROM Mission Visits SRSO SUCCESS Programme



Mr. Massimo Canossa, the EU consultant for Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) visited the SUCCESS programme of SRSO component from 14 to 16 November 2016. He arrived at SRSO Complex Sukkur. A meeting was arranged, in which Mr. Jamal Mustafa Shoro welcomed the guest. He was given a brief presentation about SRSO, its ongoing projects, and steps taken towards community development. Mr. Jamal Mustafa also presented the overall progress made so far under the SUCCESS Programme.

On day two, Mr. Massimo along with Mr. Jamal Mustafa Shoro and Mr. Muzaffar Hussain visited village Akil of UC Akil in district Larkana. He attended the ongoing CMST and observed the training arrangements and took feedback. Mr. Massimo accompanied with AC Larkana attended a routine meeting of VO in village Mohammad Islam Malgani. Mr. Massimo and AC Larkana attended a programme introduction dialogue in village Raza Muhammad Jagirani UC Ratokot. He observed the entire process of

programme introduction and social mobilization.

On day three, Mr. Massimo accompanied with CEO SRSO and Team Leader SUCCESS visited village Umeed Ali Junejo UC Jamali, district Qamber - Shahdadkot. They attended a routine meeting of VO in this village. Mr. Massimo discussed with rural women about the existing activities and future plans in light of programme interventions. Followed by this visit, an important meeting was held with the DC district Qamber-Shahdadkot (Mr. Mohammad Shahmir Bhutto). In last, Mr. Massimo conducted a crucial meeting with staff working under the SUCCESS programme. The meeting was meant to check the understanding of staff on duties and the prescribed process for programme. He discussed all components of SUCCESS programme individually and collectively with field staff. He also obtained the information on standard processes, procedures, and methodologies outlined in the programme.

Workshop with Parliamentarians



A workshop with parliamentarian was organized on 20th December 2016 at Hotel Move n Pick Karachi by Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Sindh in collaboration with HelpAge International and Sindh Rural Support Organisation. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the way forward about the implementation of the Sindh Senior Citizen Welfare Act 2014. The workshop was attended by a large number of government officials from relevant departments including Health Department, Zakat and Usher Department, Law Department, Planning, and Development department, Transport Department and members of Provincial Assembly Sindh including Syed Sardar Ahmed MPA MQM, Mr. Khatoo Mal Jeewan MPA/Advisor to Chief Minister Sindh, Ghazala Siyal MPA PPP and Khair un Nisa Mughal MPA-PPP. Chief Guest of the workshop was Dr. Sikandar Mandhro, Health Minister and Shamim Mumtaz Minister Social Welfare, Govt. of Sindh. Other prominent participants were Dr. Sheeren Miustafa Narejo (BoD Member SRSO), Secretary Social Welfare, Mohammad Aslam Shaikh, Additional Secretary Law, Mohammad Dittal Kalhoro CEO-SRSO (Chief Executive Officer) and Ms. Ajeeba K. Aslam, Country Director HelpAge International Pakistan. Participants recommended to work closely with health Department to formulate mental health policy/plan, desk by Social Welfare Department for older people, corners in health facilities for OP/PWD, staff capacity building, link NADRA for data collection about senior citizens, organize event of representative group of older persons and discuss their needs, organize event with the stakeholders discuss the facilities to be provide to older persons, awareness at wider level for the rights of senior citizens; discuss with media and Shelter home through public-private partnership.



Visit of UNICEF Delegation



Mr. Taylor UNICEF consultant, Ms. Federica Di Stefano Child Protection Specialist and Ms. Zahida Mansoor UNICEF provincial coordinator visited in District Khairpur on 28-Oct-2016. The visit was made under the UNICEF funded IKEA-I project. The purpose of this visit was to oversee the impact of the project in these areas. The delegation conducted meetings with community women, adolescents, and government officials. They also hold meetings with various groups i.e. male/female and adolescents and their parents. Followed by the visits and meetings the delegation also conducted a debriefing meeting. They discussed in detail the issues pertaining to those areas where the project is being implemented. The delegation also urged for the effective coordination between government relevant departments, communities and SRSO team.

Formation of LSO Network



A formal meeting was organized on 30-Nov-2016 at SMU Thull office, for the formation of LSO-Network at the Taluka level. 12 LSOs of Taluka Thull participated in the meeting: 2 members from each LSO were nominated to be the part of LSO-N at the Taluka level. The LSO network was formed namely “Azad” which consisting of 32 GB members, 12 BoD members, and 04 office bearers. The formation of LSO network was fully supported by the Community Leaders of Taluka Thull. SRSO Jacobabad team facilitated the entire process of formation and supported the Community leaders at every step. In the end, the efforts and active participation of all members were encouraged.

Two-day Workshops for BDGs



CED section with the support of SABAH Pakistan organized 5 workshops events for business development groups (BDGs). These workshop events were organized in five Districts i.e. Shikarpur, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Sukkur, and Qamber-Shahdadkot. Ms. Nazia (Training Consultant) and Ms. Muzahira (Master Trainer Craft) served as the master trainers during these events. Throughout workshops, master trainers delivered sessions on the cutting, stitching, designing, and coloring etc. 64 women artisans from 12 different BDGs have participated in workshops. These artisans became trained on the appliqué work including cutting and stitching. These workshops aimed to build the capacities of women artisans in their relevant fields.

Annual Review Meeting



An annual review meeting of project namely “Empowering Older People to Improve Lives” funded by BLF-UK was organized at Islamabad on 18-20 October 2016. The review meeting was attended by project staff, including Mr. Nisar Ahmed Manager NRM, and staff from HelpAge International and Program Officer from Age International UK. The progress of the project, best practices, gray areas, issues, and challenges was discussed in detail. Action plan for the year 3 was also discussed and finalized. It was suggested to focus on learnings of the project and documentation in a proper manner. The three-day meeting was concluded with distribution of appreciation shields among the project staff for recognition of their hard work and sincere efforts for the empowerment of older people in Sindh.

Celebration of International Day of Rural Poverty Reduction

LSO Umeed Network celebrated the day of rural poverty reduction on 17th October 2016 in VO Samreen Koreja, UC Chato Mangi, District Shikarpur. In this event total 55 VO members participated from 08 VOs. The theme of the day was to pay tribute to the poor rural community women leaders who actively been working for poverty reduction. The women leaders also discussed the various options and mean that can reduce poverty at household level. Women leaders repeated their version and commitments that efforts would remain underway for empowering the women. Women leaders also pledge that all the limited resources would be used to strengthen the role of rural women socially, economically so that the extreme poverty can be reduced. From SRSO, Mr. Abdul Latif Soomro (DM Shikarpur), Mr. Manzoor Jalbani (DM Jacobabad), Dr. Ghulam Rasool Samejo (RM-Region III), Mr. Niaz Hingoro (RM-Region I) and SMU Staff of Garhi Yaseen, district Shikarpur participated.



Celebration of International Day of Rural Women



LSO Khushaal Network celebrated the International day of rural women's at LSO Chak, VO Saindad Machi UC Chak district Shikarpur. Total 8 LSO members participated from 17 VOs. In this event, SRSO officials also participated, including Mr. Dr. Ghulam Rasool RM-III, Mr. Abdul Latif Soomro DM Shikarpur, and other SMT staff. The theme of this event was to pay a massive tribute to those women, who are currently engaged in process of development of women in district Shikarpur. All participants paid tribute to those rural poor women who are striving for main cause rural development. Their efforts are expected to transform the lives future generations. All the participants firmly pledged that the work and continuous efforts would remain until the rural women become the cause of visible change at the grass roots.



Inauguration of Sartyoon Sang Crafts Enterprise Outlet



SRSO formally opened up the Sales Outlet for the public especially rural women artisans. This took place in an inaugural ceremony held at SRSO complex Sukkur on 11-11-2016. The inauguration was made by the CEO-SRSO Mr. Mohammad Dittal Kalhoro. All head office staff including Managers and professionals were present during the event. This Sales Outlet is being managed through SRSO's CED sector. The Sales Outlet is established for the effective promotion of indigenous handicrafts of Sindh, made by the rural women artisans. CEO appreciated the wholehearted efforts of CED team in the opening of this Outlet under the immense community interest.

Cultural Week with Collaboration of Sindh TV



SRSO-CED sector with the collaboration of Sindh TV jointly celebrated the cultural week with a unique title Salam Sindh. The purpose of this joint venture was to effectively showcase the talent of rural women artisans, who producing traditional hand-made products with plenty of varieties. The TV set was properly decorated with the products of Sartyoon Sang, which was showcasing the potential of rural women. The joint venture was produced as live telecast daily from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for six days (29-11-2016 to 04-12-2016). Four women artisan from different districts of Sindh participated in the joint event. The joint event was largely appreciated, which enhanced the confidence of women artisans to work with great zeal. Through this live show, women artisan also received direct orders for various products from the customers.