



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

Local Support Organization Sartyoon Sang

District  Larkana	Union Council  Waris Dino Machi	Date of Formation  01 2018	Total Households in Union Council  1,911	Organised Households  1,524
Coverage  80%	Number of Community Organisations (COs)  73 (all women's)	Number of Village Organisations (VOs)  13 (all women's)	Number of General Body Members  26 (all women)	Number of Executive Committee Members  5 (all women)

(LSO Profiles up to 31 May 2021)

Activities implemented through the EU funded SUCCESS Programme



PKR 4,694,393
LSO managing CIF Amount



Disbursed CIF loans worth of PKR **10,604,900** to **621** poor households out of total eligible HHs of **1135 (55%)**



144
poorest households, out of **170** total eligible HHs (65%) benefited from Income-Generating Grants worth of **1,818,500**



399
poorest households and **2,398** number of people have Micro Health Insurance coverage



54
women received Technical-Vocational Skills Training (TVST)



6
community physical infrastructures implemented



Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)

The LSO has implemented **6 different Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI)** schemes in the Union Council **Waris Dino Machi**, under the SUCCESS Programme. The total worth of these schemes is **PKR 3,793,209** and a total of **353 households** have benefited from these schemes. There are **2,572** beneficiaries of these schemes which include **1,282 women** and **1,190 men**. The schemes include Brick Pavement of the streets, Tuff Paver, Lift Irrigation and RCC Culverts. The schemes have improved the basic infrastructures and productive assets used by, and services delivered to, the targeted communities. The improved community infrastructure has been beneficial for the community members to meet their basic needs and gain better access to public services.



Activities implemented through self-help and in collaboration with Government and other development agencies:

1. Screened **67 suspicious people** and identified **15 HIV positive** cases with the Help of Bridge Consultant Foundation and linked them with the relevant Govt. department
2. Provided **Awareness Sessions and Tests during Covid-19 Outbreak** to local people and facilitated a total of **25 men and women** in conducting Anti-Bodies test and **42 men and women** in conducting PCR test
3. Provided **Drip Irrigation** and **Kitchen Garden Kits** to **42 potential households**
4. Coordinated with health department for Free **Health Mobile Service** which benefitted **100 CI member HHs**
5. Arranged **NADRA Mobile Van** for preparation of **408 CNICs** of poor people at their doorsteps
6. Planted **300 forest trees** and **200 fruit trees** across the UC
7. Supported **11 member VOs** in opening of their **bank accounts**
8. Registered around **1,100 people** under the **EHSAAS Programme**, out of which a total of **900 people** received **PKR 12,000** cash grant of **PKR 10.8 million**

LSO Sartiyoon Sang, from District Larkana, was formed on 25th January 2018, by 1524 member households organised into 73 COs and 13 VOs. Women leaders of LSO Sartiyoon Sang are planning and implementing development activities both on a self-help basis as well as in collaboration with government agencies. The EU-funded SUCCESS Programme is empowering rural women in Sindh through realising the power they gain from collective action. Organized women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Response to COVID-19

While the Government was focusing its efforts on slowing the spread of the new coronavirus and caring for patients during the first quarter of 2020, myths, rumors and misinformation began to spread fast and wide about the disease. Social media and other digital platforms helped spread these myths extremely quickly and made them appear correct. Therefore, nobody took coronavirus threat seriously in the rural communities. However, it was only when people became unemployed in cities due to

the Government imposed lockdown, the rural people, for the first time, realized the extent of the threat knocking at their own doors.

The women leaders of LSO Sartiyoan Sang decided to cooperate with SRSO and Government Health Department to educate their members about the disease. The LSO formed a 4-member committee to streamline the task. The committee members received training on awareness raising and Trace, Test and Quarantine (TTQ) procedures from Government Health staff and then delivered awareness sessions on the pandemic across the UC using the platforms of their member COs and VO. They briefed the community members on the common signs and symptoms of the corona disease and taking precautionary measures like avoiding crowded places, keeping social distance, washing hands with soap and quarantining the suspected persons at home. They also guided and facilitated the suspected corona patients in conducting Anti-Bodies and PCR Test from Civil Hospital Larkana. So far, a total of 42 men and women have been facilitated in conducting Anti-Bodies test and 25 men and women in conducting PCR test. In this way, the LSO leaders made their effective efforts in helping the Government control the spread of the fatal disease.



A suspected patient is giving her COVID-19 test

Provision of Ration to HIV Effected Families

A serious outbreak of HIV disease was happened at the Ratodero area of Larkana District in the year 2019. In this outbreak, a large number of children under 12-year age were tested positive. The causes of the outbreak were identified by health officials as "unhygienic practices" including re-use without sterilization of medical syringes and needles in doctors' clinics and blood banks, barbers' razors, tattoo needles, nose-and ear-piercing tools, circumcision blades, and dental instruments. Transmission from mother to child was also cited as a possible cause.

The Government Health Department screened all suspected people in the affected areas and provided them health facilities. The Government also planned to distribute ration bags among the poorest families suffered from HIV disease. On the request of the Local Government Authorities, the LSO nominated the LSO Chairperson and Community Book Keeper (CBK) to become member of the Local Committee for identification of eligible members of HIV affected family members to receive ration bags and other support from the Government. The two LSO members prepared the list of HIV affected family members with the help of VO leaders and submitted to the Government. The LSO Chairperson accompanied the distribution of the ration bags in the villages of UC Waris Dino Machi to ensure that they are distributed among the listed families. The Government Authorities distributed in the remaining villages. A total of 100 HIV affected families received ration bags from the Government.



A poor women receiving her ration bag

Provision of Kitchen Gardening to Poor Members

Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (SIAPEP) is a World Bank funded Project. The development objective of the project is to improve irrigation water management at tertiary and field levels in Sindh. The project's components include drip irrigation system, kitchen gardening kit, water courses lining and laser land leveling. The kitchen garden component is meant to meet nutritional requirements of the family as per their choice.



A beneficiary member working in her kitchen garden

SIAPEP requested for SRSO support in identification of interested households to grow kitchen gardens. SRSO staff briefed the LSO leaders about the terms and conditions of interested poor families to grow kitchen gardens and asked them to identify such families. The LSO identified 42 families with the help of the VO leaders and submitted the list to SIAPEP office. SIAPEP provided drip irrigation system and a kit for growing kitchen gardens to these families. They also guided the family members how to use and take proper care of the drip irrigation system as well as how to grow a well-managed kitchen garden. The project proved quite productive as it provides fresh vegetables for consumption of the family members. They can also sell extra produce to their neighbours on reasonable prices. Thus the kitchen garden project has not only improved the nutrition status of the family members but also became a source of cash income for the beneficiary households. Since the project is owned and managed by women members of the beneficiary households, it has improved their socio-economic empowerment.

Tree Plantation

The people of UC Sartiyoan Sang had never realized that how important roles trees play in their lives, like reducing the heat during summer by providing shade, improving the air quality by producing oxygen and inhaling carbon di oxide gas, producing fodder for their domestic animals and fruits to improve their nutrition. After attending the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) awareness sessions under the EU funded SUCCESS programme, they learned about the benefits of trees. and decided to plant trees in their UC area. They purchased 500 rooted plants including 300 forest and 200 fruit tree saplings from government and private nurseries and distributed them among their members who planted them in their

courtyards and other free spaces in their village. Members have been advised to uproot the unwanted tree saplings grown in their farm fields and re-plant them in free spaces in their courtyards and other nearby places. Now tree plantation has become a popular activity among the LSO members and they practice it on their own during the planting season.



A CO member planting a tree

Arrangement of NADRA Mobile Van Service

The law of land in Pakistan requires registration of all male and female adults above the age of 18 years under the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and get a Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC). However, a large number of people, mostly women have never prepared their CNICs. The reasons are multiple, like lack of awareness about the importance of having a CNIC, cost of and labour of travel to NADRA office which is located in the town areas and cultural norms regarding mobility of women. When the people of UC Waris Dino Machi got organised into COs, VOs and LSO under the EU funded SUCCESS programme, they received awareness sessions about different cross cutting development themes, including the importance of civil registration through the CAT sessions. The LSO leaders decided to launch a campaign for preparation of CNICs of their members, especially women. They motivated the community members for preparing their CNICs in the CO and VO meetings. As a result of that, people started getting their CNICs. A key issue faced by the poor people living in remote villages was the

travelling cost to the town center where the NADRA office was located. To resolve this issue, the LSO leaders prepared list of eligible men and women for CNIC in each village, submitted it to NADRA office and requested them to send their mobile van. So far, CNICs of 408 people, including 283 women and 125 men have been prepared by the mobile van teams in various villages. According to the new electoral law, those who possess a valid CNIC automatically become eligible for casting votes in Local Body, Provincial and National Assembly General Elections. So, having a valid CNIC has not only given the LSO members the citizenship rights of Pakistan but also empowered them in multiple ways, like buying a mobile SIM card on their own name, opening a bank account, opening an EasyPaisa mobile account and receiving various financial and non-financial services from the EU funded SUCCESS Programme.



Arranged Free Mobile Medical Service in Collaboration with the Health Department

UC Waris Dino Machi is located at a large distance from Larkana city where most of the Government and private hospitals provide health services in a proper manner. Therefore, the sick people can hardly get a timely treatment, because taking them to the hospitals in Larkana for medical checkup and treatment costs lot of money which is beyond the financial capacity of the poor families. Second, since people do not know about the real cause of the illness, they normally take it lightly and try to treat the sick people with traditional herbs and paracetamol. As such, the disease becomes chronic and fatal due to lack of timely treatment.

The LSO leaders learnt that the Government Health Department has a Free Mobile Hospital Service to serve people in the far off places. Therefore, they requested the Government Health Department to send their Mobile Hospital van to their UC for proper checkup of sick women and men. The Health Department sent their Mobile Hospital to village Waris Dino Machi. The LSO leaders informed their members about the Mobile Health van well on time. As a result, around 100 people received

proper checkup and medicines free of cost. The Medical Officer referred the chronic patients to the city hospitals and advised them to get proper checkup and treatment. The impact of this activity was significant both in terms of health services and economic benefits. Due to lack of portable water, hepatitis and typhoid cases are in a high ratio in the UC. So when the Medical Officer diagnosed the real cause of the illness, the family of the patient took them to Larkana city for proper treatment. This led to the timely treatment of the patients and cure without suffering from other health complications. Therefore, the LSO leaders are planning to call for the Mobile Health Service whenever the UC people face any epidemic in future.



The Mobile Health Unit serving people in the UC

Distribution of Solar Panels Among Poor Families with the Help of the UC Chairman

Like in other rural areas of the country, electricity is a chronic issue in UC Waris Dino Machi. Power load shedding hours are so long and unpredictable that people cannot rely on the Government electricity supply system. As such, people who can afford have installed solar power at their houses. However, the poorest families cannot afford the cost of solar panel and fitting. The LSO leaders learnt that the UC Government has some funds to provide solar panels to the poorest community members. In the past, such Government resources have hardly reached the actual eligible



members, because the influential people get hold of such resources. The LSO leaders, therefore, identified 60 poorest families across the UC and submitted the list to the UC Chairman to provide free solar panels. The UC Chairman provided solar panels to 15 families and promised to provide panels to the remaining families when he would receive funds in future. The poor beneficiary families are quite happy because now they have uninterrupted electricity for light at night and to run a fan and charge mobile phones.



An LSO member with her solar panel

Motivated 671 Pregnant Women to Adopt Safe Delivery

Educated by the CATs session in their CO meetings on the importance of safe-pregnancy and childbirth, the LSO leaders started a campaign for safe delivery of children in their UC, in collaboration of their member VOs and COs. As a result of that, the registration ratio of the pregnant women with the local BHU has significantly increased. As per the LSO records, around 671 pregnant women have practiced safe delivery so far. This not only

has reduced the ratio of child mortality but has also saved the pregnant women from delivery related complications. In addition to that, 57 women adopted modern techniques of birth spacing.



A CRP delivering CATs session in a CO meeting

Opening of Bank Accounts for Member VOs

Due to the strict regulatory requirements imposed by the State Bank of Pakistan, opening of institutional bank accounts has become almost impossible for the civil society organisation in Pakistan. The VOs, formed under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme require institutional bank accounts to receive the grant money. Therefore, the LSO leaders approached the local bank branches and managed to open bank accounts for their 11 VOs.

Registration of Poor Members with EHSAAS Cash Grant

The Government launched EHSAAS Cash Grant programme to provide financial support to poor families who had suffered due to COVID-19. However, due to lack of proper information and skills, a large number of the LSO members could not register themselves under the Programme. The LSO leaders, in collaboration with VO leaders, helped them and registered 1,100 poor women under the Programme. Over 900 women received PKR 10.8 million from the EHSAAS Programme.



"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"

Reported by: Mohammad Ali Azizi, RSPN

Edited by: Huma Irfan, Knowledge Management Officer, SUCCESS RSPN

Acknowledgment: Saima Karim, M&E Officer, SUCCESS, SRSO Larkana

Designed by: Masha ALLAH Printers, Islamabad

THE LSO INITIATIVES SERIES IS BY THE
RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK



Web: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan_en
Facebook: European Union in Pakistan
Twitter: EUPakistan

Web: www.success.org.pk
Facebook: [successprogramme](https://www.facebook.com/successprogramme)
Twitter: [SUCCESSinSindh](https://twitter.com/SUCCESSinSindh)

Web: www.rspn.org
Facebook: [RSPNPakistan](https://www.facebook.com/RSPNPakistan)
Twitter: [RSPNPakistan](https://twitter.com/RSPNPakistan)