



### 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 Ekta Kamiyabi

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p>District</p>  <p><b>Kambar Shahdadkot</b></p> | <p>Union Council</p>  <p><b>Yarodero</b></p>                                        | <p>Date of Formation</p>  <p><b>Oct 31 2018</b></p>                               | <p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p><b>3,922</b></p>            | <p>Organised Households</p>  <p><b>2,128</b></p>                               |
| <p>Coverage</p>  <p><b>78%</b></p>              | <p>Number of Community Organisations (COs)</p>  <p><b>94</b><br/>(all women's)</p> | <p>Number of Village Organisations (VOs)</p>  <p><b>10</b><br/>(all women's)</p> | <p>Number of General Body Members</p>  <p><b>20</b><br/>(all women)</p> | <p>Number of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p><b>5</b><br/>(all women)</p> |

(LSO Profile as of July 31, 2020)

LSO Ekta Kamiyabi from District Kamber-Shahdadkot was formed on 31st October 2018 by 2,128 member households organised into 94 COs and 10 VOs. The women leaders of LSO Ekta Kamiyabi 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. Organised women are now gaining awareness about their rights, holding the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.



Hand washing demonstration by the CRP

### Awareness session on COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic spread fast and wide across the country, the women leaders of LSO Ekta Kamiyabi approached the Government Health Department and asked for guidance and support. Dr. Habib Shah, the district focal person for COVID-19, volunteered to conduct an awareness session on the pandemic. The LSO leaders organised the session in their office and Dr. Habib Shah delivered a detailed session regarding the ongoing situation of COVID-19 in Pakistan and around the world. He then briefed the community women about the symptoms and severity of COVID-19. He also briefed them about precautionary measures like avoiding crowded places, keeping distance, washing hands with soap, and quarantining the suspected persons at home. He provided 75 surgical masks, 100 gloves, and hand sanitisers to the LSO leaders for further distribution among deserving community members. He appreciated the LSO leaders for taking initiatives and helping the Government control the spread of the fatal disease.

The LSO leaders then conducted a meeting with the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) of WASH under the EU funded Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS-ER3) and unanimously decided that the CRPs will provide awareness sessions on COVID-19 along with handwashing demonstration activities. The CRPs conducted 200 awareness sessions in all VOs and 70 COs of the LSO. All these sessions were facilitated and arranged by the VO and CO leaders of the LSO.

### Distribution of Fresh Vegetables During Lockdown Period

During the lockdown period to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, food items, specifically fresh vegetables, were hard to access by the community members. Prices had risen and it was nearly impossible for poor households to buy sufficient food, leading to starvation and a nutrition crisis at the household level. In LSO Ekta Kamiyabi, agriculture



Training session on COVID-19



LSO leaders distributing fresh vegetable among poor members

entrepreneurs (AEs) of seven Farmers Field Schools were actively growing and developing demo plots of vegetables. The LSO Leaders approached them and conducted meetings with AEs and discussed the situation of needy households. With the support of LSO leaders, 50 households were provided with fresh vegetables by AEs free of cost. They also initiated the practice of selling vegetables at lower prices than the market. The efforts of LSO leaders contributed to improving nutrition status of 50 families in difficult circumstances.

### Installation of Primary School Main Entrance Gate

There is a Government primary school in village Jaffrani. Due to the absence of the main entrance gate, the school's furniture was stolen. It had caused a serious problem for the students and teachers of the school and ultimately, it hindered the education of the children. When the women leaders of LSO Ekta Kamiyabi, fostered under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme, learnt about it, they formed a committee comprised of five members including the President, Manager, Treasurer and two General Body members on 4th February 2020 in consultation with the members of the relevant Village Organisation. This Committee went to the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office and briefed him regarding the issue and requested for the installation of an entrance gate in the school. The DC appreciated the efforts of the LSO leaders for raising the issue and assured them that the issue will be resolved as early as possible. With the directions of the DC, the entrance gate of the school was installed. The school is now a safer place for students.



Entrance gate installed in Government School

### Provision of Pipelines for Supply of Safe Drinking Water

The unavailability of clean and fresh drinking water was a big problem in the villages of Mahi Darban of UC Yarodero. When the women-led Local Support Organisation was formed, the issue was raised during the meetings as a priority need of the area. The leaders of the LSO decided to approach their UC Chairman for support. They briefed the UC Chairman about the water issues and requested support in the installation of additional pipes at various locations of the four villages. The UC chairman was impressed to see how organised and confident the women leaders of the LSO were, not only in identifying their needs but also in developing a practical plan for resolution. He assured the LSO leaders his full support and submitted their plan for approval with the district government. They surveyed the villages and identified suitable locations for the installation of additional water supply pipes. Within a few days, the UC Chairman informed the LSO leaders that their plan was approved but unfortunately its physical work is delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic.



Meeting of LSO leaders with the UC Chairman

### Provided Zakat to Eligible Widows

Before meetings with the SUCCESS staff, the local women were not aware of the Zakat system at the Government level. As a result, the LSO leaders decided to obtain Zakat fund for their eligible members. For this purpose, a five-member committee, including the President, Manager, Treasurer and two General Body members, was formed to prepare a list of 10 eligible members with the consultation of VO members. Top priority was given to the families of widows. Later, the committee met the Town Chairman of UC

Wagan and briefed him about the criteria and process adopted to identify the eligible households. They handed over the list of eligible households to the Town Chairman. The Town Chairman appreciated the efforts of LSO leaders. He informed the Committee that he had arranged Zakat funds for 10 members on his own. The women leaders took the selected families to his office and he provided Rs. 2,000 to widows from his own resources.

### Provision of Rashaan to Destitute Members with the Help of UC Chairman

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, poor people were facing a financial and economic crisis because they had lost their sources of income. The women leaders of LSO Ekta Kamiyabi decided to support the poorest households who were unable to arrange bread and butter for themselves. LSO leaders went to meet the UC Chairman and briefed him about the issue, submitting the list of needy households to him. With the support of the local government, 25 needy households received food ration. Thus the families of these poorest families were saved from food crisis.



Distribution of food ration among poorest families

### Plantation of Moringa Trees

Moringa is a fast-growing tree with a unique quality that almost all parts of the plant are edible. Moringa trees have been used to combat malnutrition, especially among infants and nursing mothers.

LSO leaders conducted a meeting with Agriculture Entrepreneurs (AEs) under PINS ER 3 and highlighted the need for Moringa plantation at the community level. Moringa nurseries are being developed at the VO level via allocated Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Every FFS planted and grew 700 Moringa saplings. In a single Union Council, 4,900 plants are grown by AEs. With the support and facilitation of LSO leaders, 700 Moringa plants were distributed among eligible FFS members in VOs. The VO leaders distributed the trees among CO members who planted them in their courtyards and other free spaces around their homes. Once grown, these Moringa trees will improve the nutrition status of the concerned families significantly.



Distribution of Moringa plants among LSO members



A village level nursery of Moringa trees



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