



# LSO Initiatives

## LSO Green Valley

District:	Abbottabad
Union Council:	Chammad
Date of Formation:	10 June 2013
Total Households in Union Council:	2,880
Organised Households:	1,830
Coverage:	64%
No of Community Organisations (COs):	71 (16 women)
No of Village Organisations (VOs):	8 (all mixed)
No of General Body Members:	21 (6 women)
No of Executive Committee Members:	7 (1 woman)

### 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, donors agencies and the private sector.

## Public-Private Partnership in the Governance of Schools

The level of education in the 39 government schools in Chammad was suffering as a result of inadequate monitoring and accountability. Parent Teacher Committees for the schools existed only on paper, and the headmasters and teachers of the schools were misappropriating school funds. In addition, there were no checks on teacher attendance or quality of education.

The LSO decided to revive the Parent Teacher Committees and use them to monitor teacher attendance and the use of school funds. The LSO convened a meeting of its General Body members and assigned them this task, which would be conducted through their respective Village Organisations (VOs). The leaders of one VO met with the District Education Officer (DEO),

explained the school management issues to him and submitted an application asking for his support in the revival of the PTCs. Having received no positive response from the DEO, the LSO formed a six member committee within 15 days and met with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abbottabad. They shared copy of the application submitted to the DEO by the VO and informed the DC about his lack of cooperation. They also told the DC that they would bring a crowd of 400 community members to Abbottabad to demonstrate against the government line departments if they did not receive a positive response from him.

The DC wrote a memo to the DEO asking him for immediate actions. The DEO assigned the task to the Assistant District Officer, who then visited the area and reinstated the Parent Teacher Committees of the schools with the help of the LSO. In some schools, there was no record of the allocated school funds being used in the previous years. The newly instituted committees recovered the missing funds from the corrupt school administration. Now the committees monitor the schools regularly, as a result of which the management of these schools has improved dramatically.

## Enrolling Out of School Children

A large number of children in the union council were not enrolled in school, due to a number of reasons. Some parents did not want to send their daughters to school if the school was co-education. Some villages did not have local schools and children had to travel to neighbouring villages to attend school which was a burden for their parents. Other villages had become no-go areas due to the concentration of criminals, and these criminals had no interest in the education of their children.

The LSO formed an Enrolment Committee to enrol as many children into school as possible. The Enrolment Committee formed several village level

sub-committees in which local influentials and prominent community activists were also members. Through meetings and individual visits, these committees convinced the parents of the out of school children to send their children to school. As a result of such concentrated efforts, 308 out of school children including 176 girls and 132 boys were enrolled.

## Public-Private Partnership to Manage the Local BHU

The government had established a Basic Health Unit (BHU) in the union council and provided it with staff and equipment. However, a lack of supervision from the Health Department was resulting in very poor services and irregular staff. Even the medical dispenser was selling the free medicine provided to the BHU by the government for patients.

In 2012, the government of KP handed over the BHUs to People's Primary Health Initiative (PPHI), but the local people witnessed no improvement in the management of their BHU. The LSO, therefore, decided to fix its problems. They met with the Director PPHI and briefed him about the deplorable condition of their BHU. The Director PPHI revealed that he had tried to take action against the poorly performing staff a number of times, but each time the community people would stand by them and have them reinstated. The LSO assured him that they will fully cooperate with him in fixing the problems of their BHU. The Director reinstated the monitoring committee of the BHU and appointed the LSO representative as its president. As a result of this public-private partnership, the management and services of the BHU have improved greatly. One staff member of the BHU had never come to work during 13 years of his service, because he is a relative of a powerful local politician. But due to the combined efforts of the community and the government line department, even he performs his duties.