



LSO leaders meeting at their office

2. Hattar is an industrial site. The Bestway Cement Factory was running a free medical dispensary in the union council for its employees. The Committee motivated the factory management to extend the services of the dispensary to the entire population of the neighbouring villages. The dispensary now provides diagnostics services and medicines for free. A lady doctor and a dispenser are employed full time in the dispensary. Around 2,000 families of the neighbouring areas benefit from the dispensary. In addition to this, the Committee successfully negotiated with the Mustahkam Cement Factory and Ghani Glass Industries for establishing similar dispensaries in two other locations of the union council. Around 600 families are benefiting from the services of these free dispensaries.

3. The LSO collaborated with the Aurat Foundation in conducting 5 awareness sessions about ending violence against women, underage marriages, forced marriages and dowry. The Aurat Foundation is providing legal aid to the affected women.

4. The LSO has formed a committee, in collaboration with the Sahara Development Foundation, to provide legal aid to factory labourers, especially women labourers, against sexual harassment at the work place.

5. The LSO contacted NADRA and prepared CNICs of 1,590 persons (935 women and 655 men).

6. The Sarhad Development Authority (SDA), a government agency, was acquiring land from local farmers at very cheap prices by force. The agency had already acquired 3,400 *Kanals* of farm land and was planning to acquire 3,396 *Kanals* in additional land from the community. The LSO decided to protect the rights of poor farmers through advocacy. They held meetings with concerned government authorities and political leaders and shared the concerns of the poor farmers with them. They protested against this unjust action by staging anti-SDA rallies. Ultimately the SDA gave up its plans of grabbing further land from the farmers.

7. The LSO approached the District Water Management Authority (DWMA) and shared the issues of water scarcity of local farmers. The

Authority approved three water channels for irrigation purposes. The total cost of the three projects was Rs. 4.05 million, of which Rs. 3.24 million was provided by the DWMA and Rs. 0.81 million was contributed by the local community. The channels have substantially solved the water scarcity issues of some 450 farmers.

8. Due to heavy industrial installations, the area has become a victim of serious air, noise and water (both surface and underground) pollution. Skin and respiratory diseases are spreading fast amongst the locals. So far, no comprehensive research has been conducted by any government or donor agencies to evaluate the impact of industrial pollution on the residents of union council Hattar. The LSO discussed the issue with the district government and asked them to play their due role in it. The LSO staged rallies and handed over resolutions to the factory owners for taking corrective actions promptly. The LSO leaders met with the DG for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at his Islamabad office and showed him a documentary on the adverse impacts of air pollution on the residents of the area. The DG promised to take the issue seriously within his department. The LSO leaders approached the media and as a result, Geo News prepared a documentary on pollution effects in the area and aired it. The LSO leaders also showed the documentary to the management of the factories and made them realise how their industrial units were systematically poisoning the entire environment of the area and how the people of the area were suffering from it. Notwithstanding there being many challenges, the LSO is committed to pursuing its environmental activism until it transforms the area into a pollution free zone.

9. They met with their local Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) and motivated him to grant Rs. 4 million for the upgradation of government schools and construction of projects identified and managed by the local communities. This was the first time in the history of the area that the MPA channeled development funds through community organisations. The LSO upgraded two middle (one boys' and one girls') schools to higher level and provided them with latrines and water pumps. Moreover, they did a number of street pavement projects in the union council.

10. There was no post office in the area and the nearest post office was 25 KM away from the union council. Local people had to travel long distances just to post a letter. The LSO leaders met with the Chief Post Master of Pakistan in coordination with the local MPA to open a post office in the area. The initiative proved successful and a post office has been opened in the area.

11. The LSO met with PEPSI COLA INC and received a grant of Rs. 100,000 for providing school uniforms and books for the children of poor and vulnerable families. They identified 166 such children through their member VO's and CO's, and provided them with school uniforms, books, bags and shoes.



LSO leaders debating food security issues



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 VO. 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.

LSO Initiatives

LSO HUM

Date of Formation:	1 June, 2010
District:	Haripur
Union Council:	Hattar
Total Households in Union Council:	2,452
Organised Households:	1,716
Coverage:	70%
No of Village Organisations (VOs):	15 (5 women's)
No of Community Organisations (COs):	74 (22 women's)
No of General Body Members:	40 (10 women)
No of Executive Committee Members:	11 (4 women)

One key objective of the LSO is establishing development linkages with the government, NGOs and the corporate sector to channel funds and services from them for the development of the LSO's constituent rural communities. LSO HUM has formed a 5 member Linkage Development Committee to foster development partnership with external agencies. The Committee has achieved the following during the last two years:

LINKAGES

1. Established development coordination with Rural Development Project (RDP), an active local NGO, regarding implementation of physical infrastructure projects funded by PPAF. The projects were implemented by 16 member community organisations (COs) of the LSO while the LSO played a mediation and monitoring role. The total cost of the projects was Rs. 18 million, of which PPAF's share was Rs.14.4 million and the community's share was Rs 3.6 million. The types of infrastructure constructed included link roads, street pavements, water channels and pressure pumps.



A link road under Construction