



LSO Initiatives

LSO Fazil Rural Development Organisation

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.

The LSO

District: Bhakkar, Punjab
Union Council: Fazil
Total Households in Union Council: 4,079
Organised Households: 3,160
Coverage: 77%
Number of Village Organisations (VOs): 11 (8 mix VOs, 3 women's VOs)
Number of Community Organisations (COs): 224 (90 men's COs, 120 women's COs and 14 mix COs)
Number of General Body Members: 205 (101 men and 104 women)
Number of Executive Body Members: 33 (22 men and 11 women)

The Initiatives

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

The LSO carried out a union council-wide survey of the educational status of children of school-going age. They found that 438 children were not attending school. The LSO then decided to meet the parents of these children and to motivate and inform them of the benefits of sending children to school.

As a result, 247 children started attending school while the LSO found through the survey that 87 children were not attending school because they could not afford books or school uniforms. In order to give them a chance at education, the LSO provided these 87 children with either books or school uniforms.

In addition to this, the LSO has also provided 16 children with scholarships for their education; these have been awarded for admission into Matric and Intermediate.

HEALTH

The LSO has carried out several initiatives regarding health; the first being the organisation of four health camps, from which 438 households benefited. The money for the health camps was obtained from well-to-do families in the union council while a doctor from a local hospital was asked to bring his colleagues for the health camps. The doctors provided their services free of cost as well as bringing along medication for the health camps.

“It saved eight families from flooded areas, provided food for 26 households for 16 days, provided 27 children with clothes, gave food rations to 16 families and Rs. 3,000 each to 45 families.”

The LSO has also lent its members loans in order for them to seek out medical attention for various procedures: 15 people received general procedures while six women were motivated to undergo procedures regarding family-planning.

SUPPORT TO POOREST HOUSEHOLDS IN MARRIAGE COSTS

The LSO through its own funds has provided support to the poorest of households in the marriage of their children. In the case of three households that were having difficulties in collecting dowry for their daughters, the LSO provided them with amounts ranging from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 9,000. In the case of one household, the LSO provided them with three bags of wheat.

ESTABLISHMENT OF BLOOD BANK

The LSO, through its members, on numerous occasions had experienced the lack of blood in emergency situations. They therefore decided to form a blood bank, through which they then asked for volunteers and got their blood types checked. Their contact numbers were then kept with the LSO, and now, when any blood type is required, people call the LSO which then contacts the relevant volunteer.



Ahmed Nawaz, a recipient of a medical loan from the LSO



Education and Empowerment
Naseem, 17 and a college student, is a recipient of a scholarship from the LSO

Land and material donated by LSO members
for constructing a house for Zaitun Bibi



DONATION OF LAND AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES FOR THE POOREST

The LSO has built houses for six households, with donations and supplies being contributed by local communities and businesses. In some cases, the LSO has also provided land to needy individuals with local families donating a part of their land and transferring it in the name of the woman of the deserving household.

FLOOD RELIEF ACTIVITIES

During the floods of 2010, the LSO did its part in rescuing and helping neighbouring villages from the floods. It saved eight families from flooded areas, provided food for 26 households for 16 days, provided 27 children with clothes, gave food rations to 16 families and Rs. 3,000 each to 45 families. All this was possible through the contribution of LSO members and their efforts in obtaining donations from their local communities.

USAID'S AMBASSADOR'S FUND PROGRAM FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

The LSO has also been able to obtain a project from USAID's Ambassador's Fund Program, under which they are building houses for flood-affected households in two neighbouring union councils. Each house costs Rs. 426,000, with a total target of 25 houses to be built (each house will consist of two rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a handpump). The criterion that the LSO has set for recipients of the houses is that first

preference would be given to the poor, the disabled and widows.

“The LSO has also been able to obtain a project from USAID's Ambassador's Fund Program, under which they are building houses for flood-affected households in two neighbouring union councils.”