



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.

LSO Initiatives

LSO Kalu Khan

Date of Formation:	16 December, 2009
District:	Swabi
Union Council:	Kalu Khan
Total Households in Union Council:	4,094
Organised Households:	2,887
Coverage:	71%
No of Village Organisations (VOs):	7 (all mixed)
No of Community Organisations (COs):	127 (90 men's, 37 women's)
No of General Body Members:	92 (all men)
No of Executive Committee Members:	20 (all men)

SUPPORT TO BENEFICIARIES OF THE BENAZIR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Around 400 poor women in the LSO area are receiving support from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). The LSO learnt that the postmen of the area were misbehaving as well as receiving Rs. 50 to 100 from these poor women for the delivery of their bi-monthly support funds. The LSO formed a three member committee to help these poor women. The committee held meetings with the post office management and offered their services to help them in delivering timely payments. The committee then prepared village wise lists of the beneficiary members. They then divided the union council in different clusters and asked the post office staff to distribute BISP funds on various dates. The LSO committee now takes the post office staff to each locality, announces information about the distribution point and times in advance and oversees the entire distribution process. Due to this initiative, the 400 poor families have been relieved from exploitation and financial loss. Moreover, it has established a healthy practice of good governance at the local level.



Village Cleaning Campaign



Community hall for Funeral Prayers

PREPARATION OF SPECIAL CNIC FOR MEN AND WOMEN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The LSO leaders realised that there are many special men and women, mainly polio affected, in the union council. They learnt that NADRA makes a special CNIC for such persons, which bears a clear mark to indicate that the holder of the card is a special-needs person. The special CNIC makes its holder automatically eligible for special treatments in a number of situations. The LSO formed a committee of three Executive Committee members. The Committee prepared lists of 220 special persons with the help of member VOs. The committee then transported each and every special-needs person to the NADRA office and arranged special CNICs for them. The transportation cost was met by donations from the LSO members.

PREPARATION OF COMPUTERISED NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD (CNIC)

CNIC has become an important document in the country. People with no CNIC or with an expired CNIC are no longer considered as legal residents of Pakistan. Therefore, such men and women become ineligible for a number of government services and facilities. Unfortunately, a large number of people, mainly women, either have no CNIC or their CNICs are expired in the LSO area. Realising the importance of CNIC, the LSO activists prepared a comprehensive list of such men and women with the help of member VOs. They then contacted NADRA officials and arranged mobile teams for the union council. The mobile team stayed in the union council for one week and prepared CNICs of around 6,000 people, mainly women.

PROPER UTILISATION OF LOCAL RESOURCES

Kalu Khan, the main village of the union council, has a huge grave yard. There were a number of old trees in the grave yard. Due to dispute and disagreements amongst the villagers, nobody has been allowed to cut these trees. A number of them were getting rotten, presenting a huge loss to the local community. The local Jirga was also unable to resolve the

dispute. Due to their track record of impartiality and transparency in dealing with community development activities, all rival groups and parties had full confidence in the honesty of the LSO leaders. Therefore, the LSO leaders discussed the issue in their meetings and resolved their disputes in close collaboration with the local Jirga. The LSO then transparently auctioned the trees for Rs. 2,040,000. The LSO then sought the agreement of all parties on utilisation of the fund and bought land for a hall for the purpose of holding funeral prayers for Rs. 1.4 million and spent the remaining amount on its construction.

CELEBRATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The LSO leaders attended a workshop where they were sensitised about the importance of clean environment for the health and general wellbeing of the men and women of the area. The LSO leaders decided to celebrate the environment through a 3 day event. They first identified the common environmental hazards across the union council and found that uncontrolled dumping of solid waste and animal dung and mosquitos were the main issues. They formed a group of volunteers in each of the six villages and cleaned the entire villages under the supervision of specially created environment committees. Moreover, they collected donations from the general public and purchased chemicals for anti-mosquito spraying. They then contacted the local supplier of the spraying chemicals. They first arranged proper training for their volunteers in spraying from the supplier, who bought the chemicals, spraying equipment and hygiene kits, and then sprayed throughout the union council. A total amount of Rs. 17,000 was spent on the cost of the chemicals and spray kits. As a result of the 3 day environment event, the awareness of the residents has been raised tremendously. They are now motivated to not only keep their own houses and animal sheds clean and hygienic, but are now also committed to keeping their streets, open areas and water ponds neat and clean.



A special-needs person with his special CNIC