



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 Kukmang Pattan Rabta Council

District:	Abbottabad
Union Council:	Kukmang
Date of Formation:	20 April, 2010
Total Households in Union Council:	3,065
Organised Households:	2,182
Coverage:	71%
No of Community Organisations (COs):	86 (28 women)
No of Village Organisations (VOs):	10 (All mixed)
No of General Body Members:	21 (7 women)
No of Executive Committee Members:	11 (4 women)

Advocacy for Education

As one of the most neglected government departments, the quality of education in union council Kukmang was extremely low, and the state of schools was poor. To bring about improvement to the state of education in their area, the LSO launched a campaign that addressed several aspects of the problem. First, the LSO nominated 10 activists, 7 men and 3 women, to become Community Resource Persons (CRPs). The CRPs conducted awareness sessions on education to the community members and motivated VO leaders to also speak out in favour of education. The VO leaders collected data on missing facilities and problems in

government schools and the number of children in their respective villages who are out of school. The LSO consolidated then the data at the union council level and shared it with the District Education Officer (DEO) during a district level forum. The DEO verified the complaints of the LSO through their own sources and found them accurate. He was so impressed by the LSO's work that he gave them his personal phone number so that they could call him directly if any future complaints arose. After the LSO's feedback, he also ordered the up-gradation of two girl's primary schools into middle schools, one girl's middle school into a high school and one boy's middle school into a high school. He also provided four teachers to two schools. As a result of their efforts, the LSO enrolled 150 out of school children including 82 girls and 68 boys into primary schools.



At the union council level, the LSO organised a meeting for all Parent Teacher Committees (PTCs), where they provided them with copies of the PTC guide and explained their roles and responsibilities. As a follow up measure, the CRPs held meetings with individual PTCs to further discuss these roles and responsibilities. They also assigned tasks and duties to the PTCs, on which they monitor progress during the subsequent meetings. In three villages, the LSO has formed a Mothers Group in which a female relative of the PTC male member is a member. Since most of the PTC members are currently male, the Mothers Group shares problems being faced by the children, particularly girls, with the male PTC member who raise them in the PTC meeting. Moreover, the male PTC members will keep the Mothers Group members informed about their activities.

Right to Information

The local people were not happy with the services of the BHU. The Medical Officer would never come to the

BHU and most of the other staff was also irregular in their duty. No medicines or other facilities were available. There were rumors of the staff misappropriating the free medicine and other supplies provided by the government. Therefore, the LSO decided to improve the BHU's facilities and services. They submitted an application to the district head of the Public Health Engineering department to provide them information about the staff posted at the BHU and free medicine supplied to the BHU. Under the KP government's Right to Information (RTI) Act 2013, the concerned department is liable to provide the requested information within 15 days. The LSO is planning to use the information to fix the misappropriations in the BHU resources and monitor the staff.

Public-Private Partnership for Management of Government Projects

The topography of the entire union council is mountainous, and water is a very scarce and extremely valuable commodity for the mountain dwellers of the area. A large number of water supply project's under the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department were dysfunctional due to lack of proper management and maintenance and the community was facing serious issues regarding availability of safe drinking water. The LSO established Water User Committees and registered them with the PHE. The Committees are comprised of 15 to 21 members, (67% men and 33% women). The committees ensure cleaning of water tanks on a monthly basis, and eliminated illegal connections and wastage of water at the household level. The 'Valve Men' (PHE employee) are also member of the Committee. They have become active and efficient in their duties because they are aware that the Committee can quickly complain against them to the PHE office.

