

# LSO Initiatives

## LSO Pasban

District:	Abbottabad
Union Council:	Dalola
Date of formation:	27 May, 2010
Total Households in Union Council:	3,600
Organised Households:	2,755
Coverage:	77%
No of Community Organisations (COs):	108 (38 women)
No of Village Organisations (VOs):	8 (All mixed)
No of General Body Members:	24 (6 women)
No of Executive Committee Members:	7 (3 women)

### 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.

### Improving Employment and Business Opportunities

The Pat Rind hydro power plant was being constructed in the vicinity of union council Dalola by two Korea-based multinational corporations, who were bringing in skilled and unskilled labour from elsewhere to build the plant, instead of giving locals an opportunity for employment. The LSO Pasban met with officials from one of the corporations to ask them to hire locally and offer sub-contracts to local contractors on a preferential basis so that the local economy of Dalola would benefit from the construction of the power plant. When the officials refused, the LSO blocked one of the main roads used to transport construction materials to and from the site. The district administration came into action and mediated a dialogue between the LSO and the corporations. Thus, an agreement was signed



LSO leaders meeting with the local managers of the Korean Corporations

between the corporations and the LSO at the local police station in the presence of the Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad and the Deputy Superintendent of Police Balakot which would enable the people of Dalola to benefit from the construction of the power plant in their area. The corporations agreed to hire skilled and unskilled labour locally and to offer sub-contracts to the locals on a priority basis. So far, 235 local people have been recruited by the corporations and 3 local contractor groups have been given sub-contracts. The local contractors also hire local labour on priority basis.

## Policy Advocacy

Owing to their selfless efforts for their communities, LSO leaders enjoy the confidence and support of the general masses, and are able to play an active role in local, provincial and national politics. During last year's general elections, their supported candidate became member of National Assembly on the ticket of PTI. When a by-election was announced in their constituency for the post of MPA, LSO Pasban was approached by PTI to support their candidate for the election. LSO Pasban then partnered with two other LSOs from the neighbouring union councils and used this as an opportunity to negotiate for the development of their union councils. The LSOs made a list of development projects for their union councils, which they were then invited to present to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Chief Minister approved all their development demands; LSO Pasban submitted 102 development projects worth Rs. 180 million, out of which the Chief Minister ordered the immediate initiation of 63 projects costing Rs. 20 million. The Chief Minister also promised to include the remaining 39 projects costing Rs. 160 million in the annual development plan for the next year.



A 45 member delegation of the three LSOs met the Chief Minister, KP

## Economic and Social Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

The ratio of persons with disabilities (PWDs) is high in Dalola due to the effects of the 2005 earthquake and frequent road accidents on the hilly roads in the area. In order to help them, the LSO submitted a project proposal to the Leonard Cheshire Disability and Development Programme and was awarded a grant of Rs. 3.7 million. Under this project, the LSO identified 629 PWDs, organised them into groups of 10 and provided them with training on social mobilisation and working in groups. They then conducted programme interventions for the PWDs which were developed in consultation with them and comprised of a combination of personality development and confidence building trainings and necessary skill trainings. Under the project, 80 PWDs were provided with Rs. 10,000 cash grant for micro enterprises, 120 PWDs were employed in various trades, 350 were given counseling for their re-habilitation and 50 PWDs received disability devices.



Training center for PWDs