

LSO Initiatives

LSO Bazm-e-Sahar

Support to the Poor and Disabled

The LSO has identified the poorest households by conducting a poverty scorecard survey, in order to ensure that the needs of the poor and vulnerable are met when planning development activities. The LSO had provided support to 11 poorest families from their own resources. After identifying these families, the LSO helped them prepare a micro investment plan. Six families showed interest in poultry farming, so they were provided with 20 birds each, costing Rs. 24,000. Three families had some agricultural land which they wanted to convert into orchards. The LSO provided them with high quality fruit plants and technical support on plant management. Total cost of the fruit plants was Rs. 3,600. Two widows needed a proper house. The LSO raised

Date of Formation:
21 March, 2009

District:
Poonch

Union Council:
Bhantini

Total Households in
Union Council:
2,100

Organised
Households:
1,904

Coverage:
91%

No of Community
Organisations (COs):
89
47 women's

No of Village
Organisations (VOs):
11
4 women's

No of General
Body Members:
27
17 women's

No of Executive
Committee Members:
9
5 women's

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.



Executive Body member of the LSO



Orchard for the poor

Rs. 220,000 from its members and local well off families, provided technical support and free labour and constructed two-rooms houses made of cement blocks and GI sheet roofing for the women.

The LSO also identified persons with disabilities through a survey. There are 235 such people including 50 women, 70 men, 45 girls and 68 boys. The LSO organises awareness raising campaigns for them. They had provided wheel chairs for 32 needy disabled person from the Social Welfare Department.

Support to Poor Students for Higher Education

A number of talented students could not continue their education beyond primary level due to a lack of financial resources. The LSO came up with a novel idea to help these students. They talked to the teachers of their schools and motivated them to donate the cost of one mobile card (Rs. 100) per month to support such students. So far, 63 teachers have

joined their programme and a total of Rs. 187,000 has been raised. They had already supported 24 poor students. There are more than 150 teachers in the government schools of their union council, so the LSO is determined to include all of them in their education programme.

Promoting High Yielding Agriculture Crops

The local peasants used to grow wheat and maize on their scarce agriculture land. Due to the ever increasing cost of fertiliser and seed, the net return is negligible. The LSO learned that garlic is a profitable crop in the upper valleys of the UC, therefore, they experimented cultivation of high quality garlic in those areas. They provided four kilograms of garlic seed to 14 progressive farmers in the first year. The result was very promising. So the LSO raised awareness among its members for replacing their low yielding crops with garlic. As a result, over 400 families cultivated garlic last year, and earned a considerable profit. The LSO is planning to further scale up garlic cultivation in the future.