



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, donor agencies and the private sector.

Grafting of Wild Fruit Plants with Improved Varieties

The LSO area is covered with thick rain forests. The following wild fruit species grow widely in the area: olive, fig, pomegranate, apricot, peach, pear, jujube and persimmon. The Government Agriculture Department has successfully demonstrated grafting them with improved varieties. Under the EU project, the LSO coordinated with the Agriculture Department for grafting maximum number of these wild species with tested improved varieties. The LSO carried out a UC wide survey with the help of its member VOs. The data revealed that there were more than 30,000 wild trees in the rain forest owned by local communities. The Agriculture Department provided two trained grafters and also trained 7 local people in grafting. The Department provides grafting material free of cost. In addition, the Department pays Rs. 1,000 per day to the two grafters provided by them and Rs. 500 per day to the community grafters. Since the grafting work involves hard labour, because each person has to

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| Date of Formation: 11 November, 2010 | | | |
| District: Sudhnoti, (AJK) | | Union Council: Sehra | |
| Total Households in Union Council: 2,430 | Organised Households: 1,572 | Coverage: 65% | |
| No of Community Organisations (COs): 60 3 women's | No of Village Organisations (VOs): 10 all mix | No of General Body Members: 40 5 women's | No of Executive Committee Members: 8 1 women's |



graft minimum 150 trees each day, the community grafters were not happy with the wage amount paid by the Department. Therefore, the local community started paying additional Rs. 250 per day to the community grafters. The local community strictly monitors the grafting work and reports to the Department. The community provides accommodation and food to the grafters. By the end of March, 5,000 wild trees have been grafted, while the LSO has planned to graft 30,000 trees by the year 2018. Mr. Muhammad Ishaq, the LSO President rightly expects to earn around Rs. 50 million per year from the grafted fruit trees. He termed this initiative as a “game changer” in the local farming sector because it can be replicated in the vast majority of rain areas of AJK.

Enrolment of 100% Girls and Boys in Schools Verities

A survey conducted by the LSO showed that 243 children including 112 girls and 131 boys were out of schools. The survey also revealed that the reason for not sending these children to schools was poverty of their parents who could not afford to buy books, copies, bags and uniform to their children. The LSO collected donations of Rs. 64,200 from their well to do members and provided necessary education materials to these students. By end of March 2016, all 243 children were enrolled in schools. The LSO plans to motivate 243 local people to adopt these poor students for paying their education expenses in future. So far 3 students have been adopted by 3 families.

Repair of Girls Primary School Buildings

The buildings of two Government Girls Primary Schools were partially damaged during the 2005 earth quake. These schools were temporarily shifted into tent schools provided by UNICEF. Despite several efforts by the local community, the school buildings were not repaired by any government or non-government agency. With time, the tent schools were conked out and students again became shelter less. The LSO, therefore, decided to repair the school on self-help basis. The estimated the cost of repair and collected Rs. 90,000 from local well off families. In addition to that, the local people contributed free labour. After restoration of the school buildings, the LSO arranged other missing facilities including desks and furniture. Thus the LSO arranged proper furnished schools for their 150 girls students.

Construction of Link Roads

The terrain of the area is hilly, therefore, road communication plays significant role in the socio economic improvement of the people. But due to lack of funding from the government, a large number of settlements are still inaccessible by road. The LSO therefore, is striving for building link roads on self-help basis. So far, they have constructed 12 kilo meter roads under 6 projects on self-help basis. The local people contribute in cash, kind and free labour and also takes responsibility for operation and management of the competed roads. They maintain these roads on weekly basis. Each beneficiary household sends one person on their turn. The families who cannot send people contribute Rs. 300 per turn. This money is used for the entertainment of the labourers.

