



### Women's Empowerment

The overall socio economic conditions of the majority of the women in the LSO area were very poor. They work in field along with men and do all household work, but carry little rights and have very little control over income and assets. Therefore, the LSO pursued to empowering women by giving them equal opportunities in all walks of life. The LSO has steadily being trying to organise maximum women in COs and VOs. So far, they have formed 54 women COs and 6 women VOs and brought 1,458 women in organised fold under them. The LSO has trained 42 men and women in gender sensitisation through different workshops. They have trained 210 women in various management skills, human and women's rights, youth development, democracy and peace. They have arranged awareness raising workshops for 55 women on violence against women. They have prepared CNIC of 440 women and trained 13 women on "participation of women in politics". They registered 200 missing women as voters. They provided awareness sessions on women's inheritance rights by two local religious leaders and provided legal aids to two women in getting their inheritance rights. They have provided livestock management training to 60 poor women and arranged livestock package to 30 women. Similarly, they have trained 30 deserving women in poultry management and arranged poultry package for them. They have established a Women's Coordination Centre, dedicated one room in the LSO office for it and appointed a trained woman as Women's

<b>Date of Formation:</b> <b>29 May, 2010</b>			
<b>District:</b> <b>Mansehra</b>		<b>Union Council:</b> <b>Karnol</b>	
<b>Total Households in Union Council:</b> <b>3,800</b>	<b>Organised Households:</b> <b>2,980</b>	<b>Coverage:</b> <b>78%</b>	
<b>No of Community Organisations (COs):</b> <b>140</b> 54 women's	<b>No of Village Organisations (VOs):</b> <b>17</b> 6 women's	<b>No of General Body Members:</b> <b>30</b> 7 women's	<b>No of Executive Committee Members:</b> <b>13</b> 3 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, donor agencies and the private sector.

Coordinator. She provides guidance and support to women in social mobilisation, education, health, women's basic rights and inheritance rights etc. As a result of these integrated efforts, positive changes started happening in the socio-economic conditions of the women of the area.

## Promotion of Education

The necessity of education is viewed to be more social than a personal obligation. A society needs to have qualified and well educated citizens as it helps create a smooth and developed society. The state of education was also quite poor in the LSO area. The government schools lacked basic facilities; teachers' absenteeism was common; the School Management Committees were dysfunctional; there were very few middle and high schools for girls, and they had no proper information about the out of school girls and boys across the UC.



With the help of trained Community Resource Persons the LSO collected information about the missing facilities in all government schools in the UC. They also identified all out of school children across the UC. The LSO arranged awareness sessions for the parents of these children and managed to enrol 125 children to schools last year. They achieved the landmark achievement of 100% enrolment of children to schools this year. They revitalised the School Management Committees of 57 schools in collaboration with the Education Department and provided them with school management training with the help of SRSP. They lobbied with the government Education Department and constructed boundary walls and toilets of 8 schools costing Rs. 3.1 million.

## Policy Advocacy with Local Government

The LSO leaders decided to actively participate in the 2015 Local Bodies Elections. They nominated 16 LSO activists, including 2 women for contesting election of the Village Councillors and won 14 seats, including both the women's seats. The LSO activists now fully control all 4 Village Councils of their UC. This allowed them to allocate government resources for the best interest of the local people. The Chairman of the LSO motivated the local Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner for

establishment of a District Coordination Committee and Tehsil Coordination Committee with members from LSOs three months ago. The Coordination Committees meet on monthly basis. In these meetings, the LSO activists bring burning issues in the fields of rural infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, livestock, forestry and the like on the table. The issues are discussed thoroughly by all parties and decisions are made immediately on the spot. Both the Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner are quite happy with this arrangement. To quote some examples of the issues resolved through these meetings, a government hospital was running in a shelter house since the 2005 earth quake, as there was no proper place available for construction of a proper building. The DC allocated government land for construction of the building. The hospital building is now under construction. Similarly, a bridge had become quite old and dangerous. The DC ordered for its repair immediately. In meanwhile survey work has been carried out for construction of a new bridge.



LSO Chairman addressing Parents Ittehad Convention



Women receiving awareness raising training on the Right to Education



LSO General Body meeting