



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 under BRACE, mobilise rural women and men 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.

LSO INITIATIVES

Local Support Organisation Spin Nanak

<p>District</p>  <p>Duki</p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p>Gharbi Thal</p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p>18-07-2016</p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p>1,453</p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p>1,043</p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p>72%</p>
<p>Number of COs</p>  <p>115</p> <p>57 WOMEN • 58 MEN</p>		<p>Number of VOs</p>  <p>58</p> <p>29 WOMEN • 29 MEN</p>		<p># of General Body Members</p>  <p>58</p> <p>ALL MEN</p>	<p># of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p>11</p> <p>ALL MEN</p>

LSO Spin Nanak, from District Duki, was formed on July 18th, 2016 by 1,043 member households organised into 115 men and women COs and 58 men and women VOs. The leaders of LSO Spin Nanak are planning and implementing development activities both on a self-help basis as well as in collaboration with government agencies. The EU-funded BRACE Programme is empowering rural men and women in Balochistan through realising the power they gain from collective action. Organised men and women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Preparing of CNIC and Local Certificates

Toady Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) and Local Certificates play very important role in every field of life. CNIC is an essential document in the everyday life of a Pakistani. It is required when enrolling children in schools, getting treatment from health centres, opening a bank account, buying a bus, train and air ticket, booking a room in a hotel and casting vote in elections. Local Certificate is required for obtaining admission in colleges and universities and getting government jobs on quota basis. After getting organised in the form of CO, VO and LSO under the EU



LSO leaders meeting with NADRA officials

funded BRACE Programme, the community members brought up the issues they face when preparing CNIC and Local Certificates. The LSO leaders discussed the issues with NADRA official and offered their support in preparing the prerequisite documents for making CNIC and Local Certificates. As a result of this coordination, the LSO leaders were able to prepare 200 CNICs for 119 men and 81 women CO members and 50 local certificates for their members.

Provision of Solar Panels and Solar Fans to Poor Members from the MPA

The leaders of LSO Spin Nanak are working hard for the development and prosperity of UC Gharbi Thal. They have developed strong coordination with their Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), Local Government, Government Line Departments and other stakeholders. They are now accessing available resources and services to work towards the development of the region.

UC Gharbi Thal has a dearth of socio-economic facilities. Frequent load shedding of long hours, sometimes lasting several days means stable electricity is almost non-existent in the UC. While, well

off families have installed solar panels in their houses for an uninterrupted electricity supply, poor families cannot afford this facility. The LSO leaders discussed this issue in their meeting and decided to seek help from their MPA. In this meeting, the LSO leaders briefed the MPA on the difficulties faced by the poor families on day to day basis due to lack of electricity and requested him to provide solar panels for them. The MPA provided eight solar panels and eight solar fans to the LSO leaders. The LSO leaders identified poorest families and distributed the solar panels and solar fans among them. The poor families are now enjoying an uninterrupted electricity supply; they are now able to charge their mobile phone batteries and their children can study at night. These community members are happy and enjoying the electricity facility. The total cost of the solar panels and fans is around PKR 1 million.



Distribution of solar panels among poor members

Provision of Plastic Water Tanks to Members from UC Chairman

Availability of portable water is a key issue for the people of the UC. A large number of poor people store rain water in ponds and use it for drinking purposes. Animals drink water from the same ponds leaving the water unfit for human consumption. Water-borne diseases are common in the local people. Earlier, when they were not organised, the community members did not know that they could approach local government to resolve their common issues. However, after getting organised into COs, VOs and LSO under the EU funded BRACE Programme, they established working relationships with the government at UC level. Now they were able to discuss the matter of contaminated water with the UC Chairman and ask for his help to resolve the issue. The UC chairman provided eight plastic water tanks to the LSO leaders for storage of rain water in a clean and hygienic manner. The LSO leaders distributed these plastic water tanks among eight needy and poorest families. Now these families are enjoying clean water for drinking purposes. The total cost of the plastic water tanks is PKR 1.2 million.



Distribution of Plastic Water Tanks among poor members

Development Activities in Agriculture Sector in Collaboration with Government Departments

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the residents of UC Gharbi Thal. However, people face different challenges in agriculture sector. After formation of the LSO, and establishment of development linkages with government line departments and political representatives, the LSO leaders have become able to resolve some of their agriculture sector issues. Examples are as given below.

Approval of 120 Tractor Hours for Land Leveling

Land levelling increases seed germination ratio and productivity of the farm fields up to 40%. It also reduces water use in the farm fields. The LSO contacted the local MPA and he got an approval of 120 tractor hours from the Agriculture Department to level farm lands of 25 families in village Malak Safar Khan. These families are



Land levelling in process

now using the leveled lands for farming and getting maximum return on their investment.

Plantation of Trees

UC Gharbi Thal has a desert like topography. The forest cover is very low in the area. Given trees play a very important role in reducing air pollution, creating a pleasant environment as well as improving the beauty of the region, the LSO leaders decided to plant trees in their area. The LSO leaders visited and conducted a meeting with the Government Agriculture Department at district Loralai. In the meeting the LSO leaders discussed the issue of tree plantation with the Director of Agriculture and asked for planting materials from him. He provided 1,000 forest trees to the LSO leaders. The LSO leaders distributed these trees among their CO members who planted them in their farm fields and courtyards and are taking proper care of them.



Construction of Agriculture Water Channel

There is acute shortage of irrigation water in UC Gharbi Thal. The traditional unlined water channels cause a significant amount of water loss due to seepage. Construction of cemented water channel is an effective solution to water seepage. The LSO leaders met with the Director Agriculture and asked for his financial support in lining of the irrigation channel at village Malak Safar. The Director Agriculture approved a 3,000 ft. agriculture water channel for the village. The LSO constructed the irrigation channel and took the responsibility of its maintenance and management. The total cost of the lined channel is PKR 900,000, out of that, 25% was



contributed by the beneficiary members of the LSO. The lined channel is now providing additional water to 30 farming families of the village; this has significantly improved their agricultural production and economic status.

Introduction of Tunnel Farming

The farmers of UC Gharbi Thal follow outdated, traditional farming practices which are inefficient and ineffective. The LSO leaders discussed this issue in their meeting and decided to meet the Government Agriculture Department for advice and support in introducing new agricultural technologies in the area. They met with the Director of Agriculture and discussed their issue with him. The Director Agriculture proposed to introduce tunnel farming technology in the area. In tunnel farming, use of water efficiency increases by 250-275% when farming vegetables like tomato, cucumber and bell-pepper. Moreover, tunnel farming is the only way to get off-season production of summer vegetables, which yields higher price for the agri-products. The LSO leaders requested for technical and financial assistance from the Agriculture Department in this regard; in response to which the Director Agriculture approved a tunnel farming project in UC Gharbi Thal. Currently, the Agriculture Department is constructing the tunnel farming project in village Khala Shahar. The total cost of the project is PKR 1 million. The beneficiary members contributed PKR 300,000 while PKR 700,000 was provided by the Agriculture Department. The project will benefit 25 households. Looking at the actual cost and benefits of the tunnel farming project, more people are expected to adopt the technology in future.



Installation of Drip Irrigation System

In a bid to resolve the shortage of irrigation water, the LSO leaders decided to meet the Head of Irrigation Department. After listening to their issue, the Head of Irrigation Department proposed to introduce drip irrigation system in the area to save water losses. Drip irrigation is known to be the most efficient irrigation method with 95-100% water use efficiency. He approved a drip irrigation project in village Khala Shaher for demonstration purpose. The Irrigation Department is implementing the project. It is expected

that after seeing the benefits of the project, more people will adopt drip irrigation technology in the UC area. Total cost of the project is PKR 300,000. As part of their contribution, the beneficiary members carried out the land levelling work free of cost.



The Drip Irrigation Project

Drinking Water Supply Schemes Powered with Solar Energy

As mentioned earlier, availability of portable water is very rare in UC Gharbi Thal, which creates serious health and hygiene issues for the LSO members. The issue was discussed in an LSO meeting and the LSO leaders decided to seek the help of their MPA to resolve their problem. The LSO leaders met with the MPA and briefed him about the issue and requested his support in getting financial support for the installation of water supply projects powered by solar energy. After conducting several coordination meetings with the MPA, he approved water supply scheme with solar panels for the three villages of the UC, namely village Malak



A Water Supply scheme powered by solar energy

Safar Khan, village Yaro Shaher and village Malak Azam Khan. All three projects have been completed. The water supply projects are providing clean water to 380 households. The cost of the three projects is PKR 6.7 million. All three schemes were implemented by a Government Contractor.



A Water Supply scheme powered by solar energy



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