



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 Garda Babar

 District <b>Zhob</b>	 Union Council <b>Garda Babar</b>	 Date of Formation <b>22-11-2018</b>	 Total Households in Union Council <b>1,973</b>	 Organised Households <b>1,381</b>	 Coverage <b>70%</b>
	 Number of COs <b>91</b> 49 WOMEN'S	 Number of VOs <b>15</b> 06 WOMEN'S	 # of General Body Members <b>30</b> ALL MEN	 # of Executive Committee Members <b>11</b> ALL MEN	

Local Support Organisation Garda Babar, District Zhob, was formed on November 22, 2018 by 1,381 member households organised into 91 COs and 15 VOs. The leaders of LSO Garda Babar 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.

### Activities to Combat COVID-19 Pandemic

When the Government imposed country wise lockdown in March 2020 to control the spread of the Coronavirus disease, the poor people of UC Garda Babar who mostly live on daily wage labour lost their income sources. This created serious economic and nutrition crises in these families because on the one hand they lost their daily income and on the other hand the food items disappeared from the market and become very expensive. Realising the plight of these families, the LSO leaders came forward to support them on emergency basis. When the LSO leaders carried out a situation analysis in consultation of their VO leaders, provision of food items to the poorest families ranked as the top priority. Since the number of vulnerable families was quite large, the LSO leaders realised that they cannot meet their demand through local resource mobilisation. Therefore, they decided to approach elected representatives, NGOs and local rich people for resource mobilisation. They first conducted a survey and identified 63 vulnerable families across the UC. Then they held meetings with the potential philanthropies and requested them for provision of ration to the needy families. As a result of their efforts,

Haji Mitta Khan Kakar, Minister Livestock Department and Human Development Foundation (HDF) provided rations bags to the LSO leaders, who distributed them among 43 poor families. Frontier Corps (FC) also distributed ration bags among 20 poor families identified by the LSO leaders.

Later on, the District Administration asked the LSO leaders to cooperate with them in distribution of ration among poor families. The LSO leaders shared the list of poorest families in the UC with them and also helped them in distribution of ration bags. As a result of this coordinated work, the LSO leaders were successful in providing ration bags to all 63 poor families in the UC. The monetary value of these ration bags goes over PKR one million.

Alama Muhammad Naseem, President of LSO Garda Babar said that it was the platforms of the LSO and its member VOs, organised under the EU funded BRACE Programme that facilitated identification of all eligible households so quickly and accurately. Without such a network of well-connected community institutions, they would never have reached to all needy families so quickly to help them in their critical times.

In addition, on the instruction of the LSO leaders, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are delivering awareness sessions in COs on the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus disease, precautionary measures to be taken to remain safe from getting infected by the dangerous virus like wearing face masks, washing hands frequently with soap and avoiding crowded places.



Distribution of ration bags among 63 HH, s during COVID-19 lockdown

### Construction of Playground in Collaboration with the MPA

Study shows that playgrounds play a significant role in child and youth development. They provide the opportunity for children and youth to practice skills that will ultimately play a role in adult competencies such as the ability to collaborate with others, develop decision making skills, and successfully take on leadership roles, persevere in the face of distractions, and generate creative ideas.

There was no proper playground in the UC Garda Babar. The matter was raised in the LSO meeting and the LSO leaders decided to approach their Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) for allocating Government funds for construction of a playground at a central location of the UC. They first identified a suitable location for the playground and then requested the land owners to donate the land. The land owners donated the land for construction of a playground. The LSO leaders then went to meet their MPA and briefed him about the need and importance of the playground and requested him to allocate funds for its construction. The MPA allocated PKR 3.6 million in the name of the project. The construction work is in progress at the moment. The playground is 600 meters long and 500 meters wide. It has enough space to play three football teams at the same time. Once it is completed, the playground will play a key role in promoting healthy activities for the children and youth of the area.

### Construction of Boundary Wall of Basic Health Unit (BHU)

Government health and education buildings need a proper boundary wall for various known reasons, like keeping privacy, establishing sovereignty over the ungoverned land and protecting

the equipment, machinery, furniture and fixture from theft. There was no boundary wall in the Basic Health Unit of the UC. The matter was discussed in the LSO meeting and they decided to ask the Health Department for allocation of funds. They met the Health Department officials and discussed the matter with them. On the advice of the Health Department, they LSO leaders wrote an application requesting them to construct the boundary wall of the BHU building and put it up to the Government Health Department. The Health Department allocated budget of PKR 180,000 for the project and constructed a 6 miter high boundary wall and ensured protection of the BHU building and its equipment and machinery from theft.

### Construction of a Bridge in Village Landian

A seasonal river flows through village Landian. In rainy seasons, the river floods and crossing it become impossible. Therefore, the people at both sides of the river used to face serious communication problems.



LSO Leaders meeting with vice chairmen district Zhob

The villagers requested the LSO leaders to resolve their problem by constructing a bridge over the river. The LSO leaders checked the proposed site of the bridge and estimated that it would cost in millions. Therefore, they decided to do resource mobilisation for construction of the bridge. They first held meetings with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of their Union Council (UC) and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and requested them to allocate some funds for construction of the bridge. However, these officials said that they did not have enough resources at their disposal to finance such a large project. They then held meetings with their MPA and requested for his favour for allocation of funds using his discretionary power. After a series of several meeting, they were able to convince the MPA and he allocated PKR 13.00 million for construction of a RCC bridge with 8 pillars. The construction work has started in February 2021 and it will be completed by end of April 2021. The bridge will provide all weather communication facility to the 63 households living in village Landian.



The Bridge under construction



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