



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 Naag

District  Washuk	Union Council  Naag	Date of Formation  18-11-2019	Total Households in Union Council  1,894	Organised Households  1,497	Coverage  76%
	Number of COs  160 81 WOMEN	Number of VOs  24 05 WOMEN	# of General Body Members  41 ALL MEN	# of Executive Committee Members  11 ALL MEN	

Local Support Organisation Naag District Washuk, was formed on November 18th, 2019 by 1,497 member households organised into 160 COs and 24 VOs. The leaders of LSO Naag 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.

Provision of Potable Water

Like in other areas of Balochistan, availability of portable water is a huge issue in most villages of Union Council Naag. With no drinking water supply in the vicinity, the people of village Naag had to fetch water from nearby villages. Fetching water is traditionally a woman's responsibility in the region, meaning the village women had to walk long distances on a daily basis to bring water for their family members and domestic animals. The lone source of clean drinking water is ground water that has depleted in many parts of Balochistan. Therefore, digging bore holes for pumping ground water costs huge amount of money, which is beyond the capacity of the poor people. In addition, as the UC is not connected to the QESCO (Quetta Electric Supply Company) grid station, it does not have access to electricity supply. The locals rely on solar energy to pump ground water, which further adds to the cost of water supply projects.

Before getting organised in COs, VOs and LSO, the local people had never thought that they could take up their

issues with their political leaders and access government resources to resolve them. However, after getting organised under the EU funded BRACE Programme, they learnt about the ways and means of developing linkages with their elected representatives and Government Line departments. When the issue of scarcity of portable water in village Naag was brought into the notice of the LSO leaders, they conducted a series of meetings with the Public Health



The inauguration ceremony of the Portable Water Project

Engineering (PHE) officials and asked them to consider their project on priority basis. At the same time, they held meetings with their Member National Assembly (MNA) and Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) as a team and asked them to allocate government funds for installation of a solar energy powered drinking water supply project in village Naag. Eventually their efforts bore fruit and the MNA allocated the required funds from his discretionary quota. The PHE implemented the project, which provides portable water to 65 rural families in their village. The local people especially the women are delighted because they are now relieved from the hard and extremely laborious daily task of fetching water from long distances.

Vaccination of Livestock by Government Livestock Department

Livestock is one of the most valuable assets for the residents of UC Naag, as it is the main source of milk and meat for their family members, as well as being a strategic coping mechanism in times of difficulty. But the expansion of their production is constrained by drought and disease. Veterinary interventions especially vaccination has a significant impact on animal health and production measures. However, uptake of vaccination is strongly associated with a measure of wealth that includes livestock numbers and economic security of the family. As such, the poor households find it hard or impossible to access the full benefits of the vaccine.

The organised communities in the EU funded BRACE Programme areas of Balochistan have started to bridge the institutional barriers by actively engaging the Government Livestock Department on the basis of their social capital and collective voice. The LSO leaders held meetings with the officials of the Government Livestock Department and brought the livestock issues of drought affected villages where viral diseases were causing considerable damages to sheep and goats. They also offered their full support to the Livestock staff by organising vaccination campaigns at village level. As a result of these coordinated efforts, the Livestock Department staff visited those villages and vaccinated 187 animals belonging to 67 beneficiary households.



Government Livestock department staff vaccinating sheep in UC Naag

Arrangement of Ambulance Service to Shift Seriously Ill People to Hospitals in Town Areas

The health facilities are very limited in UC Naag. Acutely ill patients, risky delivery cases and individuals seriously injured in accidents have to be shifted to well-equipped hospitals in town areas. However, lack of a proper ambulance service meant the patients and their attendants would face serious issues in shifting their patients via ill-equipped vehicles. Moreover, the transporters used to charge extra money for booking of vehicles in emergency situation. Lack of an ambulance service was causing multiple negative socio-economic impacts on the resident of UC Naag.

The LSO leaders raised this issue with the DSM, PPHI and requested him to provide an ambulance. He was happy to oblige and provide the local BHU with an ambulance equipped with all necessary medical equipment. Managing the everyday operation of the ambulance still remained a challenge as the Govt. Health Department does not have a budget for the fuel of the ambulance. On the advice of the LSO leaders, a Management and Operation (O&M) Committee was formed to manage the operation of the Ambulance at the BHU level. Along with representatives of Govt. Health and PPHI, the General Secretary and Information Secretary of LSO Naag are also members of this committee. The Committee recovers the cost of fuel from the family of the patient. If the family of the patient is too poor to pay the cost of ambulance fuel, the Committee motivates other well off members to contribute. The ambulance service has proved extremely useful and safe in shifting the men and women patients at risk to hospitals in Quetta city. The 1,894 households of the UC are benefiting from the ambulance service.



The ambulance provided by PPHI to LSO Naag

Resolution of Dispute Over School Construction

A dispute was raised between the local community and the Government over the land compensation for construction of a new school building in village Bansar. The Government wanted 10,000 feet land free of cost and the community wanted the Government authorities to guarantee the post of

the Grade one in the school would be given to the donor of the land once the school was constructed. However, the Government was reluctant to make such a commitment, resulting in the halting of construction work and the Government Contractor, constructing the school building suffering loss due to unnecessary delay in work. To resolve this, the President of LSO Naag contacted both parties, listened to their points of view patiently and convinced them to settle the issue through dialogue. As a result of this consultation, both parties agreed to attend a meeting convened by the LSO President and resolved the dispute amicably. Work on the construction of the school resumed soon after their agreement.



The dispute resolution meeting between the villagers and the Govt.

Policy Advocacy for Electricity Supply to UC Naag from QESCO Grid System

UC Naag and two other UCs of Tehsil Basima, District Washuk do not have access to electricity as they are not connected to the grid system of Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO). The nearest point of grid system is District Panjgor, which is at a distance of 100 km. All three



LSO Meeting WAPDA Chairman

UCs have LSOs fostered under the EU funded BRACE Programme. The leaders of all three LSOs decided to lobby for electricity connection. They went to Quetta and held a meeting with the Chairman of Board of Directors of QESCO, who himself belongs to Tehsil Basima. The LSO leaders requested him to allocate resources for supply of electricity to their Tehsil from Panjgor. The local community had requested all Government authorities and their MNAs and MPAs for provision of electricity, but they had received nothing beyond their hollow promises. However, when the leaders of LSOs approached the QESCO officials, they could no longer ignore their strong collective voice. As a result of this lobbying, QESCO approved the budget for laying electricity lines from Panjgor. The total cost of the project is PKR 200 million. The seminal project will also help provide electricity to other Tehsils of UC Washuk which are still in darkness.

Provision of Ration to Vulnerable Families during COVID-19 Lockdown

Many daily wagers and their families living in rural Balochistan lost their source of income during the national lockdown imposed to control the spread of COVID-19; the families faced a famine-like situation. The Frontier Corps (FC) provides relief packages to the local people during emergency situation. To find solutions for the families suffering in their UC, the LSO leaders reached out to the FC authorities. After providing them with Poverty Score Card records of the poorest families, the LSO leaders requested the FC authorities to provide food items to the deserving. The FC provided ration bags to 40 ultra-poor households and saved them from the famine-like situation.



FC officers distributing ration bags among ultra-poor families during COVID-19 lockdown



EUROPEAN UNION

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

More information about the European Union is available on:

Web: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan_en European Union
Facebook: EUinPakistan
Twitter: EUpakistan

Reported by: Mohammad Ali Azizi, Specialist Social Mobilisation, RSPN
Acknowledgment: Amir Hamza, DPM Washuk and Akbar Khan Achakzai, Manager HID, BRSP
Edited by: Zahra Rao, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, BRACE, RSPN



Rural Support Programmes Network

IRM Complex, 3rd Floor. Plot# 7, Sunrise Avenue
(Off Park Road), Near COMSATS University,
Islamabad, Pakistan.

Phone: +92-51-8491270-99, Fax: +92-51-8351791

www.rspn.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BRACEProgramme