Local Support Organisation Farhan, District Jhal Magsi, was formed on 15th September 2019 by 1,240 member households organised into 116 COs and 26 VOs. The representatives of LSO Farhan are planning and implementing development activities both on a self-help basis, as well as in collaboration with government agencies. The European Union-Funded BRACE Programme is empowering rural communities in Balochistan through realising the power they gain from collective action. Organised women and men are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Tree Plantation

Trees play an important role in the economic development of rural communities as trees provide fodder to domestic animals, firewood for families and timber for construction purposes. Trees also support in reducing environmental pollution and improve aesthetic value of human settlements. After learning about these benefits during the Community Awareness Tools sessions in CO meetings under the EU-Funded BRACE Programme, the LSO leaders were motivated to plant trees across their UC. The LSO leaders visited the District Forest Officer (DFO) and requested him to provide planting materials so that they plant them in collaboration with their CO members. The DFO provided them 500 rooted forest plants. The LSO leaders organised a plantation campaign in 13 villages across their UC. The CO members planted these trees in their courtyards and free spaces nearby their houses, so that they protect and water them properly.
Vaccination of Domestic Animals with the help of Government Livestock Department

The people of UC Jhal Magsi raise goats and sheep and they play an important role in their livelihood. The families use their milk for domestic consumption and also sell butter in the market. They sell animals at the time of Eid ul Azha and earn a handsome amount of money to meet their cash needs. They graze these animals in pastures in the form of herds. Therefore, they are extremely vulnerable to catch viral diseases. The best health option to protect the animals from communicable diseases is to vaccinate them on a regular basis. The Government Livestock Department has both staff and vaccines for this purpose. However, due to lack of demand from the local community, they cannot carry out large scale vaccination. The LSO leaders visited the District Officer Livestock and requested him to send vaccination teams in their UC. They offered their full cooperation to the vaccination teams. This collaboration worked very well and they were able to vaccinate a total of 2,431 animals belonging to 221 rural families. It is expected that these animals will remain safe from catching viral diseases in future.

Support Poor Families in getting Registered under Ehsaas Cash Grant Programme

During the wide spread of COVID-19, the Government imposed country-wide lockdown. This created economic crises across the country. The daily wage earners were severely affected, as they not only lost their jobs but were also stuck in a food crises. Looking at their plight, the Government launched Ehsaas Cash Grant and provided PKR 12,000 cash to the eligible families to meet their food consumption needs. However, a large number of poor people were illiterate in the LSO Farhan area, hence they could not get themselves registered with the programme using the online registration process. The LSO leaders helped them and registered 254 such families with the programme. All these families received PKR 12,000 each, immediately after getting registered. Thus, the LSO leaders were able to provide over PKR 3 million to the poor families of their UC. These families are receiving the same amount on six-monthly basis.

Identification and Treatment of Persons with Disabilities

There are a number of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in UC Jhal Magsi. Due to lack of awareness, these people face various challenges which make their lives miserable. A serious challenge being the negative attitudes held by the families of the disabled, and often the disabled themselves, hinder disabled persons from taking an active part in the family, community or workforce. Moreover, differently-abled people face discrimination in everyday life. To overcome these challenges, they needed to be identified and then taken to the rehabilitation centres established by the Government for their treatment and provision of assistive equipment and devices. The LSO leaders, in consultation with the Deputy Director Social Welfare, identified all PWDs in the UC and then they were provided with transport to come to the LSO Office. The Social Welfare Department
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