



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 Farhan

<p>District</p>  <p><b>Jhal Magsi</b></p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p><b>Jhal Magsi</b></p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p><b>15-09-2019</b></p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p><b>1,963</b></p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p><b>1,240</b></p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p><b>75%</b></p>
<p>Number of COs</p>  <p><b>116</b></p> <p>69 WOMEN</p>		<p>Number of VOs</p>  <p><b>26</b></p> <p>11 WOMEN</p>		<p># of General Body Members</p>  <p><b>48</b></p> <p>12 WOMEN</p>	<p># of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p><b>11</b></p> <p>2 WOMEN</p>

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.





President & Members of VO Samanzai Itihad planting a tree in Samanzai Muhalla



LSO President & VO Saiban Itihad Village Wahi Ramin planting trees in farm fields

### 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



Registration and Examination of PWDs by Government Officials at the LSO Office



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registered 86 (51 Male & 35 Female) PWDs and provided them with disability certificate which makes them eligible for rehabilitation services. Moreover, the Government team planned a time schedule to visit all PWDs in turn and provide them with the required health treatment and

assistive devices. These measures will improve the life style of the PWDs in a great manner, and they will become active and productive members of their families and the community at large.

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