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 Takadar Muhammad Hassan

LSO Takadar Muhammad Hassan of Union Council Takadar Muhammad Hassan from District Killa Abdullah was formed on 14th December 2020 by 2500 member households organised into 171 COs and 32 VOs. The leaders of LSO Takadar Muhammad Hassan 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 men and women in Balochistan with the realization about the power of collective action. Organised men and women are now gaining awareness about their rights, holding the service providers accountable, and taking self-help initiatives to improve their lives.

LSO Takadar Muhammad Hassan Self-Help Initiatives

LSO Takadar Muhammad Hassan; Union Council Takadar Muhammad Hassan is the rural union council of District Killa Abdullah which lacks basic social amenities and infrastructure due to lack of awareness and education negligence of the government agencies. Most of the community members are affiliated with business and labour. To overcome their challenges, Local Support Organisation, through self-help initiatives and local government linkages, is trying to facilitate the rural communities at their doorstep, by providing them clean water, arranging meetings with government authorities to install water schemes, conduct sports events for youth, and present their demands for development of the community.
Meeting with Honourable Governor Balochistan by LSO Executive Members
The LSO executive body held a meeting with Governor Balochistan, Mr. Zahoor Agha in his office. They briefed him about Union Council’s problems. The Governor pledged to provide two (02) transformers and two (02) water supply community physical infrastructure schemes in Takadar Muhammad Hassan.

Meeting with MPA and Agriculture Minister in Balochistan Assembly to release Funds for Agriculture Purpose
Agriculture is the main source of income in the district. For the last few years, drought has drastically affected this area and people are no longer able to irrigate their land. The executives of LSO Takadar Muhammad Hassan held a meeting with MPA Engineer, Mr. Zmarak Khan who assured his support and assistance at every level. The Minister for Agriculture was also requested to provide funds and facilitate community members to install Water Schemes for agriculture purposes. Mr. Zmarak Khan

Arranging Youth Events and Sports Tournaments at Union Council Level
Sports is the best way to keep youth engaged and keep away them from irrelevant activities. For this, the leaders of LSO Takadar Muhammad Hassan, with the support of BRSP organised a mega sports event at the Union Council. They invited tribal leaders as chief guests and all other line departments. LSO executives have conducted three (03) activities in different villages and are planning more such events. At the end of the tournaments, prizes were distributed among the winning sports teams.

Meeting with Commissioner Quetta for Inviting him to visit District Chaman
LSO Takadar Muhammad Hassan has strong linkages with all relevant government departments. LSO leaders met with Commissioner Quetta and discussed issues of local communities on Quetta-Chaman road. High traffic and lack of basic facilities causes trouble for passengers. Commissioner Quetta assured them that he will visit the project soon and bring the issues up with higher authorities for quick resolution.

Enterprise Development Training for Income Generating Grants Beneficiaries
Income Generating Grants (IGGs) were distributed to the rural poor and deserving households at union council Takadar Muhammad Hassan. The main purpose of IGGs is to provide grants to the poorest families which would help the families start small businesses. A total of 57 beneficiaries were validated and nominated and they were given trainings on the use of IGGs. Participants received the Enterprise Development Training (EDT) and received Certificates upon successful completion.
Livelihood for Persons with Special Needs (PWSNs) with the support of BRSP

The LSO has identified some persons with special needs. Unfortunately, they are stigmatised and pushed to begging. LSO leaders believe that these members can also earn with dignity and live a respectful life. LSO with the support of BRSP provided three (03) Wheel Chairs, one (01) Tricycle and one (01) Tri-motorcycle to these persons who have special needs. The beneficiaries will use these cycles to bring goods from the Chaman border.

Peace Aman Committee

Due to illiteracy and poverty, disputes over land and family feuds are common in the area often causing loss of life and money. The LSO formed an Aman Committee and selected members from the LSO executive body. The Aman committee resolved the dispute among the community through dialogues recorded the proceedings in the LSO records. After resolving one such dispute (in the picture), both parties signed an affidavit of dispute resolution discussions in the presence of all the community elders. Till date, the Aman committee has resolved seven (07) disputes among different tribes.