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AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS



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 Rehbar

District: Khuzdar	Union Council Bagh Bana 1	Date of Formation Feb 17 2016	Total Households in Union Council 1,851	Organised Households 1,396
Coverage 75%	Number of Community Organisations (COs) 145 (66 women's COs)	Number of Village Organisations (VOs) 27 (13 women's VOs)	Number of General Body Members 154 Only Men	Number of Executive Committee Members 11 (02 women)

Local Support Organisation Rehbar from Union Council Baghbana 1 in district Khuzdar was formed on 17th February 2016 by 1346 member households organised into 145 COs and 27 VOs. The leaders of LSO Rehbar 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 communities in Balochistan by realising the power they gain from collective action. Organised women and men are now gaining awareness about their rights and making the service providers accountable and taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Local Support Organisation Rehbar has played a crucial role in the social linkages of the local community. Despite the importance of a local support organisation, limited empirical knowledge exists on the ground level

about these types of organisations. This case study seeks to fill this gap by exploring how LSO Rehbar engages its target Union Council population in social services

LSO Rehbar Union Council Bagh Bana 1 is the rural union council of District Khuzdar which lacks basic social amenities and infrastructure due to a lack of awareness, education, and negligence of the government. Most of the community members are affiliated with agriculture and livestock. 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, conducting sports activities, and installing water schemes for drinking purposes.

Registration of CINCs

A national identity card is the basic element of identity in any country. It plays a vital role in your life, without it an individual can't vote, buy property and vehicle, etc. Despite its importance, thousands of rural community members are deprived of this right. Union council Bagh Bana 1 is among those places where many people still don't have CNIC even though they are above eighteen. LSO leaders are aware of the importance of the card, they held meetings with NADRA officials to address this issue. Officials not only appreciated their efforts but also provided them NADRA van for those who couldn't reach the office. A total of 680 CNIC were registered and then delivered to the owners. The rural community members lack knowledge of the B-form of their children while in this campaign B-form of 314 children were also registered with NADRA. The birth certificate is also the most important document for an individual but unfortunately, it is almost unknown in rural areas. LSO has registered more than 378 birth certificates of children in union council Bagh Bana 1.



Registration of Local Certificates

Registration of local certificates is one of the toughest processes for community members because they must travel a lot to get signatures from different government officials and counselors. This is the reason people avoid such processes but after the formation of a local support organization, this issue was addressed and is almost now resolved. LSO leaders take these forms by themselves to the concerned people for attestation. Since its formation, the LSO has registered more than 627 local certificates of community members which is a big achievement for them.

Tree Plantation and Bann on Hunting

Every human being has the right to breathe clean air and live in a clean environment but the illegal cutting of forests and trees in villages has deprived everyone of this basic right. There was a time when the union council Bagh Bana was known for its wildlife and mountain forests. But now the wildlife is almost equivalent to a bath same as for the trees. The LSO leaders formed a tribal jirga to resolve this issue. After the formation of the jirga, they held their meetings in the LSO office in which they decided to Bann hunting completely and run a tree plantation campaign every year.

The LSO leader confirmed that after Bann on hunting people have seen Ibex and Markhor in the mountains of Bagh Bana 1. Furthermore, he added we have planted more than 120 trees in the campaigns for tree plantation in union council Bagh Bana 1.



School Enrollment Campaign

Bagh Bana is a rural union council in Khuzdar, the educational level of this union council is also not satisfactory. Lack of infrastructure, awareness, and availability of quality education has resulted in the backwardness of the LSO area. The LSO leader felt it badly and decided to overcome this challenge, they had raised this issue in their meetings several times. After the discussion, it has been decided to run an enrollment awareness campaign and talked to the authorities about the upgradation, renovation, and build-up of new school buildings.

The LSO president further said since the formation of LSO we have been succeeding in enrolling more than 800 children in different government and non-government schools. He claimed that they have upgraded 3 schools from primary to middle and also built one new building for high school. As the LSO has good linkages with all line departments that's why it came possible.

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. LSO furthermore, added that to date we have been succeeding to resolve more than 130 conflicts of different natures.



Provision of IGG and Wheelchairs

People of the union council are always the priority of the local support organisation. Their well-being and happiness are the aims of the LSO. As Balochistan rural



support Programme announced the income-generating grants in their union council, LSO Rehbar leaders identified the deserving candidates for IGG and finalised their names through LSO. To date, LSO has distributed 60 IGG grants and also provided wheelchairs to 8 people including 6 women and 2 men.

Community Physical Infrastructure Scheme

The water problem was the major issue of union council Bagh Bana 1 for the past decade. The community members visited the minister's office several times, but no one cared about their issues. But after the formation of LSO, the community members talked to LSO leaders in their meetings. The leaders took this issue and talked to the Balochistan rural support Programme. They asked the community to donate whatever they can, and the remaining will be funded by the European Union. The total cost of the scheme was PKR 9,241,449, of which PKR 1,848,290 were donated by community members, and the remaining amount of PKR 7,393,159 was funded by the European Union. A total of 725 households are facilitated by this water scheme.



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