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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 Organization Tootak

District:  Khuzdar	Union Council  Tootak	Date of Formation  29 2019	Total Households in Union Council  2,963	Organised Households  2,155
Coverage  73%	Number of Community Organisations (COs)  169 (108 women's COs)	Number of Village Organisations (VOs)  38 (16 women's VOs)	Number of General Body Members  31 (2 Women)	Number of Executive Committee Members  11 Only Men

The representatives of **LSO Tootak** 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 taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Combating COVID-19 Pandemic

Fourteen months later when LSO was formed, the COVID-19 virus spread rapidly across Pakistan, in this hard time LSO proved itself as a troubleshooter, the LSO immediately convened a meeting of its executive body, to protect its union council from this deadly disease.

Immediately after the meeting, the LSO contacted the BRSP District office for further guidelines and consultation for all the immediate precautions, realised that the campaign was the most important. The LSO

started the campaign through Loudspeakers, reached out to people in every village on how to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time in mosques and other places of worship, announcements are made through loudspeakers regarding precautions and virus control. Keeping in view the precautionary measures, the LSO conducted immediate meetings at the village level, especially on the use of masks and preventive measures against them through awareness-raising



messages about the disease sanitizers. The LSO and VO leaders spread awareness. WhatsApp and text messages in Various social media groups as well as to their Relatives and friends. At the same time, the working class was badly affected by the lockdown in most parts of the country. The LSO immediately registered nine families of its union council in the Ehsas Kifalat program and they benefited a lot from this program. On the advice of the LSO leaders, the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) were delivering awareness sessions in CO meetings along with the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions.

This was an ongoing activity with the support of BRSP staff, the LSO leaders made loudspeaker announcements at 13 revenue villages.

In Education field

With The passage of time, the LSO Tootak matured and realized that the entire Union council is now in better condition. But some grey areas exist in the entire school of union council. There is a maximum number of poor students who are studying in the school and a maximum number of the students don't have school uniforms. LSO Tootak's executive body realised that the unviability of the school accessories for those poor students can be discouraging, focusing on this the LSO Tootak decided to provide School uniforms to poor students. After this decision, LSO formed a committee to identify the poor student from the entire Union council school. Within a month, the committee finds out 1,136 poor students from the whole Union Council. After that LSO Tootak executive body members coordinated with stakeholders and appealed for cooperation and support for this noble support. After this campaign and coordination, the LSO, Prepared 1136 Sets of school uniform which was provided to poor students.



Enrolment walks for Children

On Yearly basis the leaders of LSO Tootak conducts walk rally for increase of children's enrolment in school. After the formation of LSO Tootak there was no any such a campaign conducted in the UC with the passage of time LSO feels that there was no focus on the education sector. Once LSO Tootak's president Mr. Muhammed Tariq Sab conducted LSO general body's meeting on agenda" The Decrease and dropouts of children from the school". Finally, LSO decided that all Village organisation will conduct walk and awareness campaigns at the village level. Now the children enrolment in the schools has increased.



Tree Plantation

In continuation of the billion-tree plantation LSO Tootak added their share in this regard. LSO Tootak doing this mega volunteer act for the last three years. With the support of BRSP and the agriculture department, LSO Tootak planted 3400 different kinds of plants in the whole Union council.



Eid Gah Masque Boundary Wall

Before the formation of LSO Tootak, the Eid Gah Masque was an open ground. It was difficult to clean and maintain the Eid Gah Masque.

Previous year LSO Tootak noticed this and planned to build the boundary wall of Eid Gah Masque. In this connection LSO's representatives conducted donation campaign. Within two months the targeted amount was collected through the donation committee, and finally, the work got completed after six months.



Repairing the Link Roads

LSO Tootak completely repaired Link Road in Union Council. The LSO executive body observed that there are many obstacles on the road. In addition, especially in the case of emergencies such as difficulties for the former and others, patients are not easy to reach the hospital on time due to road and communication barriers, difficulties. The LSO started repairing link roads with its own resources and enlisted the help of existing landlords of the union councils.



- Reported by:** Sana Mehboob, M&E Officer, Khuzdar, BRSP
- Compiled by:** Naseer Khan Achakzai, Young Development Professional, BRACE-RSPN
- Acknowledgment:** Akbar Khan Achakzai, Manager-HID, BRSP
Haseena Ibrahim, Capacity Building Officer-HID, BRSP
- Edited by:** Sanober Shaikh, Documentation & Reporting Officer, BRACE-RSPN



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- Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme
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 | www.brace.org.pk
 - www.facebook.com/BRACEProgramme
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