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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 Hewad

District: Killa Abdullah	Union Council: Darozai	Date of Formation: Sep 2nd 2020	Total Households in Union Council: 3,150	Organised Households: 1,873
Coverage: 59%	Number of Community Organisations (COs): 192 <small>(82 women's)</small>	Number of Village Organisations (VOs): 22 <small>(5 women's)</small>	Number of General Body Members: 83 <small>(only men)</small>	Number of Executive Committee Members: 11 <small>(All men)</small>

LSO Hewad, from Killa Abdullah, Tehsil Gulistan, was formed on September 2, 2020, by 1,855 member households organised into 191 COs and 21 VOs. The leaders of LSO are planning Hewad and implementing development activities on a self-help basis and in collaboration with government agencies and other development partners in donor agencies. The EU-funded BRACE Programme empowers rural men and women in Balochistan by realising the power they gain from collective action. As a result, organised men and women are now gaining awareness about their rights, making the service providers accountable, and taking initiatives to improve their lives.

Activities to Fight against Flood affected

The leaders of LSO Hewad and its member VOs performed very actively in fighting against the flood situation in their union council. The LSO leaders took self-help initiatives at the initial stage and provided food items to vulnerable families affected adversely during the flood-affected area of the union council. Later, District Government Authorities and other NGOs/INGOs launched a collaborative effort to control and save people's lives in flood situations in close coordination with locally organised communities. The leaders of LSO Hewad and its member VOs extended all possible support at their disposal to INGO/NGOs and Government Authorities.



Heavy Rain and Flood Destruction UC Darozai

BRSP, with the technical support of the Government Department, organised a rapid flood assessment for the flood-affected area, where houses were destroyed, livestock died, people died and were injured due to heavy rain, and dam breakage caused destruction. LSO leaders and the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) started raising awareness about the threat of the flood and educating the masses on taking preventive measures to safeguard themselves, their family members, and neighbours from getting infected by the flood. The suspected cases were transferred to Quetta for further treatment, injured and ill in the concerned flood situation. The LSO leaders formed a team to rescue the affected communities to refer them to a safe place.

Before getting organised under COs, VO, and LSOs under the EU-funded BRACE Programme, they had no idea where to go to get support for these poor people. However, the LSO provided an enabling forum where they could discuss such communal issues among themselves and seek solutions. The LSO leaders discussed the issue of flood-affected low-income families in their UC office. They learned and planned a series of meeting with different stakeholders to support affected families during the flood. Various stakeholders, the Government department, and INGO/NGOs arranged a series of meetings. They promised they would be providing support in different ways.

In such circumstances, Philanthropists, ministers, Humanitarian donors, and the provincial Government decided to tender their support to help poor communities and provide them with ration packages and shelters for survival in the crises.

The health department provided basic health facilities for heavy rain and flood-affected community members of the union council, and serious cases were transferred to Quetta for further treatment.

Provision of Birth and Death Certificates to Poor Families from Local Government with Financial Support of UNICEF

Another important issue that attracted the attention of the LSO leaders was the birth and death certificate in their UC Darozai. Due to a lack of awareness about the importance of certificates in the future, which will affect communities' new



generation life in such a way, like a school admission, Madaras admission, in the local certificate and national identity card (CNIC). Without such records, the future of communities will be affected. The community members can't travel anywhere in the country, can't be admitted to any institute for higher education in Pakistan, and can't get basic rights according to the law of Pakistan. Which effect the overall life in daily routines. An alternative and safer solution are for the communities that must have a concern record for their future. However, the initial investment cost of document preparation process charges is so high that it is beyond the reach of low-income families. So only a well of families has the required documents.

LSO Executive member and UC Secretary Provided Birth Certificate

The LSO leaders approached the UC local Government to seek their financial support in providing birth and death certificates for the poorest families. They first prepared a list of such families with the help of their member VOs and found out that there are 574 deserving families across their UC. They then held a series of meetings with the UC Government and asked them to allocate funds for certificates and these families. The UC Government, with the financial of



UNICEF, allocated funds for certificates, CNIC preparation, and 574 low-income families. The LSO leaders held a meeting of its General Body members and prioritised 574 most deserving families to receive the certificates and CNIC. The local Government prepared the certificates and other important documents and informed the LSO leaders. The LSO leaders arranged a distribution ceremony in their office and invited deserving family members to the ceremony. The LSO leaders distributed 2,300 certificates and documents among the deserving people in the presence of the representatives of the UC Government. The beneficiary members and LSO leaders appreciated the Local Government and UNICEF for this support and requested them to allocate more resources in the future for the same purpose. The UC Secretary was so happy with this fair and honest distribution. He promised to allocate as many resources as possible in the next year's budget to provide certificates to the remaining low-income families.

Distribution of Food Packages by Islamic Relief Fund

The LSO leaders came to know about an INGO Islamic Relief Fund. Islamic Relief Fund provides support to low-income families affected by the economic crises created by the drought-affected area. Therefore, the Executive Body members of the LSO arranged a meeting with the manager of the Islamic Relief Fund. In this meeting, the LSO leaders briefed the manager about the miserable economic condition of the poor, orphan, and widowed families in their UC and asked him for support. The LSO leaders assured the manager that they will identify the eligible families with the help of their VO leaders and distribute the rations transparently.



Islamic Relief Fund Data Entry Centre at UC Darozi

The Islamic Relief Fund provided 1500 ration bags in three circles to the LSO leaders at their UC office. First, the LSO leaders prepared a list of low-income families in a general meeting with the help of their VO leaders. They then shared the list with Islamic Relief Fund. Next, the concerned families' data entries were made by Islamic Relief Fund, which planned a ration distribution ceremony at their UC office and invited the low-income families to the ceremony. Finally, the ration bags were distributed among the nominated



community members in the presence of the Islamic Fund team. The poor beneficiary families appreciated the generosity of the Islamic Relief Fund and the selfless efforts of their LSO and VO leaders in helping them in such a crucial time. The Islamic Relief Fund team members were so happy with the fair and transparent distribution of the ration bags that they assured to continue their support with the LSO leaders in the future.

Arrangement for Poor Families affected by Flood with Financial Support of Kissan Gee Mills Private Limited

Due to the flood damages of heavy floods in Balochistan, UC Daroza's affected communities face multiple challenges. The main issue is that due to the minimal precipitation ratio, the quality of their food and source of income has been degraded badly by the flood. Therefore, they need to provide supplementary food for communities. This has added a huge burden on them. Most of these herders belong to low-income families, and they cannot afford to buy food for their families. Therefore, they are forced to sell their remaining animals to run their families. As a result, their household assets and income are declining at an alarming rate. The source of livelihood of the communities is animals and agricultural fields, but all sources are damaged by flood, animals have died, agriculture is damaged, and their source of income is destroyed. There is no alternative way for their income.

Kissan Gee Mills Food Packages Distribution by LSO

Before getting organised under COs, VO's, and LSO under the EU-funded BRACE Programme, they had no idea where to go to get support for these poor people. However, the LSO provided an enabling forum where they could discuss such communal issues among themselves and seek solutions. The LSO leaders discussed the issue of flood-affected low-income families in their UC and learnt that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other INGO's/NGO and Philanthropists is the right place to submit their request to seek support. So the LSO leaders decided to meet the concerned officials of NDMA/INGO's/NGO's/Philanthropists at Quetta city. The LSO leaders briefed the NDMA/INGO's/NGO's/Philanthropists officials that the communities houses and all assets are destroyed by heavy rain and flood, livestock and agriculture is the only source of income of the poor families, and they are facing critical times due to shortage of food and shelter in the natural disaster.

The Kissan Gee Mills Private Limited manager promised to provide 400 bags of food for distribution among low-income families. Leaders of LSO Hewad called a general meeting and invited all VO leaders to attend it. In this meeting, they discussed and decided on the distribution plan and prepared a list of poor, eligible members across their UC. They then submitted the list to Kissan Gee Mills Private Limited's office and organised a distribution ceremony at a

central place of their UC. They invited the eligible families and the Kissan Gee Mills Private Limited representatives to the distribution ceremony. Finally, they distributed the food bags among the deserving families transparently in the presence of Kissan Gee Mills Private Limited representatives. The beneficiary members were quite happy and thanked Kissan Gee Mills Private Limited and the LSO leaders for assisting them in such a critical time. They expected similar support in the coming years so that they can healthily manage their lives. The Kissan Gee Mills Private Limited representatives appreciated the LSO leaders for conducting such a fair and transparent distribution. They assured their future support to the LSO.

Improvement in Security Situation of the UC Darozai Area with the Support of The Deputy Commissioner, Killa Abdullah

Safety and peace are essential conditions for economic growth, social harmony, and the well-being of common people. Unfortunately, the UC area is quite vulnerable in terms of security. Cases of theft and robbery take place on and off in the UC area. The LSO leaders, therefore, went to the office of the Local Government and held a meeting with Mr. Maneer Ahmed Khan Kakar, the Deputy Commissioner



(DC), and brought the poor security situation to his notice and requested him to increase the number as well as patrolling of Levies in their UC area. The DC welcomed and appreciated their initiative and promised to fulfill their demands. He also asked the LSO leaders to keep a vigilant eye on the suspected criminals and inform them on time so that he could take timely actions. Since then, the staff of Levies and their patrolling has increased in the UC area, resulting in a marked decrease in criminal cases.

Improvement in Security Situation of the UC Area with the Support of the Scout Commander, Killa Abdullah

The safety of the community is the responsibility of Government security agencies; peace is an essential condition for economic growth, social harmony, and the well-being of common people. However, the UC area is quite vulnerable in terms of security. Cases of theft and robbery take place on and off in the UC area. The LSO leaders, therefore, held a meeting with Clonal Muhammad Imran, the Scout Commander (SC). He brought the poor security situation in his notice and requested him to increase the number and patrol FC in their UC area to support the laevis force.

The (SC) welcomed and appreciated their initiative for community security and promised to fulfill their demands. He also asked the LSO leaders to keep a vigilant eye on the suspected criminals and inform them on time so that he could take timely actions. Since then, the staff of FC will support Levies, and their patrolling has increased in the UC area, resulting in a marked decrease in criminal cases in the area.

The (SC) visited the UC office and met with local community stakeholders in the presence of LSO executive members. He assured full support for the security of communities of the concern UC and Tehsil. The local communities appreciated their efforts and support.

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