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 New Lakaband**

- **District:** Zhob
- **Union Council:** Lakaband
- **Date of Formation:** May 06, 2019
- **Total Households in Union Council:** 1,465
- **Organised Households:** 1,184
- **Coverage:** 81%
- **Number of Community Organisations (COs):** 65 (Male-35 & Female-30)
- **Number of Village Organisations (VOs):** 19 (Male-13 & Female-06)
- **Number of General Body Members:** 38 (All men)
- **Number of Executive Committee Members:** 11 (All men)

The leaders of **LSO New Lakaband** 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 also taking initiatives to improve their lives.

**CRP delivering CAT Session to CI members**

Union Council New Lakaband Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are delivering awareness sessions in Community organisations and Village organisations on the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus disease, precautionary measures like wearing face masks, washing hands frequently with soap and avoiding crowded places to be taken to remain safe from getting infected by the dangerous virus.
Construction of Funeral

There wasn’t a funeral in the village cemetery and when in need, the villagers had to face many problems. The villagers of the Barwalay requested to the LSO leaders to resolve their problem by constructing a funeral for our village cemetery. The LSO leaders Therefore, decided to do resource mobilisation for the said purpose. They held meetings with LSO general body members and requested their favour for allocation of funds using self-power, they were able to collect RS. 1 million for the funeral and the funeral home was built in the village cemetery. All the villagers of the Barwalay thanked LSO New Lakaband for their great efforts.

Construction of Check Dam

The villagers of Ahmadzai and Lakaband requested the LSO representatives to construct a Dam for their agricultural needs. The dam’s estimated cost was around 60 million Pakistani rupees which wasn’t a small and easily manageable amount for the LSO members themselves. To collect the desired amount, they decided to do resource mobilisation so they can construct the dam. They also held meetings with the local representatives and Asian Development Bank officials seeking their financial support. They were able to get the desire amount through Asian Development Bank officials for construction of the Dam. This construction nearly benefits 421 households in union council Lakaband.

Construction of Karez

The LSO representatives felt the need of a Karez to be used for drinking water purpose in Lakaband village. For the Karez, the LSO representatives not only did resource mobilisation but also used their linkages. They were able to collect an amount one lack Pakistani rupees which looked enough to serve their purpose. The developed is an asset for the residents and 231 households of the village are making use of the newly inaugurated facility.