



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 Basima

<p>District</p>  <p><b>Washuk</b></p>	<p>Union Council</p>  <p><b>Basima</b></p>	<p>Date of Formation</p>  <p><b>02-01-2019</b></p>	<p>Total Households in Union Council</p>  <p><b>2,029</b></p>	<p>Organised Households</p>  <p><b>1,795</b></p>	<p>Coverage</p>  <p><b>88%</b></p>
<p>Number of COs</p>  <p><b>169</b></p> <p>81 WOMEN'S</p>		<p>Number of VOs</p>  <p><b>48</b></p> <p>22 WOMEN'S</p>		<p># of General Body Members</p>  <p><b>54</b></p> <p>02 WOMEN'S</p>	<p># of Executive Committee Members</p>  <p><b>11</b></p> <p>01 WOMEN</p>

LSO Basima from District Washuk, was formed on January 02, 2019 by 1,795 member households organised into 169 COs and 48 VOs. The leaders of LSO Basima 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.

### Combating COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has created havoc for the masses, all over the world. Like many others, the poor people living in rural areas of Balochistan did not know how to cope with the pandemic if it spread in their areas. They were not privy to reliable information about the characteristics of the disease and the precautionary measures to be taken to save themselves and their families and friends from getting infected by the deadly virus. On top of that, the Government imposed lockdown posed economic and nutrition crisis for the poorest families, especially those relying on daily wages for livelihood.

Considering this situation, the leaders of the LSO Basima, organised under EU funded BRACE Programme, came forward to analyse the situation in their union council and planned activities on self-help basis. Identifying the poorest families and providing them food ration was prioritised. The LSO members started pooling resources from the relatively well of families of the UC to provide ration to families in need. Later on, when the Government started provision of ration bags, the LSO leaders contacted the



Distribution of ration bags among poorest families

Government Authorities and provided ration bags to the vulnerable families.

In addition, a wealthy family from Dubai comes to the area for hunting regularly. They have established an estate in the area to

grow wheat on it and distribute the Zakat among local poor people. The LSO leaders contacted them and received wheat from them to distribute it among poor families. In this way, the LSO leaders provided essential food items to 50 vulnerable families and ensured their nutritional safety.

Another critical issue they noticed was the fact that the communities were not receiving reliable information about the pandemic and its precautionary measures. To remedy this, they trained the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) on COVID-19 related basic information and asked them to deliver awareness sessions and hand washing techniques during the Community Awareness Toolkit (CAT) sessions in CO meetings. In addition to that, they made announcements from local mosques and conveyed COVID-19 related messages to general masses.

### **Vaccination of Livestock by Government Livestock Department**

Like in other rural areas of Pakistan, livestock is the second most common source of family income in rural Balochistan after farming. Livestock is the main source of milk and meat for their family members in UC Basima. Moreover, livestock is a strategic coping mechanism for the people of the area, as in the times of economic hardships and emergency, people sell their livestock to meet their financial needs. The people of UC Basima generally rear goats and sheep. However, communicable viral diseases were common in the domestic animals, causing reduction in milk production and body weight, and even death of the animals; this leads to heavy economic losses to the community. Earlier, the community members had no knowledge about vaccination of animals. But after getting organised in COs, VOs and LSO under the EU funded BRACE Programme, they learnt about Government Livestock Department and the services and supplies they had for the rural communities. Therefore, the LSO leaders visited the Livestock Department office and requested them for vaccination of their animals against the viral diseases. Subsequently, they sent their staff and started vaccinating domestic animals. So far, they have vaccinated 192 animals belonging to 70 beneficiary households.



**Vaccination of domestic animals by Government Livestock Department**

### **Construction of Water Supply Project through linkages with MPA**

Availability of safe drinking water is a serious issue in many parts of Balochistan including UC Basima. Village Locho had no source of water supply. They used to fetch water from the nearest village which was at the distance of five km. Fetching water is often done by women, this meant that the women of the area had to spend several hours on a daily basis fetching water on donkeys. The LSO leaders approached their Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), briefed him about the difficulties of the villagers and requested him to establish a water supply project for the village on a priority basis. On the recommendation of the MPA, the Public Work Department installed a bore project and provided drinking water to the people in their own village. The project has not only improved the health and hygiene conditions for the villagers but has also saved significant hours of women's labour which they had to spend fetching water from a distance of five kilometres on a daily basis.



**Water Supply Project in village Locho**

### **Spray against Locust to Save Crops and Fruit Orchards**

Locusts form enormous swarms that spread across regions, devouring crops and leaving serious agricultural damage in their wake. Since June 2019, the locust outbreak has been impacting eastern Pakistan. UC Basima was also attacked by locust in the year 2020 and the swarm destroyed crops and fruit orchards. The LSO leaders discussed the matter in their meeting and decided to get help from the Government. They visited the Plant Protection Department officials, briefed them about the intensity and spread of locust attack on their wheat, melon and cotton crops as well as on fruit orchards and asked them for technical guidance and help to control it in time. The Department sent a tractor fixed with a

spray machine and provided the required chemical insecticide free of cost. They sprayed the affected standing crops and fruit orchards in the entire villages of UC Basima and saved the LSO members from locust invasion and consequent significant economic loss.



Spray on locust affected farm fields by Plant Protection Department

### Ridding the Villages of Dangerous Wild Dogs

Over the last four months, the number of wild dogs in certain villages of the UC were on the rise. They were killing domestic animals and were biting children and elderly people. Thus, they

had put the lives of humans and animals at great risk. The VO leaders raised this issue in the LSO meeting and they discussed on ways to tackle it. Finally, they decided to seek permission and support from the Local Government (LG) authorities to kill the dangerous dogs. The LSO leaders conducted a meeting with LG authorities, briefed them about the issue and asked for their advice. The LG officers started a killing campaign of the wild dogs through their professional staff and resolved the problem of the affected villages of the UC.



Wild dogs



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