

## 1. PROJECT BRIEF

### COMBATTING VIOLENCE AND EXTREMISM

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) implemented a short term project titled '*Pur Aman Pakistan: Love all hates none - A call by unheard*' in partnership with Creative Associates International in Districts of Lahore and Multan of Punjab.

Various forms of violence against women, religious minority and Transgender (TG) communities are pervasive in Punjab. In 2014, there were number of suicide attacks and incidents of mob-violence reported alone in capital city of the Punjab province.

This project envisioned to curb and contribute to minimize violent extremism, which has shown mushroom growth in the country in recent past.

The keys objectives of the project were to;

- To identify and train Merasis (local musician) and Khwaja (transgender) to promote the message of peace and love through music and theater in Districts of Lahore and Multan
- To create a group of Peace advocates and build their capacity to address the local issues by building linkages with the government departments
- To provide youth with opportunities and activities which may serve as alternatives to joining extremist groups falsehood.

Identifying and training total 120 Khawaja Siras, Merasis, Dooms and Bhaands on dance, music, miming, theatre, and storytelling for change gave the project a unique edge amongst traditional peace building approaches. With the support of the Creative Associates International, SPO has strengthened networks of TG community (khaja Siras) through number of trainings and use their natural talents for promoting peace and social harmony in the selected areas.

After the training, Peace Troops (Aman Toliyan) were linked with District Administration and Tehsil Municipal Administration in both districts. As a result of this, incidents of violence were reported by this group of volunteers through Punjab helpline 1717.

Select messages of peace were disseminated on streets of Lahore and Multan by the trained Aman Toliyan. This project was unique because SPO had engaged the most marginalized segment of the society to work in close partnership and implementation of the idea. The trained groups had composed peace songs and messages on 'love and respect for everyone, social harmony and tolerance for every sect, creed and gender in all religions and celebrate the diversity with enriched plurality.' They had performed theatre at streets and shrines to promote messages of peace and social harmony.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

April 01, 2015

### PROJECT END DATE:

June 30, 2015

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Lahore and Multan, Punjab

### FOCUS AREA:

Combatting violent extremism

### SDG:

Goal 16-Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Creative Associates International

## 2. PROJECT BRIEF

### PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

With an overarching goal to improve access of women to formal justice system, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) implemented a 15-month long women focused project title *'Addressing gender based violence through sensitization of district bar association and through establishing kiosk in the court for women accessing formal judicial system'*.

Situation of women's access to justice is appalling in Pakistan. The country where approximately 2.5 million cases are pending in the courts, and the legal and judicial systems suffer from chronic delays in the disposal of cases, women's access to justice is almost out of the question because of varied hindrances starting from home to the courts.

SPO in close collaboration with the Bar Associations took some gender sensitive measures for ensuring justice for women. Through the project interventions, the Bar Associations developed improved understanding on gender, gender concepts, legal approaches to equality, pro women laws, family and minority laws (including Qisas and Diyat) and international legal instruments and obligations related to women's rights.

Well connected set of activities were implemented to achieve the mentioned results. Some of the highlighting activities included; upgradation of District Bar Office and Resource Center through a provision of necessary IT equipment, furniture and resource material on law and gender. Research work was undertaken on pro-women judicial precedents and regressive court precedents for effective comparative trend analysis (civil and criminal) from the district. Total three-case laws were prepared (post training) describing legal proceedings on the cases of women's right illustrating different kinds of Gender Based Violence (GBV) /Violence Against Women (VAW).

Capacity building has been core niche of SPO's stream of work. District Bar Association were strengthened and sensitized through a series of 16 trainings. Capacity of a lawyers group was also build to enhance their understanding on pro women litigation will be available for improved facilitation of women cases in courts.

Advocacy and awareness is core element to SPO's scope work across all project. Pro-women laws posters were printed, dissemination and display in key court areas. In addition to this, facilitation Kiosk

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

January 01, 2015

**PROJECT END DATE:**

March 31, 2016

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District Quetta, Balochistan

**FOCUS AREA:**

Gender and Development

**SDG:**

Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and Other National NGOs

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

GEP-USAID

in Courts were also established in the premises of district court after placement of female facilitation officer.

Through this key intervention, and improved facilitation in courts, women have reportedly started accessing the formal justice system in District Quetta. The project had strengthened the lawyers' community to take immediate and appropriate actions to address violence against women. Even after the project completion, this initiative is expected to leave a long term impact by reduction of gender based violence through increased sensitization among judicial system and increased awareness among communities.

### 3. PROJECT BRIEF

#### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) with the financial support of HOPE'87 addressed to the immediate needs of flood affected community through emergency relief response in District Dir, Charsadda, Naushehra of KP and in District RajanPur, Mianwali, Layyah of Punjab.

Working through its vast and well trained human network of volunteers and regional offices, SPO alongside HOPE'87 was one of the initial respondents of this natural disaster. The July 2010 monsoon waves brought plenty of water and ultimately started playing havoc with everything in many districts of the country. The vulnerable communities who remained least resilient before floods that year, had lost lives, crops as well as major sources of livelihood.

The project reached out to 15,000 families of most affected districts with Health and Hygiene kits, Shelter (bedding) kits, Non Food Items (NFIs), ready to eat food items, and water storage jerry cans and aqua tablets for water purification purpose.

The phone lines were damaged in remotest of areas, accessibility was the biggest challenge for SPO and its partners. Providing immediate relief to the flood affected population was the ultimate objective of this intervention, where in support of local authorities and community the relief items were transported through trucks and in some cases boats.

As result of this intervention, the flood affected families were provided a basic kit for survival in post-floods situation. The health and hygiene kits were customized as per needs of women and girls. The food packages included dry items keeping in mind the children and adult needs.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

???

**PROJECT END DATE:**

???

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District Dir, Charsadda, Naushehra, KPK

District RajanPur, Mianwali, Layyah, Punjab

**FOCUS AREA:**

Humanitarian Assistance (Emergency Relief)

**SDG:**

N/A

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

HOPE'87 (Pakistan)

## 4. PROJECT BRIEF

### STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan faces critical challenges that require informed policies that respond to the needs of its citizens. The country's ability to address many of these issues has serious implications both in terms of Pakistan's development and global security. As the country struggles with terrorism and economic stagnation, a failure to develop policies in a more informed and participatory manner have led to a return to military rule, and more strengthened extremist elements in the history of Pakistan.

In order to address this political turmoil, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in partnership with NDI and Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) implemented this national level program in Pakistan. The main goal of the program was to strengthen democratic practices in the country. The following work was undertaken to achieve program objectives;

- Parties Conduct Their Own Research, Analysis, and Training for the Formulation of Increasingly Responsive and Informed Platforms and Policies; and Parties Contribute More Actively and Effectively in the Policy-Making of Government Institutions such as Legislatures and Commissions.
- Establishment of an Independent Opinion Research Facility that Adheres to International Research Standards
- Parties Communicate More Effectively with their Members, Constituents and the General Public at the National and Local Levels, both in terms of Articulating Messages and Aggregating and Responding to Concerns, Requests and Ideas
- Parties demonstrate movement towards implementing internationally recognized standards for internal democracy and transparency.

This five-year program introduced a bottom-up Policy Development Cycle (the Cycle) that had been designed to give voice to grassroots leaders and activists who have been excluded from the parties' policy making processes. This program had contribution in shaping political parties' strategies and goals, and enabled them to be representative and responsive to local concerns. Developing the capacities of the parties at all levels to engage in research was another achievement of this initiative, which had also provided an empirical foundation for policy formulation for effective governance systems in Pakistan.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

missing in proposal

### PROJECT END DATE:

missing in proposal

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

National Level

### FOCUS AREA:

Democracy and Social Justice

### SDG Goal 16:

To promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

National Democratic Institute (NDI)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Through a series of workshops and forums, the program received input from party members on policy priorities. Parties had then form smaller working groups that used public opinion research, input from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and think tank consultations to develop policy proposals that addressed the identified issues. As a result, the program had involved political parties in a comprehensive policy development process that engaged both grassroots members and the party leadership at different stages to strengthen democratic space in Pakistan.

## 5. PROJECT BRIEF

### PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION THROUGH EDUCATION

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in partnership with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) implemented a year-long project titled *'Engaging children, youth and communities for the promotion of Social Cohesion & Resilience (SCR) in Sindh'*.

The overarching goal of the project was to promote and strengthen social cohesion and resilience through education in vulnerable and conflict prone contexts of Sindh.

While contributing to UNICEF's Global Peace building, Education and Advocacy Programme in Pakistan. The key interventions of the project were to mobilize and engage communities by establishing and strengthening community-based support mechanism for efficient conflict resolution, improving access to quality education at Government Primary Girls' and Boys' Schools, teaching hard-to-reach marginalized children through Community schools, providing access to education to out of school children (9-17 years old) through Alternative Learning Pathways (ALPs), capacity building of teachers, Learning Facilitators, and youth groups, building youth networks, career counseling for established networks of youth, and engaging them as 'peace ambassadors'.

Harnessing linkages with key stakeholder has been SPO's overall strategy for smooth implementation of the projects at district level. Close coordination was ensured by engaging Education Department inclusive of DEO offices and Directorate of Non Formal Education, Sports and Youth Department, Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority, Social Welfare Department and other relevant Line Departments, Local and District Administration, communities, schools and youth.

As a result of this project implementation in District Karachi (West) and Jacobabad, SPO directly contributed to the education and development of 7,350 children, youth, teachers and community members to promote and strengthen social cohesion in two districts of Sindh. SPO formed seven peace committees at Union Council and District Level, 75 government officials and para-teachers trained on integrated learning approaches, established 15 community schools, peace promoting events at schools, structure session for 150 junior leaders of government schools, established 80 Alternative Learning Pathways (ALPs), build capacity of 80 learning facilitators, and held various youth focused activities which contributed towards SC&R.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

July 16, 2013

**PROJECT END DATE:**

July 15, 2014

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District Karachi West and Jacobabad, Sindh

**FOCUS AREA:**

Peace, Education

**SDG:**

Goal 4- Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

Goal 16-Promote peaceful and inclusive societies

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

## 6. PROJECT BRIEF

### ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in collaboration with Punjab Saaf Pani Company completed a social mobilization and capacity building 6-month long project in Punjab.

The water and sanitation project was implemented in four districts of Punjab where local communities were forced to drink contaminated and brackish water due to contamination of groundwater resources and inadequate operation and maintenance of government owned water supply schemes.

Project title 'The Saaf Paani Project' (Clean drinking water), included set of activities which helped in achieving broader results under Sustainable Development Goal six (then MDG).

A community baseline survey was completed successfully through which water supply schemes were identified in the underserved rural, semi and peri-urban areas, Identify the exact number of population benefitting from the identified supply schemes, analyzing the socio – economic and cultural dynamics of the local communities Develop linkage with the local CBOs.

The key outcome of the community mobilization process was the formation of Water User Committees (WUCs) which served the purpose of active group from the entire community and comprise of members that have influence and expertise of facilitating any initiative.

For effective community mobilization which is SPO's niche, small group meetings were held where the beneficiary local communities around the 100 water supply schemes was divided into small clusters based on gender and responsibility of decision making at house.

Training is an essential process of mobilization and education. Therefore, four trainings were organized for WUCs to identify their roles and responsibilities for smooth operation, maintenance and sustainability of the water supply schemes.

At later stage the series of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) awareness sessions were conducted with the project beneficiaries (elders, men, women, children and youth). These awareness sessions (and dissemination of IEC material on H&H) were organized for WUCs to further engage their support in disseminating hygiene message among local communities in the target districts.

Through these interventions SPO reached out to 5,429,547 persons in Faisalabad, 1,843,194 persons in Sahiwal, 2,433,091 persons Bahawalpur, 1,643,118 persons D.G. Khan with clean and safe drinking water and healthy hygiene practices in the communities.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

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### PROJECT END DATE:

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### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan of Punjab

### FOCUS AREA:

Water and Sanitation

### SDG:

Goal 6 Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

Punjab Saaf Pani Company (PSPC)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

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## 7. PROJECT BRIEF

### SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING DATA BASE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN PAKISTAN

The Constitution of Pakistan ensures that citizens have fundamental rights, which include freedom of speech, freedom of thought, right to access information, freedom to practice religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, etc. However, effective implementation of these rights is hindered by various structural and functional bottlenecks. Although there are laws and policies to ensure people have access to their rights, there are several factors that limit citizens to access and exercise their freedom.

In this connection, SPO in collaboration with Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights (MoLJ & HR) and with financial support of Care International in Pakistan established a database on Human Rights violation in Pakistan. The main objective of this six-month intervention was to create a Database and software having information related to Human Rights violation at Federal and provincial level, then training at Federal and provincial directorates were held to successfully to transfer knowledge and responsibilities to maintain, review, and utilize the data resource pool and then a detailed Management Information System (MIS) on Human Rights was handed over to MoLJ & HR.

As a result of this intervention;

- A data base of human rights violations was prepared and owned by the state and its representatives
- The civil society organizations working on Human Rights advocacy now had a negotiating point mutually agreed with the state
- The ministry was further strengthened to take up fact based human rights issues both at provincial and national levels
- The reporting on international covenants and treaties on human rights by the ministry enhanced

SPO had played key role and collaborated at various fronts with Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights on human Rights promotion and developing human rights defender mechanisms. This small scale project proved to be a huge contribution in systematically recording the human rights violation data, which also helped the ministry to take informed actions and timely respond to the needs and challenges faced by citizenry of Pakistan.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

missing in proposal

### PROJECT END DATE:

missing in proposal

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

Federal and Provincial Level

### FOCUS AREA:

Human Rights

### SDG Goal 16:

To promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

Ministry of Law Justice & Human Rights (MoLJ&HR)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Care International In Pakistan

## 8. PROJECT BRIEF

### SUPPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ACTIONS ON TORTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF ILL-TREATMENT

The gender sensitivity in the South Asian region is much less as compared to the rest of the world. This point can be elaborated by observing the government operated Crisis Centers for domestic violence victim (esp. female), and these crisis centers are referred as Dar-ul-Aman - house of peace. There are thousands of women who are compelled to take refuge in these crisis centers to avoid their persecution at the hands of their families which fail to provide mandated services such as shelter, access to medical treatment, limited legal representation, and vocational training, mainly due to lack of staff capacity and resources.

In addition to this Government of Pakistan has established special women's police stations with all female staff in response to complaints of custodial abuse of women, including rape. However, there has been need for capacity building and sensitization of concerned officials, in order to make these police stations function more effectively.

Last but not the least conditions of women in jail is also not meeting expectations. The prevailing conditions in jails are not conducive enough for human being living. The jails are crowded and there exists rampant corruption and abuse of women inmate in majority of it.

In light of aforementioned gender and human rights violations, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in collaboration with OXFAM-Great Britain in Pakistan implemented a project with overall objective to create awareness and improve the observance of women's human rights in Pakistan through supporting civil society actions aimed at the prevention and eradication of torture and ill treatment and assisting women torture survivors in their rehabilitation into society.

Training of Trainers was held for police, jail personnel and shelter home representatives to enhance their knowledge and skills on specified topics; gender equality, human rights legal framework for women in custody. This activity transformed attitude of trained officials towards women in custody. In addition to this unique collaboration, SPO also held consultative workshop for judges, session judges, magistrates and lawyers to draft a bill against torture of women in police/jail custody in line with the international

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

not mentioned in proposal

### PROJECT END DATE:

not mentioned in proposal

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Lahore, Rawalpindi in Punjab

Islamabad, Capital

### FOCUS AREA:

Human Rights

### SDG:

Goal 16-Promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and OXFAM-GB

### FUNDING PARTNER:

FC

CAT/Optional Protocol. Conducted lobbying meetings to table anti-torture bill. SPO strengthened and also build linkages key stakeholders.

This was unique project in which SPO established women protection forums. It also provided general free legal counselling for all 240 women in the target jails and dar-ul-amans and, secondly, Survivor Support Units (SSU) also known as Victim Support Unit took responsibility to provide legal aid to six specific cases of women. The SSUs consist of two trained police officials, a paralegal and a Women Protection Forum member who provided legal aid to women survivors of torture and help them seek redress.

More than 20 representatives from three districts Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad, comprising from jails and darul amans officials were trained through gender sensitization and enhancing their understanding of Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines to ensure that women in their custody are treated in a humane, dignified manner in which their rights are respected and upheld.

The 10 women protection forums were also trained on concepts and training tools for stress management counselling through the cluster approach. Men having no access to women's jail and Dar-ul-Amans, women had become change agents through this intervention.

The WPFs then identified cases of women who are most in need of stress management counselling, based on vulnerability criteria. Total 36 women received stress management counselling sessions by trained facilitators on a monthly basis.

The overarching results achieved after aforementioned activities were to;

1. Gender sensitized law enforcement agencies that are aware of women's legal and constitutional rights and rights under relevant international conventions.
2. Accessible and facilitative environment created for women seeking justice through the formal legal system
3. Improved living conditions for women in police custody and Dar-ul-Amans
4. Women Survivors rehabilitated and facilitated to reintegrate into society

## 9. PROJECT BRIEF

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) addressed to the immediate needs of flood affected community through emergency relief response in District D.G. Khan of Punjab and District Thatta of Sindh province.

Working through its vast and well trained civil society network, volunteers and regional offices, SPO became key respondents of this natural disaster in both districts. After playing havoc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the flood tides turned towards Punjab and played havoc in District Mianwali, Layyah, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur and thereafter entered into Sindh wherein it caused various breaches at different places and inundation of vast pockets of rural area. The vulnerable communities who remained least resilient before floods that year, had lost lives, crops as well as major sources of livelihood. The 70 percent population's livelihood was based on agriculture and livestock which was completely destroyed by flood.

Through this intervention;

1. Total 7,000 families got access and facility of clean drinking water storage. Hence, protecting them from water-borne diseases.
2. Total 50 communal water sources restored to help communities to have free access to the clean drinking water for daily use.
3. Total 800 families benefitted from cash for work facility for clearing mud from houses and Public Buildings such as schools, dispensaries, and sewerage lines The cash for work facility was available to the people who were willing to work on their agriculture land / rebuilding their homes / working for village clean-ups within their communities.

In response to this havoc, SPO and its field teams played key role to bring the flood affected population back to life by providing immediate relief in terms of water and other cash for work opportunities. This initiative was successfully because the self-esteem and integrity of the flood affected remained intact while they received cash against their services. This intervention not just provided assistance in terms of relief but mental relief to flood-hit community.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

???

**PROJECT END DATE:**

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**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District D.G. Khan, Punjab

District Thatta, Sindh

**FOCUS AREA:**

Humanitarian Assistance (Emergency Relief)

**SDG:**

N/A

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

missing in proposal

## 10. PROJECT BRIEF

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The devastating floods of 2010 in Pakistan, following the second monsoon spell affected over 20 million lives<sup>1</sup>. The provinces of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab (with more than 3.6, 4.3 and 8.2 million people affected, respectively) were the worst affected regions. According to UNFPA report, women and children were the most vulnerable groups; accounting for approximate 70 % of the worst affected populations. This may be attributed to the peripheral position women occupy within the patriarchal socio-economic structure of Pakistan. The existing power dynamics, at the macro and households levels, are such that men have primary control over resources and decision-making. The gender-inequity deeply ingrained in the existing power structure further aggravates during crisis situations such as 2010 floods and this is merely because of the insensitive individual, collective and institutional behavior of the society.

To address to the problem, SPO provided rehabilitation and early recovery opportunity to its target population.

The overarching goal of the project was to facilitate citizen's active participation in the empowerment of women in areas worst affected by the flood; by facilitating their access to resources and institutions to enable control over their own lives and improve attitudes and behavior towards them (women) and their concerns.

Through this year-long project, and various advocacy, research, capacity building, and service delivery activities SPO;

- i. Trained 40 relevant organizations about land title restoration, including formation of linkages between institutional stakeholders and recipient population.
- ii. Aided 96 female headed households in reclaiming land titles, per region.
- iii. Development of need based package for support (assets, credit, supply lines, market access) for identified home- based economic activities.
- iv. 180 women provided training and inputs to re-establish their economic activities.
- v. At least 40 water systems rehabilitated/established/facilitated.
- vi. At least 24 training programs, per region (four regions), for safe water practices in relation to rehabilitated systems (with community women who benefit from the water supply).

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

February 1, 2011

### PROJECT END DATE:

January 31, 2012

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Nowshera, Peshawar and Charsadda, in KPK.

District Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur and Mianwali in Punjab

District Ghokti, Sukkur and Shikarpur in Sindh.

District Sibi, Jafarabad and Naseerabad in Balochistan

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Early Recovery/Rehabilitation)

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

## 11. PROJECT BRIEF

### PROJECT BRIEF: PROMOTING WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN PAKISTAN

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) with the financial support of International Republic Institute (IRI) implemented project titled 'Punjab: Women's Campaign Schools and new member orientation plan'.

The objectives of this collaboration were to;

1. Identify the potential independent women candidates from all the constituencies of Punjab province.
2. Build and nurture the capacity of women candidates coming from different political parties and as independent candidates to construct and run effective electoral campaigns.

Punjab being the biggest province of Pakistan in terms of population and geographic area. There was very limited representation of elected women in the provincial assembly of Punjab as well as in the national assembly of Pakistan. During the last general elections 2013 only 8 women were elected to represent 44.25 million of the female population from Punjab province for the Provincial Assembly. While, 62 females were elected to the reserved seats for women and only 7 women on minority seats in the province. It indicates a meager situation of female participation in the electoral process. Through this project, SPO aimed to increase the elected women participation in the Punjab province. Similarly, in addition to the party based participation, it was ensured that independent female candidates participation was also encouraged and enhanced in the local, provincial and national elections in future. The ultimate outcome of this intervention guaranteed women participation in the decision making process and reduced gender biases in the election process.

Through this well-designed and planned project, SPO reached out to achieve;

1. Training total 30 independent potential women candidates for the future election campaigns.
2. One campaign school/training for independent candidate conducted.
3. 10 tier One campaign school/ trainings held with approximately 167 women candidates in Punjab province.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

not mentioned in proposal

### PROJECT END DATE:

not mentioned in proposal

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

Punjab

### FOCUS AREA:

Women Political Participation

### SDG:

Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

International Republic Institute (IRI)

All the campaign schools/ trainings were geographically dispersed based on the discretion of the political parties and as well as on the availability of the independent candidates. The duration of each of the campaign school/ training was two days in which the first day was dedicated to the issue identification, platform development and other strategic communications. While the second day was related to campaign organization, managing an election campaign, message development and dissemination, voter contact and targeting, campaign office, public speaking and self-promotion within a political party or organizational structure.

The third party and independent candidates made important contributions while they raised policy issues that the major parties have ignored, provide outlets for voters to voice their discontent with the major parties, introduce grassroots innovations and help propel the transition from an era of two-party politics into another. Independent female candidates were encouraged to participate and compete on the general seats as well as on the women reserved seats.

## 12. PROJECT BRIEF

### IMPROVING EDUCATION PROFILE SINDH AND BALUCHISTAN.

The country's development is usually perceived through the status of literacy of its inhabitants. Unfortunately, the government admits that Pakistan is on the lowest rung of the ladder in education spending, though it falls among the middle income countries of the world. Even more alarming is the issue of inefficient use of allocated funds with high proportions remaining unspent and those that are spent contributing little to good quality education. With the recent devolution of education from a federal to a provincial subject, it remains to be seen how the provinces tackle the problems of the education sector. There remain 5.1 million Pakistani children of primary school age who are out of school. This is the second highest in the world and is over twice as many as in India. Of the poorest 20%, a tragic 2 in 3 girls do not go to school; one of the worst gender inequalities in the world. It is also observed that the children who make it to school suffer from the incapacity of the government to administer adequate education.

In this regard Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) implemented a 12-months project in Sindh and Baluchistan province by collaborating with Alif Ailan (DFID funded). The specific objectives of the project were to;

- Create demand to facilitate supply side in ensuring improved education facts in government schools by working around the indicators of children's enrolment, quality of education, budgetary spending in schools in the target districts.
- Create demand to improve teachers' enrolment in the government schools in the target districts.

The project aimed to rollout a multi-tiered rights-based advocacy campaign seeking structural improvement in the education profile of target districts/schools. Grassroots mobilization were carried out as part of sensitizing to strengthen voices of citizens. This approach was effective because citizens learnt to articulate their unmet demands such as provision of appropriate school buildings and surrounding environment, teachers and grants to maintain, update and upscale the facilities through focused advocacy campaigns in the target districts. The tools such as protest rallies, teachers' enrolment drive by the citizens, mobile/sms and electronic media campaigns were employed as part of grassroots

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

July 2014

**PROJECT END DATE:**

June 2015

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

Sindh and Baluchistan

**FOCUS AREA:**

Education

**SDG:**

Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and quality education for all

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

Alif Ailan-DFID



activism to notify and to hold to account the elected political leaders and education department officials against malpractices in the education system. While rolling-out the campaign, SPO continued to draw on its unique strengths of the district - wide civil society networks (CSNs), partner organizations and District Steering Committees (DSCs).

As a result;

- The demand - side interventions included two protest rallies (of a minimum of five hundred people each) in a district, and extensive media coverage of the same
- The demand - side intervention included the deployment of a 'teachers-enrolment' drive by the citizens, with a minimum of ten activities and access to a hundred government school teachers. The teachers-enrolment was targeted towards teachers who have not shown up for work for more than six months
- An SMS - based campaign (districts facts, budget, out-of-school-children, teachers' absenteeism, education managers' corruption, etc.) shall be launched in each district. The SMS campaign targeted at least five thousand recipients in each district.
- The supply-side intervention included an address by the respective provincial or national assembly member to the rally participants/constituents showing his/her commitment to the cause of education, and a tour of at least ten government schools in his/her constituency.

The data on the education profile of each district was provided by Alif Ailaan. Therefore, to ensure integrated approach and leverage on each other's strengths, the above mentioned deliverables were attained through a campaign that was based on Alif Ailaan provided data, as well as information collected from members of the civil society in the respective districts.

The project was huge success which enhanced commitment of the respective Member National Assembly and Member Provincial Assembly towards the cause of education, and a tour of at least ten government schools in his/her constituency in the target district. Also the issue of teachers' absenteeism was addressed to an extent that maximum 100 government school teachers were brought back to their appointed places in the schools in the target districts. The Mass awareness among the citizens about the district education indicators was created for holding the provincial and district education functionaries accountable for their roles and responsibilities.

## 13. PROJECT BRIEF

### WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Strengthening participatory Organization in partnership with Kingdom of the Netherlands reached out to women of District Kech in Baluchistan province of Pakistan through project titled 'Women economic empowerment through skill development initiatives'.

With an overarching goal to increase opportunities for ultra-poor women to find sustainable livelihoods, this 12-months project reached out to 10 villages, Koshkalat UC of District Kech.

Team SPO through its livelihood and social mobilization activities formed 10 Women Organizations at village level, one at UC level. Then after re-organizing of these human resource capital, capacity building series were completed on Organization Development, Project Management, Leadership Management, Financial Management.

A Poverty Survey was also conducted to identify 30 ultra-poor women which led to formulation of Livelihood improvement plans (LIPs) for identified 30 ultra-poor women. Under the livelihood component, Women Community Resource Persons (CRPs) were trained on agriculture, livestock management, enterprise development, Kitchen gardening. These skills development trainings to enhance livelihoods was successfully embraced by local community.

This intervention was one of its kind and SPO dedicatedly nurtured and trained this group of women to enhance their skills. Assets were transferred to ultra-poor women after conducting skill development trainings, assets will be provided to successful trainees to start their business. Communities issues were highlighted at district level, and linkages with line department and other stakeholders strengthened through advocacy and networking conducted by SPO and its regional team in Kech.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**  
Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**  
not mentioned in proposal

**PROJECT END DATE:**  
not mentioned in proposal

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**  
District Kech, Baluchistan

**FOCUS AREA:**  
Gender and Development

**SDG:**  
Goal 5- Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**  
Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**  
Small Activities Programme (Fund)  
Kingdom of the Netherlands

## 14. PROJECT BRIEF

### PROMOTING WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN PAKISTAN

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in partnership with UNIFEM reached out to flood affected districts of Sindh, Baluchistan, and Punjab through project titled '*Strengthening of Women's Leadership Role and Establishing Women Protection Networks in Eight Flood Affected Districts*'.

The floods of year 2010 were unforgettable in the history of Pakistan, where havoc played by natural disaster from KPK to Punjab to Sindh to Baluchistan left many helpless, hungry, losing livelihood sources, and costed lives of loved ones.

In parts of the country that were stricken worst by the recent rain-fed floods, the abuse of gender based violence was overlooked adding to the disadvantage of females being the vulnerable sex face. This was because of three main reasons: 1) there was a general failure to involve women in the emergency planning processes, 2) there was a lack of respect and appreciation for women rights, and, 3) there was a lack of capacity to assess and cater for the prioritized and urgent needs of the flood affected women. Given that the women, the already marginalized segment of the Pakistani society, become the worst victims of discrimination, violence and abuse in an event of a disaster; the overall objective of this project is to seek to reduce the impact of future hazards on them. The project envisioned to harness a network of local women leaders who will in turn seek to protect women rights by ensuring their due role and integration in various aspects of disaster risk preparedness, mitigation and prevention related planning, initiatives and interventions.

SPO built capacity 250 women leaders and the official of district line agencies who later took frontline roles in 1) protecting women rights, 2) addressing women concerns in relation to their rehabilitation and reconstruction requirements (in case of occurrence of a disaster), 3) combating gender based violence, and, 4) lobbying for women role in peace keeping.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

November 25, 2010

### PROJECT END DATE:

December 10, 2010

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

Nowshera and Dera Ismail Khan Districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

District Multan and Rajan Pur Districts in Punjab

District Thatta and Sukkar Districts in Sindh  
District Naseer Abad and Jafar Abad Districts in Baluchistan

### FOCUS AREA:

Ending Violence Against Women (VAW)/Humanitarian Assistance

### SDG:

Goal 5- Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

UNIFEM

SPO also enhanced lobbying capacities of women leaders and groups resulting in more gender responsive disaster risk preparedness, mitigation and prevention measures by the state and the non-state actors.

These interventions led to;

1. Development of a coherent strategy for SPO and its partner organizations to ensure fuller and righteous inclusion of women in future disaster risk mitigation, preparedness and prevention measures to seek to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women.
2. 250 women leaders and the district government's disaster management authorities (of the 8 target districts) internalized desired knowledge of gender-mainstreaming to effectively seek to eliminate gender based violence in both, pre and post disaster work – including preparedness, mitigation and prevention.
3. 8 district networks of women leaders were formed and their linkages with regional and national networks such as Ending Violence Against Women Alliance, Women Councilors Network, were built for future consultation and joint actions on women rights.

SPO was already providing emergency and relief support to aforementioned districts through food packages, access to clean water, and shelter. However, through Rapid Need Assessment conducted by SPO's regional staff, it was realized that women and children have become most vulnerable and disaster prone in such natural calamities. This project was stepping stone towards making disaster response inclusive and also making inclusive disaster mitigation strategies at district level. The project was appreciated by UN agencies and local line departments.

## 15. PROJECT BRIEF

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED PEOPLE IN SINDH

Country-wide torrential rains, which began late July 2010, had caused unprecedented flooding throughout Pakistan. More than 160,000 square meters, one fifth of the country's surface area, had experienced the worst flooding which damaged the most fertile and crop producing lands of the country. Devastating the livelihoods of small traders, subsistence farmers and herders.

The river banks have been swept away and the floods did extensive damage to agricultural equipment and infrastructure, such as generators, water mills, field retention walls and irrigation systems. As water recedes, the need for recovery measures had also emerged.

In response to these floods of 2010, and in partnership with Oxfam Novib-Pakistan, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) implemented six-month emergency relief project for flood affected population of District Tando M. Khan in Sindh province.

Despite the post-flood accessibility challenges, SPO bridged the gaps between community needs and supplied essentials to regenerate livelihood of the flood victims through this project titled '2011 Flood Response Project in Sindh'.

The six-month response ensured that 5000 Household/families benefit from this response. With an overall goal to enable flood survivors in resettling to normal life by providing relief assistance in Sindh. SPO reached out to;

1. 5000 flood affected families in the targeted district by providing cash for work to restore their basic need for livelihood.
2. 5000 HH/families received Health and Hygiene Kits.
3. 5000 HH/families received Mosquito nets to safeguard themselves from malaria.

SPO's humanitarian team in regions conducted field visits to flood affected area for gauging the impact of the disaster and met with flood affected population for seeking relevant and firsthand information regarding the post-disaster situation and assessing their immediate needs. The situation assessment was done by SPO and partner's teams in the district and the main source of the information was flood affected families living in relief camps, affected villages and in spontaneous settlements. SPO formed village relief committees (VRC) in target villages of the project which helped project team in

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

January 1, 2012

### PROJECT END DATE:

May 30, 2012

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Tando M. Khan, Sindh

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Early Recovery)

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Oxfam Novib-Pakistan

identification of affected and deserving families so relief assistance can be delivered effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, VRC became a local support mechanism for identification of Cash for Work schemes and members (both male and females) of CFW groups. All activities were in light of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines for cash grant. SPO worked in close coordination with local authorities, civil society network, and partner organizations working in Sindh.

## 16. PROJECT BRIEF

### CITIZEN VOICE PROJECT

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in partnership with USAID implemented a 12-month Capacity building and Advocacy project in targeted districts of Sindh and Punjab.

The project titled '*Enhancing Capacities for Transparent and Accountable Local Governance*' focused on transparency and accountability pillars which anchor good governance of any country.

In developing countries like Pakistan, the issue of lack of good governance can be multifaceted. Governance at local level constitutes for (ordinary people) a duly struggle for survival and dignity. Ordinary people are too often humiliated at the hands of public institutions. For them, lack of good governance means police brutality, corruption in accessing basic public services, ghost schools, teacher's absenteeism, missing medicines, high cost of and low access to justice, criminalization of politics and lack of social justice. These are just a few manifestations of the crises of governance. It has been demonstrated that the country's governance has been largely perceived as non-transparent and unaccountable.

The reason is either the non-availability of proper transparent strategies for implementation of local governance system and structures or the lack of awareness on roles/ responsibilities or the capacity issues of the office functionaries practicing the system. Even if the strategies, mechanisms and Laws are available such as Punjab Right to Information Act, Sindh Freedom of Information Act, and Procedures for Supporting Transparency and Accountability; the lack of awareness and capacity about the roles and responsibilities towards public service and community interests of the functionaries who are the custodians of the government systems has always been highlighted as a major dilemma of the effective implementation of governance system in Pakistan.

Pakistan in its constitution urges on making the governance systems at national and local level transparent and accountable. The details are chalked out in 18th amendment in the form of certain steps such as having proper laws for ensuring good governance, building the capacity of government institutions and office bearers on the importance and practice of transparent governance system and having freedom to and access to information by the local citizens regarding their basic rights to services and good governance.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

March 2015

**PROJECT END DATE:**

February 2016

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

Districts Thatta, Badin and Karachi in Sindh

Districts Multan, Muzaffargarh and Khanewal in Punjab

**FOCUS AREA:**

Governance

**SDG:**

Goal 16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

USAID

In this connection SPO designed the scope of the project which envisioned to build the capacities and developing linkage among the target groups of Community Based Organizations and politicians and their interaction with the related departments of health, education, Local Government, Women development. The office of Ombudsman and Information Commission were closely involved in the project interventions. The broad strategy of the project revolved around;

- Baseline and endline assessments with the target groups (CBOs & politicians) for demonstrating gaps in their capacity building related to their role as watch dogs for monitoring the accountable mechanisms/ systems in local governance (district & provincial)
- Capacity building of the target groups on RTI & FOI and budget tracking mechanisms
- Developing linkage among the target groups and the relevant stakeholders from public and private domains on ensuring transparent and accountable governance in in their respective districts and provinces
- Presenting token of appreciation to the best performers (individuals & departments) for their performance in ensuring transparency and accountability in their respective departments
- Disseminating information to the wider range of audience through case studies on complaint mechanisms and complaint handing by the office of ombudsman and information commission.

The aforementioned interventions helped SPO achieve its commitment to;

1. Enhance citizen's and politician's knowledge and capacity on RTI and FOI to strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms in Punjab and Sindh.
2. Increase number of people aware of Right to Information(RTI) and Freedom of Information (FOI)legislation at provincial and district levels and have grievances redressed through better engagement with Provincial Standing Committees.
3. Improve instances of transparency and accountability amongst service delivery departments due to oversight and recognition by the civil society groups, stakeholders and legislators.

The capacity building component of the project led to successful campaign at community level. The CBOs received hands on knowledge and practice skills for running successful advocacy around issue raising (demand & supply) against service delivery of the target provincial departments. Total 60 advocacy action plans were prepared by local communities to raise their voices.

SPO works in close coordination with relevant departments, which is why it earns ownership of the government representatives at district and provincial level. The coordination meetings were held with health, education, LG & RD, Women Development and PHED departments in both the provinces for better understanding of the officials (men and women) of these departments on RTI and FOI. Secretaries and deputy secretaries of the respective ministries and departments, section officers and other office bearers of these departments that have a role in formulating policies and following procedures of transparency were reached out. The meetings helped in sensitizing the officials in these target departments on RTI and FOI and that such laws can be effectively used by the civil society/ local communities and other office bearers for ensuring transparency and accountability in local governance. These meetings held in the provincial capital with a purpose to sensitize the target department functionaries at provincial level in addition to district level interventions in this project.



This project was successful because SPO engaged with people and local leadership on a voluntary basis to be the leaders of their own development. SPO has always aimed to strengthen local governance in a way that can continue advocating for transparent and accountable mechanisms in the district even beyond the duration of the project.

## 17. PROJECT BRIEF

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND EARLY RECOVERY RESPONSE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Country-wide torrential rains, which began late July 2010, have caused unprecedented flooding throughout Pakistan. The overall damages on the economic sector and infrastructure, including power supply lines, also impacts casual laborers' access to employment opportunities.

The disaster did major harm to a struggling Pakistani economy. While the immediate effects of the floods already staggering, the longer-term consequences on food security, livelihoods and displacement were almost certain as the floods continued to ravage the agricultural heartland of Pakistan. A portion of the flood affected population faced acute food insecurity having lost all their assets including food stocks. They were left with limited opportunities to earn an income through casual work and as the water level recedes. Considering the scale of the needs, SPO focused in five union councils of tehsil Kot Adu of district Muzaffargarh in Alliance of four NGOs in order to maximize effectiveness in the response through jointly exploring different modalities like livelihood cash grants, cash for work, rehabilitation & reconstruction and enhancing awareness on DRR adapted to the specific circumstances in the affected areas.

SPO reached out to flood affected communities through project titled '*Emergency food security and livelihood support to flood affected populations in Pakistan*' in Punjab.

The specific objective of the project was to (a) Ensure that targeted communities have access to adequate and appropriate food to uphold their survival and prevent erosion of assets in a manner that fosters early livelihoods recovery, and upholds their dignity. (b) Livelihood opportunities benefiting flood affected communities-at-large are developed and implemented.

As result of SPO and Care International;

1. Provided cash grants to 900 small traders' families with special focus to female headed household (benefiting 6,300 individuals) for restoring their income generating activities as well as regenerating markets (Financial support for establishment of micro enterprises).

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

October 1, 2010

### PROJECT END DATE:

March 31, 2011

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Muzaffargarh, Punjab

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Early Recovery)

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Care International in Pakistan

2. Created awareness on disaster preparedness and mitigation at community level through Orientation session on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and formation of Village Development Plans for the identification of community infrastructure needs with the help of Village Relief Committees (VRC) formed at community level. the VRC members comprised of local community to identify most vulnerable and needy members of flood affected villages of district Muzaffargarh.
3. Provided Short-term employment and income opportunity to 1000 HH (7000 persons) agricultural and other laborers that generates short-term employment and income to ensure their food security.
4. Provided support in reconstruction and rehabilitation of community infrastructure for benefiting at large.

SPO field teams based in Punjab ensured that Livelihood Cash Grants distribution, Rehabilitation of Community Infrastructures, DRR sessions, follow ups are done in line with SPHERE guidelines, which may not comprise the overall purpose of benefitting local community especially marginalized segment such as women headed households of flood affected area.

## 18. PROJECT BRIEF

### ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL

The Strengthening Participatory Organization has been working in the thematic area of education for its improved service delivery more than 20 years. The improvement has been basically targeted at the district level that is in conjunction with the SPO's mission of working with marginalized and excluded groups of society (women, children, youth, religious minorities/ other excluded groups and people with disabilities etc) which provided the opportunity for SPO to extend support to PESP2.

The overarching goal of the project was to improve literacy rate in district Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar through Enhancing Enrolment and Retention of Out of School Children in Schools.

The project outcomes achieved through this collaboration with PESP-2 were;

1. Gender segregated data of Out of School Children (OSC) for age groups (4 – 9 years and 9 – 16 years) for the entire villages of identified UCs in districts Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar available and accessible in a comprehensive database.
2. Enrollment and retention of 30,000 OSC (i.e 15,000 in each district) ensured in schools (approximately 70% OSC between ages 4 to 9 years and 30% between ages 9 to 16 years). Out of the total enrolled at least 30% are girls.
3. Tracking mechanism for progress in terms of enrollment and retention in all schools (primary & middle) in all target UCs in districts Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar developed in collaboration with district education departments;
4. Enrollment and retention in all schools (primary & middle) of target UCs in districts Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar in collaboration with education departments, partner organizations, district forums and school management committees (SMCs).

The SPO's community forums played key role in project outreach at village, UCs and district level that represented members from all segments of society including School Management Committees (SMCs), marginalized groups such as women, children, youth, religious minorities and people with disabilities. All these forums were effectively utilized for generating demand for getting the out of school children to schools. The lessons learned through the project intervention in thematic areas of Education were also shared widely with other organizations working the area to assist the marginalized segment of

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

March 01, 2015

**PROJECT END DATE:**

November 30, 2015

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar in Punjab

**FOCUS AREA:**

Education

**SDG:**

Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and quality education for all

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

PESP-2

community. SPO's implementation strategy is inclusive, participatory and integrated with other initiatives taken at community level. This project turned out to be successful and also contributed towards providing access to education to children of selected districts of Punjab.

## 19. PROJECT BRIEF

### ENABLING RESILIENCE THROUGH PEACEBUILDING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening Participatory Organization in unique partnership with its funding donor Catholic International Development Charity -CAFOD implemented the project titled '*Enabling Resilience Through Peacebuilding and Economic Development*' in Pakistan. Same project was implemented in its neighboring country Afghanistan. This was unique partnership which open doors of learning for SPO and also bridged a strong link between SPO's mission and sustainable development goal 16 of building peaceful and inclusive society.

Resilience refers to the degree to which a household re-establishes its livelihood and patterns of access to resources after experiencing a shock or hazard. A resilient livelihood would be one that provides for household needs despite the occurrence of a shock of hazard. However, an increase in a household's level of resilience does not only mean reducing risk to disasters through infrastructural improvements. Increasing resilience within populations that are marginalized or discriminated against requires addressing underlying inequalities and affecting change in unjust social relations and structures of domination that cause differential access to and control over resources. In this initiative, increasing household resilience involved rebalancing these social inequalities, including those that underpin the occurrence of violence against women in Afghan and Pakistani households. In the case of Pakistan this work to increase resilience is crucially important for flood affected households who want to ensure their livelihoods are better able to recover after any future shocks.

This initiative aimed to enable women and men in Afghanistan (Herat and Ghor provinces) and Pakistan (Sindh province) to achieve more resilient livelihoods in a more peaceful environment. This pilot initiative benefitted a total of 2,881 men and women (with at least 50 per cent being women).

SPO with the support of its network of CSOs and local community work with men and women to create a more peaceful environment within target households and villages. It also worked with men and women in target villages to increase the resilience of their livelihoods through economic development

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

January 1, 2012

### PROJECT END DATE:

August 31, 2013

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

Sindh (Pakistan) and Afghanistan

### FOCUS AREA:

Peace Building and Economic Development

### SDG:

Goal 5-Gender Equality

Goal 16- Promote, Peaceful, Just and  
Inclusive Society

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization  
(SPO) and Afghan Women's Educational  
Centre (AWEC)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Catholic International Development Charity -  
CAFOD

so that they are less vulnerable to shocks and hazards. The project also incorporated the use of technology and social media into peer review processes in order to improve their ability to measure change in resilience and peacebuilding programs.

This initiative was based on a theory of change whereby men and women will change their attitudes and behavior when they are rewarded by the results of their new behavior and when they witness others being rewarded for their new behavior. The rewards in this case were asset-based: financial (livelihood grants and subsequent increase in monthly income) and social (improved relations within households and eventually within villages). This is partly why the project involves more than awareness raising about women's rights—SPO understands that men and women need more of an incentive to change their behavior, that learning about the rights women are entitled to is not sufficient to bring about this change.

Also, women's economic activity within households increased when they received livelihood grants. This increased their bargaining power within the family and also increased the level of control women have over the household income.

In this initiative, direct beneficiaries encompassed participants and their immediate families, which is an average of 7.35 people per family in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Total 38 Enterprise Groups and 18 Resilience Groups were formed, with 5-7 members in each. After the business plans approved by SPO, Enterprise Group members received livelihood grant and then collectively invested 5 per cent of profits into a village-level fund for the implementation of DRR activities that benefitted the wider village. The project reached out to overall direct beneficiary total of 2,881, out of which 50per cent were women.

At the end of the funding period;

1. 50 per cent of women in target villages report that men in their families and wider community demonstrate greater respect towards them.
2. 30 per cent of women in target households who were experiencing domestic violence prior to this initiative report a reduction in prevalence of domestic violence by the end of the project
3. 30 per cent of women in target households who were experiencing domestic violence prior to this initiative report a reduction in the frequency of domestic violence by the end of the project
4. By the end of the project, 30per cent of women Enterprise Groups members in both countries report increased control over the income they earn
5. By the end of month 12, all Resilience and Enterprise groups in each target village were collaborating on activities that aim to reduce disaster risk for the wider village

## 20. PROJECT BRIEF

### CIVIC EDUCATION

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) implemented a project titled *'Promoting Civic and Voter Education to Motivate Citizens to Exercise their Right to Vote'* in Sindh.

The goal of the project was to motivate citizens to exercise their right to vote by promoting civic and voter education. The specific objective of the project was *'To improve the lower turnout in districts Hyderabad with particular focus on the increased awareness on democracy and right to vote, electoral processes in Pakistan'*.

SPO in 51 Union Council (UC) of District Hyderabad held awareness raising meetings on voter and civic education. While moving in same direction Taluka wise awareness raising meetings, theatre performances, mobilization camps on voter and civic education were also set-up.

SPO has very rich history and contribution to mobilize women and encourage them to participate in political process. Through this project rural women and minorities were facilitated in acquisition of CNICs and getting their vote registered. On this account SPO partnered with NADRA, which provided Mobile Van to facilitate rural women of Sindh.

In addition to these key activities, SPO's regional team conducted 17 vote casting demonstration sessions through MOC polling stations at rural areas (UC level). The robust efforts of SPO continued through seminars held at districts level, where recommendations were provided to political party leadership regarding electoral reforms.

Through this intervention, by engaging people on a voluntary basis to be the leaders of their own development, SPO strengthened local structures so that they continued advocating for their rights beyond the duration of the project.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

missing in proposal

**PROJECT END DATE:**

missing in proposal

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District Hyderabad, Sindh

**FOCUS AREA:**

Civic Education

**SDG:**

-

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

missing in proposal



## 21. PROJECT BRIEF

### ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL BEING

Sexual and Reproduction Health of women in Pakistan does not meet the basic criteria to ensure healthy lives. The country has alarming increase of maternal mortality rate, where women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using safe and effective family planning methods, for reasons ranging from lack of access to information or services to lack of support from their partners or communities. This is a common phenomenon across the developing countries.

In order to contribute to the sustainable Development Goals (previously MDGs), Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in partnership with Packard Foundation implemented project titled '*Quality Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare Through Community Mobilization: From rhetoric to reality*'.

Overarching goal of the project was to '*To strengthen implementation of and quality of Family Planning (FP) and Reproductive Health (RH) services by establishing a functional community oversight and advocacy mechanism for strengthening the overall management and monitoring mechanisms of Public FP/RH services for improved health and population outcomes*'.

Initially The Packard Planning Grant was instrumental in conducting a formative research, which included stakeholder mapping and qualitative data collection from all the four districts.

The stakeholder mapping provided in-depth knowledge about existing Family Planning Reproductive Health (FPRH) services being provided in the target districts and their respective quality. Based on the research study, the project intervention was initiated in five Basic Health Units (BHUs) of the targeted districts. The intermediate results intended were;

1. Health/FP seeking behaviours among communities in target population
2. Establishment and operationalization of robust community based oversight and monitoring mechanisms from basic health facility level to the secondary level
3. Carrying out upstream advocacy at the provincial level based on ground realities from the community level for desired policy changes

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

January, 2013

### PROJECT END DATE:

December, 2015

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Lodharan and Khanewal in Punjab

District Matiari and Tando M.Khan in Sindh

### FOCUS AREA:

Health

### SDG:

Goal 3 Ensure Healthy Lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Packard Foundation

Behavior change process requires all stakeholders, including the target communities, to work in coordination to achieve shared objectives. The project engaged with all tiers of community based mobilizers, but specifically with the community itself, considering them to be an important stakeholder, to promote positive health seeking behaviors. A comprehensive model was applied using public sector community based workers, Lady Health Workers and also Community Midwives. Male involvement is necessary to build consensus within the ambits of the families. The project empowered these communities to work as local mobilizers and role models and local champions for their peers thus transmitting knowledge learned to practice.

Communities were involved in the oversight of family planning and reproductive health services through use of existing structures i.e. health committees and linking them up with the district health and population authorities. Monitoring of health services has been a weakest area of Public Sector, so the formed Network Health committees conducted regularly on monthly basis review exercise and used a service quality checklist to identify the gaps and make recommendations. The role of SPO has been that of a facilitator and building local capacities. The linkages developed at district level led to timely corrective actions taken by local authorities based on recommendations compiled by the community.

## 22. PROJECT BRIEF

### EDUCATION FOR ALL

Despite serious efforts, access, equality and quality of education for vast majority of people are still farfetched goals to be achieved in Baluchistan. The challenge of education management for provincial government has heightened after 18<sup>th</sup> amendment and devolution of education sector to provinces. The vast geographical stretch, poor physical infrastructure, low population density and inadequate human and financial resources already continue to hold education delivery back in the province.

It has been concluded through years of research and experience, that community involvement in education improves the quality of education by increasing the sense of ownership, mobilizing resources, and building institutional capacity. Parents' role in management can be effective in ensuring that the schools are functioning with required facilities, children are enrolled and the teachers are doing their job. Parent Teacher School Management Committee (PTSMC) represents the structure of community participation in education management and development. It is the most effective way of institutionalizing the interaction between community and school.

SPO through this project designed and addressed the aforementioned challenges faced under thematic area of Education. The project envisioned to achieve overarching goal *'To support UNESCO's efforts in increasing girls' enrolment and retention and improving the quality of education in primary schools by working in close consultation with local authorities'*.

In two districts of Baluchistan province, SPO through two project components reached out to the local community.

1. Community mobilization and advocacy, which aims at increasing girls' enrolment in the primary schools in marginalized communities through mobilization of local communities
2. Improvement in school physical and learning environment, which aims at improving retention and quality of girls' primary education through activation of PTCs/ SMCs, provision of missing facilities like boundary wall, washrooms, drinking water, minor repairs (to a limited scale), and training of teachers in multi-grade teaching (MGT) and activity based learning (ABL).

The multi-strategy and approach to project implementation of SPO included action research, mobilization and advocacy of for promotion of girls' education, and technical assistance for missing facilities.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

missing in proposal

**PROJECT END DATE:**

missing in proposal

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District Ziarat and Jafferabad in Baluchistan

**FOCUS AREA:**

Education

**SDG:**

Goal 4 Education for All

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

UNESCO

## 23. PROJECT BRIEF

### STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ROLE AND ESTABLISHING WOMEN PROTECTION NETWORKS IN EIGHT FLOOD AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Country-wide torrential rains caused unprecedented and outrageous floods throughout Pakistan which had started in July 2010. This made women and children most vulnerable amongst the flood affected communities.

SPO implemented a short-term project titled 'strengthening of women's leadership role and establishing women protection networks in eight flood affected districts' selected districts of Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, and KPK.

This was unique but important intervention in flood affected areas, which was led by implementation of a set of community engagements. SPO developed coherent strategy for partner organizations. The strategy provided comprehensive guidelines including essential steps to be complied with in an event of a disaster and before the occurrence of a disaster thereby ensuring a gender-sensitive and a meaningful engagement of isolated and vulnerable women and their integration in planning and execution of initiatives aimed at disaster risk preparedness, mitigation and prevention.

The next most important intervention was to nurture local women community leaders. Women Activists hold valuable insights regarding women and development issues and underlying realities including the associated complexities and possible solutions. At least 30 women activists from each of the eight target districts were trained on 'how to assist the victims of violence' and 'effectively advocate for their inclusion in disaster management plans'. They will be trained on 'how to collectively lobby against the gender based violence and discrimination against women'. In addition to this they were trained on 'how to seek linkages and network with other networks and line agencies in the government to seek to put an end to violence and discrimination against women in an event of a disaster'. They were mentored and prepared to take onto the leadership roles beyond the life of this project so that to be able to pass on their skills and knowledge to other women of their area. Main features of the trainings included 'tips for advocating for victims of violence against women', 'advocating for women in the criminal justice system', 'community strategies for preventing violence against women', 'how to liaise effectively with the district relief and rehabilitation committees' and 'creating, forging and nurturing alliances and networks'.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

November 25, 2010

### PROJECT END DATE:

December 10, 2010

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

Nowshera and Dera Ismail Khan Districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province – Multan and Rajan Pur Districts in Punjab Province - Thatta and Sukkar Districts in Sindh Province - Naseer Abad and Jafar Abad Districts in Baluchistan Province

### FOCUS AREA:

Gender

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

The overall results of the intervention were;

- Development of a coherent strategy for SPO and its partner organizations to ensure fuller and righteous inclusion of women in future disaster risk mitigation, preparedness and prevention measures to seek to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women.
- 250 women leaders and the district government's disaster management authorities (of the 8 target districts) internalized desired knowledge of gender-mainstreaming to effectively seek to eliminate gender based violence in both, pre and post disaster work – including preparedness, mitigation and prevention.
- 8 district networks of women leaders formed and their linkages with regional and national networks such as Eva Alliance, Women Councilors Network, enabled for future consultation and joint actions on women rights.

Community mobilization, building capacities has been SPO's strengths and will continue through such interventions, which may enable women to feel empowered along with relevant skills to survive and be resilient in times of natural disasters.

## 24. PROJECT BRIEF

### PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, AND PEACE

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) with the financial support of British High Commission (BHC) implemented a multi-year project, which was targeted to achieve Enhanced capacity of community-based organizations, civil society networks and political workers to practice and promote democratic governance, social justice, peace and social harmony.

The project implemented in 42 Districts of Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab, and KPK provinces of Pakistan, had achieved following key results against the objectives falling under thematic areas of Democratic Governance, Peace and Social Harmony and Institutional Strengthening;

1. Increased capacity of community organizations to undertake knowledge based programs for human rights and address governance and conflict issues at local level
2. Enhanced capacity of political workers to respond to local conflicts, development issues
3. Increased capacity of civil society networks in promoting social harmony and tolerance among diversified groups
4. Increased capacity of civil society networks to design and execute successful advocacy campaigns to achieve desired policy goals
5. Increased capacity of civil society networks to design and execute successful advocacy campaigns to achieve desired policy goals
6. SPO remains transparent and accountable to development partners and promotes integrated learning based development models
7. Improved mechanisms for the planning and management of programme, finances and human resources at SPO

SPO has always nurtured partnership and alliances especially when it comes to linkages building with government authorities. The government was main partner in ensuring that the programme objectives concerning good governance were achieved both at national and local levels. SPO invited government in all the consultations and forums to solicit their opinion and achieve coordination for the execution of

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

October , 2011

### PROJECT END DATE:

September, 2014

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

42 Districts in Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab, Sindh

### FOCUS AREA:

Peace, Governance

### SDG:

Goal 16

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

British High Commission (BHC)

different activities. The ministry of human rights, women, social welfare, health, education environment remained as main supporters in this project. Through this in-depth community mobilization, and engagement SPO through this big support of BHC trained 240 Community Organizations (CO) on rights based approach, democratic behaviors, gender and roots of conflicts, facilitated CO in developing 480 action plans to disseminate the knowledge about democratic governance and human rights with special focus on minority rights, 90 advocacy campaigns were run on peace building and conflict prevention measures, 15000 complaints lodged in the ombudsman's office on governance and development issues, 100 human rights violations responded by SPO partner organizations, 25000 women facilitated to acquire CNIC and voter registration to take part in electoral process, 960 awareness raising/advocacy events were conducted under project thematic areas, Gender sensitized systems and policies in place for at least 200 community organizations for improved transparency and accountability, 240 partner organizations are trained in planning and financial management, 3 new district and 4 provincial steering committees developed and strengthened, 300 political workers become aware of and understand human rights, democratic governance, research advocacy and lobbying and conflict resolution techniques, 493 events are conducted by the District Steering Committees (DSCs) concerning district level conflicts and development issues, 42 district and 4 provincial political steering committees assess and prioritise development needs by employing participatory techniques and map out conflicts of the district through strategy development workshops, 24 events organised by provincial steering committees on major conflicts and issues to support democratic governance, stability and peace, 24 recommendation documents on resolution of conflict and development issues drafted and submitted to ministries and parliamentary committees, 122 policy issues identified by the civil society networks in relation to the absence of policy, inadequate policy or the implementation of the policy at the local level, 122 advocacy campaigns planned and conducted by civil society networks, 24 provincial level dialogues conducted by Civil Society networks (CSNs) on policy issues and implementation mechanisms, 42 CSNs are capacitated to resolve conflicts, carry out research and advocacy activities in districts, 504 initiatives taken by CSNs to promote tolerance, peace and harmony among diverse social groups, and CSNs expanded their membership with more participation of minority groups, women, professionals and media.

This project contributed to SPO credibility of work, and as a result SPO is consulted on national and provincial level policy issues by the decision makers, financial institutions and media to advocate for the rights of marginalized groups particularly women and minorities

## 25. PROJECT BRIEF

### PROMOTING PEACE AND HARMONY

The gravest challenge Pakistan today faces is extremism which has left the society terrorized. Effective counter strategies need to be developed and adopted as to curtail the on-going carnage of country's peaceful and moderate cultural Sufi discourse delving deep inside the foundations of the society. Tolerance and moderation with respect to religion, linguistic as well as cultural diversity; is the key towards de-radicalization in Pakistani society. Realizing this challenge, SPO developed a replicable model of increased community engagement for supporting voices of moderation through promotion of local cultural heritage, traditional and modern art forms and other forms of creative expression. The envisioned model identified, trained and supported performing arts groups to spread messages of moderation. The model will also link these art performing groups into networks at provincial and national level, furthering the cause of moderation through promotion of enlightened cultural heritage and traditions.

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) with the financial support of US Embassy implemented a one-year project, which was targeted '*To increase community engagement for supporting voices of moderation*'.

The specific project objectives were to;

- a. To identify and promote local cultural heritage by developing messages employing traditional and modern art forms through 40 local art performing groups
- b. To build capacity of art performing groups for performances enhancing and highlighting moderate cultural heritage
- c. To develop networks of art performing groups for sustained efforts of creating voices of moderation in the society

The project titled "Voices of Moderation: Capacity Building, Support of Local Cultural Heritage and Modern Art Forms in Pakistan" had set of various community level engagement in all four provinces of Pakistan which contributed in achieving overarching goal of the project. Total 40 traditional and modern art performing groups in four provinces of the country were identified, assessed and trained on peace and conflict mitigation. SPO has rich history of capacity building and modules development, so three modules on peace & harmony, conflict resolution and art performance & message delivery were

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

January 1, 2015

**PROJECT END DATE:**

December 31, 2015

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

Sindh, KPK, Baluchistan, Punjab

**FOCUS AREA:**

Peace, Governance

**SDG:**

Goal 16

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

United States Embassy



developed. This resulted in 160 art performing events by groups, in 4 provinces on agreed proposed themes engaging an estimated audience of 40,000 people, mainly targeting youth. This led to formation of four provincial networks of performing arts groups, followed by National convention of performing arts groups and formation of national network. The documentary on moderation and the performing arts groups of Pakistan were also significant success of the project.

## 26. PROJECT BRIEF

### PROMOTING PEACE AND REDUCING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in partnership with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) and with the financial support of US Embassy implemented a project, which was targeted to 'Strengthen resilient and progressive forces to counter wrong narratives including falsehood, extremist views and hate-speech'.

Over the course of the past decade, there has been an increasing recognition that security measures alone cannot address the threat of terrorism, particularly in the medium to long-term. The threat posed by newly emerging terrorist groups, "self-radicalized" or "home-grown" individuals, and the potency of the internet for recruiters and extremist ideologues has prompted greater focus on prevention and/or countering violent extremism, before it results in the perpetration of a terrorist act. The gradual penetration of radical perspectives, over a prolonged period, has nurtured certain factions that malign moderate voices using violent means. If over the years, radicals manage to gain substantial support of the youth, the traditionally conservative though, but peace-loving local societies may well be forced into buying extremist ideologies. The ever increasing radicalization in Pakistan, particularly among youth has begun to raise serious alarms, nationwide and abroad.

In order to curb violent extremism and reduce prevalence of violence in conflict, SPO defined specific objective under this project intervention;

- Identify extent of current knowledge base, key issues and best practices to counter falsehood, hate-speech and extremism.
- Build capacity of youth and journalist fraternity to resist falsehood, hate-speech and extremism.
- Mobilize support of volunteer youth, media and local communities to counter wrong narratives.

SPO carried-out Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS), District voluntary youth groups formed and capacitated, District voluntary media forums formed and capacitated, Designed and disseminated accurate messages to build public perceptions against hate speech, extremism and falsehood. This led to Youth and media activists in target districts assert their views to neutralize false perceptions towards Pak-US cooperation. Countering Violent Extremism is a complex area of work, where careful thought

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

not mentioned

**PROJECT END DATE:**

not mentioned

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

Sindh, Pakistan

**FOCUS AREA:**

Peace, Governance

**SDG:**

Goal 16

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO):

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

US Embassy

needs to be given to the selection of appropriate interventions; the selection of, and engagement with beneficiaries, mode of delivery, likely levels of community support, and monitoring of progress and outcomes. The project has been carefully crafted to cultivate a desire in Pakistani society to prevent violent extremism. Project provided a valuable model for replication in other geographic areas, to create a sustained national movement on the issue. Poor law and order situation and constant security threats to local moderate and progressive elements are prominent threats to the project's success. Pakistan has become one of the most dangerous countries for journalists, and moderate scholars are regularly targeted for speaking out against the Taliban. The project adopted a multi-pronged, evidence based strategy which started with RAS in which key stakeholders were involved to identify the means and forms of falsehood, hate speech and violent extremism. The advocacy campaigns by youth and journalist groups (Change makers) with the collaboration of SPO's exiting district level Civil Society Networks (CSNs) also played key role in sensitizing communities about wrong narratives through a range of activities such as TV and radio talk shows, public awareness campaigns, Sufi musical evenings, cross cultural and religious events, and by producing and disseminating promotional material.

## 27. PROJECT BRIEF

### STRENGTHENING CITIZEN VOICE AND IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) in partnership with Human Resource Development Network, AASA Consulting and Ethno Media implemented a USAID funded project titled 'Strengthening Citizen Voice and Improving Public Accountability Program'.

This program seeks to harness mutually reinforcing and truly synergistic relational connections between the government and the governed. The program supported democracy in Pakistan by strengthening administration of justice and court efficiency and electoral administration and deliberative and legislative bodies to truly represent constituents' viewpoints in making law and overseeing operations of executive and judicial branches of the government.

In order to articulate essential public demand for, and oversight of, these critical supply side functions, the program further implemented a civil society strengthening activity through meaningful engagement of the citizens and non-state entities in elections and electoral processes, democratic local governance, services delivery, policy-dialogues and strengthening legislative and deliberative bodies at federal, provincial and below levels for improved administration of justice with due respect for gender, civic and minority rights.

The program, in its entirety, through disbursement of up to 1000 grants to state and non-state actors, seeks to support citizens groups engaging with local government entities on the planning or implementation of public services delivery, and, articulate an appropriate citizenry demand for parliamentary strengthening, elections and political party processes and addressing country's key issues related to the political, social and economic development while also keeping in view the USAID's democracy-building efforts in Pakistan.

The three correlated objectives of this program, achieved envisioned attitudinal and behavioral changes through;

1. Policy advocacy and government oversight (strengthened voice).
2. Organizational development and targeted training (enhanced capacity).

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

missing in proposal

### PROJECT END DATE:

missing in proposal

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

Pakistan

### FOCUS AREA:

Transparency and Accountability

### SDG:

Goal 16

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), AASA Consulting, Ethno Media

### FUNDING PARTNER:

USAID

3. Public-private connections, or linkages, between and among state and non-state actors (improved accountability).

The 'transformational role' underpinned by the objective one strengthened citizens' voices through their active engagement in upstream policy advocacy and government oversight. The 'developmental role' underpinned by the objective two built capacities of the citizens and non-state actors to demand change and strengthen state-level institutions to respond to the expressed voices of the citizens. The 'instrumental role' underpinned by the objective three formed public-private coalitions to advance policy agendas and provide necessary input to the public decision-making. Within these overarching themes, the role of consortium led to constructive behavioral changes among citizens, state actors, and non-state actors.

## 28. PROJECT BRIEF

### ADVOCACY FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) took some significant initiatives to advocate for electoral reforms in Pakistan. This was done in partnership with USAID funded 'Citizens Voice Project' in Pakistan.

SPO has played very significant role in building local capacities on the subject. Engaging with political parties, government institutes has been part of SPO's long-term strategic plan to strengthen democracy in Pakistan. Through this project titled '*Organized Public Opinion and informed Civil Society for Smooth Electoral Reforms*' a 10-month intervention in Baluchistan was organized.

An election system that inspires public confidence is critical to strengthening democracy in Pakistan. The existing constitutional, legal and administrative system for conducting elections is inadequate to meet internationally accepted standards of electoral freedom, fairness, neutrality and transparency. The system needs comprehensive reforms to enhance the quality of future elections, thereby providing support for democracy to take firm root. For this reason, it is an opportune time for Pakistani civil society to raise awareness on this very important issue affecting citizens' political rights.

The project had two major objectives;

1. To strengthen citizens' voice through, among others, focused engagements with political parties, media, professional associations and election management body for electoral reforms as recommended by national and international election observation groups after the General Elections 2013
2. To strengthen citizens' oversight of the electoral processes including but not limited to by-election, up-gradation of electoral rolls, delimitation of electoral constituencies for greater transparency and accountability

The key activities included formation and training of District Electoral Reforms Groups (DERGs). The DERGs and the project team coordinated with the district level leadership of political parties and held a series of meetings on electoral reforms for mutual sensitization. Through these meetings, DERG convinced the local leadership to put the electoral reforms on top of their agenda

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

-

**PROJECT END DATE:**

-

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

Baluchistan, Pakistan (District Quetta, Nushki, Chaghi)

**FOCUS AREA:**

Democracy

**SDG:**

Goal 16

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

USAID

A series of mobilization meetings with legislatures of both national and provincial assemblies were held to apprise them on the need for electoral reforms. These legislatures played key role within their parties and as well as in national assembly and provincial assemblies.

The DERGs and the project team coordinated with the district level leadership of political parties and hold a series of meetings on electoral reforms for mutual sensitization. Through these meetings, DERG convinced the local leadership to put the electoral reforms on top of their agenda.

Other activities included conventions, seminars at colleges/universities, signature campaign, and media engagement to achieve overall project objectives. With the envisioned result of improved governance, greater inclusivity, enhanced public participation in decision-making, stronger legal and policy frameworks a pool of youth volunteers was formed, trained for election observation, and local resources were also mobilized for voter list assessment.

Strengthening democracy and promoting democratic practices through increased political representation, participation and electoral reforms has been SPO's areas of expertise since past decade. This short-term but very significant intervention of SPO contributed well to strengthen democratic practices in Pakistan.

## 29. PROJECT BRIEF

### EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN MEASURES IN KPK

Country-wide torrential rains, which began late July 2010, had caused unprecedented flooding throughout Pakistan. Since July 2010, Pakistan has been affected by some of the worst floods it has experienced in decades, with more than 20 million people affected all across Pakistan. According to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) one of the worst affected areas in Pakistan is the province of KPK, which has alone recorded 1,036 deaths. Within the province, District Nowshera and Charsadda were some of the worst affected districts.

The river banks have been swept away and the floods did extensive damage to agricultural equipment and infrastructure, such as generators, water mills, field retention walls and irrigation systems. As water recedes, the need for recovery measures had also emerged.

The overall project goal was to improve the humanitarian situation of floods affected population by providing humanitarian assistance and protection in Pakistan. The project objective was to help the vulnerable population affected by the flood in Pakistan to have an increased access to and make use of rehabilitated drinking water facilities and follow improved hygiene practices to sustain and safeguard their lives and health.

Through this short-term project SPO and HOPE'87 reached out to flood affected communities of KPK. These well-coordinated efforts resulted in;

1. Availability of safe drinking water. At least 50 water sources were cleaned / restored and working and 2,750 families (20,075 individuals) received and used water storage kits.
2. Shared / Community and private sanitation facilities rehabilitated and used. 200 latrines are rehabilitated thereby Approximately 4,000 individuals have access to and use sanitation facilities.
3. Hygiene practices are improved. 2,750 hygiene / household kits were distributed and used by 20,075 individuals.
4. Drainage / Sanitation water channels were restored. About 4,000 meters of drainage channels were also restored through engaging 675 households that received cash for work for cleaning works.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

October 1, 2010

**PROJECT END DATE:**

March 31, 2011

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District Nowshera, and Charsadda, KPK

**FOCUS AREA:**

Humanitarian Assistance

**SDG:**

N/A

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and HOPE'87

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

Australian Development Agency



The partnership started with the jointly implemented humanitarian aid shelter support project for the victims of Baluchistan floods in 2007. Both SPO and HOPE'87 implemented the ECHO financed WASH project in district Charsadda as well as health sector and nutrition sector emergency aid projects in Southern Punjab. This intervention strengthened the partnership of both the organizations and the response in KPK was quick and well organized one.

## 30. PROJECT BRIEF

### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

With overall goal to *‘To restore peace and social harmony for improve socio-economic and political aspects of the society’*, SPO with financial support of IOM implemented a six-month project under thematic area of Peace and Conflict in District DIK of KPK province.

The project titled *Building Cooperation and Reconciliation through Youth Engagement in DI Khan* addressed the issue of growing violent extremism in the selected Tehsil of District Dera Ismail Khan (DIK).

Tehsil D I Khan has been confronting sectarian violence for the last decade. People have scarified their lives in sectarian and interfaith violence. The Shia, Sunni and Baralawi sects and non-muslims have been living together for decades and were socially gelled community.

The prevalence of violence in the DI Khan Tehsil was observed with some of the challenges that had multiplier effect on deteriorating the peace and social harmony among the locals. The district observed fuel insecurity, scarce resources and unemployment. The women and youth were the key vulnerable groups.

To counter this SPO targeted the district youth with following objectives;

- To provide assistance to youth groups in restoration of sports and culture in five union councils of DI Khan
- To promote females (Youth Group) engagement in decision making by improving their participation in issues of sectarian conflicts and violence.

Through various key activities and formation of youth groups, the project team conducted capacity building training workshops for Youth Groups on Conflict Resolution, Peace & non-violent communication , human rights, Governance & Democracy Training. This reaped very positive results, because given the context of DIK, there was very little recognition of the issue and the community was leaning towards intolerance. SPO played very key role in reducing the prevalence of violence in area. Through this intervention SPO in partnership with IOM contributed towards restoring peace and social harmony in the area and which also led to improvement in socio-economic and political aspects of the society.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

December 1, 2013

**PROJECT END DATE:**

May 30, 2014

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District DIK, KPK

**FOCUS AREA:**

Peace and Conflict

**SDG:**

Goal 16

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

IOM

## 31. PROJECT BRIEF

### TACMIL

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) through its integrated interventions have addressed governance issues in different sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation and sustainable livelihoods. After the enactment of Local Government Ordinance (LGO), several local level issues pertaining to health sector had surfaced in District Charsadda.

According to SPO field observations and reports from partner organizations there was wide spread impression in Charsadda like other districts of the country that the attitudes of government health staff towards the public were often unfriendly. Staff absenteeism was also generally acknowledged to be a significant problem. Health staff, especially medical officers, compete for postings to health facilities in the busier towns and trading centers where they could have a profitable private clinic on the side. This tends to increase the frequency of transfers and further weakens the ties of staff to communities. The mechanism of monitoring and accountability in relations to these problems was insufficient; therefore, there was a need to regularly monitor the performance of health staff and their health facilities.

The project aimed to activate the monitoring system of health sector in district Charsadda. To achieve this goal, 25 Health Monitoring Committee (HMC) at UC level were formed alongside two at district level. Second objective was to form and strengthen district health board at district Charsadda to hold the HMCs accountable for their responsibility while third objective was to create awareness among the masses about their basic right to good quality health services through advocacy work. SPO was the primary implementer of the project with its partner network; Charsadda Civil Society Network (CSN). All activities in the project area were organized under three phases of mobilization, capacity building, and advocacy. The advocacy initiatives were carried out in collaboration with the civil society networks and were also integral part of the project.

The anticipated result of this intervention was improved performance of government health services in district Charsadda. To ensure joint monitoring and following participatory approach the HMC was formed consisting of local community and government representatives. Major stakeholders such as District Nazim, DCO, Tehsil Nazim, and EDO Health were engaged through this intervention.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

missing in proposal???

### PROJECT END DATE:

???

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Charsadda, KPK

### FOCUS AREA:

Health sector

### SDG:

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being of all, at every age

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and partner organizations

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Royal Netherlands Embassy  
Canadian High Commission

At the capacity building phase in order to improve understanding of government health care givers regarding women health issues, health provider's role and responsibilities, and information analysis, a series of trainings were conducted for district level health committees.

Because the local networks and community based organizations had partnered with SPO, the government services had become more responsive and effective in District Charsadda. In order to sensitize people about their right to health and make health departments more responsive to the needs of people, the civil society network also organized seminars, dialogues and awareness sessions at community level. This project strengthened linkages between district health management committee and district health boards, CSN, and district Local Government so that synergies were created between the efforts and local model of sustainability.

## 32. PROJECT BRIEF

### GENDER EQUALITY PROJECT

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) implemented a nine-month long women focused intervention in 2003 under USAID funded Gender Equality Project.

Gender equality and women empowerment are the core elements to realize human rights and achieve sustainable development outcomes. In this regard, a devolution of power and decentralization plan was introduced by the government which had resulted in increased women representation in all tiers of local body system to 33 percent (out of the total).

With the overarching goal to empower women population of the project area through capacity building and linkage development of women councilors, SPO reached out to **400 women** in major districts of all four provinces. The project was envisioned to equip **women councilors** with skills to access institutional mechanisms and knowledge of women development issues.

Social mobilization and capacity building are two major streams that SPO has always capitalized on. Jointly SPO trained 400 women councilors in the key areas of communication, resource mobilization, data collection and analysis, and action planning skills.

Similarly, under GEP amongst the most successful civil society engagement interventions was the '*Resource Mela*'. Resource Mela was basically conceptualized to provide a platform for women councilors to engage directly and build liaison with stakeholders representing sectors of Education, Economic Empowerment, Health, Legal Rights and Violence Against Women & Girls. These women councilors were also connected with major stakeholders such as then National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and then Ministry of Social Welfare and Women Development.

These councilors developed linkages with line departments and other civil society organizations, which later supported them in specific action planning based on women related issues in development schemes at district level. Being the coordinator for four networks, SPO linked the women councilors with the Gender and Governance Network (Multan), BASHM-Turbat Gender Resource Centre (Turbat), Gender Voice (Peshawar) and G-Net (Hyderabad) for technical backstopping.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

March 15, 2003

### PROJECT END DATE:

December 14, 2003

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Turbat, Balochistan  
District Hyderabad, Sindh  
District Peshawar, KPK  
District Multan, Punjab

### FOCUS AREA:

Gender and Development

### SDG:

Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and Other National NGOs

### FUNDING PARTNER:

USAID

The organization has always followed integrated approaches to development process, consequently, the outcomes and lessons learnt from GEP pilot implementation were shared at various forums such as local government authorities, gender core group networks, and Political Participation sessions of Development Planning and Management (DPM) module under SPO's Capacity Building programs.

### 33. PROJECT BRIEF

#### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN PUNJAB

With an overarching goal to save lives and improve essential nutritional and health status of women, children and other vulnerable individuals through emergency food intervention in districts Layyah and Mianwali, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) with the financial aid of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) gave emergency response in 2010.

Monsoon rains that year had caused wide scale natural disaster, thus affecting lives of over 18 million people in Pakistan, washing away communities and livelihoods, and forcing millions to flee from their homes.

A two-month emergency relief response was given in District Layyah and Mianwali of Punjab province, where in collaboration with local authorities and support of SPO's volunteer network total 35,040 individuals (*out of which 26520 were women and children*) were reached out.

Providing one-month food packages to 4,800 flood affected families of Punjab, SPO ensured for transparent and effective use of resources and project implementation. Ensuring Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, the food packages were prepared after consulting locals.

The basic food packages catered to the elementary nutritional needs of the targeted population through its emergency relief food packages.

The local government authorities and other camp coordination officers provided huge support to SPO and its network of volunteers. The havoc such as floods had left the victims in need of humanitarian assistance, in which SPO played its role to reduce the post-disaster crisis through this period intervention.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

September 1, 2010

**PROJECT END DATE:**

December 2, 2010

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District Layyah & Mianwali, Punjab

**FOCUS AREA:**

Humanitarian Assistance (Emergency Relief)

**SDG:**

N/A

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

## 34. PROJECT BRIEF

### EARLY RECOVERY PLAN FOR FLOOD AFFECTED PEOPLE IN KPK PROVINCE

Country-wide torrential rains, which began late July 2010, had caused unprecedented flooding throughout Pakistan. More than 160,000 square meters, one fifth of the country's surface area, had experienced the worst flooding which damaged the most fertile and crop producing lands of the country. Devastating the livelihoods of small traders, subsistence farmers and herders.

The river banks have been swept away and the floods did extensive damage to agricultural equipment and infrastructure, such as generators, water mills, field retention walls and irrigation systems. As water recedes, the need for recovery measures had also emerged.

In response to these floods of 2010, and in partnership with Care International-Pakistan, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) implemented short term early recovery and relief project for flood affected population of Tehsil Kotadu in District Muzaffargarh.

Despite the post-flood accessibility challenges, SPO bridged the gaps between community needs and supplied essentials to regenerate livelihood of the flood victims through this project titled '*Emergency food security and livelihood support to flood affected populations in Pakistan*'.

The six-month response ensured that targeted communities have access to adequate and appropriate food to uphold their survival, dignity and fosters early livelihoods recovery. Second objective of the project was to create livelihood opportunities which could benefit flood affected communities-at-large. Like **1,000 Households** were given opportunities of Cash for Work in exchange of their services related to rehabilitation of community infrastructures. To maintain transparency, temporary Village Relief Committees (VRC) were also formed after community mobilization. Village development plan (VDP) was developed with the support of VRC. The VDP was a tool used by community mobilizers of SPO to prioritize needs in reconstruction and rehabilitation of community infrastructure under this project. Village level enterprise committees were also formed in consultation with local stakeholders. In addition to these intervention, cash grants to **900 small traders'** families were provided especially amongst the beneficiaries were women headed households (benefiting 6,300 individuals) for restoring their income generating activities as well as regenerating markets.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

October 1, 2010

### PROJECT END DATE:

March 31, 2011

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Muzaffargarh, Punjab

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Early Recovery)

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Care International in Pakistan



The formation purpose of both committees was to keep the interventions participatory in approach. The needs had come from the flood affected community for which only they remained the best judge of optimum and transparent utilization of funds. Follow ups were also held for proper utilization of the grants for micro enterprises, so under this short term project SPO through its Monitoring and Evaluation department conducted monthly follow up visits.

Making the flood affected most resilient was another important aspect of this project. In order to create awareness in the target communities, five mega awareness sessions on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) were held at community level. Keeping in view the natural disasters, community successfully completed prioritization of hazards on the basis of its frequency, intensity and damages. A unique tool of Hazard, Vulnerability, and Capacity Assessment (HVCA) was used in field to draw lessons for flood affected community.

SPO and Care International played vital role in providing support to local authorities in coordination of disaster management activities and carrying out relief activities with the support of its local networks. The project interventions were also successful because close liaison with district government officials, especially District Coordination Officer, EDOs for Health, Education, Community Development and EDO Revenue had been established in the district Muzaffargarh.

## 35. PROJECT BRIEF

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) with the financial support of HOPE'87 addressed to the immediate needs of flood affected community through emergency relief response in District Dir, Charsadda, Naushehra of KP and in District RajanPur, Mianwali, Layyah of Punjab.

Working through its vast and well trained human network of volunteers and regional offices, SPO alongside HOPE'87 was one of the initial respondents of this natural disaster. The July 2010 monsoon waves brought plenty of water and ultimately started playing havoc with everything in many districts of the country. The vulnerable communities who remained least resilient before floods that year, had lost lives, crops as well as major sources of livelihood.

The project reached out to 15,000 families of most affected districts with Health and Hygiene kits, Shelter (bedding) kits, Non Food Items (NFIs), ready to eat food items, and water storage jerry cans and aqua tablets for water purification purpose.

The phone lines were damaged in remotest of areas, accessibility was the biggest challenge for SPO and its partners. Providing immediate relief to the flood affected population was the ultimate objective of this intervention, where in support of local authorities and community the relief items were transported through trucks and in some cases boats.

As result of this intervention, the flood affected families were provided a basic kit for survival in post-floods situation. The health and hygiene kits were customized as per needs of women and girls. The food packages included dry items keeping in mind the children and adult needs.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

???

### PROJECT END DATE:

???

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

Punjab and KPK

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Emergency Relief)

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

HOPE'87 (Pakistan)

## 36. PROJECT BRIEF

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES OF KPK PROVINCE

Heavy rains in year 2010 had caused the occurrence of natural disaster in Pakistan. The floods had left victim families especially amongst them women and children displaced; hungry and vulnerable. According to a country report published by UNOCHA at [www.reliefweb.com](http://www.reliefweb.com) the scope and scale of the crisis had exceptional, affected the lives of over 18 million people, washing away communities and livelihoods, and forcing millions to flee from their homes. Report mentioned that the crisis took the lives of a confirmed 1,980 people and left an estimated 14 million in need of humanitarian assistance.

A three-month emergency relief response was given in District Swat, Khyber Pukhtunkhawan by Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) with the help of financial funding provided by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). The project was titled '*Relief Operations for Flood Affected Population*'.

With a goal to *help* flood affected population for re-settling and returning towards normal life, the scope of the project encompassed provision of **shelter/non-food items (NFIs)** needs of the displaced flood affected communities in District Swat.

In collaboration with UNOCHA's provincial response efforts, SPO reached out to **1,040 flood affected families** by distributing bedding kits and NFIs. Team SPO conducted beneficiary's assessment in relief and spontaneous camps. With a view to limit effort and response duplication, the organization also conducted initial joint meetings with UN shelter cluster based KPK and local government authorities of District Swat.

For transparent and effective use of resources and project implementation, monitoring activities were carried out during relief kits distribution. In natural disasters and emergencies women and children are most affected and vulnerable. Ensuring Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response cooking utensils, blankets and bedding materials were provided to women headed households which catered the most personal human needs for shelter from the climate and for the maintenance of health, privacy and dignity.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

August 10, 2010

### PROJECT END DATE:

November 9, 2010

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Swat, KPK

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Emergency Relief)

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

## 37. PROJECT BRIEF

### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES OF KPK PROVINCE

Heavy monsoon rains experienced in year 2010 affected more than 18 million people of Pakistan. Flooding two populated Districts of KPK thus, destroying human lives, major crops, water supply, and livestock. With the financial support of Australian Development Agency, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) responded to the Early Recovery needs of the flood affected population of District Nowshera and Charsadda in partnership with HOPE'87 (Pakistan) through a six-month project title '*HOPE for the Flood Victims*'.

The overall project goal was to improve the humanitarian situation of floods affected population by providing humanitarian assistance and protection in the districts. Specific objective to provide support to the vulnerable population for rehabilitating their drinking water facilities and provision of improved hygiene practices ensured to safeguard their health needs.

The humanitarian response of SPO and criteria for water interventions had met minimum standards of SPHERE by delivering;

- Safe drinking water by cleaning and restoring 50 water sources. Around 2,750 families (20,075 individuals) received and used water storage kits.
- 200 latrines (public/private sanitation facilities) rehabilitated. Approximately 4,000 individuals had access to and used sanitation facilities in the targeted districts.
- Hygiene practices were improved where 2,750 hygiene / household kits were distributed by SPO and HOPE'87 for collective use of 20,075 individuals.
- 4,000 meters of Drainage / Sanitation water channels were restored through engaging 675 households that received cash for work to do the job.

The project benefitted displaced families (Internally Displaced Persons but also locally affected population) of Nowshera and Charsadda districts. Nevertheless, priority was given to poor households, displaced families living in spontaneous settlements, households with children under the age of two years, households headed by orphans or women or elderly persons living alone and persons with disabilities, families with destroyed houses, affected families living with host communities.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

October 1, 2010

### PROJECT END DATE:

March 31, 2011

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Nowshera and District Charsadda, KPK

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Early Recovery)

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

HOPE'87-Pakistan  
Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

Austrian Development Agency

## 38. PROJECT BRIEF

### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES OF PUNJAB PROVINCE IN 2008

Torrential rains of August 2008, flooded Rajanpur district and Taunsa Tehsil of Dera Ghazi Khan in southern Punjab province. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in district Rajanpur, 76 villages were affected by the hill torrents / flash floods which displaced approximately 375,000<sup>1</sup> persons and triggered health issues such as water borne diseases.

With the financial support of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) provided Emergency Relief to the affected population of District Rajanpur in partnership with Community World Service Asia (CWSA) through a three-month long project title 'Rehabilitation of the WASH component for flood affected in Rajanpur'.

Specific objectives of the projects were;

1. To provide safe drinking water to flood affected community by installing **185 water hand pumps**.
2. To ensure promotion of hygiene practices by conducting five health and hygiene awareness sessions.
3. To provide Disaster Risk Reduction awareness in each targeted village/ community.

To ensure smooth and transparent implementation of the project, local government officials and the target community was taken on board for detail project orientation. Keeping in mind the parameters of gender responsive needs, it was ensured that SPO's interventions had complete ownership of the concerned community. Alongside this, those beneficiaries were reached out who had no access to clean drinking water and were primarily responsible for water fetching chore, for example women. Water Management Committees (WMC) were formed followed by Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing with local communities for site selection of hand pumps. The intervention was successful because local community had partnered with SPO by providing services of digging and Labor/masons identification for installation of water sources. Almost **26,000 persons** were provided improved drinking water facility by installing 185 hand pumps in District Ranjanpur.

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<sup>1</sup> Data source: EDO (Health) & Secretary Relief Rajanpur

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

November 15, 2008

### PROJECT END DATE:

February 14, 2009

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Rajanpur, Punjab

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Emergency Relief)

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Community World Service Asia (CWSA)  
Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

United Nations International Children's  
Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Ensuring Code of Conduct for SPHERE standards, after installation of hand pumps was completed at public points, health and hygiene promotion sessions were held with awareness sessions on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mechanism. It was need of the time to hold such awareness sessions on DRR, which could make the local communities especially women and children more resilient. By the end of this emergency response, the water schemes (installed hand pumps) were handed over to the community for future maintenance as well as for the sustainability. Also Pre and Post KAP surveys were also conducted which concluded that .....# of person (men and women) were practicing safe hygiene practices

## 39. PROJECT BRIEF

### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE UNDER WASH FOR FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES OF BALOCHISTAN

Country-wide torrential rains caused unprecedented and outrageous floods throughout Pakistan which had started in July 2010. According to initial joint assessment conducted by Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and its local partner PEACE, the havoc caused by floods in eastern parts of Balochistan left more than 20,500 persons displaced in Districts of Barkhan, Kohlu, Sibi, Jafferabad, and Naseerabad.

In response to immediate water needs of the flood affected communities of Tehsil Tambu, District Naseerabad, SPO with the financial support of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reached out to the flood victims through a three-month long project title '*Emergency Relief Operation for Flood Affectees in Balochistan*'.

The overall project goal was to reduce the possible risk of epidemics outbreak in the affected areas of the district through its WASH interventions.

SPO then, being one of the first few to provide emergency response in Tehsil Tambu, had met the minimum standards of SPHERE by delivering;

- **Health and Hygiene kits** to women and children of 2000 families in affected *tehsil* of targeted district.
- Women and children of **2000 families** accessed clean drinking water with the provision of jerry cans distributed to them for water storage.
- **40 water sources** (wells, hand pumps and water supply schemes) restored and now provided access to clean drinking water.

Through its humanitarian response team, SPO mobilized local community of volunteers in identification of H&H kits distribution points and damaged communal water sources. As a result of SPO's interventions, the beneficiaries could access water from revived clean sources. The WASH activities of the project were implemented keeping in view the cultural practices in the district. The distribution points were established in places where accessible to women. The health and hygiene kits distributed had standard/minimum list of item that catered emergency needs, additional items according to the needs of women member of the community.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### STATUS:

Completed

### PROJECT START DATE:

August 15, 2010

### PROJECT END DATE:

November 14, 2010

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

District Naseerabad, Balochistan

### FOCUS AREA:

Humanitarian Assistance (Emergency Relief)

### SDG:

N/A

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

### FUNDING PARTNER:

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

This humanitarian assistance response had achieved desired results, which were later shared with all stakeholders including UN agency, camp coordination teams, other working humanitarian organizations in the WASH cluster.



## 40. PROJECT BRIEF

### REVIVING LIVELIHOOD THROUGH EARLY RECOVERY INTERVENTIONS

Unprecedented monsoon rains and floods of 2010 occurring in Pakistan created havoc, displacing and affecting population of more than 18 million across Pakistan. As the floods receded and people returned to their places of origin, many found their homes and livelihoods washed away. As relief continued in the worst affected areas, early recovery began, supporting communities to rebuild their homes and restore their livelihoods, also supporting local authorities to recover from the devastation so that they are able to assist the millions of people affected by the floods.

In response to Early Recovery Plan of international humanitarian agencies and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) started its recovery activities in South Punjab and Sindh provinces of Pakistan. The people of these districts had shown remarkable strength and resilience throughout the disaster, supporting each other to overcome extraordinary adversity. Especially from Tehsil Taunsa Sharif of District Dera Ismail Khan (D.G. Khan) and Tehsil Sajwal of District Thatta were lives were severely affected after destruction/damaging of agriculture land and drinking water sources.

With the team of highly trained emergency response staff in SPO's regional offices, early recovery activities were started in targeted districts. Identification process of beneficiaries, needs assessment, restoration work was completed successfully in flood affected areas. The organization provided clean drinking water to **7,000 families** by restoring **50 communal water sources**. Provision of clean drinking water protected the flood affected population from water borne diseases.

**Cash for Work** was provided to families to clean up agriculture land and getting land ready for next harvesting seasonal crop. The cash for work facility was provided on priority basis to the people having agricultural land to avoid food shortage and upholding their livelihood activities.

All activities were carried out in align with HAP-**Humanitarian Quality and Accountability Principles**. Selection of beneficiaries was done on strict criteria and ensured that they were informed and consulted on project interventions to be undertaken.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**STATUS:**

Completed

**PROJECT START DATE:**

August 15, 2010

**PROJECT END DATE:**

December 14, 2010

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:**

District D.G. Khan, Punjab

District Thatta, Sindh

**FOCUS AREA:**

Humanitarian Assistance (Early Recovery)

**SDG:**

N/A

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

**FUNDING PARTNER:**

name missing in the proposal