

Relevance

Through this project, SPO will not only meet the needs of rural women but will also facilitate the Government of Pakistan in achieving 05 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Goal 1: No Poverty: The project will contribute in addressing the overarching issue of poverty and improve the well-being of 500 women through the provision of income generation opportunities and improved access to technical and financial resources.



Goal 5: Gender Equality: Through this project, the economic and social status of women will be improved through their enhanced role in decision-making bodies.



Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: As a result of this project, rural women's unpaid and unrecognized work will be highlighted as their role in the country's economic growth will be maximized.



Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities: The project is addressing gender disparities by ensuring enhanced representation of women in local agricultural decision-making bodies so they can participate in decisions regarding water distribution and its management.



Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: One of the main project objectives is to avoid further environmental degradation, food insecurity and climate change implications by mainstreaming gender, including water governance bodies and responsible use of water resources in agriculture.

Key Achievements in 2020

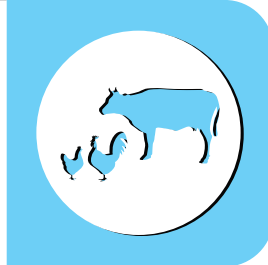
We feel proud to share the long-awaited land mark strategic achievement of the passage of bill of amendments in the **SWMO 2002** with the technical and financial support of key actors like EKN and Oxfam. It would have not been possible without the support of legislators.

The amendment will lead to empower **96,000** small landholders and landless women, to take part in elections and democratically be elected in **46,000** registered WCAs and FOs across Sindh.



500 women have been facilitated to access financial services and imparted technical and financial support to sustain their livelihoods.

4,216 livestock animals vaccinated in District Badin, Hyderabad and Tando Muhammad Khan leading to increased quality of livestock.



More than **80** officials of district livestock departments trained and sensitized in gender-sensitive approaches and women rights to support the provision of safe public spaces for women and will assist with the provision of technical support to women livestock managers.

Over **5 million** people have been reached through a mass media awareness campaign (print and electronic).



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**Women's Increased Access
to Water Resources and
Agricultural Markets**

About Us

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) is a rights-based service delivery organization striving to improve the well-being of communities and ensuring that citizens have access to and are aware of their rights and responsibilities. SPO is currently serving in more than 50 districts across the country in sectors of Health, Education, Sustainable Livelihood, Climate Change, Digital Knowledge Transformation and Cultural & Tourism Promotion.

SPO was registered in 1994 under the Companies Ordinance 1984 and transitioned from a small-scale joint venture of Small Projects Office between Government of Pakistan and Canadian High Commission in 1987. The initiative voluntarily led by Mr. Javed Jabbar, Dr. Tariq J. Banuri, and Ms. Ferida Sher; guided the transformation of a small entity to a leading Pakistani Civil Society Organization with a broad programmatic portfolio. SPO is recognized for its impressive nationwide footprint in 75 districts; operating with a diverse spectrum of groups from grass root communities to various tiers of governance at local, district, provincial and national level. We have dynamic teams based in nine offices in all four provinces of Pakistan.

SPO is governed by a fourteen-member Board of Directors comprised of thirteen elected members and the Chief Executive. SPO is a key member of over 20 global and regional networks of leading rights-based civil society institutions.

Women's Increased Access to Water Resources and Agricultural Markets Project

Project Context:

Rural women in Sindh play a pivotal role in pre- and post-harvesting activities and livestock management. As per the 'Women in Agriculture in Pakistan, 2015' report published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), women's role has substantially changed after men started migrating from rural areas in pursuit of better income opportunities. As per the report, rural women have additional responsibilities now and they are required to manage both on- and off-farm activities along with the unpaid care work they do for their household. Moreover, according to a research survey by the Department for International Development (DFID) in 2018, rural

women in Sindh spend 6.5 hours every day on livestock management activities that include: cutting fodder for animals, feeding, watering, cleaning sheds, milking and preparing dung cakes that are used as fuel for cooking.

Despite of playing a critical role in they face multiple challenges such as the lack of access to financial resources, inadequate managerial and technical skills, limited access to the market and information, high levels of vulnerabilities to disasters and crisis, and underrepresentation in water governance bodies and the decision-making processes.

Proposed Intervention:

Realizing the challenges rural women face, SPO with the financial support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), submitted the Women's Increased Access to Water Resources and Agricultural Markets Project. The project aims to strengthen the role of women in water governance and diversify their income generating activities. The core strategy is to stimulate engagement, not only in value-addition to rural products, but also in non-farm production and services that create additional employment and income opportunities.



Overall Objective:

“Improved role of women in water resource management to enhance their incomes, and to enable them to effectively participate and contribute to decision-making in domestic and public spheres.”



Outcome 1

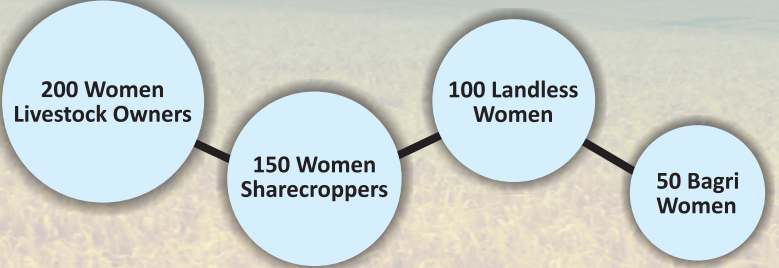
Increased role of women in Water Resource Management in Sindh through the approval of amendments in Sindh Water Management Ordinance (SWMO) 2002



Outcome 2

Increased employment opportunities, market access and incomes for poor and marginalized women, particularly amongst small landholders, sharecroppers and livestock owners

Beneficiaries



SPO is determined to improve the knowledge and understanding of 500 rural women on the relevant local systems that promote and protect their rights and responsibilities. It is expected that through this project's initiatives, these 500 beneficiaries will also enhance their understanding and ability to address the local issues and key governance challenges that women are faced with. This project will broaden women's participation and inclusion in water associations and agricultural functions at all levels by applying the following four key strategies.

Key Strategies



Engagement of legislatures and Government representatives through advocacy and lobbying campaigns for the passage of amendments in the SWMO 2002, which calls for mandatory representation of rural women small landholders, landless women and women sharecroppers in Area Water Boards (AWBs), Water Course Associations (WCAs) and Farmer Organizations (FOs) across Sindh.

Capacity enhancement and sensitization of the key personnel of relevant Government Departments, such as Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), Planning & Development (P&D) Department, and Sindh Irrigation Department, on gender sensitive approaches, women empowerment, gender inclusion, agro-enterprise development, and improved role of women in agricultural and water management.



Identification and capacity enhancement of 500 rural women in the areas of technical managerial skills and financial literacy.

Facilitation of rural women's access to financial resources markets and information and their representation in water governance bodies and the decision-making processes.

