



STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATORY ORGANIZATION

Organizational Profile



SPO
Strengthening
Participatory
Organization

ادارو اجتماعي ترقی

Putting People First!

30 years and counting...



SPO AT A GLANCE

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) is a rights and responsibilities-based organization serving to improve the well-being of the communities of Pakistan by making them aware of their basic rights and ensuring access to attain those. It is registered under Section 42 of the Companies Act 2017.

SPO has evolved over the past 30 plus years since 1994 into a nationally recognized NGO, from a modest initiative in 1987, taken by the Canadian International Development Agency to transfer their Small Project Office to an entirely Pakistani-led new entity.

The founding members include Senator (r) Javed Jabbar, Ms. Ferida Sher, and Dr. Tariq J. Banuri.

GOVERNANCE

The organization is governed by a 36-member volunteer General Body and 11 elected Board members, with regional representation from all four provinces and the Capital Territory. It maintains a gender balance of 6 women and 5 men and is led by a woman Chief Executive, reflecting women's leadership at the forefront.

PROGRAMMATIC PORTFOLIO

Since 1994 SPO has served almost 25 million people. It has implemented 449 projects with a total budget of PKR 16 billion / USD 56 million, including 70 humanitarian projects worth PKR 2.725 billion, supported by 105 financial partners.

Our broad programmatic portfolio and extensive countrywide presence is truly embodied in our footprints in 124 of Pakistan's 166 districts, with a current presence in more than 58 districts. We have dynamic teams, based in 9 Regional Offices (Balochistan - Quetta & Turbat, KP - Peshawar, Punjab - Lahore & Multan, Sindh - Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur & Shikarpur) and 20 project offices in all four provinces and the Federal Capital. These teams work with a diverse spectrum of groups, from grassroots communities to various tiers of governance at local, district, provincial, and national levels.

VISION

A democratic, socially just and ecologically sustainable society

MISSION

To support and strengthen disadvantaged communities and public interest institutions for sustainable development

VALUES

We strongly believe in the values of mutual trust, innovation, volunteerism, inclusivity, adaptability, accountability and environmental sensitivity



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Organizational Development functions are supported by several core departments that play a vital role in facilitating program implementation. These include Corporate Affairs, Administration and Logistics, Procurement, Information Technology (IT), Finance, Human Resource Development, Internal Audit, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL), Communication and the Complaint Redressal Department (CRD). Each department contributes essential operational, governance, and technical support to ensure the smooth and accountable execution of SPO's initiatives.

Complaint Redressal Department (CRD) maintains strict compliance towards the "Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse" (PSEA) at all levels. SPO is committed to promote safe and protected environment for its staff and community who are mandatorily orientated through sessions on a regular basis. As per UNICEF's assessment SPO falls under "Full capacity" and "Low Risk" organization recognizing its strong preventive measures and commitment to safeguarding standards.

AS A MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

As the organization continues to evolve, it has undergone a transformational journey from an implementing organization to one that blends both implementation and management portfolio. Historically, SPO has been working as an implementing organization by delivering projects directly. However, institutional strengthening remains a challenge for many organizations, and this is where SPO plays a critical role in bridging the gap between funders and CSOs by exhibiting its capacity to perform as an intermediary body.

SPO's dual role as an implementing and management organization is supported by strong governance, transparent financial management, operational efficiency, and a commitment to accountability.

Our initiatives have not only enabled hundreds of CSOs to access funds and strengthen their institutional capacity, but also facilitated donors through these engagements, a few of the impactful initiatives include:

The "Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) four-year programme", funded by Global Affairs Canada and Oxfam GB; "Strengthening Local Civil Society in Sindh," funded by IRC; "Grassroots Action to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage" by Save the Children; "Establishment of COVID-19 ICU-HDU Ward at Nishtar Medical University & Hospital", Multan (NMU) by Dawood Hercules Group (DHG) & Colony Textiles; "Flood Emergency Response" by Oxfam; SPO's collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC); and "Construction of flood-resistant shelters" by OGDCL.

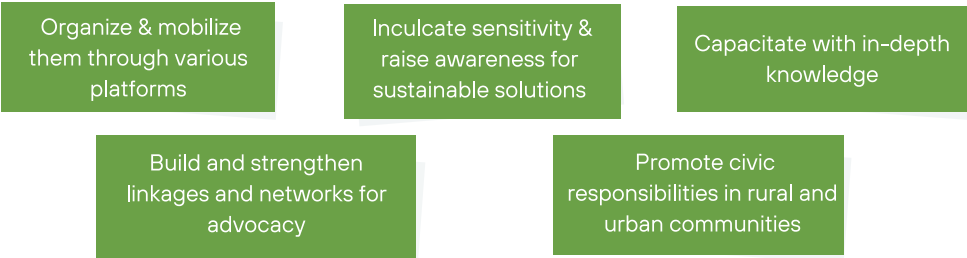
APPROACH

Our rights-based approach is embedded in the implementation and execution of our initiatives by ensuring the active and meaningful participation of citizens, especially the most vulnerable groups (destitute women, men, transgenders, persons with disabilities, the elderly, youth, religious and ethnic groups). These groups are empowered to contribute to key decision-making processes and public policies.

Our extensive experience of working with communities has made us realize that alongside awareness on ‘rights’, the ‘civic responsibilities’ aspect must also be addressed at the community level.

STRATEGY

Our main strategy for working with rights holders and duty bearers is to:



OUTREACH





THEMATIC AREAS

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the dire need to improve the social & economic well-being of the poverty-stricken population, SPO's main goal is to ensure citizens' enhanced ability and increased access to these basic needs.

Our organization strengthens key public institutions to develop policy frameworks that respond to the basic needs of citizens for:



Improved mother and child immunization services, TB care & control, COVID-19 protection, psycho-social support and treatment for all



Improved access to and promotion of WASH rights



Improved and strengthened Education policies and services



Improved access of women to attain rights to economic development and livelihoods

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Our 30 years track record in Humanitarian Response focuses on building climate resilience through integrated, nature-based and community-led adaptation. We facilitate and advocate for:



Integrated resource management to support ecosystem restoration and climate resilience

Development and implementation of evidence-based, context-specific local Climate Adaptation Plans, aligned with National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and NDCs



Promoting food security and climate-smart agriculture practices that support sustainable livelihoods, climate-resilient value chains, and biodiversity conservation

Leveraging digital tools and climate finance strategies to scale up adaptation interventions



Strengthening adaptive capacity and social resilience of vulnerable communities





DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFORMATION

This component's overall goal is to create digital accessibility to all genders, for greater social mobility and equal participation through:



Development of an inclusive Information Communication Technology (ICT) policy that creates equal & affordable digital access to all

Enhancement of capacities of communities in digital literacy and its responsible usage



Integration of digital skills and knowledge in formal & informal education policies

CULTURAL HERITAGE & TOURISM PROMOTION

Realizing Pakistan's rich cultural history and tourism potential, and culture as a cornerstone of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a driver of community prosperity, we aim to promote responsible tourism and enhance the recognition and preservation of our indigenous heritage through:

Enhancing public awareness on cultural heritage via digital innovation and inclusive knowledge-sharing platforms

Sensitizing and empowering communities on sustainable and responsible tourism, including eco-tourism, heritage sites and festivals

Promoting the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in line with UNESCO frameworks, ensuring heritage conservation is embedded in both urban and rural development plans

Building the capacity of local communities to generate economic benefits through heritage-led tourism, fostering inclusive business models and tourism value chains



SPO'S DONORS/PARTNERS OVER PAST 30 YEARS

Embassies, UN Agencies & Banks

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands | 13. UNFPA |
| 2. Embassy of Japan | 14. UNICEF |
| 3. Canadian International Development Agency | 15. UNIFEM |
| 4. British High Commission | 16. UN-Habitat |
| 5. Canadian High Commission | 17. UN-OCHA |
| 6. European Commission | 18. UN-Women |
| 7. Canada Fund for Local Initiatives | 19. USAID |
| 8. New Zealand-Aid | 20. International Organization for Migration |
| 9. AusAID | 21. World Bank |
| 10. Food and Agriculture Organization | 22. Asian Development Bank |
| 11. UNDP | 23. Tameer Micro-Finance Bank Limited |
| 12. UNESCO | 24. National Bank of Pakistan |

INGOs/ NGOs

INGOs

25. ABT Associates
26. ActionAid
27. Adam Smith International
28. Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
29. Asian South-Pacific Bureau of Adult Education
30. British Council
31. British Gas
32. Care International
33. Caritas
34. Catholic Agency For Overseas Development
35. Church World Service
36. Concern World Wide
37. Cowater International Inc.
38. Democracy Reporting International
39. Department for International Development
40. Development Alternatives Incorporated
41. Education Sector Reform Assistance
42. Emergency Relief Fund
43. European Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations
44. GATES Foundation
45. Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
46. Global Campaign for Education
47. Global Partnership for Education
48. Greenacre Associates Limited
49. Heinrich Boll Stiftung
50. Hope-87
51. International Catholic Migration Commission
52. International Development and Relief Foundation
53. International Rescue Committee
54. International Union for Conservation of Nature
55. Jhpiego
56. Médecins Sans Frontières Holland
57. Mercy Corps
58. MetaMeta
59. National Democratic Institute

60. National Endowment for Democracy
61. Norwegian Church Aid
62. OXFAM
63. Packard Foundation
64. PLAN International
65. Polish Humanitarian Organization
66. Save the Children Fund
67. Solidarity Center
68. South Asia Partnership
69. Swiss Development Corporation - Inter Cooperation
70. Swiss NGO Programme Office
71. Tear Fund
72. The Asia Foundation
73. Voluntary Services Overseas
74. WaterAid
75. World Vision

NGOs

76. Aga Khan Education Support Programme
77. Aga Khan University
78. Aik Hunar Aik Nagar
79. Aurat Foundation
80. Balochistan Education Foundation
81. Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Programme
82. Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment
83. Human Development Foundation
84. National Humanitarian Network
85. Pakistan Coalition for Education
86. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
87. Research and Advocacy Fund
88. ROZAN
89. Social Policy Development Centre
90. The Aga Khan Foundation
91. Trust for Democratic Education & Accountability
92. Trust for Voluntary Organization

Public & Private Partnerships

- | | |
|---|---|
| 93. Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock | 96. Rural Municipal Services Company |
| 94. Punjab Population Innovation Fund | 97. Sindh Education Foundation |
| 95. Punjab Education Foundation | 98. Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority |

Corporate Entities

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 99. Colony Textile Mills | 103. Naveena Group |
| 100. Dawood Hercules Corporation | 104. Nishtar Alumni Association of North America |
| 101. Engro Corporation | 105. Oil & Gas Development Company |
| 102. ENI Pakistan | |

SPO'S PRESENCE IN 124 OUT OF 166 DISTRICTS ACROSS PAKISTAN

PUNJAB

1. Attock
2. Bahawalpur
3. Bahawalnagar
4. Bhakkar
5. Chakwal
6. Chiniot
7. Dera Ghazi Khan
8. Faisalabad
9. Gujranwala
10. Gujrat
11. Hafizabad
12. Jhang
13. Jhelum
14. Kasur
15. Khanewal
16. Khushab
17. Lahore
18. Layyah
19. Lodhran
20. Mandi Bahauddin
21. Mianwali
22. Multan
23. Muzaffargarh
24. Nankana Sahib
25. Narowal
26. Okara
27. Pakpattan
28. Rahim Yar Khan
29. Rajanpur
30. Rawalpindi
31. Taxila
32. Sahiwal
33. Sargodha
34. Sheikhpura
35. Sialkot
36. Toba Tek Singh
37. Vehari

BALUCHISTAN

1. Awaran
2. Barkhan
3. Chagai
4. Dera Allah Yar
5. Dera Bugti
6. Duki
7. Gwadar
8. Harnai
9. Hub
10. Jaffarabad
11. Jhal Magsi
12. Kalat
13. Kech
14. Kharan
15. Khuzdar
16. Killa Abdullah
17. Killa Saifullah
18. Kohlu
19. Lasbela
20. Lehri
21. Loralai
22. Mastung
23. Musakhel
24. Naseerabad
25. Nushki
26. Panjgur
27. Pishin
28. Quetta
29. Sherani
30. Sibi
31. Sohbatpur
32. Usta Muhammad
33. Washuk
34. Zhob
35. Ziarat

SINDH

1. Badin
2. Dadu
3. Ghotki
4. Hyderabad
5. Jacobabad
6. Jamshoro
7. Karachi
8. Kashmore
9. Keamari
10. Korangi
11. Tharparkar
12. Thatta
13. Umerkot
14. Mirpurkhas
15. Naushahro Feroze
16. Sanghar
17. Shaheed Benazirabad
18. Shikarpur
19. Sujawal
20. Sukkur
21. Tando Allahyar
22. Tando Muhammad Khan
23. Larkana
24. Malir
25. Matiari

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

1. Abbottabad
2. Bunair
3. Charsadda
4. Dera Ismail Khan
5. Haripur
6. Karak
7. Kohat
8. Lakki Marwat
9. Lower Dir
10. Lower Kohistan
11. Lower South Waziristan
12. Malakand
13. Mardan
14. Mohmand
15. Nowshera
16. Peshawar
17. Shangla
18. Swabi
19. Swat
20. Tank
21. Torghar
22. Upper Chitral
23. Upper Dir
24. Upper South Waziristan

OTHERS

1. Azad Jammu & Kashmir
2. Gilgit Baltistan
3. Islamabad Capital Territory



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 info@spopk.org

 www.spopk.org

 +92 (51) 8736193-4

 Building No. 1B, Bazar No. 1, Street 26,
Sector G9/1, Islamabad