



GRASP

GROWTH FOR RURAL ADVANCEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS

Funded by European Union



GRASP – SPO Project Completion Summary

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) implemented the Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project, funded by the European Union, in two selected districts of Balochistan, Panjgur and Kech, covering 10 Union Councils. The implementation partners included ITC, FAO, and PPAF. SPO adopted a comprehensive enterprise development approach to reduce rural poverty by strengthening rural micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises across selected value chains, with a strong focus on women's economic inclusion and sustainability.

Under the project, 43 enterprises (33% women-led) were established through PKR 217 million in matching grants, contributing to increased value addition, nearly a 50% reduction in post-harvest losses, improved market access, and significant growth in SME turnover. Beyond grant support, 772 SMEs were identified, of which 369 received structured business training, while 64 SMEs secured PKR 110 million in financing from leading commercial banks and microfinance institutions.

GRASP – SPO Project Completion Summary ...

The programme also strengthened formalization and market connectivity. A total of 1,188 SMEs were linked with the FBR and registered with the SECP, while 1,501 SMEs participated in national and international expos. In addition, 4,337 SMEs were connected with other business entities, and 6,960 SMEs benefited from business and skills development training, collectively contributing to inclusive and sustainable rural economic growth.

Key highlights of the GRASP project include strengthened rural enterprise resilience, improved access to finance and markets, increased participation of women in economic activities, and enhanced integration of SMEs into formal systems and value chains.

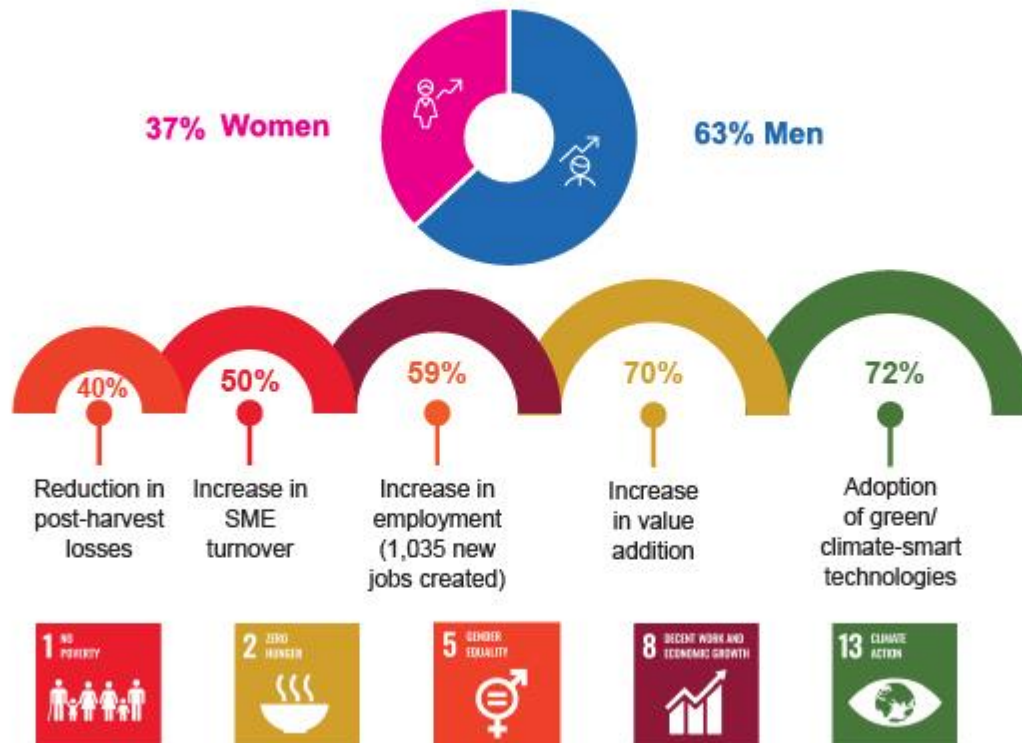
GRASP – SPO Project Completion Summary ...

During the implementation period, significant progress was achieved across multiple thematic areas of the GRASP project, including rural and business mobilization, capacity development, facilitation, access to finance, value chain strengthening, and the mainstreaming of climate change and gender considerations. Mobilization efforts enhanced community engagement and encouraged greater participation of women-led enterprises in rural value chains, fostering inclusive business growth and local entrepreneurship.

Overall, SPO supported 1,894 SMEs (63% men and 37% women) during the project period, resulting in a 70% increase in value addition, a 40% reduction in post-harvest losses, a 50% increase in SME turnover, and a 59% growth in employment. Furthermore, 72% of SMEs adopted green technologies, contributing significantly to the EU's result indicators on inclusive and sustainable value chain development.

Overall Impact

GRASP Supported 1,894 SMEs



These outcomes contributed directly to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, and 13 and strengthened inclusive, sustainable value chain development in Balochistan.

1. Enterprise Establishment & Matching Grants

43 New Enterprises Established
through PKR 217 million in Matching Grants.

GRANTS BENEFITTED



Reflecting Strong Gender Representation

Dates
24 Grants
(80% of MG
PKR 174.5M)



Goats
15 Grants
(18% of MG
(PKR 38.5M)

Value Chain Distribution

Poultry
3 Grants
(2% of MG
(PKR 3.5M)



Onion
1 Grant
(PKR 0.5M)

Date sector upgrades included 8 solar-powered cold storages (1,500-ton capacity) and multiple modern processing units.

2. Rural & Business Mobilization



772 SMEs Identified
for enterprise development

Women's participation meaningfully increased despite cultural barriers

66%



MEN

34%



WOMEN

3. Access to Finance



64 SMEs Secured PKR 110 million in loans from banks/MFIs.

Financial literacy and record-keeping skills strengthened for 87 SMEs (49% women).

4. Capacity Building

369 SMEs Trained in entrepreneurship, business management, technical skills, and value addition.

Training improved financial management, digital practices, and compliance.



5. Market Linkages & B2B Partnerships

- 50 SMEs participated in regional/national expos.
- 3 GRASP grantees won national awards at Khalifa International Date Festivals.
- International exposure in Saudi Arabia (2025) resulted in full stock sell-outs and new cross-border business linkages.
- 39 SMEs established B2B partnerships.
- 69 SMEs completed formal registration with FBR/SECP.

6. Gender & Social Inclusion

- 37% women's participation across interventions.
- 14 women-led enterprises formalized through matching grants.
- Women gained stronger economic roles, social recognition, and decision-making power.

7. Climate-Smart and Green Technology Adoption

- 32 enterprises adopted renewable energy, solar-powered units, efficient processing, water conservation, and climate-adaptive infrastructure.
- Post-harvest losses reduced by 40%, improving income stability.

8. Communications & Visibility

- 34 success stories- showcase and promotion of business through social media platforms, short videos, and reels on SPO social media platforms.
- 50 SMEs (88% men and 12% women) participated in 5 Provincial 5 National and 4 International Exhibitions and showcased their value added products.



GRASP has reshaped the rural enterprise ecosystem of Kech and Panjgur by creating sustainable, market-oriented, and climate-resilient SMEs. The project:

- Strengthened key value chains,
- Enhanced access to finance and markets,
- Expanded women's economic empowerment, and
- Improved business competitiveness across agriculture, livestock, and poultry sectors.

Through coordinated efforts of the EU, ITC, FAO, PPAF, and SPO, GRASP established a strong foundation for long-term rural economic growth, financial inclusion, value chain integration, and community resilience in Balochistan.

