

# VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Striving to serve  
h u m a n i t y

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Conference  
On  
The Crises and Rehabilitation of  
Natural Drains  
15<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

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## Executive Summary



VDO has been working, since its establishment, for social change in district Ghotki; the change seemed perpetual, sustainable and always thriving. It was only possible when rural women of Ghotki district would be empowered. VDO has been making all possible efforts for the rural communities are often come across with social exclusion. They often realize themselves neglected and isolated; therefore they are left in such remote areas that are at brink of various risk and hardship in life and living. They are extremely malnourished comparatively and prone to domestic & social violence, different disastrous illness and such others.

Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki successfully achieved the goals of the year through organizing planed activities.

During 25th July 2022 To September 2022, Pakistan especially Sindh province faced one of the worst natural disasters in the decade with extensive floods preceded by over 8 / above week's long torrential rains across major province. As per details

disseminated by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) , over all districts of Sindh provinces were hit by heavy floods mainly impacting rural areas around River Indus. Rainfalls during this monsoon were significantly higher than 30 years average in Sindh, resulting in huge floods disrupting the Human Lives, livelihood, Livestock, and



Infrastructure. While responding to this situation VDO team struggled day and night for serving communities of the ghotki through differencnt initiatives and donors support, VDO also organized a Mega Conference on Climate where majority of people belonging to different sectors including civil society, bar association, agriculture extension department, forest department, media (electronic & print) and majority of community members especially female had participated and shared their experiences for mitigation measures. VDO is determining to bring in another change that will be a positive move towards women literacy, education, and Climate mitigation approaches. Improving women mobility in remote areas to access health care services and fundamental rights and increasing the number of marketable work of marginalized women which may bring them economic opportunities.



# Vision

Socio-economic and political empowerment of the most vulnerable communities of the area



# Mission

Progressive, peaceful and Prosper society that grantee equal opportunities to all through capacity building and incentive-based services.

# Thematic Areas

- Democratic Governance
  - Livelihood Improvement
    - Climate Justice
      - Women Empowerment



### ❖ District Ghotki Background:

District Ghotki is located in the north of Sindh province, its boundaries sketched with Punjab province in the east, India in the south, District Kashmore and Jacobabad in the north, and District Sukkur in the west. The District Ghotki is spread over an area of 6,083 square kilometers. The total population of the district is 1.648 million. 75.3% population lives in rural areas and 24.4% in urban towns. The district is comprised of 05 Taluka/Tehsils and 65 Union Councils. The overall literacy rate of the district is 40.88%, male 57.46%, and female 23.35%. 21.96% of the total area of the district is comprised of a desert known as (Achro Thar) the White Desert. The major portion of the population is dependent upon agriculture, livestock, and daily wage labor. The district is generally known as one of the most underdeveloped district in the province. The district is facing different socioeconomic problems i.e., tribal system, poverty, Honor killing (karo kari) issues, feudal system, low literacy among women, low agricultural production, Water & Sanitation, land degradation, human/women rights violation, women mobility, lack of opportunities, increasing inflation and unemployment, etc.

### ❖ Organization Profile:

Village Development Organization (VDO) is a non-profit, non-political, and non-governmental organization working for the empowerment of neglected communities in Sindh Province, Pakistan. It was formed by Human rights Activists, Social Workers, Development Professionals, Technocrats, and Economists of Sindh in 1993. VDO was registered under Societies Act-XXI (1860) on 05th May-2009. After the proper registration, VDO developed a partnership with donor agencies and implemented more than 29 projects and programs, on WASH, Livelihood Improvement, Human Rights, Women Rights, Child Rights, Peace, Education, Rehabilitation of Flood Affected People, and Democratic Governance through capacity building of women elected representatives, voter education, registration and monitoring and observation of the electoral process. VDO has an outreach to many northern & western districts of Sindh including Ghotki, Sukkur, Khairpur Mirs, Kashmore @ Kandhkot, Shikarpur, and Kamber Shahdadkot.

*A child and a plant  
is imperfect without  
woman*

The aforementioned projects were implemented in partnership with: South Asia Partnership (SAP) Pakistan, Indus Consortium Islamabad, Grow Green Network, Care International, OXFAM GB, USAID-SGAFP, NRSP, PODA Pakistan, IOM-OIM, JS Bank, FAO, Government of Sindh, Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH), SPO, Lead Pakistan, Saiban Kisan Society (SKS), SAHIL, NHN, SCOPE, ROZAN, and VSO. Currently, VDO is implementing a long-term project on women's empowerment through a livelihood initiative in partnership with SAP Pakistan.

# Political & Livelihood Rights For Rural Poor (PLRP) Phase-IV Project

(January 2021 to December 2023)

- **Objective 01:** Economic opportunity of mostly young girls and boys from ultra-poor families enhanced.
- **Objective 02:** Active and meaningful participation of women in political processes especially in local governance and social and political spheres increased.
- **Objective 03:** Improved organizational learning and knowledge management.

## Project Rationale:

Village Development Organization (VDO) with the support of South Asia Partnership (SAP) Pakistan implementing “Political & Livelihood Rights for Rural Poor (PLRP) Phase IV Project, The main aim of this project is to build capacities of rural women and men regarding their meaningful participation in Political spheres and electoral process, furthermore also this project highlighting that most of the District community belonging with poorness where this project also support regarding technical and business trainings to youth age (18-30) years including 50% male and 50% and provide asset for income generation approaches. The project contributing in following thematic Areas;

- 1. Livelihood and Economic Resilience:** To improve their livelihood through offering tailor-made vocational trainings opportunities and enhancement of local opportunities for holistic development. It is proposed to work with women/girls/boys/men to economically empower them by building their competencies/capacities to participate constructively in development and policy processes through provision of vocational training courses. In addition to trainings, they will be provided assets provision so that they can utilized the learned skills to economically empowered.
- 2. Women Political Participation (WPP):** PLRP helps to improve political status of women, poverty trap & built their capacity to enable them to develop their villages, involvement in local governance, mobilizing men to understand the importance of women political role. PLRP uplifted the excluded ones from the PLRP surfaces a need for women’s political representation in local governance. With such political empowerment they can, influence women’s friendly approaches and policies. Girls/women will participate in the Local bodies’ elections and in a result will benefit their communities. Besides elections these women (both young boys and girls) are active part of the political process through which they can better influence policies and plans and also negotiate for their resources.

### ❖ Project Focus:

The project is focusing on capacity building of girls/women, boys/men of the socially disadvantage communities around the issues of Gender equality and social harmony. Programs like PLRP have two important elements: improving livelihood, social connectivity for poor and secondly creating a body of knowledge around gender equality, women active role in local government.

• **Objective 01:** Economic opportunity of mostly young girls and boys from ultra-poor families enhanced

○ **Indicator 1.1:** At least 50% of the 250 newly trained youth (age 18-30 and mostly girls) have started economic activities (small scale business or employment).

### ✓ Result:

- Linkages with Market and vendors improved.
- Coordination with main stream livelihood opportunities developed.
- Business development knowledge enhanced.
- Engagement with Village Level Development Plans and community coordination improved.
- Responsibility taking regarding house representatives ameliorated.



**In Ghotki**, total business trade is twenty-six (26) and on average basis, each business owner monthly profit ratio was PKR 7500-15000. Before flood (August 2022), these business owners, used 65% its saving to increase their business and 35% to meet health and education expenses of their family members (Source: Quarterly monitoring report). Devastation level in Ghotki is also high as it was in other districts of Sindh, out of 200 assets beneficiaries/small business, 140 (70%) are fully damaged, 38 (19%) is partially damaged while 41(21%) are safe (Source: Post flood damages assessment 2022). The nature of safe small business are cutlery shops, Aata chakki, iron store, repairing shops, hair dresser salon, welding shops and auto mechanic shops(Source: Post flood damages assessment 2022).

Moreover in third Quarter from July to September 2022 the flood outbreak occurred who destroyed and demolished economical stability of whole 7 Union Councils i.e. (Lohi, Bhetoor, Khanpur Mahar, Mithri, Ali Mahar, Saleh Mahar and Qazi Badal) of Taluka Khangarh District Ghotki, damages including Livestock, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Small Business Shops which were provided during PLRP Phase I to IV onward were highly affected by Flood and Heavy Rain Fall 2022).

**Some highlights of damages are as under:**

<b>PLRP-IV 2021-22 Businesses Damages Data</b>			
<b>Type of Businesses</b>	<b>No: Fully Damages &amp; %age</b>	<b>No: Partially Damages &amp; %age</b>	<b>No: Safe Businesses &amp; %age</b>
Vegetable & Fruit Shops, Clothes shop, Embroidery shop, Kariyana shop, livestock, G. store shop, Toys, Shop Samosa & Pakora Shop, Poultry Shop, Poultry Farm, & Biryani Shop	140 70% Fully Damaged	-	-
Tailoring, Clothes Pressing Shop, Mobile Parts Shop, Biryani Shop, & Computer Shop	-	38 19% Partially Damaged	-
Cutlery Shop, Aata Chakki, Hotel, Iron Store Shop, Puncher Shop, Hair Dresser Salon, Welding Shop, & Auto Mechanic Shop	-	-	22 11% Businesses are Safe

This Assessment was conducted after rainfall and Flood-2022 at District Ghotki, VDO team observed that overall agriculture fields were under water where 7-8 feet of water was staying upon fields for 45 days and long. Those fields are unable to cultivate for further crop. Moreover this flood created huge barriers for business beneficiaries as like, they were unable to buy goods from market and sale them in respective villages/areas/market where they operating their businesses.

○ **Indicator 1.2: At-least 45% of the youth demands expressed in the VDPs schemes implemented (of them a minimum of 15% will be of women focused.**

✓ **Results:**

While addressing this indicator Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki with coordination of 10 Village Organization's submitted VDP's schemes:

**Before Flood Progress:** In Ghotki, this year (2022) total seventeen (17) schemes were developed with the consultation of VOs and submitted to concerned district Government, Work & Service department, health and livestock departments out of these seventeen schemes, only nine (09) schemes (53%) approved with worth of PKR 32 million. Out of nine approved schemes, only five (05) schemes (56%) were completed including one (01) of water course lining, two (02) of CC paver, One (01) of sanitation, one (01) of water supply. Work on remaining four (04) schemes was not initiated due to conversion of funds in flood relief work. Now work on these schemes will be initiated as soon funds will be available.

**Process adopted:** Schemes were prioritized during VOs meeting and youth demands discussed and incorporated in VDPs. Women demands discussed and incorporated in revised and updated VDPs. Discussion done in the plenary and decision were taken about the nature of youth and women schemes.

**Post Flood Situation:** In Ghotki, 25% portion of completed schemes (05 schemes) is damaged. The nature of damaged schemes are street pavements, water courses etc. Through Khuli Kacheri revised and updated VDPs have been submitted to concerned Govt. departments for its repairing and patch of works. Hopefully will get approval in next quarter (April 2023) and work on these schemes will start in June 2023.

**Achievements Objective 01:**

- 200 skilled girls and boys were given assets to start up their own business in 26 different business trades.
- 193 business owners (before flood 2022) were running their business proactively to enhance their monthly business income.
- 19 beneficiaries, out of 32 who got training of driving trade, linked with different firms and they are working as a driver and their monthly salary is PKR 12000-15000. Remaining 13 were linked with local transport owners for Job.
- 18 beneficiaries (12 females and 6 Male-already have their own assets) got training of 6 days enterprises development are now running their own businesses successfully.
- 17 Schemes were developed with the coordination of VOs and Submitted to concerned district government, work and service department, health department, and livestock department
- 05 Schemes completed and 04 are remaining due to non-availability of funds. Hopefully, funds will be released till June, 2023.
- Strengthen coordination and linkages with Govt. departments and working relationship improved.
- Improved linkages of small business owners with market vendors, financial institutions and business institutions at district levels.

• **Objective 0.2** Active and meaningful participation of women in political processes especially in local governance and social and political spheres increased

○ **Indicator 2.1: An increase of 35% women voters turns out from the previous local government elections in the 2021**

**In Ghotki**, women voters campaign led by members of women assembly (**action plan is annexed**) during L.G election, held, on June 26, 2022. Women voters campaign includes voters’ education through display of posters, pamphlets and stickers at public places, medical stores and community gathering places. Door to door campaign is also launched to motivate and encourage women voters to ensure their participation in electoral process. In Ghotki, eight percent (8%) women voters turnout increased in UC Qazi Badal, 11% in Lohi UC and Bhetoor (Source: ECP Notification). Below table shows turnout of registered voters;

Two (02) women from women assembly contested L.G. election 2022, but unfortunately, cannot succeeded. Thirty-eight (38) women and young girls performed their duties as polling agent in their respective polling stations. A WhatsApp group of women voters established and their issues discussed with district election commission of Pakistan (ECP) on regular basis by the chairperson of women assembly. Demand of 50% jobs quota for women in ECP office-Ghotki is submitted to district election commissioner-Ghotki to have separate cell to interact with female voters, candidates and to resolve their political issues on priority basis.

✓ **Results:**

- Women really understand the importance of vote and only casting vote of their own choice.
- Women have built confidence to demand for their rights to political parties & local representatives.
- Women are greatly aware about vote casting process and procedure at polling stations.
- Women actively participated in distribution of posters & banners in their areas to promote Women political participation.

Political & Livelihood Rights for Rural Poor (PLRP-IV) Project is ongoing in three Union Councils (UC’s) i.e. Lohi, Bhetoor & Qazi Badal of Taluka Khangarh District Ghotki, Where VDO successfully conducted sessions and trainings regarding women political and Vote casting at this extant in Local government Election-2022 held on dated: 26 June 2022 at District Ghotki Sindh as following results of

Name of City/ Tehsil Council	Total Registered Voters			Total Polled Votes			Turnout in Registered Votes (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
UC-23 Qazi Badal	5,257	4,037	9,294	2,706	2,163	4,869	51.47	53.58	52.39 %
UC-24 Bhetoor	5,973	5,082	11,055	3,096	2,380	5,476	51.83	46.83	49.53 %
UC-25 Lohi	5,973	5,082	11,055	3,119	2,721	5,840	52.22	53.54	52.83 %

Voters turnout increased.



○ **Indicator 2.2: At-least 40% of the trained women in political participation are negotiating women focused plans with the political parties.**

The Major issue regarding women political participation highlighted during project tenure is that tribal system & feudalism has extremely affected women political participation which in result women's are very less in political representation. Most of the representatives of political parties only favor to their relative women so they cast vote for them & after being elected representatives they hardly know about their authorities or responsibilities. Even though they don't interrupt or participate in budgeting & making policies. In this regard VDO achieved following results.

✓ **Results:**

**In Ghotki**, as per "Women Assembly Action Plan 2022", under the leadership of chairperson, conference on "Climate Change" organized and following demands were presented by chairperson;

- All natural watercourses shell rehabilitates immediately
- Area Water Boards should be set up to deal with climate emergency
- Joint action will be taken at the national and provincial level in case of not taking appropriate measures.
- Environment friendly trees should be planted on the both sides of the Govt. roads.
- Legislation regarding tree plantation and deforestation should be strictly implemented and monitored.
- Farmers and landlords should be forced to plant fruit trees to support agriculture-based livelihood.

Beside this, four (04) women focused plans discussed with district president of women wing of PPPP in Khuli Kachahris and she committed to submit these plans to her provincial leadership. Follow-up plans developed and committee formed (from women assembly) to coordinate with district president under the leadership of chairperson. Action plan of women assembly **annexed**.

- Two women contested Local Government Election from Whole Taluka
- 38 women and girls were engaged as Poling Agents.
- There is 15% of trained women in political participation are negotiating WFP with political parties through meeting, lobbying & linkages with political parties
- 07 Meetings with NADRA and ECP held where women presented their demands for free and fare election and Strived to register women CNIC's. Most of the females couldn't have permission to get CNIC's but VDO Team continuously strive and made 4,000 above CNIC's from January 2021 to December 2022.
- Organized meetings with political parties where they negotiated their party portfolios and 23 above women's had become a part of different parties.
- VO members & youth beneficiaries stay an active on whatsapp group & facebook where they can direct raise voice for their rights, can easily connect with political leaders, build up their confidence & strengthen their power to evolve in political practices.
- Contested women are running election campaign on social media through posting their banners, posters, direct appeal for vote to audience through sharing messages & posts.

- Contested women have got a lot of support from the audience on social media who have encouraged their spirit and motivate them for make them more active political participation.

### **Achievements Objective 02:**

- Two (02) women contested L.G election as general councilors, unfortunately, could not succeed.
- 08% and 11% women voter turnout increased in L.G election 2022 in project focused UCs.
- 4,000 boys and girls registered themselves as a voter with election commission of Pakistan (ECP).
- 20 women from VOs are now member of different Govt. committees at district levels.
- 38 women performed their duties as polling agent, first time, in PLRP focused UCs. These women are member of women assembly and VOs.
- Khuli Kachahrii was organized after flood outbreak and women focused demands were presented in the presence of concerned authorities.
- NADRA new office established/opened in May 2022 at Khanpur (nearest to project focused UCs) with the efforts members of VOs and VDOs-partner of SAP-PK to facilitate women to registered themselves as voters

### **Objective 0.3 Improved organizational learning and knowledge management**

○ **Indicator 2.1: By the end of the project at-least 60% staff who attend the training on outcome and impact orientation perspective the organization to be open to new ideas.**

#### ✓ **Results:**

- Village Development Organization believe that trained organizational staff playing vital role for successfulness of the overall project performance, In this regard VDO regularly emphasizes their staff for learning through different online and in kind meetings and training sessions, so this project had also made crucial stage of performance for staff regarding mobilizing community for political participation, linkages with Line departments, highlighting community issues as CNIC's, Voter registration, & election nomination. Moreover this project has favorable function regarding staff training on OIO learning outcomes, as well as objective based approaches.

#### • **Challenges:**

##### ▪ **Challenges:**

As a result of PLRP project overall faced major challenges while flood disaster directly destroyed, women, girls and other marginalized groups while they faced the biggest challenges including access to humanitarian assistance. Women are more vulnerable of disasters than men due to the conditions that incline them to severe disaster impacts. Key issues that contribute to women's vulnerability include lack of education and information, limited access to resources, bad economic conditions, and also cultural issues. Moreover, women with disabilities and from

religious minority groups faced discrimination during such natural disasters. Women were suffered from physical injuries when they evict from their dwellings due to floods. Given the general limitations on women's mobility and education, particularly in Pakistan's especially rural areas of sindh, evacuation can be challenging as women are not fully equipped with life-saving skills such as swimming, navigation, or self-defense techniques. Furthermore, owing to the conservative and patriarchal nature of most rural households in Pakistan, women are often not allowed to leave their homes without a male companion or permission from the tribal elders and tend to have minimal outside exposure as a result. They are also primary caregivers at home which can further compromise their ability to evacuate. Nonetheless, for these women difficulties in finding adequate shelter, food, safe water, and fuel for cooking, as well as problems in maintaining personal hygiene and sanitation are genuine issues. All of these are problems related to women's gender identity and social roles. Many poor and destitute women remain unemployed during and after floods. Many daily wager women who work in informal sector have lost their employment and they are being not considered in the emergency relief strategies. Women also suffer from domestic violence and are subject to insecurity when taking refuge at community centers. These particular vulnerabilities and problems interrupt women's mitigation efforts and adaptation capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).





**FLOOD  
2022  
RESPONSE**

## Rescue to Flood Affected Families of UC Bhetoor, Lohi & Qazibadal Taluka Khangarh:



Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki with self Support formed team of 75 youth and men's for rescuing Flood Affected families from three Union Councils of Taluka Khangarh i.e. UC Bhetoor, UC Lohi & UC Qazi Badal.



Where VDO also provided Tractor and some necessary tools for saving lives of affected communities which includes children's, old age person, pregnant women's and peoples with special abilities. VDO also provided food and health services to volunteers; Volunteer Teams also

struggle 45 days efforts for dewatering of flood water from three UC's of Taluka Khangarh. Finally VDO

succeeded in dewatering of these areas with the special contribution and coordination of Volunteers team, and now fields are totally clear from flood water also can be use for cultivation as well.



## Cooked Food, Vegetable and Fruit Distribution:

In collective support of Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki, Philanthropists and Staff members, Provided Cooked Food to 300 families for 21 Days, VDO also made its contribution for affected families where distributed Daily Vegetable and Fruits among 300 families for 25 Days. VDO Distributed fruit among Children's and aged peoples because of their health improvements in flood days.



## Ration Distribution

With the contribution of South Asia Partnership (SAP) Pakistan, Philanthropists and Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki self contribution, Distributed Ration Bags among 450 mainly deprived Families from Flood Affected Areas of District Ghotki without any gender and religious discrimination, The criteria for ration bags distribution were highly ensured by VDO management as bellow;

- Transgender Community
- Persons with special abilities (Disable Persons)
- Pregnant women
- Minority females
- Female Headed Houses
- Most vulnerable and poorest family

VDO Distributed above mentioned Ration Bags among needy families of District Ghotki, Also distributed in those areas where no one reached before, throughout this initiative





VDO performed well for their community at grass root level. VDO thanked all contributors and sponsors of this drive for humanity.



## **Distribution of Mosquitoes**

### **Nets:**

In partnership with South Asia Partnership (SAP) Pakistan, Indus Consortium Islamabad and Human Development Foundation, VDO Distributed 1200 mosquitoes' nets among 600 families from flood affected areas of Taluka Khangarh and Ghotki.

## **Medical Camps**

Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki with the collaboration of Human Development Foundation (HDF) and PPHI Sindh organized medical camps in seven villages of Taluka Khangarh where 8670 community members were provided with health first aid.



## **Distribution of Winterization Kits (Shawls)**

400 winterization kits distributed by Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki among 200 families from vulnerable and deprived flood affected



community with the support of Indus Consortium Islamabad.

## Results/Outputs of the year:

- 1200 mosquito nets, medicines, drinking water and cooked food with worth of PKR 1.9 million were distributed among 600 families of Flood Affected UCs with the support Indus Consortium, Human Development Foundation (HDF) and local philanthropists.
- 250 Food and non- food items with worth of PKR 1.2 million distributed among 250 families of Flood Affected UCs with the support of SAP-Pakistan
- Medicines, fruits and vegetables were distributed among 250 families with worth of PKR 0.4 million with the support of local philanthropists.
- 400 winterization kits distributed among 200 families with worth of PKR 0.167 million in Flood Affected areas with the support of Indus Consortium.
- More than 4000 animals have been vaccinated and fodder provided for these animals with the support of Govt. Livestock Department-Sindh in Flood Affected Villages.
- Medical camps have been organized in seven villages where first aid had been provided to 8670 community members.





# Conference on Climate Change and Rehabilitation of Natural Waterways

## Introduction

A seminar was held at Bhattai Marriage Hall Ghotki on November 15th, 2022. The theme of the programme was 'climate change and rehabilitation of natural water ways'. The Programme was attended by majority of people belonging to different sectors including civil society, bar association, agriculture extension department, forest department, media (electronic & print) and majority of community members especially female.

## Background

A one day seminar-cum-workshop was organized on 'Climate Change and Rehabilitation of Natural Waterways' at Ghotki by Village Development Organization (VDO); it is one of the leading national organization working on climate change and major impacts on local level in different parts of Sindh province.

## Proceedings

The programme was initiated with the recitation of holy Quran which was volunteered by a student Tuba Pathan from government girls' higher secondary school Ghotki. The programme was moderated by Mr. Sarang Kaladi, president of Arts Council Ghotki. Later on, Ms. Samreen Wazeer recited the 'Praise of Allah Almighty'. Then he put simple light on journey of village development organization and overview of district Ghotki how it is vulnerable to climate change and variety of disasters induced by it. After that Ms. Azra Ali Gul presented the 'Praise of Mohammad (PBUH)'.

## Mr. Ali Hassan Mahar

Mr. Ali Hassan Mahar, chief executive of VDO, thanked to all participants, community and other stakeholders, who represented their worthy organizations/institutions during the programme. Further, he said that they were fortunate that their worthy mentor Mr. Tehseen is among them in this programme together with his team. Line departments of district administration particularly agriculture extension department, district forest team led by DFO Mr. Imran Shah, Indus

Consortium Pakistan, NGOs, IRADO, Media and Community who participated in this programme at short notice.

VDO has been working, since its establishment, for social change in district Ghotki; the change seemed perpetual, sustainable and always thriving. It was only possible when rural women of Ghotki district would be empowered. VDO has been making all possible efforts for the rural communities are often come across with social exclusion. They often realize themselves neglected and isolated; therefore they are left in such remote areas that are at brink of various risk and hardship in life and living. They are extremely malnourished comparatively and prone to domestic & social violence, different disastrous illness and such others.

VDO has enabled 12,000 womenfolk and youth through different skill development programmes with the tangible support of SAP Pakistan. This passage of socioeconomic change is continuing since 2006 with SAP Pakistan, I am confident enough that this voyage last for long. Since super flood in 2010, Sindh province has been experiencing worst kind of disasters which often result in dire consequences. The people of Ghotki have always found Sap Pakistan has at forefront in every situation, whether it is riverine floods, droughts or torrential rainfall.

#### **Mr. Abass Khoso**

Mr. Abass Khoso from integrated rural development organization (IRADO) district Tharparkar addressed to participants. According climate change has been bringing about very dreadful consequences for the very survival and related means of marginalized and vulnerable segments of the society. The communities especially living in rural and remote areas are already resource-poor and less capacitated to cope up with the upcoming challenges. Counties located in South Asian region are not contributor to bringing about climate change. The so called developed countries are directly responsible for this change and making enormous commitment to make the globe healthy and clean. On the other hand they collude in disguise to enhance emission in kind of making investment on petroleum & gas exploration, power generation from coal, burning fossil fuels and open-pit mining.

People of Pakistan, particularly from Sindh province, are easily victimized to the ferocities of the climate related extreme events causing loss of life, human suffering, and the destruction of the infrastructure and natural resource base upon which majority of livelihoods depend. The province of Sindh is comparatively more vulnerable to variety of disasters. Sindh the province has been the worst affected province since last two decades in Pakistan due to varying nature of disasters caused by climate change. Their socioeconomic cycle is associated closely with variety of agricultural activities. Let us agitate and launch a joint venture campaign for mitigation as well as adaptation of impacts of climate change.

**Mr. Riaz Ahmed Dayo**

Recent rainfall witnessed in Sukkur region disappointed to all of us; instead of celebrating bounties of God in kind of rain. We mourn over it bitterly, climate change is agriculture related subject and department has been making all possible efforts to educate communities to counter effects of climate change through planning that may be related to mitigation as well as adaptation. For the purpose, agriculture department initiated farmers' field schools and recent signed MoU with FAO for launching two projects in which environment, agriculture and irrigation is included. Another project is purely climate related named 'Green Climate Fund'. The projects only sustain that are owned by community and practiced.

**Mr. Mohammad Tehseen**

Mother earth is a living organism, it take sigh and breaths like other visible organisms another thing that is recognized globally is not to impede water; scenario is quite different here in Pakistan. Part of it related our political system of country; some of it is related to attitudes. I have few things to remind you that whenever there are such meetings in villages or cities; please bring youth in bulk because they have to take up reins. The climate change has been coming about and is affecting the lives and livelihoods of people across the world; once we would say communities do not cut down trees.

The primary responsibility for managing this kind of disaster risk lies with provincial governments; in highly vulnerable regions, institutional capabilities for disaster risk reduction is very low comparatively. Make shift arrangement for disposal of water like 'Gujjar Nula' is not remedy of our suffering as it produces more sufferings. Such as the case aforesaid drain; the government of Sindh once decided to de-silt the drain and thousands of marginalized people were displaced. Sindh has been the worst affected province in Pakistan in recent past due to varying nature of disasters in the context of climate change. The socioeconomic losses caused by these disasters have longer term effects. More than 80% of economic bases of the rural communities have been disrupted by such disasters. These unusual changes are directly linked with the changes taking place at global level. Consequently, water stress has increased due to increased rate of evaporation caused by temperature rise. However, many parts of the Sindh province have been coming across with acute shortage of water since 1990.

The severe incidents of climate change have been increasing, with the passage of time, causing reduction in the built-in environment and resources. The agricultural lands are already losing productive capacity. The seasonality of crop cultivation in upper parts (north Sindh) has been changed drastically. Premature monsoon spells and unusual high velocity winds bring lot of agro

based diseases which damage soil chemistry. The low income groups especially women headed households, asset/resource less poor households, daily-wagers, agriculture laborers and likely such others are the most vulnerable in the wake of climate change. They have less accessibility to existing earning resource and availability of alternative means of livelihood.

USA is major contributor to change climate followed by China. Although the contribution of country is about 0.9% according to UNFCCC; yet it numbers at five in Climate Risk Index 2020-21. I think we must initiate a campaign from all form and aspects. We must change our cultivation patterns and adopt our tradition crops and varieties.

### **Resolutions**

1. All natural waterways must be restored and rehabilitated;
2. Encroachment over waterways must be lifted;
3. All waterways must be constructed and lined up upto disposal point;
4. Area water board must be convened for regular supervision during emergency period;
5. Designated authority must inspect such waterway and allocate fund maintenance of such waterways;
6. Civil society of the area will identify such waterways that are encroached;
7. Such information will be shared with district administration and joint form;
8. In case of taking no satisfactory actions, an action will be taken at provincial level;
9. Trees will be planted along road sides to keep better environment;
10. Cleanliness of streets must be ensured;
11. There should be proper legislation for plantation and chopping trees
12. Agro-forestry must be promoted particularly plantation of fruit trees may be encouraged.

# Consultation with Farmers, Govt. Departments and CSO-Ghotki on Climate Resilience approaches and strategies.

On Dated: December 15, 2022

The meeting was organized by Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki in collaboration with south Asia Partnership (SAP) Pakistan the objective of meeting was to evaluate departmental approaches concerning climate resilience and strategies for way forward, It was attended by CSO's, Govt. Line Departments, Social Activists, Climate Activists, and Media representatives.

Key Findings	Recommendation
Ghotki has saline land and heavy rain water make it more vulnerable. Now this land is not fit for water intensive crops.	Village Development Organization (VDO) Ghotki and South Asia Partnership (SAP) Pakistan should organize district level consultation to 1) document ground realities 2) plan livelihood interventions and 3) to take Govt. departments onboard from planning stage.
Community forestry, livestock rearing-small animals, fodder crops and fruit trees are more suitable for Ghotki land.	
Syed Amir Hussain Shah -Divisional Forest Director added that we need to make our environment flexible, it is duty of every person to perform his/her role to make it cleaner, as temperature is increasing every year, so we need, more tree plantation- (community forestry). He also focused on awareness campaign.	
Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman, member Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority-SIDA and Aabadgar board highlighted that nature drainage is occupied by local feudal, although, Govt. of Sindh has already marked it. He said that in April 2022, we faced water scarcity, as a result, cannot cultivate crops. He explained that water, forestry, livelihood and food all are integrated and we need to launch awareness campaign and also need to introduce alternate of agriculture.	
Khadim Hussain Malik-Advocate said that environment is very important for living organisms, need to 1) engage media to create awareness 2) desalting of canals and 3) need to form advocacy forum at district level as watchdog.	
Ellahi Bux-Agriculture Officer said, Ghotki has saline land and it is not fit for sugarcane. We need to plant fruit trees	
Muhammad Kashif Leghari-Forest officer added that land is our asset and we need agro-forestry.	
Shabir Ahmad-Deputy Director said it is an alarm for all of us; district administration should come out of their offices and ensure implementation of the policies in favor of the most vulnerable communities. He also highlighted that we need to change "loan System"	
Hakim Zadi- women farmer added that if we have resources then we can	



cultivate our crops on time, can market it on our will and rate. She said that if we cultivate crop on time then we can get maximum production.

Sahjan Bai asked about more information regarding agriculture.

Jannat Bhatti said that women should aware “how they can keep clean environment” of their houses. Due to heavy rains, they faced sever problems. Women need awareness on tree plantation at household levels.

Allaha Warayo, Journalist said that we have infrastructure, SCARP installed 1300 tube wells, out of these 1100 are not in working condition. All these are still operational in papers and electricity bills along with operator salary are received by the departments. He added that in current crises, deputy commissioner, not even visit a single village or city street to gauge flood damages.

# Case Studies

## 1. Miss Yasmin Tahira

Yasmin Tahira lives in the village of Malook Wari which is 30km from the Ghotki city of Sindh province of Pakistan. She belongs to a lower-middle-class family whose main source of income is rearing animals and small-scale farming done by women.

Yasmin Tahira has 6 children. She graduated from a local government college in her city in 2005. Miss Yasmin is a housewife, but she is very active in social and political activities at the village level.

Due to social barriers and family restrictions, she



was not been able to get involved in politics very actively. Yasmin Tahira was introduced to the JAZBA program by VDO & SAP-PK in 2021. Her husband supported her and motivated her to meet the district-level representative of the JAZBA program known as the LRP (Local Resource Person) and get more information about it. She became a part of the program and got a chance to attend different activities and training sessions. She soon became a member of JAZBA District Forum-JDF due to her efforts and active participation. As a member of the JDF, she participated in monthly planning meetings of JAZBA, training organized at district, provincial and national levels on women's leadership & local government system, orientation sessions, development plans, budgeting & social accountability. These sessions enhanced her knowledge and improved her capacity building. She also got a chance to meet and share stories of her efforts and struggles with other women. This gave her new energy and confidence to continue her struggle for women's political participation. After that, she developed a women's mobilization strategy and started mobilizing women and young girls in her area. She also facilitated women acquiring the identity card and getting their votes registered. In this regard, she identified 700 young girls & women in her area and submitted lists to the Election commission of Pakistan (the body responsible to carry out elections in Pakistan) for their registration as citizens and voters.

During the latest local government elections in Sindh, she ran a women's voter mobilization campaign with the support of the Jazba program. The main focus of the campaign was the “right to vote” for women. She mobilized women through a door-to-door campaign and distributed posters, pamphlets, and stickers among rural women in her area. She highlighted the political rights of women during her interaction with other women in her constituency.

In the local government election in 2022, she contested two seats (one in the women's general seat and the other on district vice chairman) as an independent candidate. She was given a very tough time during her election campaign as she was challenging the existing feudal system. She was refused the nomination papers by the office of the election commission due to the pressure of the powerful feudal. She was also pressurized to withdraw and was also threatened by them. She fought very bravely and remained steadfast.

According to her,” On the Election Day, the opposition party’s candidate gave money to the polling staff so that he could rig the elections by casting votes as per his own will.”

She further told us that a huge number of false votes were cast by the polling agents due to a lack of security at the polling stations. She also added that she faced a lot of mental abuse as well as physical violence during these elections.

She got 542 votes but unfortunately could not win the seat. Yasmin fought with such bravery that her exemplary story became a source of inspiration for many women in the area. Other political parties are approaching her for membership in their parties and offering her district-level party positions. She is focusing more on building links with government institutions and supporting women in the area by utilizing her political links and experiences. Her journey was not an easy one but being a part of SAP-PK helped her with her struggle. She hopes for a better future for minorities and marginalized communities through her struggle.



## 2- حاجل بھٹی

گاؤں بھٹی آباد یونین کاؤنسل لوہی کی رہنے والی سماجی خاتون مسماٹ حاجل بھٹی کی عمر بیالیس سال ہے۔ ان کی تعلیم پرائمری (5 کلاس) ہے۔ حاجل ایک شادی شدہ خاتون ہے۔ اس کے شوہر کا نام محمد یاسین ہے اور مسماٹ حاجل کے 5 بچے ہیں 3 بیٹے اور 2 بیٹیاں ہیں حاجل ایک گھریلو خاتون اور یومیہ اجرت پر مزدور ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ گھر کے کاموں اور روزمرہ کے اخراجات میں اپنے خاندان کی کفالت کرتی ہے، دیہی علاقوں میں رہنے کی وجہ سے زندہ رہنے کے لیے مویشی پالنا بہت ضروری ہے۔ مسماٹ حاجل اپنی دیہی تنظیم جس کا نام

سلطان باہو ترقیت تنظیم ہے اس تنظیم کی ممبر بنی جس میں انہوں نے صنفی بنیاد پر تشدد کے واقعات، لڑکیوں کی تعلیم پر خاندانی پابندیوں سمیت مسائل کی نشاندہی کی اور وی ڈی اوسپ کے ساتھ مسائل کے حل کے لیے ٹریننگز اور میٹنگز کی جس سے کافی حد تک تبدیلی آئی۔ اس کے علاوہ ہم نے کمیٹی میں میٹنگز، ٹریننگز اور سیشن کے ذریعے اس طرح کی سیاسی بیداری کو بڑھایا۔ مسماٹ حاجل پی۔ ایل۔ آر۔ پی پروگرام کے ذریعے گاؤں کے

لڑکے اور لڑکیوں کو روزگار کے مواقع مہیا کیے جس سے انتہائی غریب خاندانوں نے اس سے فائدہ حاصل کیا ہے اور ان کے گھر کے حالات بہتر ہوئے ہیں۔

2021 میں مسماٹ حاجل ضلعی خواتین اسمبلی کی ممبر بنی جس میں انہوں نے اپنے علاقے کی خواتین اور مردوں کے 2317 شناختی کارڈز بنوائے، مسماٹ حاجل نے اپنے گاؤں بھٹی آباد میں ہونے والے جون 2022 کے ضمنی انتخابات میں بطور جزل کونسلر حصہ لیا چونکہ اس علاقے میں جاگیر دارانہ نظام کے نشانات ابھی باقی ہیں جو خواتین کو انتخابی انتخابات میں حصہ لینے سے روکتے ہیں۔

مسماٹ حاجل نے ایل جی الیکشن حصہ لیا لیکن ان کے اہل خانہ، رشتہ داروں کی جانب سے تنقید کی گئی اور مقامی حکام کی جانب سے دھمکایا گیا جس کے بعد اس کے پاس دستبردار ہونے کے علاوہ اور کوئی آپشن نہیں تھا بد قسمتی سے مسماٹ حاجل کو الیکشن لڑنے سے دستبردار ہونا پڑا لیکن اس نے ہمت نہیں ہاری اور الیکشن میں بطور پولنگ ایجنٹ حصہ لیا اور دھمکانے والے نامزد امیدوار کو ہرایا۔ مسماٹ حاجل کے ساتھ ان کے گاؤں کی خواتین مل بیٹھ کے فیصلہ سازی کرتی ہیں اور یہ امید کرتی ہیں کہ آنے والے الیکشن میں گاؤں کی تمام خواتین حصہ لیں گی اور اپنے علاقے کے مستقبل کے لیے کوشاں ہوں گی۔

### 3. Miss. Jannat Khatoon

Jannat Khatoon lives in moholla Rahmowali main city Ghotki. She has 6 children 5 daughters & 1 son. She has passed primary education from Govt. Girls School. She belongs to very conservative & poor family.

Jannat Khatoon is usual housewife engaged in house chores all the time. She is very active & skilled but due to family restrictions & social hurdles which resists her to involve in any kind of social activity.

When Jannat Khatoon heard about JAZBA program which was implemented in 2021, she tried to be in touch with concerns so finally she made it possible to reach at the platform where she was greatly aware about the program & its objectives, purposes & importance with the help of local resource person. After knowing about JAZBA she realized that this platform is very meaningful for women to get empowered and promote women political participation.





Jannat Khatoon was looking keen interested & enthusiastic to join the JAZBA platform & she was being selected as member of women voter network group. In this meantime she was participated in meetings, sessions & trainings where she was guided and get known about women' rights, reduction of GBV (Gender based violence) incidents & women leadership which increased her knowledge about political awareness.

Jannat Khatoon skillfully completed her responsibilities as being member of WVN group. She identified un-registered young girls & women in moholla Rahmowali and get their CNIC registered & auto votes registered in voter list. She conducted awareness sessions in her area to encourage women to increase their involvement in political practices and play active role in election as voter & candidate to increase women representation in current LG election.

While sharing her experience during LG election 2022 Jannat Khatoon contested for election on general councilor seat as independent candidate and organized election campaign for distribution of posters, banners & conducted meetings with people of her areas to convince & influence them to caste vote for her with the support of JAZBA platform. She had a lot of political barriers and hurdles by her relatives & political representatives to withdraw from election. She was threatened and was bribed for corruption by political parties to withdraw from election so she will be rewarded with huge price and jobs to her husband & children but she denied for this favor and said that she will only contest fairly no matters either win or lose but I will contest for election with sincerity.

Jannat Khatoon proved herself and got 116 votes in her area as she said these votes are my achievement as winning or losing is part of life. She set an example for all other women who belongs to poor and strict families and could not raise voice for their rights that women can be empowered and they have all freedom to speak and equal rights to live better life. She inspired many women to involve in political sphere by her bravery and left her foot prints of her role model on women that women can play important role as political representative so all women said that we will participate and promote women political participation by active participation in political activities and decision making.

## 4- حاکم زادی



حاکم زادی کی عمر 40 سال ہے اور یہ گاؤں پنھل سیال ضلع گھونگی کی رہائشی ہے۔ ان کا تعلق غریب اور قدامت پسند گھرانے سے ہے۔ حاکم زادی شادی شدہ خاتون ہے اور ان کا شوہر جسمانی معذور ہے ان کے 14 بچے ہیں۔ حاکم زادی گھریلو بیوی ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک یومیہ اجرت پر مزدور خاتون ہے جس میں کچھ مویشی بھی شامل ہیں یہی ان کی آمدنی کا ذریعہ معاش ہے۔ پسماندہ علاقے کی رہائشی ہونے کے ناطے ایک پدرانہ نظام عام ہے جو

خواتین کو گھر کے کاموں کے علاوہ دیگر سماجی اور سیاسی سرگرمیوں سے روکتا ہے۔ خواتین کو صرف خاندان کے افراد کی خدمت اور گھریلو کام کرنے کی ذمہ دار سمجھا جاتا ہے اور خواتین کو فیصلہ سازی، تعلیم، پسند کی شادی، شناختی کارڈ کی رجسٹریشن، اپنی پسند کا ووٹ کاسٹ کرنے، سیاست میں حصہ لینے کے لیے حوصلہ افزائی نہیں کی جاتی ہے۔ ان اہم باتوں کی نشاندہی پہلے کی گئی تھی۔ لیکن وی ڈی اور سیپ کی مدد سے (پی ایل آر پی) پروگرام متعارف کرانے کے بعد وہاں کے لوگوں نے اپنی طرز زندگی کو بہتر بنانے کی کوشش کی ہے 2012 سے اس پروگرام کی شروعات ہوئی جس میں 10 گاؤں شامل ہوئے ہر ایک گاؤں میں سے دیہی سطح پر تنظیم بنائی گئیں۔ حاکم زادی اپنے گاؤں کی تنظیم پر ترقیاتی کمیٹی کی صدر بنی جس کے بعد امن کمیٹی ممبر ہوئی۔ وہ اچھی طرح سے تربیت یافتہ ہے اور سیاسی بیداری کے سیشن، کو آرڈینیشن مینٹنس، ضلعی اور قومی سطح کی تربیت کے ذریعے خواتین کے حقوق اور سیاست کے کردار کے بارے میں آگاہی اپنے علاقے کی خواتین کو دیتی ہے۔ جس سے بہت زیادہ اعتماد پیدا ہوتا ہے اور حاکم زادی نے وی ڈی۔ او گھونگی اور سیپ پاکستان کے پروگرام (پی ایل آر پی) کے تحت تقریباً 125 انتہائی غریب لڑکوں اور لڑکیوں کو روزگار کے مواقع فراہم کیے جو کہ اس کی سماجی خدمات کی ایک بہترین مثال ہے۔ حاکم زادی کی ان کوششوں سے گاؤں کے غریب خاندان چھوٹی پیمانے پر کاروبار چلا رہے ہیں اور ان کی زندگی کافی ہونے لگی ہے حاکم زادی نے گاؤں کی خواتین کے ساتھ مل کر گاؤں کی ترقی کے لیے کچھ سکیموں کو گاؤں کی ترقی کے منصوبے میں شامل کیا جس کے ساتھ انہوں نے وہ مطالبات حکومت اور دیگر وسائل فراہم کرنے والوں کو پیش کیے اس پلیٹ فارم کے ذریعے حاکم زادی نے اپنے گاؤں کے لوگوں کو ان کے بنیادی حقوق، تعلیم، امن اور محبت کے ساتھ رہنے اور بڑے اور چھوٹوں کی عزت کرنے کی آگاہی فراہم کی۔ حاکم زادی نے وی ڈی او، سیپ پاکستان، ای سی پی اور نادرا کے ساتھ مل کر 4000 سے زائد علاقے کی خواتین اور مردوں کے شناختی کارڈ بنوائے اور ووٹ رجسٹرڈ کروائے۔

حاکم زادی نے 26 جون 2022 کو ہونے والی لوکل گورنمنٹ الیکشن میں بطور جنرل کانسلیئر ممبر حصہ لیا۔ چونکہ اس علاقے میں جاگیر دارانہ نظام ہے جس کی وجہ سے زیادہ تر غریب اور بے سہارا لوگ ان جاگیر داروں کے غلام بنے ہوئے ہیں اور ان جاگیر داروں کا ظلم برداست کر رہے ہیں لیکن پی ایل آر پی پروگرام کے سیاسی بیداری کے سیشنز اور تربیت کے ذریعے بہت سے لوگوں نے خواتین کی سیاسی شرکت کے بارے میں سوچنے کے عمل کو بدل دیا

- خواتین اپنی پسند کے نمائندے کو ووٹ دینے کیلئے بہت زیادہ آگاہ ہیں۔ حاکم زادی کو الیکشن سے دستبردار ہونے پر جاگیرداروں کی طرف سے بہت زیا  
دہ مجبور کیا گیا جس کی وجہ سے وہ الیکشن نہیں لڑ سکی لیکن تمام خطرات کے باوجود اس نے امید نہیں ہاری اور مقامی حکام سے مطالبہ کیا کہ وہ ہمارے  
لوگوں کی بہتری کے لیے کام کریں۔ اب انہوں نے مقامی حکام سے براہ راست بات چیت کرنے کے لیے کافی اعتماد پیدا کر لیا ہے۔ ان کے علاقوں کے  
مقامی نمائندوں نے اس بات کو یقینی بنایا کہ وہ تمام مانگی گئی ترقیاتی سکیموں پر کام کریں گے اور خواتین کی سیاسی شرکت کی حمایت کریں گے۔



# PICTURES GALLERY





