



2nd Environmental and Social Quarterly Progress Report (June 2023 – August 2023)

Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project

September 2023

Acronyms

ES	Environmental Specialist
ESS	Environment and Social Safeguard
EMF	Environmental Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESSC	Environmental and Social Screening Checklist
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESCoP	Environment and Social Codes of Practice
GRM	Grievance Redressal Mechanism
GS	Gender Specialist
HSE	Health Safety Environment
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
LMP	Labor Management Plan
OHS	Occupational Health & Safety
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SDS	Social Development Specialist
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SH	Sexual Harrasment
SFEHRP	Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project
STAT	Socio Technical Assistance Team
SEPA	Sindh Environmental Protection Agency
VRC	Village Reconstruction Committee
WB	World Bank

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Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project

Quarterly Progress Report for the period June 2023 – August 2023

1. Progress on Environment & Social Safeguards

This report presents the overall quarterly progress on Environmental and Social Safeguards status of Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project (SFEHRP) including compliance in terms Environmental and Social commitment Plans (ESCP) developed in coordination with the World Bank by SPHF.

In order to strengthen the ESCP, SPHF Management and E&S team completed the tasks related to the preparation of safeguard documents and implemented in the field such as E&S Screening Checklist, Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Stakeholder's Engagement Plan (SEP), and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to ensure that the agreed E&S safeguard documents implemented in the field.

The settlements where the validated cases approved by SPHF for the disbursement of grants to reconstruct their houses, the communities were organized. As of August 2023, 7,368 Village Reconstruction Committees (VRC) have been formed to support the beneficiaries and implementing partners of SPHF in smooth implementation of the project in 24 districts of Sindh. Total membership of these VRCs is 49,638 out of which 18,834 (38%) are women members. Through the involvement of these VRCs, the E&S screening of 4,923 villages have been completed during the reporting period in this quarter (June, July and August 2023).

2. Status of ESS Instruments Submission and Approval

The overall status of ESS Instruments submitted during the reporting period are given in Table-1.

Table 1. Matrix for Environmental and Social Instruments submitted/approved to/by WB

Sr. No.	ESS Instrument	Status
1.	Inception Report	Approved by the Bank
2.	Environmental and Social Management Framework	Approved by the Bank
3.	Stakeholders' Engagement Plan	Approved by the Bank
4.	Labor Management Plan	Approved by the Bank
5.	Gender Action Plan	Approved by the Bank
6.	ESCoPs (English, Sindh)	Approved by the Bank
7.	Minimum Construction Guidelines	Approved by the bank
8.	E&S Screening Checklist (English, Sindhi & Urdu)	Approved by the Bank

9.	Resettlement/Voluntary Relocation Assessment Checklist	Approved By the Bank
10.	Incident Reporting Form (English & Sindhi)	Approved By the Bank
11.	Negative Positive List	Approved by the Bank
12.	Terms of Partnership to be signed with VRCs	Approved by the Bank
13.	Undertaking to be signed with individual beneficiaries	Approved by the Bank

2.1. Disclosure of ESS Instruments

In order to follow the Bank guidelines for the disclosure of information, following ESS instruments/documents have been uploaded on the SPHF website.

1. Environmental and Social Management Framework
2. Stakeholder's Engagement Plan
3. Labor Management Procedures
4. Gender Action Plan
5. Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
6. Environmental & Social Screening Checklist
7. Negative & Positive List
8. Environmental and Social Code of Practices (ESCoPs)

These documents can be accessed through the link below on the SPHF website

1. www.sphf.gos.pk/environment-social/
2. www.sphf.gos.pk/projectdocuments/

2.2. Institutional Arrangements for ESS Compliance

The supervision of the project works is being carried out by SPHF which is comprised of Environmental Specialist (ES), Social Development Specialist and Gender Specialist (GS). The (5) implementing partners are working in (24) districts of Sindh. The project and IPs E&S teams ensure that the environmental and social safeguard related mitigation and management measures proposed are being implemented as per the Bank guidelines.

The ESS management teams of the project and their respective roles are provided in the table 4.1 below

Table 4.1: ESS Management			
Proponent	Institution	Name	Designation
	SPHF	Mr. Jalal Jafri Mr. Jhaman Lalchandani Mr. Shama Sheikh	Environmental Specialist Social Development Specialist Gender Specialist
I	HANDS	Sana Sajjad	Environmental & Social Safeguard Specialist

	SAFCO	Zulfiqar Ali Muttaqi Iqra Shoaib	Environmental & Social Safeguard Specialist Gender Special
	TRDP	Sarib Ali Lakhair Kanwal	Environmental Specialist Gender & Social Safeguard Specialist
	NRSP	Nazeer Ahmed Laghari N. M. Chandio Reema Latif	Environmental Specialist Social Safeguard Specialist Gender Specialist
	SRSO	Zahid Soomro Shazia Sheikh Hafeeza Bozdar	Environmental Specialist Social Safeguard Specialist Gender Specialist

3. Progress on Safeguards Standards

3.1. Environmental & Social Safeguard Activities

3.1.1. Environmental Screening

The ESS screening was carried out for the settlements proposed for the starting of reconstruction by IPs. STATS carried out Environmental & Social Screening using the screening checklists. The exercise of screening implemented by using the online application of Kobo Toolbox. The total number of E&S screening completed during the outgoing quarter is 4923. The IP wise details are given in Figure-4.1.

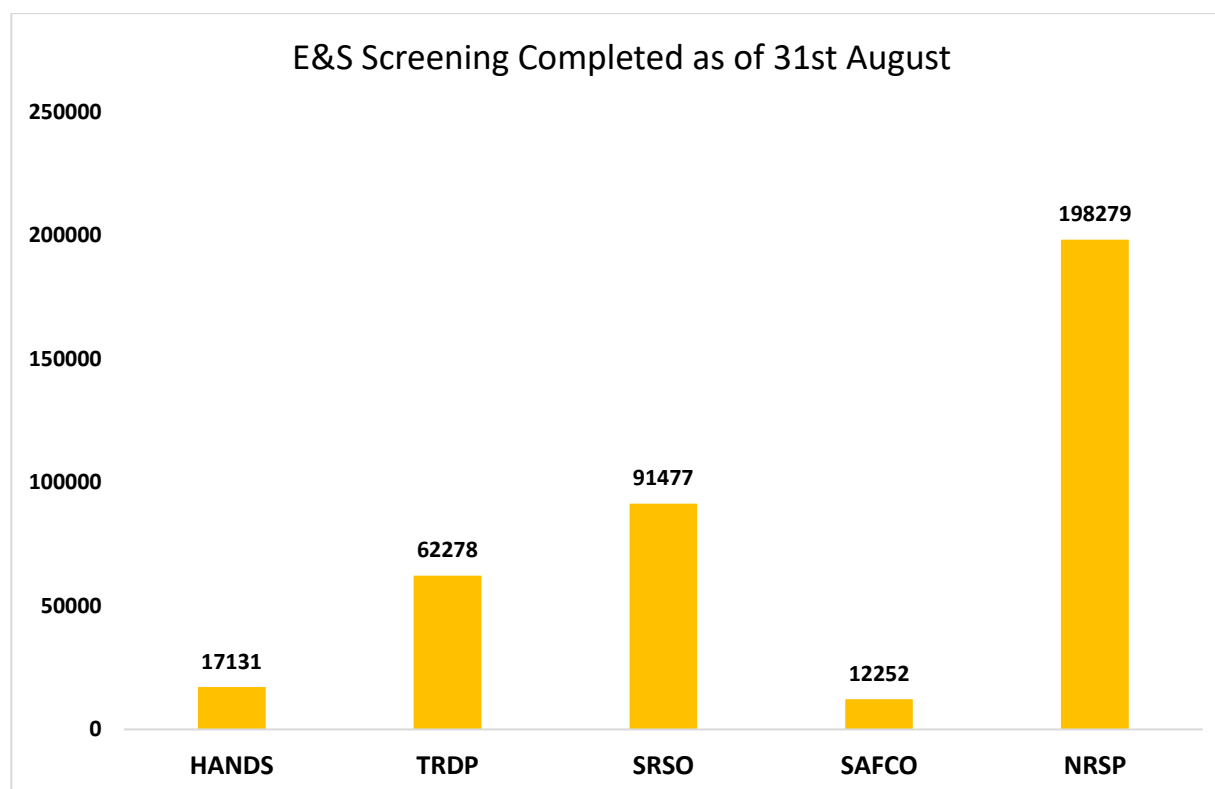


Figure 4.1: IP wise Environmental & Social Screening Checklist Conducted.

IP and district wise details of E&S Screening completed are shown in the **Table 4.1** below.

Table 4.1 Environmental & Social Screening completed as of 31st August 2023			
IP	DISTRICTS	SETTLEMENTS	HOUSING UNITS
HANDS	Ghotki	132	5,213
	Umerkot	119	3,035
	Sukkur	88	3,795
	Thatta	101	1,174
	Hyderabad	83	3,914
	Total	523	17,131
TRDP	Jamshoro	134	29,433
	Dadu	200	32,845
	Total	334	62,278
SRSO	Jacobabad	18	1,261
	Khairpur	280	20,340
	Kamber Shadadkot	221	28,319
	Larkana	224	34,890
	Shikarpur	88	6,667
	Total	831	91,477
SAFCO	Naushara Feroze	618	6,801
	Shaheed Benazirabad	794	5,451
	Total	1,412	12,252
NRSP	Badin	35	5,260
	Sangarh	548	97,032
	Mirpurkhas	423	39,112
	Sujawal	333	22,216
	Matari	100	5,470
	Tando Allayar	128	15,058
	Tando Muhammad Khan	256	14,131
	Total	1,823	198,279
GRAND TOTAL		4,923	381,417

As per the received screening checklists, the project's settlements lie in (low) risk category therefore, the environmental and social impact of the sub-project activities is also very (low). The impact with low risk category are given below with the mitigation measures.

Village Reconstruction Committee

Overall, the VRC plays a crucial role in facilitating environmental issues in the rehabilitation phase. By promoting sustainable development, ensuring environmentally sound rehabilitation, engaging the community, and strengthening local institutions, the VRC can help to ensure that the rehabilitation process is sustainable and resilient.

The Village Reconstruction Committee (VRC) is a community-based organization formed by the implementing partners (IPs) of Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF) in all

settlements/villages where the reconstruction of houses is planned under Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project (SFEHRP) to facilitate the reconstruction of houses in their villages and communities. The VRCs typically consist of local community members who are elected or appointed to facilitate and oversee the verification of the beneficiaries, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the reconstruction work.

The primary purpose of the VRCs is to ensure that the reconstruction process is participatory, inclusive, and transparent, with the active involvement of community members.

The VRCs facilitate IPs and local community in ensuring that the reconstruction process is community-driven, sustainable, flood resilient, and meets the technical, social, and environmental requirements set for the reconstruction work under SFEHRP. The VRC members frequently communicate with IPs and other relevant stakeholders on general grievances related to the project in their settlements/villages and propose redressal measures for the same. In addition to this, the VRCs will inform committees about housing reconstruction policies, assist mobile team in organizing assessment, training and inspection, lead housing reconstruction planning activities, promote multi-hazard resistant building techniques as per the guidelines given by SPHF, contribute to data on the community, contribute to compliance through advising beneficiaries, organize community environmental and social safeguard management activities in relation with housing reconstruction, support community-based land dispute resolution, assist vulnerable families, etc

During the reporting period a total of 9,168 VRCs formed with 67,912 members. Out of total VRC membership, 41% are women members; the details are shown in Figure 4.2 and 4.3

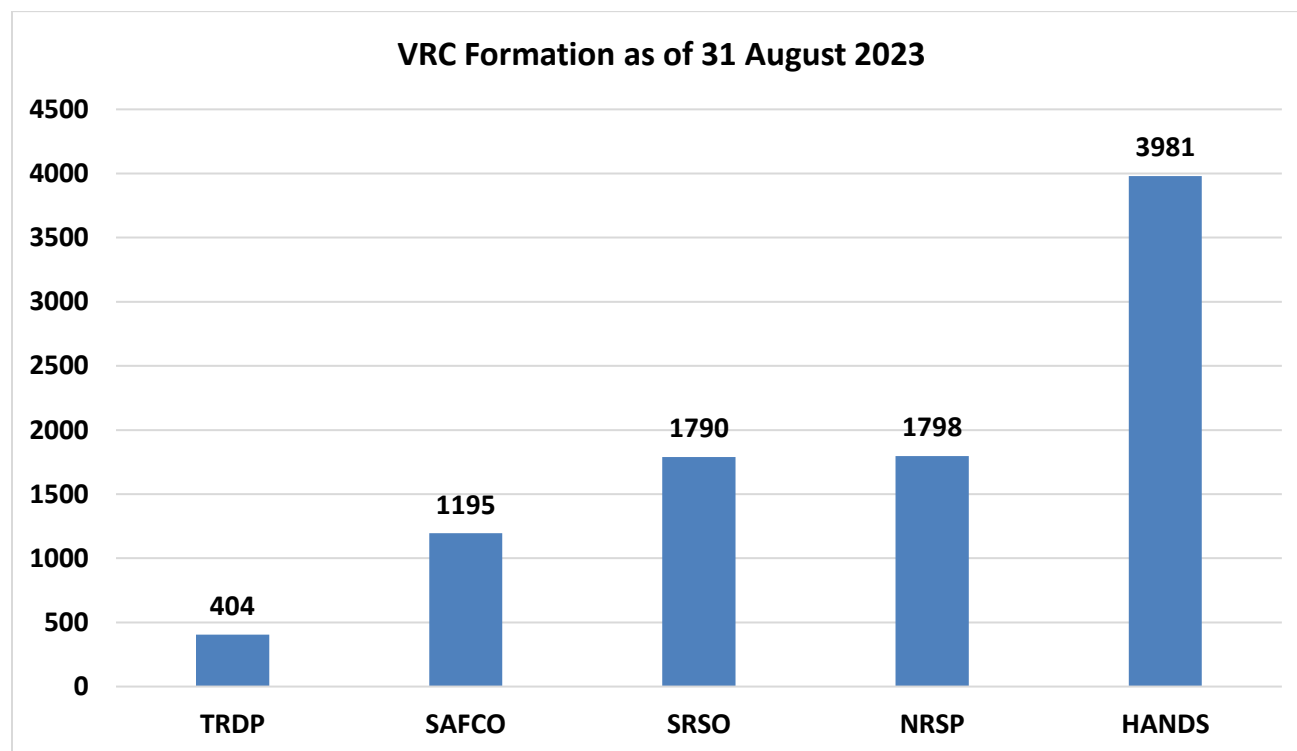


Figure 4.2: VRC Formation as of 31st August, 2023.

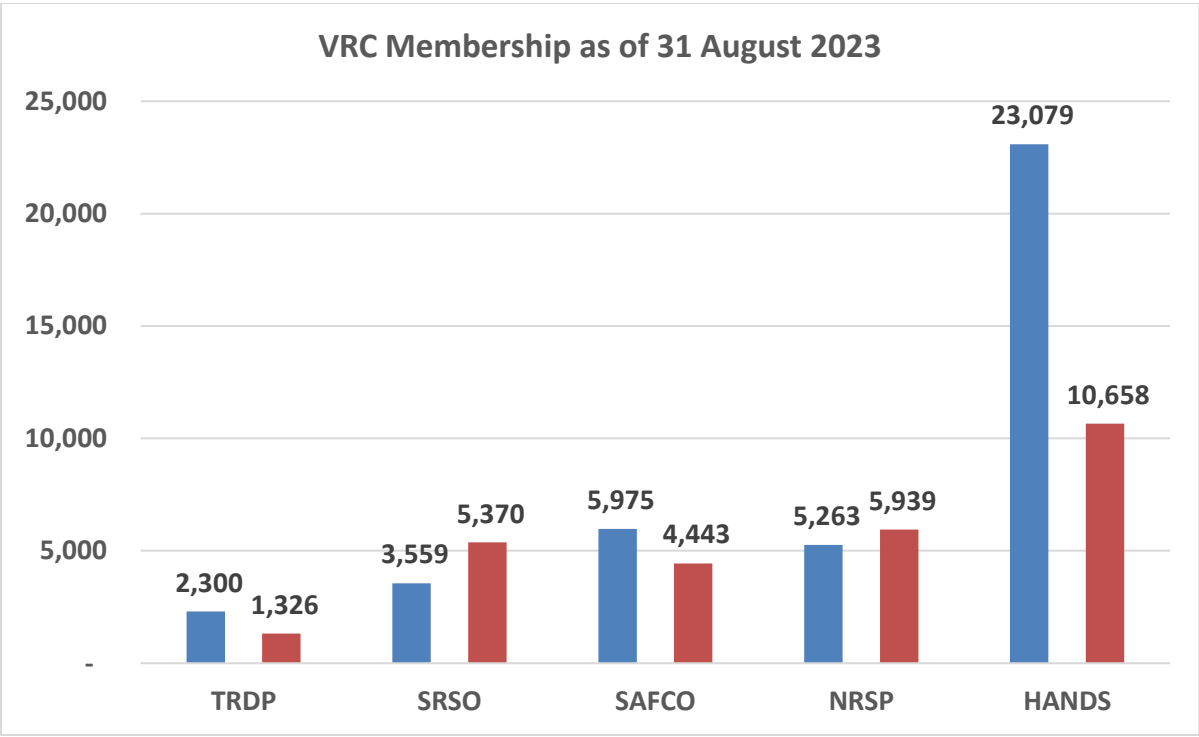


Figure 4.3: VRC Membership as of 31st May 2023

E&S team of SPHF regularly orient, facilitate, and provide training to the relevant IP staff for carrying out Environmental and Social Safeguard activities as per the Bank guidelines and the progress of activities in specific areas of implementation. To facilitate the process of community mobilization in all the districts simultaneously, the VRC are being formed in all districts by the IPs.

IP and district wise details of VRC formation and membership are shown in the table 4.2 below.

S. No.	Name of IP	Name of Districts	No. of VRCs Formed as of 31-August 2023	Cumulative No. of VRC Members		
				Male	Female	Total
1	HANDS	Thatta	321	2,493	2,092	4,585
2		Sukkur	251	2,154	1,104	3,258
3		Umerkot	1,210	7,300	1,826	9,126
4		Hyderabad	308	2,910	1,528	4,438
5		Ghotki	1,222	5,093	3,490	8,583
6		Malir	14	129	25	154
7		Kashmore	655	3,000	593	3,593
Total HANDS		7	3,981	23,079	10,658	33,737
8	NRSP	Badin	565	1,729	2,085	3,814
9		Matiali	125	574	775	1,349
10		T.M Khan	416	582	653	1,235
11		Tando Allahyar	165	652	1,108	1,760
12		Mirpurkhas	145	865	617	1,482
13		Sujawal	3291	535	403	938
14		Sanghar	91	326	298	624
Total NRSP		7	1,798	5,263	5,939	11,202
15	SRSO	Kamber	282	630	1,085	1,715
16		Larkano	289	608	901	1,509
17		Khairpur	687	854	1,430	2,284
18		Shikarpur	268	751	1,333	2,084
19		Jacobabad	264	716	621	1,337
Total SRSO		5	1,790	3,559	5,370	8,929
20	SAFCO	Shaheed Benazirabad	769	3,845	3,076	6,921
21		Naushehro Feroze	426	2,130	1,367	3,497
Total SAFCO		2	1,195	5,975	4,443	10,418
22	TRDP	Dadu	222	1,294	694	1,988
23		Jamshoro	180	996	624	1,620
24		Tharparkar	2	10	8	18
Total TRDP		3	404	2,300	1,326	3,626
Grand Total		24	9,168	40,176	27,736	67,912
Percentage				59%	41%	

3.1.2. General Description of Environmental and Social Safeguard Activities

The key monitoring activities conducted within the reporting period are as follows:

- ESS Checklist compliance monitoring was carried out by using Kobo Toolbox application.
- The E&S team conducted various sessions with IPs senior and E&S staff to orient on the sensitivity of the social and environmental compliances.
- The arrangement for the ESS Trainings as per the requirements of ESCP, and will be continued in the succeeding quarters.

3.1.3. Site Audits

Site inspections of the sub-projects were performed by the E&S team of the project in order to comply with the World Bank ESS requirements and the IPs being immediately supported to resolve any non-compliance identified during the site inspections and capacity building sessions were arranged.

3.1.4. Waste Management

No construction related waste in high quantities was generated and most of the debris and excavated soil were used for backfilling. The beneficiaries and IPs are guided to maintain good house-keeping practices on the construction sites.

3.1.5. Health and Safety

i. Community Health and Safety (CHS)

No incidents related to the community health and safety has been reported during the reporting quarter. The construction sites were barricaded properly in order to prevent children and unauthorized personnel to enter the construction sites.

ii. Workers Health and Safety

The provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) including Safety Jackets, safety helmets, goggles and gloves for the workers were ensured.

iii. Tree Plantation

In continuation to the SPHF internal discussions and the deliberations with the Bank staff, SPHF is focusing to achieve ESMF plus. To start with, SPHF has sensitized all IPs and VRCs to start growing trees in the areas near to the reconstruction sites. During the reporting quarter, approx. 1200 saplings of various kinds of trees were planted in different settlements by HANDS and community.

3.1.6. Institutional Strengthening and Training

To ensure the provision of complete project insight including various tools and techniques applied in the field, regular training and orientation sessions for IP staff are conducted by SPHF core team. This process will continue in upcoming quarters as well to enable IP staff implement project activities with required quality. The details of training events conducted with IP staff are given in **Table-4.3**

<i>Table 4.3 Details of Training/Orientation of IP staff</i>
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S. No.	Type of Training/Orientation Sessions	No. of IPs	No. of Events	No. of IP staff (Pax)		
				Male	Female	Total
1.	Implementation of E&S Screening Checklist	5	7	102	16	118
2.	Occupational Health and Safety training for IP staff	5	2	15	05	20
3.	Rolling out Grievance Redressal Mechanism with IP staff	5	1	14	08	22
4.	Conducted orientation workshop with IP project staff on gender & Gender Based Violence (GBV)	5	1	15	9	24
5.	Orientation session with VRC and women beneficiaries on gender and gender-based violence (GBV)	2	2	37	81	118
6.	Gender main streaming in water management – International Water Management Institute - USAID	1	1	15	15	30
7.	Environmental & Social Management Framework – by World Bank	5	1	25	7	32
8.	Training session on Labor Management Procedures, Stakeholder's Engagement Plan, Grievance Redressal Mechanism, E&S Screening	5	2	5	32	38
Total		5	17	228	173	401

3.1.7. Stakeholder's Consultations

In the reporting period, consultations and meetings were carried out with various potential stakeholders including local community in various areas. The project's Environmental Specialist (ES), Social Development Specialist (SDS) and Gender Specialist (GS) took active part in the consultation process and facilitated the consultants. (Photographs of few consultations attached in Annexure A)

3.1.8. Community Consultations

The community in the project areas was informed about the details of the project during the ESS instrument preparation stage. They were briefed about;

- Details of the sub-project and its components;
- Information on benefits from the project; and

- Needs, priorities and reactions of the affected people regarding the project were recorded.

Their concerns were noted and addressed. The GS also carried out various consultations with the females of the community. (Details are part of all sub project ESS documents) (Photographs of the consultations attached in Annexure A)

The community is consulted on continuous basis during the implementation phase as well. The ESS team of the project during the visits also consulted the community to understand their grievances if any and details of the project were shared with the community during the visits.

3.2. Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)

The project has established a GRM under the supervision of COO of the project and a 3rd Party Firm with the designated staff responsibilities at each level i.e., Community-level, management level (IPs), and the project level (GRC and higher management).

3.3. Gender & Social Inclusion (GSI)

This section provides an overview of the gender& social inclusion in the project. In compliance with World Bank (WB) requirements, in reporting quarter SPHF has updated the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and incorporate the Sexual exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) to promulgate a systematic and result-based approach for including and integrating considerations based on gender, with a focus on women empowerment, in all project activities. This Gender & SEA/SH Action Plan will ensure that the specific needs and concerns of women, especially women-headed households, widows, single, unaccompanied elders, women with disable husbands, disabled, divorced, women dependent on others, transgender and other vulnerable groups in terms of access to safe, secure, and resilient housing and access to the benefits of other interventions along with addressing other protection issues during project implementation. Since the SEA/SH risk of the project is ‘Substantial SPHF has incorporated it in the GAP, to ensure that the SEA/SH related performance of the project remains streamlined throughout. This action plan includes: a) prevention and mitigation actions including information dissemination strategy targeting workers and communities; GBV service providers and response protocol; reference to SEA/SH reporting and allegation procedures to be developed; and reference to accountability and response framework Further to promote a more gender inclusive and sensitive development for the project, the following out puts will be considered for the gender and social inclusion in the project.

- a. Women’s access to financial assistance for beneficiary-driven reconstruction of multi-hazard resilient houses
- b. Sensitization and Capacity enhancement of SPHF and project staff on gender-related safeguards
- c. Provide technical assistance to women beneficiaries for the construction of beneficiary-driven multi-hazard resilient houses
- d. Reduce the vulnerability of project women beneficiaries from potentially relevant disasters
- e. Provide awareness and access to project women beneficiaries on Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)
- f. Establish a Gender sensitive and inclusive working environment at SPHF and project Implementing Partners (IPs) level/s
- g. Reforms for land titles of women beneficiaries

- h. Prevent project beneficiaries from possible risks of SEA/ SH in the project areas
- i. Build the capacity of project stakeholders and beneficiaries to better respond to SEA/ SH issues in the project areas
- j. Describe referral mechanisms/ pathways and communicate to project stakeholders and beneficiaries
- k. Establish monitoring and reporting system to address SEA/SH issues

Table 4.4: Progress of Gender and Social Inclusion activities as of August 31, 2023

S #	Activity	Achievement
1	Developed SEA/SH and Updated Gender and SEA/SH Action Plan	1 Policy Documents
4	Verification of Women beneficiaries	596,793
5	Verification of Widows	121,817
6	Verification of unaccompanied Elders	34,382
7	Verification of Women with disabled husbands	4250
8	Verification of Women-headed households; divorced, single, dependent	3020
9	Women members in Village Reconstruction Committees (VRCs)	27,726
10	Bank accounts opened by women	30,000
11	Women beneficiaries received cash grants for the reconstruction of houses	30,000
12	Developed key awareness messages on Gender and GBV	2 documents

3.3.1. Orientation workshop with project field staff on Gender & Social Inclusion and Grievance Redersal Mechanism (GRM)

SPHF Gender & Social Development Specialist & M&E Manager conducted a day-long orientation workshop for project field staff in NRSP office Hyderabad on June 9, 2023 .The workshop was attended by 24 participants (09 female and 18 male) including project team leads, Gender focal persons, and E&S officers, GRM focal persons, and M& Officers. In the session, the team was oriented on social and gender inclusion in the project including the orientation of Gender Action planning, vulnerability criteria, basic concepts of Gender and Gender-based violence (GBV), importance of work place harassment Act, disadvantages of early or child marriages, and the importance of education and girls education. In the session, the project team was also oriented on the formation of Village Reconstruction Committees, composition, and membership of women, roles, and responsibilities, Terms of partnership (TOP), and basic orientation of the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM).

4. Orientation session with Project Beneficiaries and members of Village Reconstruction Committees (Male & Female) in district Tando Muhammad Khan and Hyderabad on Gender-related safeguards, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and orientation of Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) and role of VRC in project implementation

On **June 10, 2023**, Gender Specialist SPHF conducted two sessions with women beneficiaries and members of Village Reconstruction Committees (male and female) in village Allah Warayo Mallah district Tando Muhammad Khan and village Hussain Khaskheli in district Hyderabad. The main objective of these two sessions was to sensitize the men and women members of village reconstruction committees on the basic concepts of gender, Gender Based Violence (GBV), the importance of girl's education, the role of VRC in

the project implementation and how women get access and information of GRM. Total 118 members of VRC (men 37 and 81 women participants attended both sessions).

5. Facilitate session on Gender mainstreaming in water management.

During the reporting period Gender Specialist SPHF, led a session at the training workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Water Management. Organized by Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute (PHWI)-NED University Karachi in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and supported by USAID Pakistan on June 22, 2023 in Karachi. The workshop was attended by 30 participants (15 women and 15 men) of public sector professionals of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) include from PCRWR, Wapda, Federal Flood Commission, Ministry of Water Resources. Participants expressed that this session will help the participants to design, execute and evaluate the public sector projects from the gender lens to make projects and policies gender inclusive and responsive. In workshop Chief Operating Officer SPHF also presented the overview of the Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project (SFEHRP)

6. Capacity building session by the World Bank and SPHF on ESCP, ESMF, LMP, SEP & GRM and field mission for application of Environmental and Social Screening.

On August 23rd, the World Bank and SPHF conducted a capacity building session at NRSP regional head office in Hyderabad for all IPs Environmental and Social staff. The session was attended by 38 members and the main objective of the session was to orient E&S staff with the project's environmental and social commitments, environmental and social framework, occupational health and safety compliances which included hazard identification, risk assessment and incident reporting, stakeholder's engagement, grievance procedures and mechanism, and environmental and social screening.

The capacity building session was followed by a field visit on 24th August 2023 in which 3 teams were made; each team included 10-12 members and visited 2 settlements to fill the Environmental and Social screening checklist. IPs staff was oriented on how to conduct settlement screening in presence of SPHF and the World Bank E&S Staff.

ANNEX – I





