



FACTSHEET

PK

2014



## Livelihood Support

# Livestock: A Source of Alternative Livelihood for Less Privileged Women



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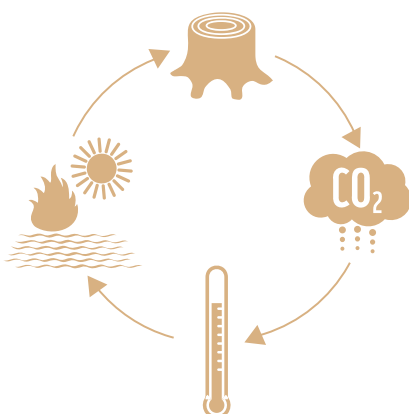
**Donor:** Community Development Program (CDP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh

**Duration:** March 2013 – September 2014

**Project Title:** Integrated Approach to Skill Development and Provision of Sustainable Livelihoods in Chotiari, Sanghar

Poverty is a global challenge which countries are striving to overcome. According to World Bank estimates, approximately 1.29 billion people live in absolute poverty of which around 70 per cent are women. Similarly in Pakistan, women are constrained by economic deprivation and do not have basic amenities of life. Women in the rural areas, particularly Sindh, are badly affected by extreme poverty. Gender discrimination, lack of access to income generation opportunities and education facilities have made womenfolk heavily dependent on men. They face the burden of poverty in the shape of violence, malnutrition, inadequate healthcare and gender biases.

To address this issue, WWF-Pakistan with financial support from the Community Development Programme (CDP), Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh initiated an 18 month project in Chotiari, Sanghar. One of the major interventions of the project aimed at decreasing the poverty level in target villages through provision of livestock. Under this project, 325 heifers have been provided to women, to build their asset base. WWF-Pakistan believes that women are capable and well informed managers of natural resources, including biological resources such as livestock, and provision of alternatives livelihoods and awareness can help in reducing pressure on the depleting natural resources and extend support in protection of rich biodiversity.



### Main Objectives

1. Provide an income generation opportunity to women;
2. Improve health of women and children by reducing malnutrition;

3. Empower women to participate in the decision making process by building their asset base.

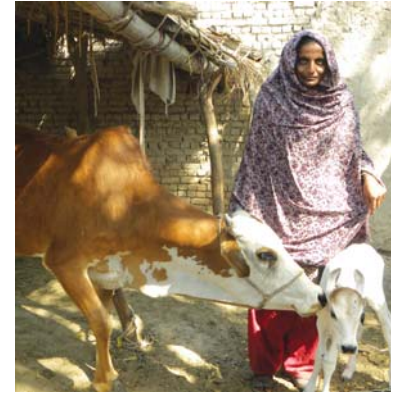
## Key Achievements

A total of 325 less privileged women now own assets of around PKR 45,000-50,000 in the form of cows. Previously, they relied only on men (though rearing of livestock was the responsibility of women), and have developed their own asset base which is increasing day by day. Milk from cows is consumed by their household and the surplus is sold in nearby markets/households, thus allowing the women to earn PKR 150-200 per day, which they use for their children and other household expenses. The milk is good for the health of children, reduces malnutrition and strengthens their immune systems to prevent diseases (particularly in young children and pregnant women).

## Recommendations

Considering the success of the project intervention, WWF-Pakistan is looking for further support to upscale the initiative. In this regard, the following recommendations have been made:

1. Expand provision of livestock in other poverty hit areas across Pakistan;
2. Conduct surveys in rural areas to collect data on economic conditions and health issues of women;
3. Engage women in nature and biodiversity conservation initiatives;
4. Build capacity of women and create awareness about health and environmental education;
5. Seek other social and economic opportunities for the empowerment of women.



## Sustainable Livelihoods Goal

Promote sustainable livelihood through skill development and provision of alternative livelihood