Aurat Foundation

Working for Women's Empowerment and Democratic Governance



AuratFoundation-Overview



Founded in 1986, Aurat Foundation (AF) is a national, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded by economist Nigar Ahmad and lawyer Shahla Zia in 1986. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. AF is certified by the Pakistan Center for Philanthropy and has been approved under Section 2(36) of the Income Tax Ordinance, making it eligible for tax exemption. AF is committed to create widespread awareness and commitment for a just, democratic and caring society in Pakistan, where women and men are recognized as equals, with the right to lead their lives with self-respect and dignity. Over the last 40 years, Aurat Foundation has come to be recognized nationally and internationally as one of the leading institutions creating, facilitating and strengthening civil society groups and networks for promoting trust and collaboration among citizens to mobilize public pressure for women's empowerment and policy reform in their interests. AF's founders and directors have received national awards and, are members of several important government committees, women's rights and human rights commissions as well as, part of many national and provincial networks and coalitions. Aurat Foundation has its head office in Islamabad and provincial offices in all four provinces. These are situated at Islamabad (HO), Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta. Aurat Foundation has countrywide presence in all 166 districts through its partner organizations, network groups and sub-contractors.

Board of Governors of Aurat Foundation 2024-2026

General Body

Board of Governors

Anis Haroon
President

Former Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women, Human Rights and Women's Rights Activist



Dr. Aliya H. Khan
Treasurer

Former Dean, Faculty of Economics, Quaid-i- Azam University, Gender Specialist



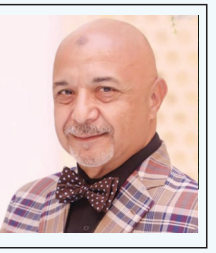
Dr. Masuma Hasan
Member

Former Cabinet Secretary, Ambassador, and Researcher, Development Practitioner



Mr. Sohail Rahim
Member

Businessperson, Public intellectual



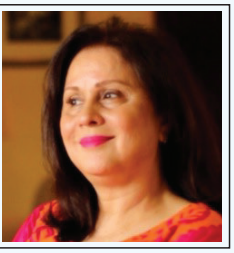
Ms. Roshan Khursheed Bharucha
Member

Former Senator, Caretaker Minister, Women's Rights Activist



Ms. Uzma Norani
Member

Social and Human Rights Worker, Founding Member of Women's Action Forum



Dr. Bakhtawar Khalid Kayani
Member

Visually Impaired Woman Archer, Dentist



Mr. Waseem Ahmad Shah
Member

Senior Journalist, Daily Dawn



Ms. Myra Imran
Member

Senior Journalist, Daily The News, Founder, Women Journalists Association



Vacant

Ms. Rashana Siddiqa Abidi
Member

Creative Consultant, Digital Content Developer



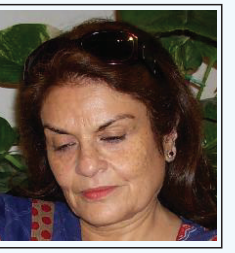
Mr. Mohammed Tahseen
Member

Executive Director South Asia Partnership Pakistan; Development Expert; Human Rights Activist.



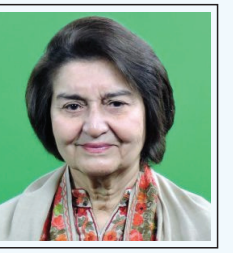
Ms. Samina Rehman
Member

Educationist; Women's Rights Activist



Justice (Retd.) Nasira Javed Iqbal
Member

Eminent Jurist; International Law Expert



Mr. Harris Khalique
Member

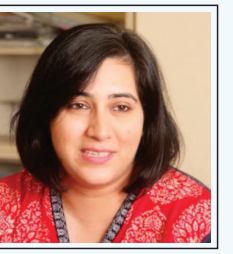
Secretary General, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Writer and Poet



Vacant

Ms. Maliha Zia Lari
Member

Lawyer; Legislative Expert; Human Rights Activist



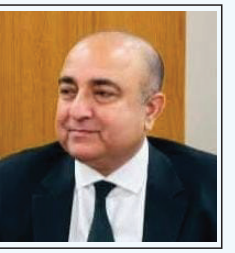
Prof. Dr. Sarah Safdar
Member

Academician; Strategic Advisor, Pak Mission Society, Islamabad; Ex- Member NCSW



Mr. Habib Tahir
Member

Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan; Ex-Vice Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan; currently Council Member



Prof. Dr. Raana Malik
Member

Educationist; Chairperson, Department of Gender Studies University of Punjab, Lahore



Management, Registration and Certification

Executive Council



Naeem Mirza
Executive director
(Joined since1998)



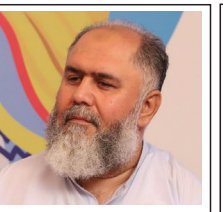
Mumtaz Mughal
Director Programmes
(Joined since 2004)



Shabina Ayaz
Resident Director, Peshawar
(Joined since1997)



Asim Malik
Director Outreach & Network
(Joined since 1998)



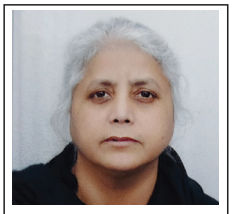
Alauddin Khalji
Resident Director, Quetta
(Joined since 1998)



Muneezeh Khan
Resident Director, Karachi
(Joined since 2010)



Malka Khan
Senior Progarmme Officer
(Joined since 2003)



Saima Munir
Senior Progarmme Officer
(Joined since 1998)



Shahbaz Ahmed
Director Finance
(Joined since 2011)

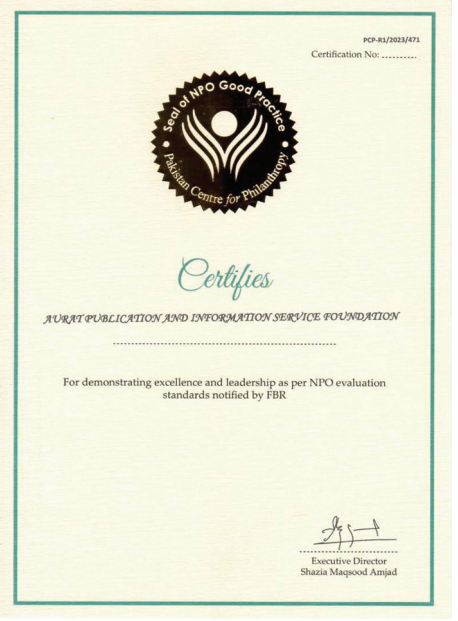


Sumera Hashmi
Resident Director, Lahore
(Joined since 2024)



Nabeela Shaheen
Senior Progarmme Officer
(Joined since 2007)

Aurat Foundation is Registered under Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860 and Certified by Pakistan Certre for Philanthropy, Government of Pakistan.



PCP-R1/2023/471
Certification No: .....

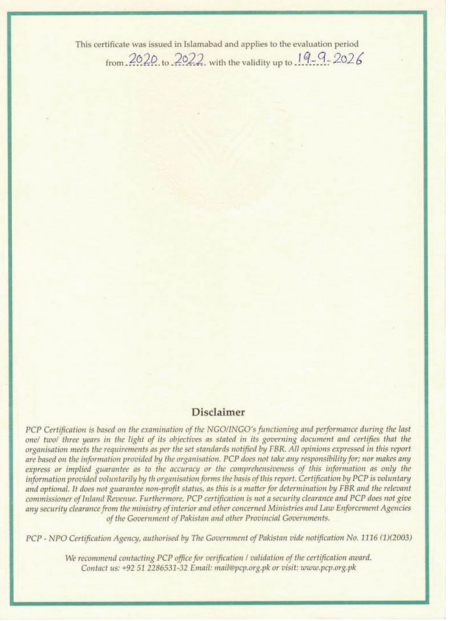
Seal of NPO Good Practice
Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy

Certifies

AURAT PUBLICATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE FOUNDATION

For demonstrating excellence and leadership as per NPO evaluation standards notified by FBR

Executive Director
Shazia Maqsood Amjad



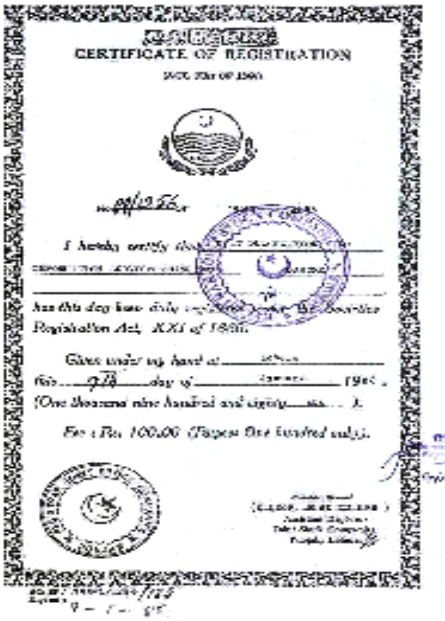
This certificate was issued in Islamabad and applies to the evaluation period from 2020 to 2022 with the validity up to 19-9-2026

Disclaimer

PCP Certification is based on the examination of the NGO/INGO's functioning and performance during the last one/ two/ three years in the light of its objectives as stated in its governing document and certifies that the organisation meets the requirements as per the set standards notified by FBR. All opinions expressed in this report are based on the information provided by the organisation. PCP does not take any responsibility for; nor makes any express or implied guarantee as to the accuracy or the comprehensiveness of this information as only the information provided voluntarily by th organisation forms the basis of this report. Certification by PCP is voluntary and optional. It does not guarantee non-profit status, as this is a matter for determination by FBR and the relevant commissioner of Inland Revenue. Furthermore, PCP certification is not a security clearance and PCP does not give any security clearance from the ministry of interior and other concerned Ministries and Law Enforcement Agencies of the Government of Pakistan and other Provincial Governments.

PCP - NPO Certification Agency, authorised by The Government of Pakistan vide notification No. 1116 (1)(2003)

We recommend contacting PCP office for verification / validation of the certification award.
Contact us: +92 51 2286531-32 Email: mail@pcp.org.pk or visit: www.pcp.org.pk



CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

Mission Statement

To create, facilitate and strengthen civil society groups and networks for promoting trust and collaboration among citizens to mobilise public pressure for women's empowerment in the country.

Vision

Creating widespread awareness and commitment for a just, democratic and caring society in Pakistan, where women and men are recognised as equals, with the right to lead their lives with self-respect and dignity.

Main Goals

To enable women to acquire greater access to knowledge, resources and institutions.

To influence attitudes and behaviour for a social environment responsive to women's concerns and people-centred issues.

To facilitate citizens' active participation in the process of social change and governance at all levels.

Values and Principles

- **Caring and Sharing**
- **Sense of Belonging**
- **Mutual Trust & Respect**
- **Friendly Environment**
- **Nurturing of Colleagues**
- **Zero Tolerance to Violence, SEA**

Core Competencies

1. Collection and provision of information from/to women to build their capacity for decision making and action, and information about women's issues and concerns to decision makers.

2. Social mobilization and engaging local communities for local, provincial and national development targets, women's participation in local governance and decision-making.

3. Data collection, research and analysis for attainment of women's rights, national surveys, participatory development and ending violence against women.

4. Capacity building of citizens groups, public authorities and public representatives to support women's participation in decision-making and their activism, as well as to enhance their access to opportunities and facilities at the local, district, provincial and national levels.

5. Advocacy for developing an enabling environment for women's empowerment and participatory development and democracy in Pakistan with State institutions, women's rights and human rights commissions and women's caucuses, primarily, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus at the National Assembly.

6. Providing legislative input and support to governments and gender entities (women's commission, anti-harassment bodies) on critical issues of concern for women, religious minorities, PWDs and Transgender Communities and Individuals and key populations e.g. people at risk of HIV/AIDS.

7. Grant making (provision of small, medium and large grants) for government departments, public universities, NGOs /CBOs and research institution to support governments' gender policies and fulfil international obligations by working for behaviour change and bridging gender gap.

Skills and Experience

Aurat Foundation has the capacity and ability for reaching out to the doorsteps of the local communities in the event of nation-wide surveys, research and data gathering, social mobilization, people-centred advocacy, implementing national plans, census campaigns, data-gathering, school enrolment, civil registration, political participation of women, voter education, women's economic and political empowerment and humanitarian assistance in emergency situations, at all levels i.e., from village to national. Aurat Foundation has a diverse experience in social mobilization for local communities.

Aurat Foundation has proven ability to manage large tranches of program funding for donors including UNICEF, UNDP, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Benazir Income Support Programme, UN Women, USAID, DFID. GTZ, OXFAM-GB, ADB, UNOPS, TAF, ICCO, Oxfam GB, Global Affairs Canada, Palladium, EPD, WLP, DAI, and Search for Common Ground among others.

Aurat Foundation has effective governance structures, in-house systems, policies, internal controls, web-based accounting and IT tools and approaches for operations and citizens' engagement. It has also credible grant-making systems for small and medium-sized CBOs/NGOs, provincial & national governments, gender entities, judicial academies, bar councils, universities etc.

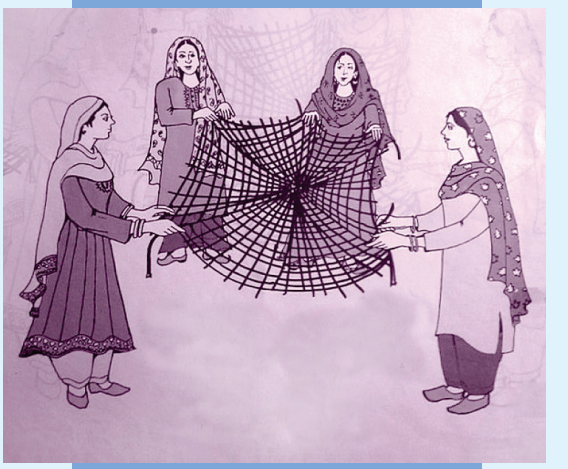
Aurat Foundation has credible grant-making systems and policies for small and medium-sized CBOs/NGOs, provincial & national governments, gender entities, judicial academies, bar councils, universities etc.

AF has effective in-house systems, policies, internal controls, web-based accounting and IT tools and approaches for operations and citizens' engagement.

AF has strong track record in gender, social mobilization, GBV, VAW, governance and civil society programming in Pakistan







Key Thematic Areas - I

Women's Economic Empowerment

Aurat Foundation's critical role is to strengthen and facilitate civil society organisations working with informal sector women workers to enable them to increase their productivity and incomes, get recognition under labour laws and become eligible for social protection. The emphasis is on providing grants, undertaking advocacy for women's economic empowerment through gender-responsive budgetary allocations, and incorporation of women's concerns into the macro-economic policy framework and social protection programmes.



Women's Political Empowerment



This remains a key area of interventions and includes specific inputs in political education and activism to ensure women's involvement in defining their political and social environment. Interventions include seminars, public meetings and dissemination of information. Specific inputs highlight the role and performance of women legislators, leaders and councillors and the measures taken for strengthening their role in political and decision-making institutions.

Relief, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management

Aurat Foundation contributes massively in relief and rehabilitation work during natural and man-made disasters. It responded to Pakistan's worst ever floods in 2010 and 2022 by immediately launching the 'Motherland Flood Relief Campaign'. Its grassroots-level networks in all districts of Pakistan enabled it to respond rapidly to the catastrophe through its nation-wide flood relief campaign. The 'Motherland' website launched by Aurat Foundation became a hub of local, regional and international relief activity with the support of its regional and international partners. During the IDPs crisis in 2008-2009, and to date, it has been involved in local initiatives to protect vulnerable children and women in Swabi, Mardan and Swat. During earthquake 2005, 2010 and 2022 floods, it was a leading organisation to support relief and rehablitation services to survivors of the earthquake and floods.



Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

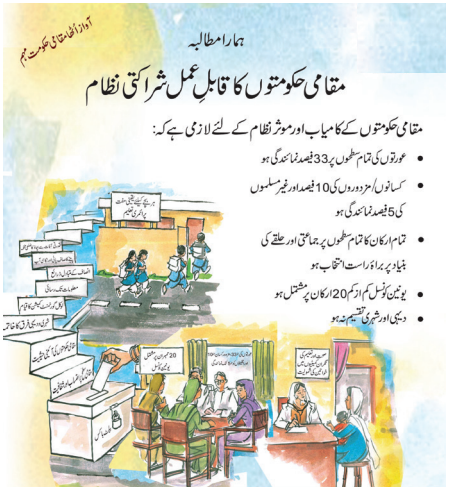
Ending violence against women and girls is critical for creating an enabling environment for women. Aurat Foundation advocates and undertakes measures such as policy reform and positive legislation for elimination of violence against women and implementation of procedures to support female victims and survivors of violence. Another key area of AF is to work for total repeal or reform of discriminatory laws against women and minorities, such as the Hudood Ordinances, Law of Evidence, Qisas and Diyat Provisions in Pakistan Penal Code and the Citizenship Act.



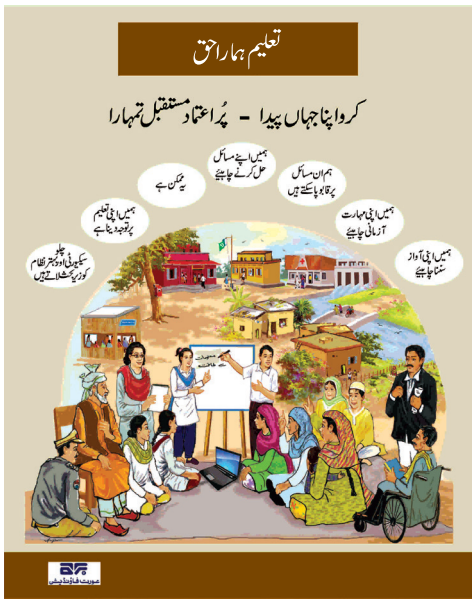
Key Thematic Areas - II

Democratic Governance & Accountability

Aurat Foundation works for building and strengthening the foundations of a sustainable democracy; national consensus on strengthening participatory, transparent and accountable governance; impartial, free and fair elections to restore the electorate's rapidly declining faith in the electoral process. Issues like disenfranchisement of women, intra-party women's quotas on general seats, access to disaggregated data are also highlighted. Engagement with democratic institutions through planning and development of legislative agendas is AF's core strength. Promotion of culture of accountability through thematic studies and advocacy campaigns is also undertaken.



Health and Education of Women and Girls



Health and education are key priority areas of focus for Aurat Foundation. High rate of maternal mortality in Pakistan due to inadequate healthcare and social determinants, and limited access to reproductive health services, including family planning, prenatal care, and safe abortion are our major concerns. So is the case with poor nutrition and diet, particularly among adolescent girls and pregnant women, leading to health complications. Aurat Foundation believes that increase access to quality healthcare services, particularly for marginalized and rural communities, and enhancimg reproductive health services, including family planning, and prenatal care would help in improving health conditions of women and girls. In fact, we think health and education are interconnected, as healthy girls and women are more likely to access and complete education. Investing in health and education for women and girls contributes to socio-economic development, poverty reduction, and economic growth. By addressing the intersections and synergies between health and education, we can work towards empowering women and girls, promoting their well-being, and fostering socio-economic development.Therefore, Aurat Foundation emphasizes on removing barriers to education, including poverty, cultural norms, and lack of infrastructure. AF feels that inadequate teacher training, outdated curricula, and insufficient resources hinder the quality of education. Girls and women face gender-based discrimination and biases in education, leading to lower enrollment and completion rates. These impediment need to be removed for better health and quality education for women and girls.

Access to Justice and Legal Rights

Aurat Foundation sees great significance in approaching formal systems and structures of law and justice to ensure equality of rights and status for women. Special focus is given to maginalised and disadvantaged segments in society due to the difficulties associated with being able to approach and use these structures to attain justice. This would include not just removing legal and financial barriers, but also social barriers such as language, lack of knowledge of legal rights and intimidation by the law and legal institutions. AF strives to provide knowledge as people must have information and knowledge about their rights and how to access them, and this extends to service providers as they are also required to have appropriate knowledge and expertise for the provision of effective and quality services.



Key Thematic Areas - III

Climate Justice and Green Environment

Climate Justice and Green Environment is a new priority area of Aurat Foundation. It believe in fair distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. We mainly focus on addressing issues such as disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, e.g., women, low-income communities, indigenous peoples, religious minorities, PWDs, Transgender Communities and Individuals, key populations e.g. people at risk of HIV/AIDS and elderly people.

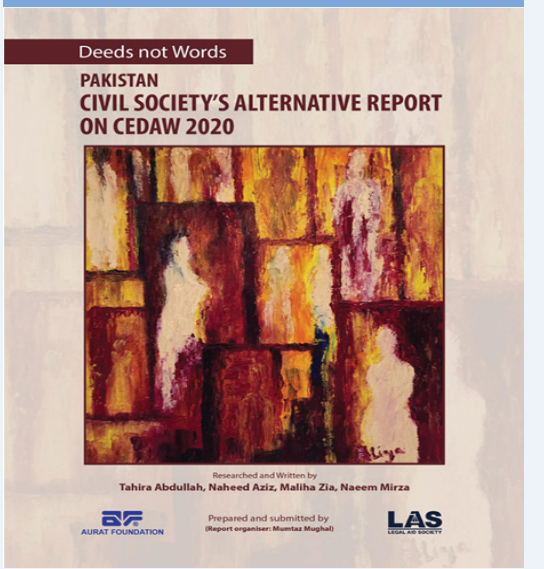


Social Mobilization of Communities

Social mobilization of local communities to form their groups and networks is a major focus area of Aurat Foundation's work under a rights-based framework. AF perceives social mobilization as a strategy as well as an objective to create, develop and preserve social capital in Pakistan. AF has enormous capacity to mobilise local groups, networks and communities for sustainable actions through local and national level campaigns, particularly around broader concerns of women, such as participation in national social protection programmes, CNICs, voter education, census and livelihood campaigns.



Compliance of Human Rights Conventions



Ensuring compliance of Pakistan's international commitments remains an important area of AF interventions with Pakistan having signed and ratified a majority of important International Human Rights Conventions. AF is engaged in the follow-up, monitoring and reporting processes of these treaties, particularly in the preparation of 'shadow reports' on CEDAW. Equal emphasis is given to resolutions of UN Commission on the Status of Women and Beijing follow-up processes.

AF Focussed Groups and Stakeholders

Women and young girls



Public Representatives & Legislators



Representatives of Political parties



Persons with disabilities (PWDs)



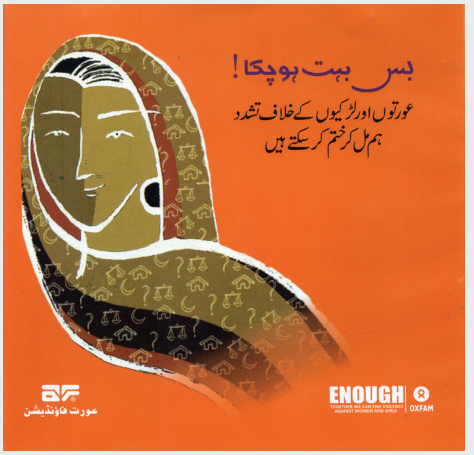
Transgender Individuals (TIs)



Religious Minorities, Individuals



Representatives of Shelter Homes



Representatives of Academia



Legal & Mediapersons



- Representatives of Relevant Federal Ministries and Provincial Departments
- Representatives of Provincial Assembly Standing Committee for Women Developments
- Representatives of women's and human rights commissions and Office of Ombudspersons for Sexual Harassment at Workplace
- Representatives Local Government and Rural Development Department, Police Department, FIA (Cyber Crime Unit), probation officers, court personnel

Networks and Linkages

Institutional Partnerships through MoUs

AF has institutional partnerships with the following entities.

1. National SDG Secretariat of National Assembly
2. Women Pareliamentary Caucus, National Assembly
3. Provincial Commission on Status of Women, Balochistan
4. Provincial Commission on Status of Women, Sindh
5. Sindh Human Rights Commission
6. Women Development Department, Sindh
7. Government Prisoners Department, Balochistan
8. National Commission of Human Rights, Balochistan
9. Women Development Department, Balochistan
10. Social Welfare Department Balochistan
11. Women Development Department, Punjab
12. Provincial Commission on Status of Women, Punjab
13. Punjab Women Protection Authority, Punjab
14. Social Welfare, Special Education & Women Empowerment Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
15. Gender Studies Department, Punjab University
16. Mass Communication Department, Peshawar University
17. State Bank of Pakistan
18. Institute of Chartered Management Accountants of Pakistan

AF Groups and Forums

Legislative Watch Groups
(4 at provincial & 1 at federal level)

Women Leader Groups in 70 Districts
(50 women in each group)

Citizens' Action Committees for Women's Rights (70 districts)

Information Network Centers
(2300 centers)

Women Peace Architects
(national group of 75)

Legal Aid Desks
(5 in Punjab and 5 in KP)

Gender Desks
(Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Multan & Swat)

Concerned Mothers & Women Group

Gender Justice Committees
(3 in Quetta and 3 in Pishin)

Access to Justice Advisory Forum,
Quetta

Feminist Friday,
(Peshawar)

Member of National Networks

Women's Action Forum

Pakistan Civil Society Forum

Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

Mumkin EVAWG Alliance

Joint Action Committee for People's Rights

Women Water Network

Child Rights Movement

Member of Regional and Global Networks

Women's Learning Partnership (WLP)

South Asian Network of Gender Activists and Trainers (SANGAT)

Local Governance Initiative and Network (LOGIN)

Club de Madrid (CdM)

South Asian Network for Widows' Empowerment in Development (SANWED)

International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific (IWRAW-Asia-Pacific)

Every Woman Treaty Campaign

HomeNet South Asia

Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)

Aurat Foundation reached out to:

251,863,262

Direct and indirect benificiaries, women and men were made aware, sensitized on women's rights.

12,546,391

Women and men were facilitated in CNIC registration.

3,251,420

Women, men and youth benefitted, through small, medium and big grants to 234 CSOs, federal and provincial governments, women's rights commissions, 25 public universities and other gender entities .

1,000,000

Children of poor families facilitated in enrollment and admission in public and private schools.

9,980,746

Women working (in formal and informal sectors) in different fields of life, women with disabilities, transgenders, and religious minorities through electronic and social media campaigns.

8,500,00

Women facilitated for voter registration.

340,000

Women were provided assistance in legal aid cases.

250,000

Families were provided assistance during natural disasters

200,000

Women candidates and activists were trained about local government laws and electoral processes.

43,887

Women community leaders were trained in 120 districts.

20,000

Women, marginalized groups, students, police personnel, lawyers, media personnel, PWDs and TIs were trained and sensitized on CVE and peace.

6015

Women and girls were informed about legal referral mechanisms from 2021-2024.

4078

Rural community women were trained in basic financial literacy, under a State Bank of Pakistan project to open the bank accounts in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan.

3360

Families in 35 districts were identified and provided with humanitarian assistance during Covid-19 more than

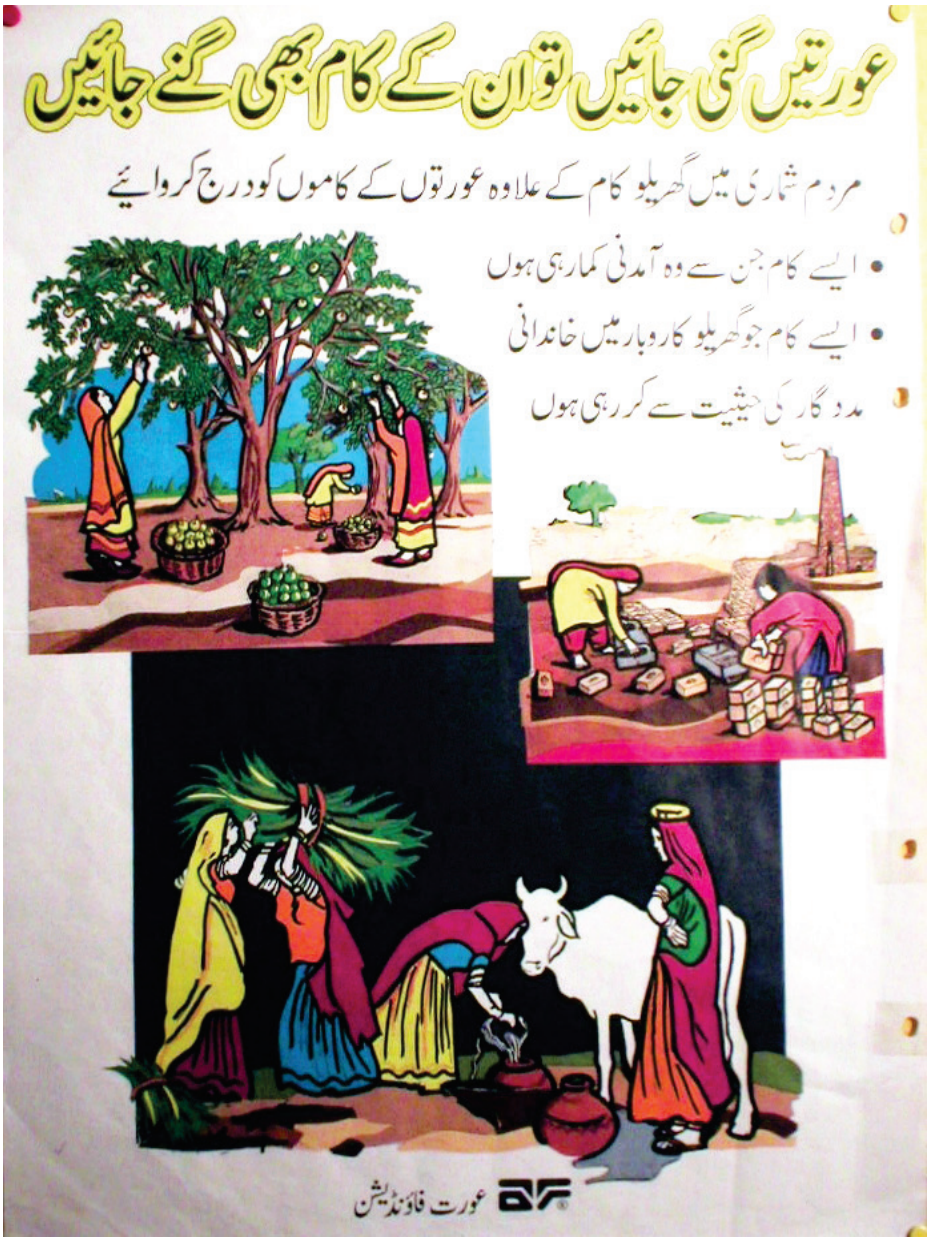
730

MPAs of all 4 Provincial Assemblies, including AJK and GB, who were made aware of and sensitized on gender framework of democratic structures and mechanisms to promote gender equality.

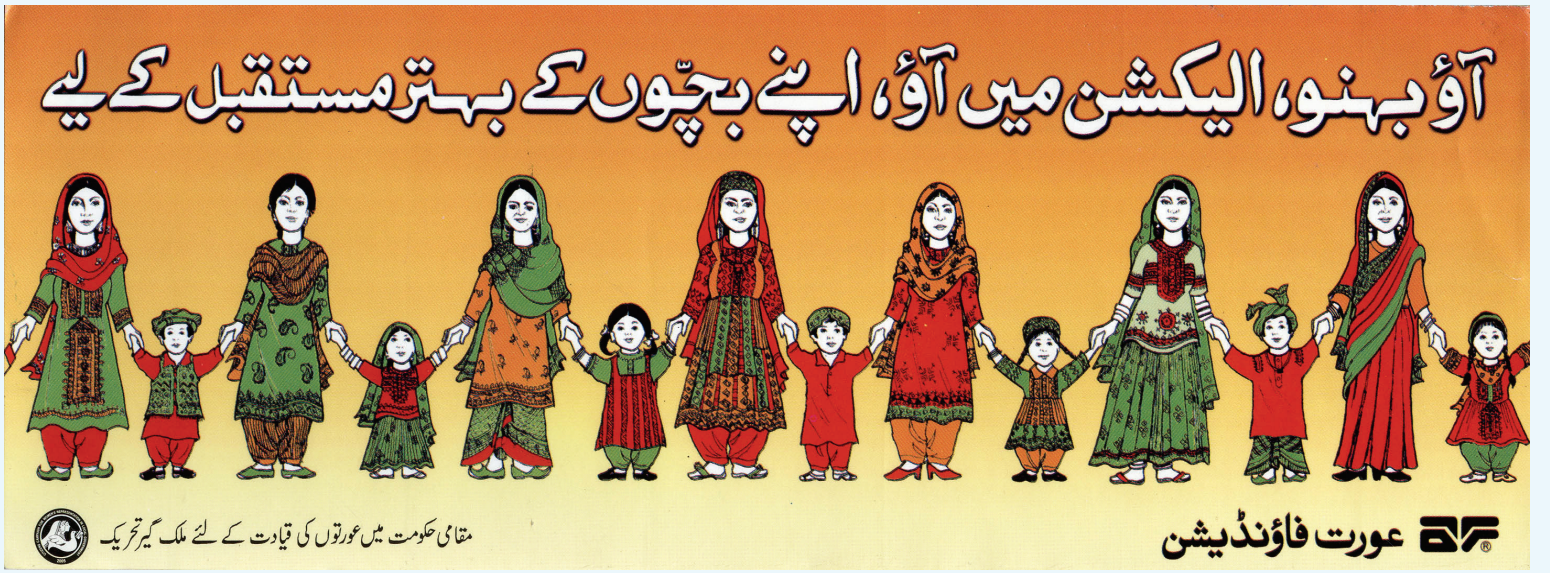
Major National Campaigns

Aurat Foundation has been part of major national campaigns of public welfare:

- National campaigns for CNICs and voter registration of women on regular basis.
- National campaign since 1990s for 33% reservation of seats for women in legislatures.
- National campaign for the recognition of women's work in the Fifth National Census in 1998, and 2023.
- National campaigns for putting women's rights issues on the electoral agenda of the 1993, 1997, 2002, 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2024 General Elections.
- Citizens' campaigns for ensuring and maximizing women's representation in local government elections in 1998-99, 2000 and 2005, 2008, 2013, 2015 & 2018, 2024.



- Campaigns for the repeal of discriminatory laws, ending 'honour' crimes and violence against women.
- National campaigns for relief and rehabilitation of survivors of natural disasters during earthquake 2005, IDPs crisis in 2009 and floods in 2010, 2022, and Covid-19 in 2019-2022.
- National campaign for the rights of indigenous people in Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights in 1998.

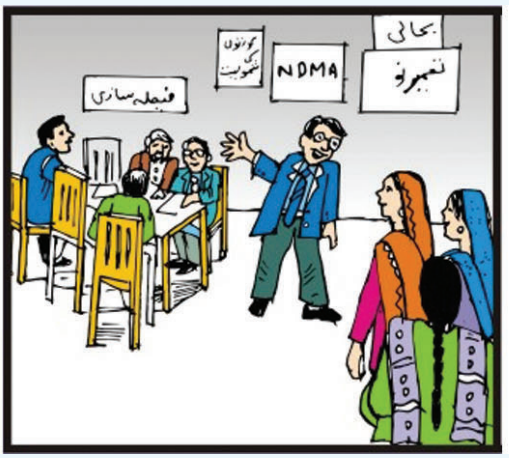


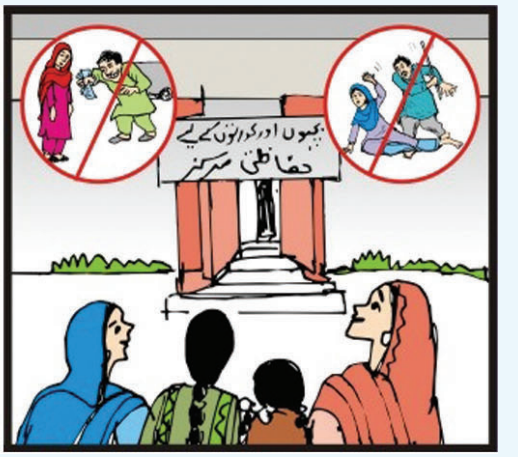
Aurat Foundation's Contribution to Major Achievements

Aurat Foundation has contributed, over the years, to the following achievements and developments in the interest of women and citizens of Pakistan:

- Increased awareness & sensitisation on women's rights issues
- Wide-spread support against discriminatory laws and customary practices
- National development plans and policies for women
- Reservation of seats for women in legislatures
- Formation of citizens' groups, networks and coalitions
- Development of social capital in Pakistan
- Mainstreaming gender into laws and policies
- Relationships with political parties and legislators
- Relationships with legal and media fraternity
- Support to women public representatives & legislators
- Formation and strengthening of National Commission on the Status of Women
- Amendments in Muslim Family Laws Ordinance
- Response to disaster situations, e.g earthquake 2005, floods 2010, 2022 and IDPs crisis
- Follow-up on Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women







میرا ووٹ میری طاقت ہے

ووٹ بہتر مستقبل کی ضمانت



پاکستانی شہری ہونے کے ناطے آپ کی
ذمہ داری ہے کہ آپ کا ووٹ رجسٹرڈ ہو

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