



Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes

The Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes (SELP) project seeks to develop more inclusive, and accountable democratic institutions, systems, and processes in Pakistan. It improves the supply side of governance by enhancing the capacity of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the Senate and Provincial Assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, in addition to working with the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). Moreover, it supports the demand side by developing the capacity of civil society in advocacy and civic engagement. Increasing the representation of women, youth, minorities, transgender, and persons with disabilities, informs all aspects of programming.

The project is structured around three key strands: providing electoral cycle support to the ECP,

QUICK FACTS

Duration: 2013-2021

Government partners: Election Commission of Pakistan, the Senate, the Provincial Assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services

Funding Partners: USAID, UKaid, Government of Japan

Location: Nationwide

Annual Budget (2021): \$ 2,394,595

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strengthening legislative institutions and expanding democratic space.

Expected results

- Institutional capacity of the ECP strengthened to increase public's trust in electoral processes.
- Institutional and democratic performance of the Senate and the provincial assemblies strengthened to ensure more effective, responsive and inclusive legislatures – including business continuity during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Enhanced participation of women in parliamentary and electoral processes.
- Improved legislative engagement with the development policy agendas.
- Enhanced civic engagement, particularly by vulnerable groups, including women and youth.

Main achievements

- Supported the creation and implementation of the ECP and NADRA's 'Women's National Identity Card (NIC) and Voter Registration Campaign', which has contributed to the addition of over nine million women added to the electoral roll since its launch in late 2017.
- Supported the drafting of elections rules under the Punjab Local Government Act 2019.
- Technical assistance to the boundary delimitation processes in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.
- Contributed to the development of ECP's 3rd Five-Year Strategic Plan (2019-2023).
- Supported the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ECP in holding the historic first provincial elections in the Merged Areas.
- Supported the development of ECP's Annual Reports 2018, 2019, and 2020.
- Support to the training and preparations for the Senate elections.
- In efforts to institutionalize the standardization of results management, SELP supported the development and implementation of the Results Management System in General Elections 2018 to improve accuracy and transparency.
- Designed and established a Geographic Information System polling scheme by mapping over 80,000 polling stations nationwide.
- Developed a training curriculum, handbooks and video for the training of over 800,000 election officials for General Elections 2018.

- Trained over 493,000 polling staff in Punjab, Islamabad, and Balochistan for General Elections 2018.
- Supported ECP in conducting a comprehensive Post-Election Review of General Elections 2018 - highlighting challenges and providing recommendations for electoral reforms.
- Supported the ECP to devise SOPs and materials for the safe conduct of elections during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supported the Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assemblies to strengthen their committee systems and build effective oversight mechanisms including support to Women's Parliamentary Caucuses, SDG Task Forces and Parliamentary Committees.
- Improved the preparedness of partner legislatures in effectively performing their role during a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increased the engagement of Standing Committees of Provincial Assemblies of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on their oversight role in a time of crisis
- Assisted the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly to compile a comprehensive parliamentary reforms package, with an aim to update the Procedures and Conduct of Business Rules of the Assembly.
- Supported capacity building of legislative staff on the use of technology to hold virtual assembly sessions and committee meetings.
- Through various public information initiatives, with some reaching the public more than once through different means – the project has reached over 247 million individuals.
- Increased civic knowledge of over 500,000 citizens through our United Nations Civic and Voter Education Youth Volunteers program.

What's next?

- Support the preparation and conduct of local government elections in all four provinces.
- Technical assistance to the institutionalization and sustainability of the Federal Election Academy.
- Contribute to the implementation and monitoring of ECP's third Five-Year Strategic Plan (2019-2023).
- Ongoing engagement of stakeholders to increase inclusion of women, youth and marginalized groups in electoral processes.