

Strengthening Criminal Investigative Capacities in Pakistan (CIS II)

Context

For many years Pakistan has suffered from a lack of stability, alongside with considerable challenges for the rule of law. The trust of the citizens in the capacities of the state apparatus, in particular of the criminal justice system, is low. High crime rates stand in contradiction to low detection and conviction rates of delinquents. The system as such and the individual institutions, i.e. police, prosecution and justice, are inefficient and outdated, politicized and fragmented. At the same time, it is under considerable domestic and at times also international pressure to succeed.

Police, prosecution and the judiciary are not adequately trained, lack modern education and necessary technology as well as a rule of law oriented approach to investigation. In investigation procedures, scientific forensic methods are not used sufficiently and properly. These shortcomings especially affect vulnerable groups such as women and juveniles. In addition to the inadequate capacity within the institutions, they also lack interaction and coordination during the investigation procedures.

Mitigating the deficits in the area of criminal investigation and investigation capacities of the institutions continue to be the focus of the project. It is based on the experiences of the predecessor project "Support for Capacity Development in the Criminal Investigative Services in Pakistan (CIS)" implemented in 2015-2016. The project focused on individual and institutional capacity development for evidence collection, preservation and presentation thereof to police and criminal prosecution agencies in the Punjab and Sindh.

Project name	Support for Capacity Development of the Criminal Investigative Services in Pakistan (CIS II)
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Partners	National Police Bureau Police and Justice institutions in Punjab and Sindh
Implementing Agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Punjab and Sindh
Duration	2017-2019
	

Objective

The institutions of the criminal justice system of Punjab and Sindh are strengthened to carry out their statutory tasks within the framework of their respective responsibilities and in mutual cooperation with each other.

Thereby they contribute to an increased performance of the criminal justice system and the rule of law in Pakistan and thus in the long run promote stabilization and peaceful development of the country.



Left: inauguration of the Mock Crime Scene Room at Punjab Forensic Science Agency, Lahore

Right: inauguration of the refurbished Women's Hostel at the Police Training College Saeedabad, Sindh



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Left: speakers at a panel discussion at the "Seminar on International Best Practices of Criminal Investigation" in Islamabad

Right: participants at the inter-institutional "National Conference on Inter-Provincial Exchange on Challenges and Coping Mechanisms of Criminal Investigative Services in Pakistan" in Islamabad

Approach

The project CIS II continues with the approach of the predecessor project. While the criminal investigation system remains its anchor point, it focusses on strengthening institutional capacities. This is achieved through organizational development, personnel development, reform processes, standardization, institutionalization and digitization. CIS II also promotes cooperation between different institutions for improved investigation processes - within and between the provinces. Activities take place in the provinces of Punjab and Sindh, and also take the national level into account.

The approach is pursued in three fields of action:

1. Improving education and training to strengthen and increase investigative capacities

The project supports police schools to organize their work to be more professional, modern and efficient. For this purpose, trainings are standardized, transferred into regular curricula and trainers have been trained. Furthermore, special attention is given to the establishment of so-called "Schools of Investigation" in both provinces. In addition to the physical set-up of these training centres, a standardized and professional course for investigations will be established there.

2. Practical use of professional investigation methods

In this area, the focus is on putting into practice what has been learned. Newly established specialized investigation units should benefit from the acquired knowledge so that the actors implement their tasks according to the given standards and in cooperation with all stakeholders involved. The project advises these processes and also facilitates training sessions, workshops and conferences where methods and techniques of criminal investigations are being discussed.

3. Strengthening criminal justice mechanisms for an appropriate response towards vulnerable groups, especially juveniles and women

Women and juveniles are particularly vulnerable when dealing with the criminal justice system, be it as perpetrators, victims or witnesses. Thus, the project encourages the establishment and strengthening of specific support structures, e.g. "Women's / Juvenile's Desks" in police stations. It also sensitizes the investigators to pay attention to the special needs and interests of these groups, which is often done in cooperation with non-governmental organizations that work in the area of promotion of access to justice.

Results

CIS II builds on the following achievements of the predecessor project:

- Establishment of five mock crime scene room facilities in Punjab and Sindh and development of training modules for investigation trainings in these facilities. So far, 49 police trainers have been trained there.
- Development of 13 modules for interview and interrogation techniques, training of 52 trainers.
- National conference on "Inter-provincial Exchange on Challenges and Coping Mechanisms of Criminal Investigative Services in Pakistan" with more than 80 participants from all provinces and international organizations.
- International seminar on "Best Practices of Criminal Investigation" with Pakistani and international experts from Great Britain, Turkey, Japan and Germany.
- Introduction and implementation of a software for automated case management in the Punjab Prosecution.

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