

Participatory Local Governance (PLG)

Service delivery capacities of local governments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab meet local needs and priorities.

The challenge

Pakistan's local government system has undergone significant reforms, with the transfer of functions from the federal to provincial level and the introduction of new legislation in provinces like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab. The Local Government Acts have transferred the responsibility of many government services to the subdistrict or town/tehsil level. However, the country's low tax revenue as Gross Domestic Product share and limited citizen participation hinder the capacity of local governments to deliver good quality public services, while the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with KP has introduced new challenges where traditional tribal government structures prevail. The remoteness of the Merged Areas and the lack of efficient local administrative structures, however, impede the effective delivery of public services to the population.

Objective

The local authorities in the KP and Punjab regions have increased their capacities to provide local services in line with the needs and priorities of the citizens.

The provincial governments of KP and Punjab, as well as selected local governments, are supported through a multi-level approach that involves political and administrative actors, civil society groups, and public commissions to improve public services through local governments. The provinces of KP and Punjab differ significantly (e.g. political structure, population size, level of development, etc.). However, they also share important similarities in terms of local government structures. To contribute to bridging the development gap between the Merged Areas and the Settled Districts of KP, the programme also focuses on the Tribal Decade Strategy (2020-2030) with particular emphasis on districts Khyber and Mohmand.

In addition, the programme collaborates with civil society organisations as well as citizens in various formats for improved design

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Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
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Duration	07/2022 to 12/2027

and delivery of local services. The programme emphasises the targeted participation of women as well as the young population and minorities.

Improving the Capacities for Core Government Functions with Focus on Tribal Decade Strategy

PLG provides technical support to local government departments and various other institutions in KP and Punjab to develop and revise regulations, aiming to improve inclusive service delivery. It also supports capacity development of elected representatives and local government officials, with a focus on the Merged Areas, through innovative approaches, and works to improve access and quality of social services, particularly in basic education, by developing management capacities to improve planning, resource allocation, and management. In addition, PLG supports the development and implementation of education sector plans.

Enhancing Local Revenue Generation and Consolidating Digital Financial Management

The project provides technical support to the Local Government Departments as well as the Excise and Taxation Departments in both KP and Punjab to enhance local revenue collection capacities. While administrators in KP are being trained in digital financial management skills, PLG takes steps to roll out the system for its application in Tehsil Municipal Administrations (TMAs) for more efficient processes. The project supports the TMAs in peer learning to improve the collection of own source revenues. Moreover, PLG assists Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Control



Pg. 1, Left: A busy street in front of a mosque in one of the many smaller towns of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Middle: A girl wearing a school uniform and holding a textbook in front of a blackboard.

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Pg. 2 Left: Women Khuli Khichari (open courts), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Department (ETNCD) in enhancing property tax administration through need-based technical training and exchange with the Local Government Department for improved coordination.

Developing a Climate-Sensitive Decision Making in Public Financial Management in Local Governments

PLG aims at improving conditions for improving public financial management (PFM) in local administrations to strengthen the fiscal space at the local level, focusing on the strengthening of selected components of the PFM cycle and its interlinkages (i.e. planning and budget preparation). At the same time, the project supports identifying entry points for climate-sensitive decision making, through technical advisory and capacity development, to address climate-related challenges at local level through a better functioning PFM cycle. In the course of the PLG programme, specialized administrative staff from local authorities will take part in training measures in the area of PFM related to climate change.

Engaging State and Civil Society in constructive Dialogue at all levels on issues of Development Policy

PLG aims to enhance public service delivery by fostering dialogue between elected representatives and administrative staff, as well as between citizens and government officials. It also focuses on promoting citizen engagement and awareness of their rights i.e. Right to Services and Right to Information, particularly among marginalized groups such as women and youth. Moreover, PLG offers advisory services to partners on integrating gender mainstreaming into service delivery and the local government system, enhancing social services for women and vulnerable groups. This is achieved through the establishment of Women Facilitation Desk (WFD) and Khuli Khichri's (open court) initiatives, which aim to increase accessibility and effectiveness of social services for these groups.

Strengthening civil society in Pakistan

PLG aims to support inclusive and democratic processes related to public good at the national and provincial level. To achieve

this, the project seeks to strengthen the engagement of civil society networks and their members in policy dialogue, advocacy on sectoral issues and the overall enabling environment for civil society in Pakistan. Moreover, PLG will also aim to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and provincial regulatory bodies for constructive, transparent, and accountable engagement with civil society organisations.

Gender and Diversity

PLG also promote inclusivity by incorporating gender and other vulnerable groups in decision-making and local service delivery. To achieve this, the program has set specific gender targets, such as increasing women's representation in policymaking, developing training programs for women councillors, and addressing the unique communication needs of women and vulnerable groups.

Expected results 2022 to 2027

The programme focuses on the following areas/fields of action:

- (i) Improved public services at the local level (including solid waste management, traffic systems, vital registration for minorities, regulation of markets etc.).
- (ii) Supporting the implementation of the Tribal Decade Strategy through technical assistance (e.g. primary education).
- (iii) Creating and using digital innovations in citizen-public sector dialogue and local service processes
- (iv) Increased domestic revenues at the local level by utilising existing revenue potentials, improving of public financial management (e.g. through digitisation), and developing revenue policies aimed at enhancing public services; and
- (v) Addressed climate-related challenges and promoted climate-sensitive decision-making, while strengthening selected components of the PFM cycle and their interlinkages such as planning and budgeting.
- (vi) Enhanced engagement between civil society and government through strengthened policy dialogue, advocacy, and improved capacities of the government partners for transparent and accountable CSO regulations.

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