BACKGROUND

Parliament Support Project (PSP) is devoted to supporting the building of the parliament’s strength in areas of institutional reforms, lawmaking, oversight and outreach. This includes enhancing the capacities of individual members of parliament (MPs), supporting parliamentary committees in lawmaking functions by making available expert reviews of and organizing public consultations on proposed bills, and conducting oversight missions.

The project also emphasizes on the creation of opportunities for people from marginalized groups and women to participate in parliametary affairs.

QUICK FACTS:

**Duration:** January 2018 - December 2022

**Focus:** Good Governance

**Source of Funding:** Government of Norway

**Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Partner:** Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies

**Total Budget Required for Project Period:**

US$ 5,915,257
ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Provided induction, orientation and capacity-building training to over 700 parliamentarians as well as 170 staff both from federal and provincial parliaments on parliamentary affairs.
- Published and disseminated a comprehensive package of knowledge products (10 themes) and global literature on parliamentary affairs, ethics, lawmaking, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and oversight to help deepen MPs’ understanding on parliamentary procedures.
- Supported to strengthen coordination among provincial assemblies and federal parliament by conducting Speakers’ Meet that charted a seven-point declaration.
- Provided expert reviews of over two dozen bills including Land Use Bill; Information and Technology Bill; Education Bill; Safe and Peaceful Use of Nuclear and Radioactive Substance Safeguard Bill; Anti-dumping and Countervailing Bill; Advertisement Regulation Bill; National Sports Development Bill; and Citizenship Bill of the federal as well as provincial parliaments.
- Supported to engaging public in law-making process through public consultations in seven provinces that helped reform the draft bills by way of amendment proposals.
- Supported in carrying out technical reviews of and public consultations on a number of bills related to fundamental rights (such as social security, rights of children, safe motherhood and reproductive health) in the context of constitutional deadline to enact them.
- Made some targeted outreach efforts, including a nationwide campaign against gender-based violence and dialogues on the legislators’ role in promoting human rights, wherein 800 people from all seven provincial assemblies and civil society stakeholders participated.
- Provided technical support to develop Strategic Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Plan of federal parliament.
- Promoted knowledge and practices on Open Government Partnership and on open parliament (knowledge products on OGP; Meet the Speaker programme, among others).
- Worked closely with journalists’ associations to build the capacity of over 283 journalists in parliamentary reporting.
- Supported Legislation Management Committee of the National Assembly to carry out a research on post legislative auditing.
- Continued to air Radio Program Hello Samsad as a part of parliament outreach through over 300 FM radios to build public-parliament dialogue interface.
- Forged partnership with youth organizations to empower and mobilize youth in parliamentary affairs.
- Supported to form a Parliamentarians’ SDG Champions Group (an informal network of 49 MPs of the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies to oversee implementation of SDGs).
- Supported Journalists’ Society for Parliamentary Affairs (JSPA) to produce a book on “Parliamentary Journalism” and Provincial JSPAs to produce MPs’ Profile books.
- Provided targeted trainings to 152 women parliamentarians to enhance their leadership abilities and parliamentary role.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Enhanced the capacity of the Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies to be effective and participatory.
- Enhanced the capacity of parliamentary secretariats to be capable and innovative in their support to MPs and Committees.
- Enhanced the capacity of the Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies to be open, interactive and accountable to citizens.
- Built the capacity of women MPs and MPs from disadvantaged groups to be effective and parliament at the federal and provincial levels to routinely engage with women, youth and other disadvantaged citizens.
- Over 50% beneficiaries of the events and the outreach programmes have been women. Others have included members from vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, sexual minorities and senior citizens.
- Over 235 women MPs actively participated in orientations, interactions and training activities organized by Federal Parliament and Provincial assemblies.
- Supported to the parliamentary committees including Women and Social Committee on various oversight missions which resulted in directions to the government and motions in the parliament.
- Organized a workshop for Dalit MPs and other rights groups to enable them to review bills from Dalit perspective.
- Supported to produce a GESI checklist for reviewing the bills and conducting parliamentary oversight.
- Conducted a training for women journalists in parliamentary reporting.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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