UNDP’s *Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes Project* seeks to provide technical assistance to support the institutional development of the Election Commission of Pakistan, the Senate and the National and Provincial Assemblies.

**Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes**

The Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes Project (SELP) seeks to develop more inclusive, and accountable governance institutions, systems and processes. It improves the supply side of governance by enhancing the capacity of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the Senate, and the National and Provincial Assemblies, as well as the demand side by developing the capacity of civil society in advocacy and civic engagement. Increasing the representation of women, youth, and minorities informs all aspects of programming. The two main activity strands are to providing support to the ECP, and strengthening legislative institutions. The Project is structured around two key strands: Electoral Cycle...
Support to the Election Commission of Pakistan and Strengthening Legislative Institutions.

Phase I of the project provided operational support and technical assistance to the ECP before and during the May 2013 General Election. Phase II seeks to: a) address challenges identified in Phase I; b) transform Phase I results into sustainable outcomes; and c) structure programming around core post-election tasks. These include developing the ECP’s capacity in accordance with its second new 5Five Year Strategic Plan (2014–18); advocacy for electoral reform; and civic and voter education campaigns, particularly for women and youth.

As part of its support to the ECP, UNDP conducted street theatre on civic and voter education reaching 51,000 women in 32 districts with low voter turnout, and a pilot project selected 25 student UN Volunteers to conduct civic education in rural communities. Over 200 ECP staff were trained in Office Technology for Elections Management. With DFID support, a voter education campaign is now motivating women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to vote in local elections on 30 May, using innovative techniques to improve face-to-face engagement.

The project seeks to strengthen the core functions of the Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies by developing the capacity of Secretariats, strengthening committees, and improving links with civic society.

**Objective**

- Strengthen democratic governance to improve the core functions of electoral and legislative institutions and promote inclusive, responsive, credible and transparent processes.

**Expected results**

- Institutional and democratic performance of the Senate and assemblies strengthened.
- Enhanced participation of women in parliamentary and electoral processes.
- Improved legislative engagement with development policy agendas.
- Enhanced civic engagement, particularly among youth.
- Stronger electoral processes and frameworks.
- Improved capacity of the ECP to train its staff.
- ECP district staff able to conduct effective civic and voter education campaigns.
- Increase in women registered to vote and women voters in the next general election.

**Main achievements**

- Women’s parliamentary caucuses established in the National and Provincial Assemblies.
- Strategic plans developed for MDG task forces in Provincial Assemblies.
- Parliamentary Reporters Association set up.
- Parliamentary outreach improved through the Youth Parliamentary School and Children’s Parliament.
- Over 500 legislators trained on rules of procedure, budget analysis, etc.
- A voter education campaign before the 2013 General Election reached 40 million people.
- The ECP used tamper-evident bags and collected gender-disaggregated voter data for the first time.

- UNDP and the ECP implemented a results management system to improve accuracy and transparency in compiling election results.
- A Civic and Voter Education Strategy focusing on women and youth developed for the ECP.
- The ECP’s Strategic Plan developed, with a strategic goal to strengthen the role of women in electoral processes.

**What’s next?**

- Hold workshops with Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses on gender budgeting, advancing legislative agendas and community outreach.
- Develop strategic plans for Provincial Assemblies, strengthen committee systems and build effective oversight mechanisms.
- Advocate for electoral reform.
- Help implement the ECP Strategic Plan.
- Develop the ECP’s institutional capacity at the provincial and district levels and expand its pool of expert trainers through the BRIDGE programme.
- The project will work with all electoral stakeholders to support voter education initiatives ahead of local government elections.