Strengthening Rule of Law Programme

The Strengthening Rule of Law Programme (SRLP) supports both supply and demand sides of the rule of law by strengthening justice institutions and citizen rights, and by deepening the ongoing efforts to secure peace and stability in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The SRLP has recently expanded its geographical outreach to other parts of Pakistan, i.e. Newly Merged Districts (formerly Federally Administered Tribal Areas) and Balochistan. Mapping the trust and confidence of the donors’ community, national counterpart and communities, SRLP is on the road to emerge a national level programme.

The SRLP also works with the informal justice system, which keeping in view the expensive and time-consuming formal justice system, is a key source of resolving minor disputes at the community level.

Objective

The SRLP supports sustainable peace by improving access to justice in Pakistan through effective and accountable justice service delivery.

QUICK FACTS

Duration: 2011–2023

Implementing partners: Dir Area Development Organization (DADO), Holistic Understanding for Justified Research and Action (HUJRA), Centre for Excellence and Rural Development (CERD), Participatory Rural Development Society (PRDS), Foundation for Rural Development (FRD) and EHSAR Foundation, Legal Awareness Programme for Human, Rights (LAPH), AGHS Legal Aid Cell, Insaf Network Pakistan.

Government departments (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa): Peshawar High Court, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Central Police Office, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy, University of Malakand, Hazara University, University of Peshawar and Institute of Management Sciences, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, Pakistan Bar Council.

Government departments (Balochistan): Balochistan High Court, Home Department Balochistan, Balochistan Police Department, Levies Directorate, Local Government Department, Women Development Department, Balochistan Bar Council, Prosecution Department.


Locations: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan

Annual budget (2019): US $6,569,965

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Key achievements

- With the UNODC and UN Women developed a rule of law Roadmap for Balochistan. The roadmap, which covers issues and challenges associated with the Police, Levies, judiciary, prosecution, lawyers, legal aid and legal awareness and provides recommendations, has been approved by the provincial cabinet.
- 22,087 people (47 percent women) received free legal aid in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- 484 members of Dispute Resolution Councils were trained and another 199 members provided refreshers trainings in dispute resolution techniques, human rights, gender and laws.
- 437 community-based paralegals (45 percent women) were certified by the University of Malakand.
- A national conference on community-based paralegals was organized with a declaration developed by participating South Asian countries.
- 2 Community-Based Paralegal networks established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one in Southern and other in Northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Media campaigns on legal rights and duties reached over 1.5 million people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- The first ever justice sector Strategic Plan was developed for Peshawar High Court and District Judiciary, which has already been approved by the administrative committee of the PHC headed by the Honourable Chief Justice PHC.
- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicature Act was drafted, which once passed by the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will create a separate service for the judicial officers resulting into more independence and separation of judiciary from the executive.
- Under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicature Act, Service Rules and Structure for the judicial officer were also reviewed and upgraded. This will help the PHC to efficiently implement the Judicature Act.
- A need assessment study on FATA/NMDs was conducted identifying challenges and way forward regarding extension of formal judicial system in FATA in 2018. The study also identified needs for personnel, infrastructure and equipment for the judiciary, prosecution and district attorneys.
- 1582 (20 percent women) Judicial officers and court staff were trained on ‘Substantive & Procedural Laws’, ‘Court & Case Management’ and ‘Office & Case Management’.
- 246 judges and court staffers (20 percent women) were trained in specialised training areas.
- 10 annual district policing plans were developed for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, implemented and are now being monitored.
- 62 Model Police stations were established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The objective of establishing MPSS is to change police culture in the province by making police more responsive to public particularly gender related issues.
- Linked model police stations with the legal aid desks in four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Under the pilot project 2642 (2445 women community members benefitted from the legal awareness sessions, 392 (257 women received legal advice, 61 women were provided legal aid in courts.
- 2,742 police officers (460 women) were trained in gender-responsive policing, supervisory and communications skills, crime scene investigation and management and basic IT.
- Established a health care facility at Police Training College Hangu.
- Constructed women police dormitories at Police Training Centre Swat and PTC Hangu.
- A data analysis centre for the Command and Control Centre was established at the Central Police Office in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- 389 prosecutors and government pleaders (11 percent women) were trained in case management, joint investigation, trial techniques and forensics, and given access to an online library.
- A study on documentation of Rewaj (customary practices in FATA was completed in 2018. The study has captured key Rewajs, its tribe-wise analysis, similarities and differences, and its comparison with the national and international human rights laws.
- A study ‘Analysis of Levies Force in Pakistan’ (Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA was completed in 2018. The study has analysed the constitution, legal framework, operational challenges and forward recommendations for policy makers.
- The SRLP supported establishment, operationalization, and training system of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy, Peshawar.
- The SRLP has established a regional Forensic Lab. in Swat.
- The SRLP has established a regional Police Training School in Swat.
- A Legal Aid Unit and Human Rights Focal Point was established in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council Peshawar. With this the custody of legal aid desks established under the SRLP were handed over to Bar Council.
- Refurbished district prosecutors’ offices, provided furniture, IT and electronic equipment and solarized prosecution offices, and provided law libraries to prosecution in 10 districts.
- Established first ever women lawyers’ forum in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with over 125 members and developed their charter.
- Over 600 lawyers (30 percent women) trained on client interviews, legal research, court appearance, rule of law, legal aid, human rights and human rights litigation.
Democratic Governance
Decentralization and Local Government

- 60 lawyers (20 women trained on ‘Domestic Application of International Human Rights Laws in Pakistan’ in partnership with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiatives Pakistan.
- Over 300 community members benefitted from legal awareness sessions in the NMDs organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council.

**What’s next?**
- Extend programme interventions to rest of the country
- Support Peshawar High Court in implementation of its five-year strategy.
- Support the Home Department and rule-of-law sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to their respective implement rule-of-law roadmaps.
- With GIZ Pakistan develop a group of Women Tax Lawyers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by December 2019.
- Support Women Lawyer Forum and expand to Balochistan and Newly Merged Districts.
- Completion of construction of Joint Police Training Centre (JPTC) Nowshera, Phase II by December 2019.
- With the support of USAID, continue legal awareness campaign to inform the citizens of merged districts (formerly FATA) about their rights, duties, basic laws and mainstream legal system.
- Build capacity of the Women Development Organizations to improve lives of women in the NMDs.
- Encourage women in legal profession through scholarships and stipends in the NMDs. Complete development of training manuals for prosecutors, lawyers and judges in NMDs.
- Develop a pool of master trainers to impart training for the prosecutors deployed in NMDs.
- Organize an Inter-Provincial Criminal Justice Workshop. Strategy for Balochistan Law Enforcement Agencies to encourage women in the police and levies force.
- Ground Breaking Ceremony of extension of residential and training facilities in Police Training School, Quetta Balochistan. Initiate construction of Women Barracks for women staff of Anti-Narcotics Force in Islamabad.
- Initiate construction of Prosecution Training Academy Peshawar.
- Initiate construction of police stations in NMDs.
- Initiate training of Levies and Khasadars in NMDs.
- Start development of Annual District Policing Plans for the NMDs.
- Start development of Rule of Law Roadmap for the Gilgit Baltistan.