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August 2019
Democratic Governance
Decentralization and Local Government

Expected results

- Establish constitutional federal organs to conduct devolution-related duties and support their policy, regulatory and supervisory roles.
- Support provincial governments to develop their legislative, institutional and policy frameworks on devolved subjects.
- Support local governments in all four provinces to incorporate and use participatory development planning, implementation and monitoring methodologies.
- Integrate decentralization, rights discourse and local governance into advocacy and civil society agendas.

Key achievements

- The Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa passed the first Human Rights Policy for the promotion and protection of human rights in the province, with the technical support of D&LG, UNDP.
- Under rights-based development, DLG project assisted the KP Provincial Government in preparing the KP Human Rights Policy, and the innovative KP Virtual Platform (now renamed to HRIMS), the Project has created an enabling environment for rights-based development in the province. In May 2018, the Human Rights Policy for KP was approved by the GoKP. Ongoing trainings for relevant focal points on both the Policy and the Virtual Platform (HRIMS) will create a strong foundation for long-lasting results. The technical assessment for the KPVP was finalized and the pilot with the MoHR is in preparation.
- Capacity building support was provided through specific programmes to enhance awareness amongst officials of line departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as staff of the National Commission of Human Rights Pakistan.
- The “Local Level Disengagement and Rehabilitation Pilot Project” implemented in Swat and Karachi to build resilience in local communities, especially in the vulnerable and at-risk segments of population. The project is based on a community driven model and targets 140 beneficiaries in Swat and 200 in Karachi.
- Provided technical assistance in the drafting of a bill and consultative process leading to the passing of a first of its kind Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018.
- In 2018, D&LG continued to collaborate with and provide support to provincial and local governments. A key expected result of this support is the on-going establishment of a “Reform and Mainstreaming Cell” at the Local Government Department, KP. With the project’s support, the Cell will take lead in bringing about major reforms in the existing LG system, and work towards its extension to the newly merged tribal districts and tehsils in the province.

What’s next?

- Improve the capacity of national and subnational institutions to fulfil post-18th Amendment governance responsibilities.
- At the federal level, D&LG will continue providing technical assistance to the CCI for the development of a comprehensive inter-provincial framework; the project will also conduct inter-provincial coordination meetings for exchange of best practices and sharing lessons learnt.
- At the provincial level, the project will support the Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab governments in drafting the Human Rights Policies and their implementation frameworks. Building on the institutional digitization support provided to the Government of KP for human rights reporting, D&LG aims to assist the Federal (MOHR), Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab Governments in installation and operationalizing of the HRIMS; this will aid in meeting international treaty body reporting obligations.
- In 2019, D&LG will focus on social inclusion (especially women) in tribal districts by providing capacity building support to district officials of social welfare and relevant departments in KP; this will be coupled with outreach and advocacy efforts with CSOs to strengthen citizen oversight mechanisms.
- In order to create an enabling environment for social inclusion in Sindh, the project will continue working at the community level for vulnerable and at-risk youth and strengthening linkages between communities and the district administration; this will be done by training district officials, forming women advisory committees and local girls’ peer groups.

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