



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 (KP). SRLP has recently expanded its geographical outreach to other parts of Pakistan, i.e. Newly Merged Districts (formerly Federally Administered Tribal Areas), 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 Strengthening Rule of Law Programme 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 programme supports sustainable peace by improving access to justice in KP, Merged Districts, and Balochistan through effective and accountable justice service delivery.

Duration: 2011–2021

Implementing partners: UNDP, 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, Insaaf Network Pakistan.

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

Government departments (Balochistan):

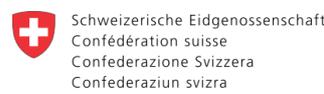
Balochistan High Court, Home Department Balochistan, Balochistan Police and Levies, Local Government Department, Women Development Department, Balochistan Bar Council,

Funding partners: Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, European Union, US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Kingdom of the Netherlands and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Location: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan

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

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Expected results

- People, including women and children, have access to legal aid and quality pro-bono attorney services.
- Alternative justice mechanisms provide fair and effective services in accordance with the Constitution of Pakistan and human rights standards.
- Courts provide effective and timely judicial services.
- Law Enforcement Agencies provide effective security and protection to KP, Merged Districts, and Balochistan residents.
- Citizen trust and confidence in the Police is enhanced.
- Improved criminal investigation and prosecution and the institution of civilian oversight mechanisms.

Key achievements

- Developed a five-year rule of law roadmap for Balochistan province. 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.
- A total of 22,087 people (47 percent women) received free legal aid in the KP.
- Out of seventy women law students who were awarded scholarships fifty-two joined the mainstream legal profession through support internships and licenses.
- The University of Peshawar awarded certifications in conflict studies to 300 students and professionals (45 percent women).
- 484 member of Dispute Resolution Councils (DRCs) were trained and 199 provided refresher 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.
- Two Community-Based Paralegal networks established in KP, one in Southern and other in Northern KP. Media campaigns on legal rights and duties reached over 1.5 million people.
- A two-day conference on women's inheritance rights was organized at the KP Judicial Academy. It led to a recommendation for mass awareness activities, trainings for judicial officers and lawyers and improving the legal framework to protect rights of women.
- Training evaluation database established at KP Judicial Academy to evaluate trainings provided to judicial officers, which will be linked to the performance

evaluation of judicial officers in their compulsory trainings for career progression and improving quality of service delivery and overall performance.

- For the first time a 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 KP Judicature Act draft is ready, which once passed by the provincial assembly will create a separate service for the judicial officers resulting into more independence and separation of judiciary from the executive.
- Under the KP 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 study on FATA was conducted to identify challenges and way forward regarding extension of formal judicial system in FATA. The study also identified needs for personnel, infrastructure and equipment.
- Twenty-six district courts, Deputy Commissioner offices, tehsils, district nazim and naib nazim offices were given access to the judicial guidelines on alternative dispute resolutions.
- 1582 (20 percent women) Judicial officers and court staff were trained on 'Substantive & Procedural Laws', 'Court & Case Management' and 'Office & Case Management'.
- Specialized trainings were conducted for 246 judges and court staffers (20 percent women).
- Ten district policing plans were developed and implemented and are now being monitored.
- Some 2,742 police officers (460 women) were trained in gender-responsive policing, supervisory and communications skills, crime scene investigation and management and basic IT.
- 62 Model Police stations were established in KP. The objective of establishing MPSs is to change police culture in KP by making police more responsive to public particularly gender related issues.
- A data analysis centre was established at the Central Police Office in Peshawar, KP.
- 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. 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, KP and FATA) was completed. The study has analysed the constitution, legal framework, operational challenges and forward recommendations for policy makers.

- Four provincial and national consultations on Levies Force were organized for the representatives of Levies, judiciary, prosecution, lawyers and policy makers to discuss challenges and work out solution.
- Supported establishment and operationalization of the KP Judicial Academy.
- Establishment of regional Forensic Lab. at Swat.
- Establishment of regional Police Training School in Swat.

What's next?

- Extend programme interventions to rest of KP, Balochistan, Merged Districts, and Islamabad.
- Support the High Court in implementation of its five-year strategy.
- Support the Home Department and rule-of-law sector in KP and Balochistan to their respective implement rule-of-law roadmaps.
- Support stakeholders on FATA reforms and mainstreaming.
- Support women's empowerment through specialized trainings for promotion within police ranks and the legal profession.
- Support Women Lawyer Forum and expand to Balochistan and Merged Districts.
- Construction of Joint Police Training Centre (JPTC) Nowshera, Phase II.
- With the support of USAID, legal awareness campaign to inform the citizens of merged districts (formerly FATA) about their rights, duties, basic laws and mainstream legal system.
- Capacity of the Women Development Organizations will be built to improve lives of women in the merged districts.
- Scholarships and stipends will be provided to women law students and law graduates to get legal education, join legal profession and support government and development partners efforts to improve lives of women in FATA.
- Training Needs Assessment of the Rule of Law and Justice Sector in the Merged Districts.
- Organize an Inter-Provincial Criminal Justice Workshop. Strategy for Balochistan Law Enforcement Agencies to encourage women in the police and levies force.
- Construction of residential and training facilities in Police Training School, Quetta Balochistan. (in pipeline). Construction of Women Barracks for women staff of Anti-Narcotics Force in Islamabad. (in pipeline).
- Construction of Prosecution Training Academy in KP.

Where we work

