



# Pakistan Legislative, Electoral, Digital Governance and Empowerment



## Background & Project Overview

The Pakistan Legislative, Electoral, Digital Governance and Empowerment (PLEDGE) project builds on UNDP’s longstanding electoral support in Pakistan from 2012 to 2024, developed in direct response to the Government of Pakistan’s request for continued assistance. Aligned with the recommendations of the UN Needs Assessment Mission, the project is designed to provide technical support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in promoting inclusive, credible, and accountable electoral processes.

PLEDGE aims to strengthen democratic governance and electoral integrity in alignment with national priorities and Pakistan’s international commitments, particularly contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It focuses on strengthening institutional capacity, promoting inclusiveness, advancing parliamentary effectiveness, and ensuring digital information integrity. These efforts are integrated through a human rights-based approach, a commitment to leaving no one behind, and the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The project seeks to cultivate a resilient, inclusive, and transparent electoral environment that upholds democratic values and supports sustainable development. However, challenges such as low voter turnout, a persistent gender gap, limited media freedom, restricted civic space, and rising digital disinformation continue to undermine electoral integrity and public trust in Pakistan’s democratic processes.

## Quick Facts



### Duration

January 2025 – December 2029



### Implementing Partners

Election Commission of Pakistan, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), National and Provincial Assemblies, Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, UNDP Pakistan



### Funding Partners

United Kingdom, European Union



### Location

Nationwide



### Total Budget

US\$17.5 million (\$3.74 million in allocated resources; \$13.75 million to be mobilized)

## Objectives

- Strengthen the institutional capacity of the ECP by providing targeted technical support aimed at improving electoral processes and public perception.
- Promote inclusiveness in electoral and governance processes through stakeholder engagement, capacity development, civic and voter education, and improved voter registration, enabling inclusive and effective decision making.
- Strengthen parliamentary effectiveness and oversight by offering technical, advisory, and capacity-building support to encourage inclusive and transparent legislative processes.
- Ensure digital information security and inclusiveness in political discourse by promoting safe, ethical, and responsible digital practices within the political and social environment.
- Increase public trust in democratic institutions by addressing misperceptions and issues of credibility, transparency, and accountability through an integrated framework of inclusive governance.

## Impact

The project contributes to democratic resilience and sustainable development by strengthening electoral integrity, enabling inclusive political participation, enhancing legislative processes, and promoting a safe and ethical digital environment. These efforts support a more participatory, accountable, and transparent democratic system across Pakistan.

## Key Interventions



### **Institutional Capacity-Building of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)**

Providing technical and strategic support to enhance the ECP's institutional and human resource capacities, with a focus on digital transformation, electoral integrity, and inclusive practices. Activities include strengthening communication and stakeholder engagement, improving accessibility for marginalized groups, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly election practices, advancing digital safety and privacy, and delivering targeted training for ECP staff and other electoral stakeholders.



### **Inclusive Electoral Participation**

Facilitating stakeholder dialogue, civic and voter education campaigns, and civil society engagement in policy development to promote inclusive governance. Special emphasis is placed on improving women's voter registration by collaborating with NADRA and women's commissions to reduce barriers to participation.



### **Parliamentary Effectiveness and Oversight**

Providing technical assistance, capacity building, and advisory support to parliamentary bodies at the national and provincial levels. Efforts focus on aligning legislation with international standards, strengthening oversight of SDG implementation, and promoting public consultations, hearings, and SDG-related budget integration to ensure transparency and participation in legislative processes.



### **Digital Information Integrity and Governance**

Advancing ethical digital governance by developing standards, supporting policy research, and collaborating with regulators and technology partners. Key interventions include countering disinformation, promoting information integrity, addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and building digital resilience through awareness campaigns and targeted digital tools.