

# FAST FACTS

United Nations  
Development Programme



## Democratic Governance

More countries than ever before are working to foster democratic governance. Their challenge is to develop institutions and processes that are more responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, including the poor, and that promote development. UNDP leads the efforts on democratic governance, serving 177 countries and territories worldwide. It helps countries strengthen electoral and legislative systems, improve access to justice and public administration and develop a greater capacity to deliver basic services to those most in need.

UNDP's Democratic Governance Programme in Pakistan works to improve governance at the federal, provincial and district levels by supporting devolution and decentralization objectives. Our work focuses on parliamentary development, political and fiscal devolution to the local governments and enhances the capacity of the state institutions to make them more transparent, accountable, and capable. We are supporting this agenda by fostering inclusive participation and promoting responsive democratic institutions.

UNDP makes a concerted effort to consolidate, strengthen and expand Government and civil society institutions to manage development resources and achieve Pakistan's national development goals. We provide support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to assist with the implementation of its strategic plan. We are strengthening selected federal and provincial parliamentary committees through evidence-based analysis, technical assistance and



### MATTERS OF FACT

- Approximately **40 million** people were mobilised to vote
- **600,000** tamper-evident bags introduced to safeguard results sheets, deter fraud and increase public confidence
- **330,000** polling staff were trained and **17,000** security personnel were trained on mitigating electoral violence
- New results management system was developed and implemented enabling greater accuracy and transparency in the compilation of elections results
- Women Caucuses formed in the Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan
- Over **400** parliamentarian and staff were trained on rules, procedures and conduct of business at the parliament
- Provided support to **12** committees of the Senate and the Parliament on legislative drafting, including research and oversight
- First Fellowships on Federalism awarded to **12** M.Phil. students across the country
- First course on Pakistani Federalism developed, **20** faculty members from **10** universities were trained
- First high-level dialogue organised on Operationalization of Joint and Equal Ownership of Natural Resources
- **42** senior officials were trained on transition management post 18th Amendment in Balochistan
- Policy Reform Unit established in Balochistan to train senior officials on managing the devolution process

training for effective legislative reviews and oversight of the executive.

UNDP is enhancing the functioning of the Planning Commission and Provincial Planning and Development departments in the area of aid policy and coordination with a focus on development planning, Millennium Development Goals acceleration and social sector service delivery.

### We focus on the following areas:

#### Promoting Electoral Reforms

UNDP offers strategic assistance throughout the Electoral Cycle, from support in designing more effective systems, to mechanisms to improve the credibility of the Election

Commission of Pakistan (ECP). To support the 2013 democratic transition, we strengthened the ECP, resulting in improved efficiency of the commission and more inclusive elections with a particular focus on women, the poor and people with disabilities. We helped develop the essential skills and knowledge of ECP staff and geared efforts toward preventing electoral violence by training police officials, including women, on electoral security and laws. To improve electoral processes and administration, with increased oversight by the Commission, we assisted in developing a critical new election results management system. While significant challenges remain and need to be tackled by the new government, parliament and political parties, these elections have been the best so far in Pakistan, as agreed by the domestic and international observers.

Post general elections, our work focuses on the core election activities of developing the organisational and administrative capacity of the ECP, advocating for electoral reforms and assisting the commission to improve electoral processes, and implementing a comprehensive civic education strategy to support broader efforts to deepen democracy in Pakistan. After assisting local government elections in Balochistan along with support for drafting electoral rules and procedure, we are now helping Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments with their local elections.

### **Parliamentary Development**

UNDP assists Pakistan's Federal Parliament and four Provincial Assemblies to enhance institutional capacities and mechanisms that promote an inclusive system of governance and produce stability and equitable growth, and that benefit the most vulnerable. The primary focus is on strengthening institutional support, building capacity and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with progress overseen by the Parliamentary Committee on MDGs. We also assist the Federal Parliament's newly formed Task Force on MDGs to coordinate provincial efforts and to provide guidance to achieve efficient and effective results on MDGs at the provincial level.

Our initiatives for inclusive democratic governance are further strengthening coordination between the national and provincial assemblies to effectively support devolution under the 18th Constitutional Amendment. Our new parliamentary strategy focuses on promoting institutional reform; building the capacity of legislators

and technical staff; enhancing the effectiveness of women members of parliament and improving their ability to caucus and learn from one another. Women members in all the Provincial Assemblies are represented in caucuses that further encourage inclusive participation.

We are building better mechanisms to improve research and documentation for the Senate's think tank and the Parliamentarians' forum. Parliamentarians are being assisted in taking on greater accountability and oversight of the national budget process.

### **Strengthening Participatory Federalism and Decentralization**

Local governments constitute one of the most important avenues for poor people, women and minorities to participate in the development of their communities and influence the decision-making processes that are directly relevant to their lives.

Two years after the 18th Amendment to the Constitution passed, devolving more power to the local level, local governments are starting to take shape and more local elections are coming soon. Our initiative on Federalism supports the new local governments as they take up their representation and fiscal responsibilities. As the federal and provincial governments transition to the decentralization reforms, we engage with provincial governments and civil society actors through a series of policy dialogues, thematic conferences and technical trainings to create a better understanding of decentralization and an enabling environment for greater implementation of the Amendment.

UNDP focuses its work in local governance on strengthening the inclusiveness and accountability of local governments, ensuring they have the capacity to manage the opportunities and responsibilities created by decentralization and devolution. We are pursuing greater engagement and coordination between the Federal Parliament and the Provincial Assemblies to facilitate the implementation of devolution reforms by strengthening key institutions supporting the federation.

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May 2014

