

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Rule of Law

The poor and marginalized are too often denied the ability to seek remedies in a fair justice system. UNDP promotes effective, responsive, accessible and fair justice systems as a pillar of democratic governance.

Recent reforms in the law and justice sector in Pakistan have been characterised by efforts led by the judiciary, keen interest from the media and civil society organizations, public demands for access to justice, and an emphasis on investing in justice and security issues from international development partners.

These conditions have created momentum and an opportunity for collective action to increase access to justice and improve the administration of justice in Pakistan. UNDP in Pakistan helps to create overarching visions and strategies that ensure all the links in the justice chain are included, so that reform measures are not *ad hoc* but catalytic and self-reinforcing. Every context is unique and requires its own tailor-made solution.

UNDP's work takes an integrated approach to law and justice. Our work on justice sector reforms includes initiatives at both the community and institutional levels. While helping to improve institutions and staff skills, we also work to ensure effective and prompt provision of justice, and support trusted, inexpensive and readily accessible dispute resolution systems at the local level. It is



MATTERS OF FACT

- More than **1,500** judges, lawyers and administrative staff trained by the KP Judicial Academy
- First mobile court service inaugurated
- **663** legal aid clinics were conducted which benefitted **30,955** people including **13,675** females
- **2,596** community members including **1,188** females received assistance through one-on-one consultations and **1,030** vulnerable people were referred to legal aid desks for further assistance
- Women's participation has increased from **42** percent to **47** percent per clinic
- **789** court cases (390 female) were filed and contested on behalf of vulnerable litigants out of which 166 cases were resolved
- **1,586** community paralegals trained
- First women lawyers' bar room was established in Timergara District Court, Swat
- More than **495** *Musalihati Jirga* members and **852** community paralegals were trained in 85 Union Councils across seven districts of Malakand Division
- **48** women were appointed as MJ members for the first time in Malakand Division
- First woman police master trainer delivered training to her male counterparts

the first government led rule of law programme supported financially by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government. We interact directly with communities to collect, articulate and analyze demand and supply for legal services at the grassroots and create links between the providers and the recipients of justice.

The UNDP fosters links between justice, security and development, with particular focus on a) Access to Justice: Assisting poor and vulnerable people to use formal and informal institutions to obtain justice b) Rule of Law: Supporting the transformation of institutions to establish and uphold fundamental rules and laws.

**Strengthening Institutions
for Judiciary, Prosecution and Police**

UNDP works with national partners to support the development of strategic plans, policies and programs for justice reform. We improve the policies and plans for the justice sector by collaborating with the Federal Judicial Academy. We hold policy dialogues with the Law and Justice Commission and the Pakistan Bar Council to amend the legal aid regime. We are developing a comprehensive framework for the training of district judiciary, prosecution and lawyers in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy to support planning and policy-making in the justice sector. To improve case management systems, we established the Research Wing and Mediation Centre in the KP Judicial Academy. Dialogues have been initiated in the KP provincial assembly to equip members of Parliament with a better understanding of rule of law and access to justice. We are setting up a Forensic Science Laboratory and Regional Training Centre in Swat to strengthen police and prosecution.

Expanding legal aid and citizens' access to justice

Within both the formal and informal justice systems, women, children, and ethnic groups are likely to be more excluded. With efforts to empower those left out of the legal system, UNDP has set up legal aid clinics that give priority to women and the needs of the most vulnerable. These clinics equip vulnerable populations with information on their basic rights and access to the justice system. We are training women paralegals to assist vulnerable women in accessing the justice system. Mobile legal aid clinics are held near remote populations and communities in need of legal aid in Malakand district.

In collaboration with University of Malakand, we are conducting research studies on clinical legal education. We are providing scholarships to female law students and law graduates motivating them to continue their practice of law after graduation. Our community policing initiative is helping increase citizens' confidence in their interactions with police. The newly set up Mobile Court justice system in partnership with the Peshawar High Court brings justice and the rule of law to even the most remote and conflict-affected areas of Pakistan.

Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

UNDP reinforces alternative dispute resolution systems by creating linkages and encouraging dialogue between the formal and informal justice systems (i.e. paralegals and the

Musalihati Jirga [MJ] – an informal justice system available to communities for the amicable resolution of disputes at their doorstep. Together, we help MJ members and community paralegals to resolve disputes at the community level, leading to greater community confidence in the justice system. We have undertaken research on formal and informal justice systems in order to support a gradual approach for the interface between both systems.

Laying the groundwork for justice in the region

Our work on rule of law is successfully creating networks among various government institutions in the formal justice sector not only to support policy dialogue, but also in planning, undertaking and monitoring activities. We engage with civil society organizations with specialized skills in issues affecting the marginalised and vulnerable groups in order to create awareness among community leaders on peaceful dispute resolution in line with human rights standards.

www.pk.undp.org

United Nations Development Programme
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Islamabad, Pakistan

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