
**STRENGTHENING
THE ASSOCIATIONS
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
AND THEIR
MEMBERS FOR ENHANCED GOVERNANCE
AND EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT**



EUROPEAN UNION



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LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION
OF THE PUNJAB

Strengthening the Associations of Local Governments and their Members for Enhanced Governance and Effective Development

Duration: 20 January 2017 – 19 December 2020 (47 months)

Budget: 1,726,748.00 Euros

Location: Balochistan, KPK, Sindh and Punjab

Implementing Partners: Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Local Councils Association of the Punjab (LCAP)

Introduction:

The EU is committed to subsidiarity and decentralisation. The 2013 Communication on local authorities clearly recognised that Associations of Local Authorities can be instrumental in achieving good governance but that in many partner countries they are still weak. In Pakistan the EU is working to strengthen local authorities and associations of local authorities, enabling them to effectively perform their roles as actors in local governance and development. The EU is supporting the associations of local authorities (called local councils associations in Pakistan) to effectively contribute to local good governance and accountability, and development processes at sub-national and local levels, and enhance social cohesion and social development through a territorial multi-stakeholder approach and citizen empowerment.

The challenge:

Democratic local government was dissolved in 2009, and while the 18th Constitutional Amendment (April 2010) reintroduced sub-national government, placing under the remit of Provincial government, the process of enacting provincial legislation and holding elections was slow (only finalised in all provinces in 2016). Each province has distinct new legislation and it was estimated that 75% of councilors are completely new to the system and many of the officials in local councils are unfamiliar with working in an elected council environment. The EU is supporting the local councils associations at provincial and national level as a key body which provides support to councils and councilors, as well as advocating as a collective voice for more effective local government systems so as to better deliver good governance and services to citizens. A current challenge of the project is that over the course of 2019 the Provincial governments in Balochistan, KPK and Punjab all dissolved the existing local governments and have yet to call local elections.

Addressing the challenge:

The European Union is funding the Project “Strengthening Associations of Local Government and their Members for Enhanced Governance and Effective Development

Outcomes” as part of its wider commitment to decentralization and subsidiarity. The project is working to strengthen the provincial local councils associations in Balochistan, KPK, Sindh and Punjab, as well as their national umbrella organization Association for Development and Local Governance (ADLG). The project is working to support local councils associations in more effectively representing their members (District councils, Town councils, and Metropolitan corporations; Tesil councils, village and neighborhood councils), and helping them to support and enhance the contribution of local governments to governance and development in Pakistan.

Project activities:

- Building the institutional and operational capacity of the national local council association to be full constituted and operational with political leadership, constitution, strategic plan, staff, and office amenities;
- Building the institutional and operational capacity of the four (4) provincial local council association full constituted at operational with political leadership, constitution, strategic plan, staff, and office amenities;
- Supporting the LCAs to develop and implement strategies for financial sustainability, for support to women and minorities in local government, advocacy and lobbying strategies.
- 2 National conferences on the role of local government in Pakistan bringing local government together with national and provincial ministries, development partners, CSOs;
- Producing learning documents and position papers to support local government in Pakistan and both the Provincial and National levels;
- Capacity building for 400 LCA member on the role of the association in service delivery to members and advocacy to improve local government legislation and practice;
- Capacity building with 200 LCA members on the Territorial approach to local development
- 10 pilot project at local council level on the implementation of the territorial approach to local development;
- Developing knowledge products and gather case studies setting out examples of good practice, including the role of elected leaders in development;
- Increase linkages with regional and global local government associations and networks and draw in international learning and best practice.

Expected outcomes:

By the end of the project in 2020, it is envisaged that the LCAs will be active membership organisations, delivering against strategic plans developed by and for their membership and effectively raising the profile and voice of local government in all four provinces, and

at a federal level. The LCAs will be self-sustaining (with financial and human resource sustainability plans in place), delivery services to their council members, working to improve accessibility into local government for women and minority groups, and in active dialogue with Provincial government to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. In the four provinces the capacity of local governments to effectively perform their role as actors in local development will have been built through testing methods for the local implementation of the territorial approach to local development (TALD), and key lessons from TALD and other innovations in local development will be collected and shared with the wider local government community through the LCAs.

Broader Impact:

The project was well underway with the institutional capacity of the provincial LCAs significantly reinforced when the new federal government was formed in June 2018. Prime Minister Imran Khan included local government as a key element of his 100 days plan and subsequently the local councils associations were invited to join the inter-provincial consultation which fed into the National Task force on local government reform as well as be represented in the National Taskforce on SDGs. The local councils associations have also been able to build mutually beneficial relationships with provincial government department, for example in Punjab where the provincial LCA has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Population and Welfare to work with local government to help them achieve SDG goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages).

Results:

- Five national and provincial ALAs fully constituted and operational, with a clear vision, mandate and strategy in place and being implemented;
- Elected local governments' leaders have increased understanding of their roles and responsibilities within local government system and the capacity to play a full role in territorial development;
- At least eight district councils across the four provinces successfully demonstrate the use of the TALD approach in their territories;
- Knowledge products setting out examples of good practice, including the role of elected leaders, available and disseminated extensively by all ALAs in locally accessible languages and formats;
- At least one provincial government positively recognises the role of the ALA in provincial level dialogue and policy development.
- Effective management of the project, facilitating achievement of project results, good coordination between partners and other stakeholders and visibility for the project.

PICTURES



Provincial LCAs meet with the Governor of Punjab in November 2018 as part of the advocacy process to strengthen local government



Hon Makhdoom Khusro, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms speaking on the important role of local government in ensuring National Development at the national conference in Jan 2019



Territorial Approach to Local Development (TALD) seminar in Malakand (PK province) July 2019



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