



LCA Planning Workshop for Marginalized Councilors to Develop Strategic Plan

Dec 04, 2018
Park Lane Hotel, Lahore



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The views expressed in this report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily represent those of GIZ.

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ACRONYMS

BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
ETD	Excise and Taxation Department
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IT	Information Technology
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LCA	Local Councils Association
LCAB	Local Councils Association Baluchistan
LGAs	Local Government Acts
LoGo	Local Governance Programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
PLGA	Punjab Local Government Act
RTI	Right to Information
SCD	State-Citizen Dialogue

1 INTRODUCTION:

1.1 Support to Local Governance Program

Germany and Pakistan have been partners in international cooperation for more than 54 years. GIZ has been working in Pakistan on behalf of the German Government, mainly the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Federal Foreign Office. GIZ provides technical and financial support to Government institutes and Non-Government organizations of Pakistan to create excellence in selected thematic areas. Good governance is one among the key issues in Pakistan where GIZ is supporting to create enabling environment for sustainable development.

In December 2016, GIZ launched the project “Support to Local Governance Program” (LoGo) in collaboration with German Government and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces. The project focuses four thematic areas; 1) Strengthening Local Governance, 2) Revenue Generation, 3) State-Citizen Dialogue and 4) Financing Sustainable Development.

Under the result area 3, GIZ is supporting to Local Councils Associations in both provinces to develop their institutional capacity, strengthening their voices for democratic self-governing local governments and creating a hub of knowledge and information on local governments.

1.2 Objectives of the Workshop

The objectives of the workshop were;

1. Identification of capacity issues not enabling councilors to play their effective role in their councils;
2. Enlisting political challenges hindering their leadership role;
3. Debating legal and technical challenges minimizing their participation and performance;
4. Frame 2 years strategic plan to enhance women councilor’s effective role in local councils.

2 PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

2.1 Opening of the Workshop

The planning workshop was held on December 04, 2018 at Park Lane Hotel in Lahore for marginalized councilors essentially of women, twenty representative councilors of women, youth and minorities were present (see participant list annex A).

The workshop was started with the recitation of Holly Quran, and **Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad (GIZ Advisor to LCA)** briefly highlighted the objectives of the workshop and facilitated the introductory session of participants.

He invited the President LCA Punjab Ms. Fozia Khalid Warriach to officially open the workshop. She said that this was a strategic move to support marginalized councilors to represent their constituencies in true sense to resolve their issues affecting their lives. She asked to participants essentially of women that she was a house wife and never been involved in politics although she belonged to a political family, but one day, “I decided to dedicate my remaining life to the well-being of the people living in my area. I explained my aims and objectives to my family and convinced them that their trust would never be shaken. In this way, my family stood on my back and I was elected as chairperson of the district”, the president shared.



She emphasized that it was a good opportunity for all of you to draw a concrete road map so that you could play your effective leadership role to solve issues affecting the lives of your constituencies. She congratulated Ms. Zaib-un-Nisa and Ms Hina Shahid for being elected as chairperson and deputy chairperson of the women development committee and hoped that they would make significant work to enable women councilors to play their es-

essential role. By concluding her opening remarks, she said that she had high hopes that today we would have a realistic plan to boost up the role of the marginalized councilors. She thanked GIZ for its continued support to LCA Punjab.

2.2 Views of Co-Speakers and Head of Organizations

Ms. Zaib un Nisa (Chairperson Women Development Committee) was invited to share her insights around this workshop and way forward.

She thanked GIZ for organizing such an important planning workshop for marginalized councilors which would definitely contribute to scale up their capacities to be an effective councilor addressing and solving the issues of their electorates. She shared that women councilors were kept in darkness by their male councilors and important things were never shared with them. She said that women councilors themselves



were not aware about their roles and responsibilities essentially of budgeting and planning processes, identification women issues like education, health, economic empowerment, harassment, violence and early marriages. She also said that under Punjab Local Government Act-2013, women councilors were selected not elected by the political parties and now they were not in the position to work against their parties. She set high hopes that today we would be able to draw a good workable plan to further support 9000 elected councilors across Punjab.

Ms. Hina Shahid (Vice Chairperson Women Development Committee) apologized for being late to the workshop. She highlighted the important role of female councilors at all levels in the councils. She said that there were political, financial and legal challenges to women councilors which were hindering their role in the councils. She said that it must be reviewed and required amendments in the PLGA 2013 must be introduced to empower not only women councilors but youth and minority councilors also.

Mr. Anwar Hussain (Executive Director, LCAP) further elaborated objectives of the workshop and paid tribute to GIZ for the continuous support to the association. He thanked the president LCA for being with participants to encourage them to draft a workable strategic plan. He also informed the participants that Ms. Fozia Khalid also became board member of Commonwealth Local Government Forum and Chairperson of the committee of United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific on South West Asia.

He suggested the participants that they might categorize their work, first on capacity issues of councilors hindering to perform their role, second political challenges to them and third the legal challenges. He said that today's planning would be given due space in the overall plan of the association,



and development partners would be sensitized to play their role essentially for women councilors.

Mrs. Uzma, GIZ Gender Advisor who joined the workshop via skype, shared her input on gender mainstreaming. She said that gender budgeting is a key challenge at all level of local

governments. Women roles and responsibilities were not clear in the PLGA 2013 with no local government gender policy. She highlighted the importance of effective networking of women councilors which could mount a pressure on key decision makers to change their mind set towards women and to draw a clear-cut road map of women councilors to contribute for the constituencies. She also underlined the importance of exposure visits to relevant institutions and organizations across provinces and outside Pakistan to learn from peers and share experiences. She hoped that today a realist work plan might be developed to support thousands of marginalized councilors.

2.3 Deliberations of Participants

Ms. Shagufta Hussain (Councilor from Layyah) said that women had a lot of responsibilities to perform but unfortunately with no rights and the biggest reason was their unawareness about their rights ensured in the constitution of Pakistan. She had her views that awareness on women rights and rights in the councils must be known to each women councilor across province, only then they might be able to perform their effective role in the councils.

Ms. Khalid Iqbal (Councilor from Raheem Yar Khan) asked that women councilors were not aware about their roles and responsibilities within the councils. They were not given any training on how to perform and contribute meaningfully. She also mentioned that women were somehow hesitant to work with male peers, and this was due to the lack of confidence.

Ms. Rabiya Zahid (Councilor from Lahore) told that women were not encouraged by male peers to speak and contribute even they build pressure by blaming that women could perform in councils. She also suggested that women might be elected by direct vote not through indirect voting.

Mr. Noor Akbar (Program Officer CLGF) shared that not only women councilors but men councilors were also not aware about their responsibilities and rights in the councils and the biggest reason was commitment to learn and perform. They did not have clear objectives that what had to do for their electorates.

He said that practical education was critical in the country, passion, to do for others and collective thinking were missing somewhere. He highlighted that male dominance would prevail unless women step forward and show their great performance.

Ms. Sajida Sarwar (Councilor from Toba Take Singh) put on the table that it was about two years of their election but no training was given to her. She was totally dependent on local bureaucracy and senior peers to learn to move around. She also asked that everything is written in English language which was not her mother language and it becomes difficult to understand.

Association must develop a kind of booklet in Urdu language containing roles and responsibilities of councils and of women.

Mr. Khalid Shahzad (Minority Representative from Lahore) said that role of political parties was very crucial to award tickets to eligible candidates and to train them how to perform in the councils but unfortunately nothing had been done in this direction. He said that in case of minorities the situation is worst and the councils never plan what they had special for minorities to include them into main stream. He suggested that networking and effective coordination was one of the effective mechanisms to share knowledge, experiences and best practices.

Mr. Hafiz Hassan (Youth Councilor from Sheikhpura) said that due budget was not given to youth councilors and their priorities were not given respect. He asked that youth was generation who had to take future charge but councils had zero agenda for them.

Mr. Waleed Shah (Youth Councilor from Gujranwala) shared that youth representatives are not aware about their roles as they never went through the trainings or awareness sessions how to identify, plan and execute innovations contributing in up scaling the role of youth in the country.

Mr. Malik Saddam Hussain (Youth Councilor from Sargodha) shared that youth councilors have a loose network, but we did not have strategic direction what to do for our constituencies. We just share pictures and communicate on issues but could not find solutions. He requested the Association that youth network might be strengthened to run a provincial wide campaign to highlight burning issues of youth and long-term framework to prepare a vibrant youth for future of the country. He shared that he pushed private schools in his district to provide free education at least to ten poor students and an agreement was signed among councils and the schools. He asked that this model might be replicated to other parts of the province.

Mr. Razaqat Sahotra (Minority Councilor from Lahore) told that electoral colleges for minorities were unjustified. Thus, true representation could not emerge to take up the issues of minorities. He suggested that there must be separate budget lines for minority plans. He set high hopes from the association to contribute meaningfully for minorities in the new framework of local governments.

3 GROUP WORK

It was decided to form groups to further identify areas on which strategic plan may be developed. Thereby, participants were divided into three groups to discuss the capacity, political and legal challenges to marginalized councilors essentially of women.

The pattern was set that first the issues and challenges would be identified then solutions would be proposed, responsibilities would be fixed with timelines.

3.1 Group Work 1:

Following are key outcomes of the group work;

Issue	Solution	Responsibility	Time line
Less awareness about roles and responsibilities	Development of booklet and training sessions	LCA Punjab	In 2018 and 2019
Lack of confidence and poor leadership	Training on effective leadership	LCA Punjab and GIZ	In 2019, on going
No understanding on planning and budgeting for councils	Material on budget rules and training sessions	LCA Punjab and GIZ	In 2019, on going
Poor communication and networking among councilors	Devise a members communication strategy and implementation	LCA Punjab and GIZ	In 2019, first quarter
Minimal awareness on harassment laws at work place	Sharing stuff on harassment laws	LCA Punjab	In 2019, February
No mechanism to lean from peers	Organization of exposure visits within province, across province and outside Pakistan to relevant institutions and organizations	LCA Punjab and GIZ	In 2019, on going

3.2 Group Work 2:

Following are key outcomes of the group work;

Issue	Solution	Responsibility	Time Line
Lack of powers in the PLGA 2013	Introducing amendments in PLGA 2013	LCA Punjab	2019
Dual role of actors for development	Legal remedies to curtail role of parliamentarians in local development	LCA Punjab	In 2019
Less opportunities for trainings on the business of councils	Modern training programs developed and implement	LCA Punjab and GIZ	In 2019, on going
Minimal education of political affairs essentially of councils	Material on political economy in local language	LCA Punjab and GIZ	In 2019, first quarter

Lack of education of local government business	Information material on local governments	LCA Punjab	In 2019
In sufficient funds for marginalized councilors	Introducing amendments in PLGA 2013 and sensitization to head of councils	LCA Punjab	In 2019
Less access to council business information	Sharing rights to access information	LCA Punjab and GIZ	In 2019
Less awareness on international development agenda	Sharing the material on international development agenda essentially of SDGs	LCA Punjab and GIZ	In 2019

3.3 Group Work 3:

Following are key outcomes of the group work;

Issue	Solution	Responsibility	Time line
Absence of functional assignments	Provision of functional assignments to marginalized councilors	LCA Punjab and GIZ	2019
Non-gender budgeting in councils	Introduce amendments in PLGA 2013 for gender-based budgeting	LCA Punjab	2019
Absence of effective women networking	Marginalized councilors network may be strengthened within Association	LCA Punjab and GIZ	2019
Honorarium not given to councilors	Amendments in PLGA 2013 to provide sufficient honorarium to all councilors	LCA Punjab	2019
Traditional support to women	Innovative support to marginalized women	LCA Punjab	2019
Less acceptability of women leaders in councils	Orientation sessions for male councilors	LCA Punjab and GIZ	2019
Religious discrimination	Orientation to Muslim councilors on discrimination	LCA Punjab and GIZ	2019
Missing link among councilors and women electorates	Use of social, print and electronic media	LCA Punjab and GIZ	2019

3.4 Closing of the Workshop

At the end of the workshop, the LCAP President was requested for concluding remarks. She thanked all participants for their hardworking throughout the day. She also paid gratitude to GIZ and Mr. Mushtaq for continuous support to LCA Punjab. She hoped that soon a strategic plan shall be devised by considering all deliberations of the participants. The workshop was officially closed having no further agenda.

4 ANNEXURES

4.1 Annex A – Workshop Agenda

Workshop Agenda

Planning Workshop to Draft Strategic Plan for Women, Youth and Minority Councilors to Enhance Effective Role In local Governance
December 04, 2018, Park Lane Hotel, Lahore

Time	Activity	Responsibility
08.30 – 09.00	Arrival and registration of participants	GIZ admin staff
09.00 – 09.05	Recitation from the Holy Quran	Volunteer
09.05 – 09.10	Welcome to Participants	President LCA Punjab
09.10 – 09.25	Objectives of the roundtable	Executive Director
09.25 – 10.00	Identification of Capacity Issue not Enabling Councilors to Play their Effective Role	Gender Coordinator
10.00 – 10.30	Working on Political Challenges Hindering to Play their Leadership role	Gender Coordinator
10.30 – 11.00	Legal and Technical Challenges Minimizing their Participation and Performance	Gender Coordinator
11.00 – 13.00	Group Work: 1. Discuss and Enlist Key Actions to Enhance their Capacity and Effective Participation 2. Priority Areas for 2019, 2020	Gender Coordinator
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.30	Group Presentations	Participants
15.30 – 15.50	Interaction with DG Local Government	Participants
15.50 – 16.00	Closing Remarks	President LCA Punjab

4.2 Annex B – List of Participants

List of Participants

Planning Workshop to Draft Strategic Plan for Women, Youth and Minority Councilors to enhance their Effective Role in Local Governance
December 04, 2018, Park Lane Hotel, Lahore

#	Name	Designation	District
Women Councilors			
01	Ms. Tabana Imran	Councilor DC	Hafizaabad
02	Ms. Zarina Sheikh	Councilor MC	Jhang
03	Ms. Zaib un Nisa	Councilor DC	Kasur
04	Ms. Rabeya Zahid	Councilor UC	Lahore
05	Ms. Shagufta Hussain	Member DC	Leyyah
06	Ms. Hina Shahid	Councilor MC	Multan
07	Ms. Ume Kalsum Sial	Member DC	Muzafar Garh
08	Ms. Khalida Iqbal	Member DC	Rahim Yar Khan
09	Ms. Farzana Abbas	Member MC	Sahiwal
10	Ms. Beenish Qamar Dar	Member DC	Sheikhu pura
11	Ms. Fozia Khalid	Chairperson DC	Toba Take Singh
12	Ms. Sumera Mirza	Councilor DC	Vehari
Women at Large			
13	Ms. Sajida Sarwar	Councilor DC	Toba Take Singh
14	Ms. Saher Gul	Councilor MC	Multan
Minority Councilors			
15	Mr. Shahzad Masih	Councilor UC	Lahore
16	Mr. Rifaqat Salhotra	Councilor MC	Lahore
17	Mr. Nadeem Babar	Councilor DC	Toba Take Singh
Youth Councilors			
18	Mr. Hafiz Hasan	Councilor MC	Sheikhupura
19	Mr. Waleed Shah	Councilor DC	Gujranwala
20	Mr. Sadam Hussain	Councilor DC	Sargodha
Others			
21	Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad	Advisor to LCAP	Lahore
22	Mr. Abdul Aziz	LoGo	Lahore
23	Mr. Abdul Hadi	LoGo	Lahore

4.3 Annex C – Workshop Snaps

Selected Workshop Snaps

Planning Workshop to Draft Strategic Plan for Women, Youth and Minority Councilors to enhance their Effective Role In local Governance

December 04, 2018, Park Lane Hotel, Lahore



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