

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Omar Asghar Khan



Acronyms

ADP	Annual Development Programme
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DDAC	District Development Advisory Committee
DHQ	District Headquarter (hospital)
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
FY	Financial Year
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LG	Local Government
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
NADRA	National Database & Registration Authority
NC	Neighbourhood Council
NCSW	National Commission on the Status of Women
NFC	National Finance Commission
OBI	Open Budget Index
OBS	Open Budget Survey
PFC	Provincial Finance Commission
PFM	Public Finance Management
SAP	Social Accountability Action Plan
TB	Tuberculosis
TDEA	Trust for Democratic Education & Accountability
UC	Union Council
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VC	Village Council

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SUMMARY

Accountability

The Foundation expanded the focus of its analysis of KP's budget to include revenue estimations. It also analysed trends from FY2013-14 to FY2018-19. Consistently uneven allocation of development funds helped emphasize the need for a Provincial Finance Commission to fairly distribute funds to all districts. Marked reduction in pro-women funds from the previous year highlighted the importance of gender-based budgeting including sex-disaggregation of budget data. A declining trend in funds for local government helped reiterate the significance of fiscal decentralization. Fair access to funds among councillors was also recommended. Roundtables, posters, billboards, and, the social media were innovatively used to project the Foundation's budget analysis to a wider audience, helping improve public understanding of public finance management and expanding the broad-based backing for fair & transparent public finance decisions.

Since 2009, the Foundation contributes to the global Open Budget Survey – an independent, comparative assessment of budget transparency. Pakistan was among 115 countries included in 2017, the sixth round of this biennial assessment. It scored 44, improving by 1 point from its 2015 ranking, partly affected by a change that only recognizes documents published online on government websites as publicly available.

2018 was election year in Pakistan -- an important milestone in the country's continuing journey from transitional to stronger democratic governance. Omar Asghar Khan Foundation made significant contributions to support public participation in the 2018 elections, maintaining a special focus on women, youth, the elderly, transgender, and, the differently-abled.

The Foundation defined and publicized reforms to improve public finance management in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It expanded citizen capacities and connections to monitor and improve public services. It assisted public representatives, especially local councilors, and government officials to better respond to public needs like clean drinking water, schools, healthcare and roads.

The Foundation continued to focus its field presence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while its advocacy for policy & institutional reform extended across Pakistan.

Governance

Working intensely with 120 CSOs in KP's districts of Abbottabad, Battagram, Dera Ismail Khan, Haripur, Karak, Kohat, Kohistan, Mansehra, Mardan, Nowshera, Peshawar, Shangla, Swat the Foundation succeeded in increasing citizen engagement resulting in the delivery of better public services. An estimated 206,015 households or 1.51 million people benefitted through improved supply of clean drinking water, pavement of rural roads, regular collection and disposal of solid waste, provision of furniture and other basic facilities in schools, and, making medicines and other essentials available in healthcare facilities. These have entailed better targeting of an estimated Rs.3.18 million local government and Rs.18.85 million other public funds.

In the lead-up to the 2018 elections, the Foundation mobilized public participation. It worked round-the-clock with the Election Commission of Pakistan & NADRA assisting more than 7,000 women to get their CNICs -- reducing the gender gap in voters' registration. Over 17,000 women & youth were better informed about voting. About 50 journalists were trained to improve reporting on women's participation. A media campaign encouraged about 3.6 million citizens to use their right to vote. And, election observation led by the National Commission for the Status of Women was supported.

Tolerance

Affirmative measures were popularized for women, the elderly, transgender and the differently-abled provided under the Elections Act 2017 and included as administrative interventions by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

The global campaign *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* was celebrated by bringing together about 60 elected councilors and activists to review pledges made in the 2018 manifestoes and recommend additional policy priorities.

The Foundation was part of the 16-member civil society delegation that presented a set of recommendations to the Honourable President of Pakistan, Mr. Arif Alvi, concerning stronger constitutional governance, effective rule of law and protection of fundamental rights of expression and association.

Poverty Reduction

The Foundation was selected as a partner to the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund to assist at least 8,000 very poor families in District Kohistan to combine consumption support received under the Benazir Income Support Programme with assets and skills to move to the next level of well-being with better food security and resilience to climate change. The initiative was to begin in 2018 but was delayed.

Public Finance Management

An Analysis of KP's Budget FY2018-19 & Trends FY2013-14 to FY2018-19

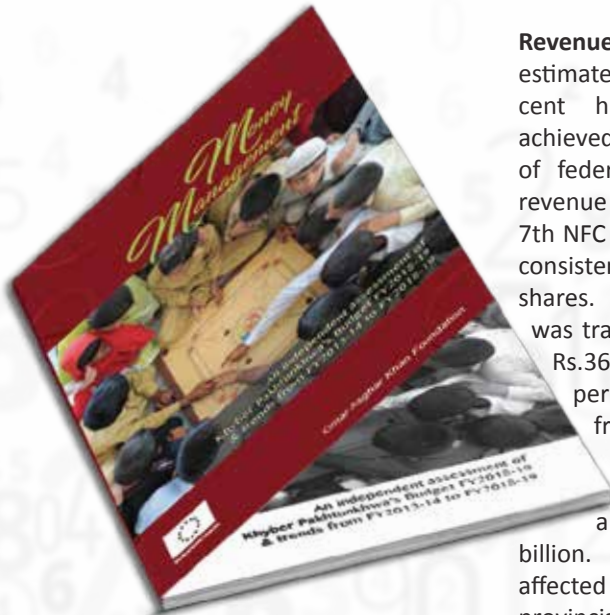
Federal & provincial budgets are generally approved around 30 June, the financial year-end. The budget cycle this year was affected by the 2018 election. The federal budget was presented on 28 April 2018, before the central government's term ended on 30 May 2018. KP's budget for FY2018-19 was presented in September 2018 after the new government took office following the July 2018 elections. The Foundation analysed it and also assessed trends from FY2013-14 to FY2018-19.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Foundation supports open, broad-based engagement in public resource management to improve governance and the delivery of quality services. It analyses public budgets and makes implications and consequences of public finance decisions clear to citizens and decision-makers. It uses evidence to recommend reforms for improved budget fairness, participation & oversight.

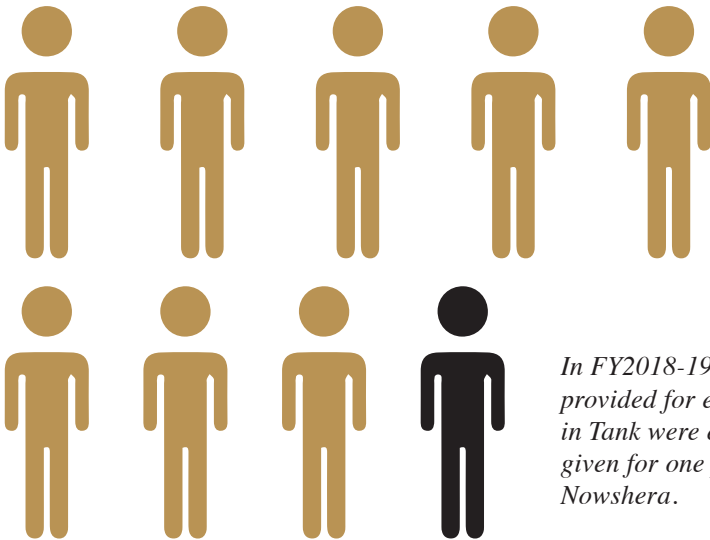
The Foundation's budget work includes assessment of provincial (sub national) budgets, the timely production and availability of federal budget documents, off-budget funds, and, citizen monitoring of public services.

Revenue: Rs.648 billion revenue receipts estimated for FY2018-19 are 18.6 per cent higher than Rs.546.5 billion achieved in the preceding year. The size of federal transfers, a key source of revenue for KP, has increased under the 7th NFC Award. However, transfers have consistently been less than projected shares. In FY2017-18, Rs.339.4 billion was transferred against a projection of Rs.365.2 billion, i.e., a shortfall of 7.1 per cent. This was much reduced from the shortfall of 14 per cent in FY2012-13 when Rs.176.9 billion was transferred against a projected share of Rs.205.7 billion. Revenue estimates are also affected by KP's inability to meet provincial collection targets.



Development funds for districts: In FY2018-19, District Swat received the highest allocation, Rs.4.06 billion. Swabi followed with Rs.2.57 billion, and, Nowshera was third in line with Rs.2.41 billion. The cumulative amount for these districts is Rs.9.04 billion. Less than half, Rs.4.35 billion, was allocated to Hazara’s six districts. KP’s chronically poor seven districts received Rs.5.30 billion. In per capita terms, Swat received Rs.1,758, Nowshera Rs.1,590 and Swabi Rs.1,585. In contrast, per capita allocation for Tank was Rs.190.81.

Cumulatively, from FY2013-14 to FY2018-19 Nowshera, Swat and Swabi received Rs.58.13 billion, while KP’s seven southern districts received Rs.30.78 billion and the six districts of Hazara got Rs.33.26 billion. Among the seven southern districts, Tank received the lowest amount, Rs.0.99 billion, followed by Lakki Marwat’s Rs.1.4 billion. Dera Ismail Khan fared better with an allocation of Rs.10.38 billion and Kohat received Rs.6.3 billion. In Hazara, Haripur ruled the roost with an aggregate allocation of Rs.10.2 billion followed by Abbottabad’s Rs.8.17 billion. Trailing at the bottom of the pile are Kohistan with Rs.2.45 billion and Battagram receiving Rs.1.06 billion.

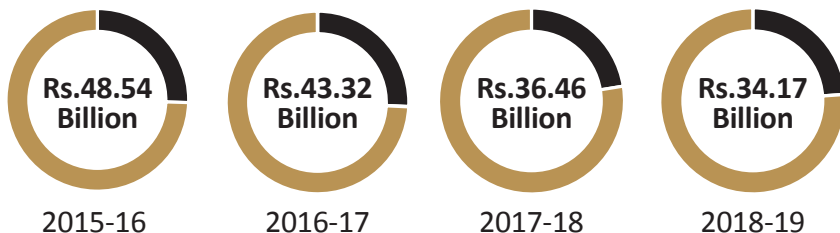


In FY2018-19, funds provided for eight people in Tank were equal to that given for one person in Nowshera.

Government priorities & people's needs:

Transport & roads are dominant sectors with allocations of Rs.39.25 billion and Rs.14.62 billion, together accounting for 29.93 per cent or about one-third of the total FY2018-19 ADP of Rs.180 billion. The Foundation's consistent work in KP's 13 districts over five years identified lack of clean drinking water, absence of basic facilities in schools and poor healthcare services as people's key concerns. This dataset does not claim to present statistically valid comparisons between government and public priorities. However, it provides interesting snapshots of people's needs.

Fiscal decentralization: KP's Local Government Act 2013 stipulates allocating not less than 30 per cent of total development funds to local governments. Since it became functional in September 2015, funds allocated for local government have hovered around the 30 per cent threshold. However, in absolute terms, amounts transferred to local governments are reducing. Also, budget estimates often differ from actual amounts transferred. In FY2017-18, for example, the total allocation of Rs.36.46 billion included Rs.28 billion which was subsequently revised to Rs.10.94 billion.



Pro-women allocations: Rs.5.08 billion was identified as pro-women funds in FY2018-19, which is less than half of the Rs.12.70 billion allocated in the preceding year. This year's allocation is about 2.82 per cent of the total development budget, whereas last year it was 6.11 per cent. Of the Rs.5.08 billion allocated this year, education has received the lion's share -- 89.1 per cent. In percentage terms it has received more than the preceding year's 63 per cent. But in absolute terms, the preceding year's Rs.8 billion is about double than the current year's Rs.4.53 billion.

Trends in retaining funds under block allocations: In FY2018-19, 60 per cent of total funds are retained under *umbrella* or *block* allocations. In the period FY2013-14 to FY2018-19, block funds have consistently accounted for more than half of the total development budget. Block allocations peaked at 73.56 per cent in FY2016-17 and dropped to the lowest of 54.69 per cent in FY2017-18.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED PFM IN KP

Fiscal Discipline

- Improve fiscal discipline, with better predictability of revenue & budget execution.

Equitable Distribution of Development Funds

- Devise a PFC Award for fair, transparent allocation of funds.

Promote Transparency & Public Participation

- Reduce and eventually eliminate "block" funds.
- Expand mechanisms for proactive disclosure of budget information.
- Establish effective mechanisms for capturing a range of public perspectives on public finance priorities.

Fiscal Decentralization

- Ensure compliance with legal stipulation of allocating not less than 30 per cent development funds.
- Give equitable access of funds to all councillors.
- Devise a fair PFC Award.

Pro-Women Allocations

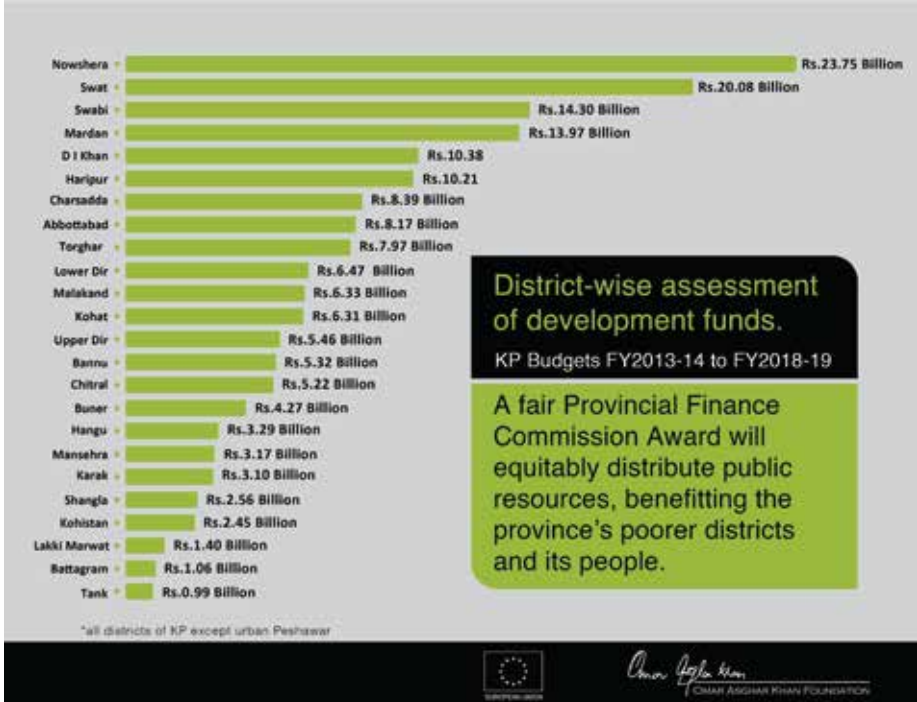
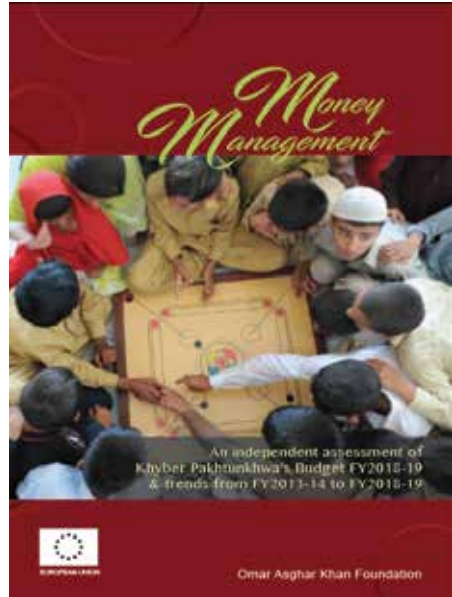
- Provide sex-disaggregated data.

Public Access to Budget Information

Public Discussion & Dissemination

The findings of the Foundation's budget analysis were discussed and disseminated through a mix of creative interventions, helping reach a wider audience and generating broad-based backing for fiscal reform.

An attractive byte-sized publication, using easy-to-follow infographics, animations and pictures was produced by the Foundation to document its findings and suggestions. It was made available online on its website: www.oakdf.org.pk Key messages were displayed through posters and billboards, and, projected through social media.



63 journalists and activists (including 10 women) discussed the findings at roundtables held in Abbottabad and Islamabad. They subsequently used the information to produce news content.



“ *The Foundation’s analysis connects macro budget details with on-the-ground government services. It can generate hundreds of news stories. And not all of them are just about budgets. There are stories in it about the direction of the government’s policies and priorities.*

Syed Talat Hussain, acclaimed journalist, chairing the roundtable in Islamabad

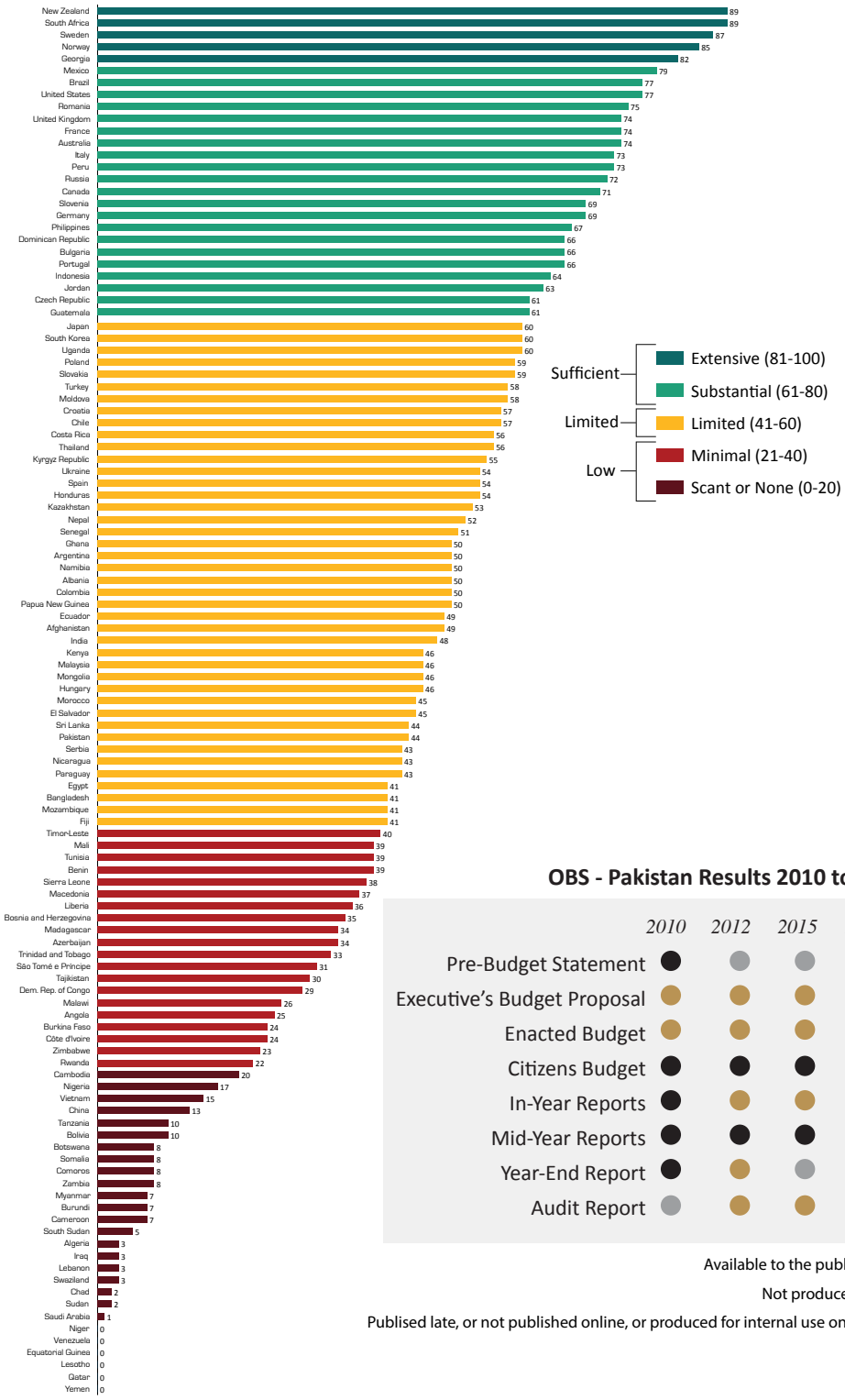
Fair & Transparent Budgets Open Budget Survey 2017

Launched in 2006, the OBS is the world’s only independent, comparative assessment of the three pillars of public budget accountability: transparency, oversight & public participation.

Drawing on internationally accepted criteria it uses 109 equally weighted indicators to measure budget transparency. They assess whether the central government makes eight key budget documents publicly available online in a timely manner, giving comprehensive information. Each country receives a composite score (out of 100) that determines its ranking on the Open Budget Index.

The sixth round of this biennial assessment, the 2017 survey evaluated 115 countries, including Pakistan. The OBS in Pakistan was completed by the Foundation, which has led it in the country since 2009.

Pakistan’s score in 2017 was 44, improving by 1 point from its 2015 ranking. It was in part affected by the change in definition of *publicly available* which from OBS 2017 only recognizes those documents published online on government websites. As a result of this change, Pakistan no longer receives credit for the Audit Report, which it publishes only in hard copy.



Sufficient

- Extensive (81-100)
- Substantial (61-80)

Limited

- Limited (41-60)

Low

- Minimal (21-40)
- Scant or None (0-20)

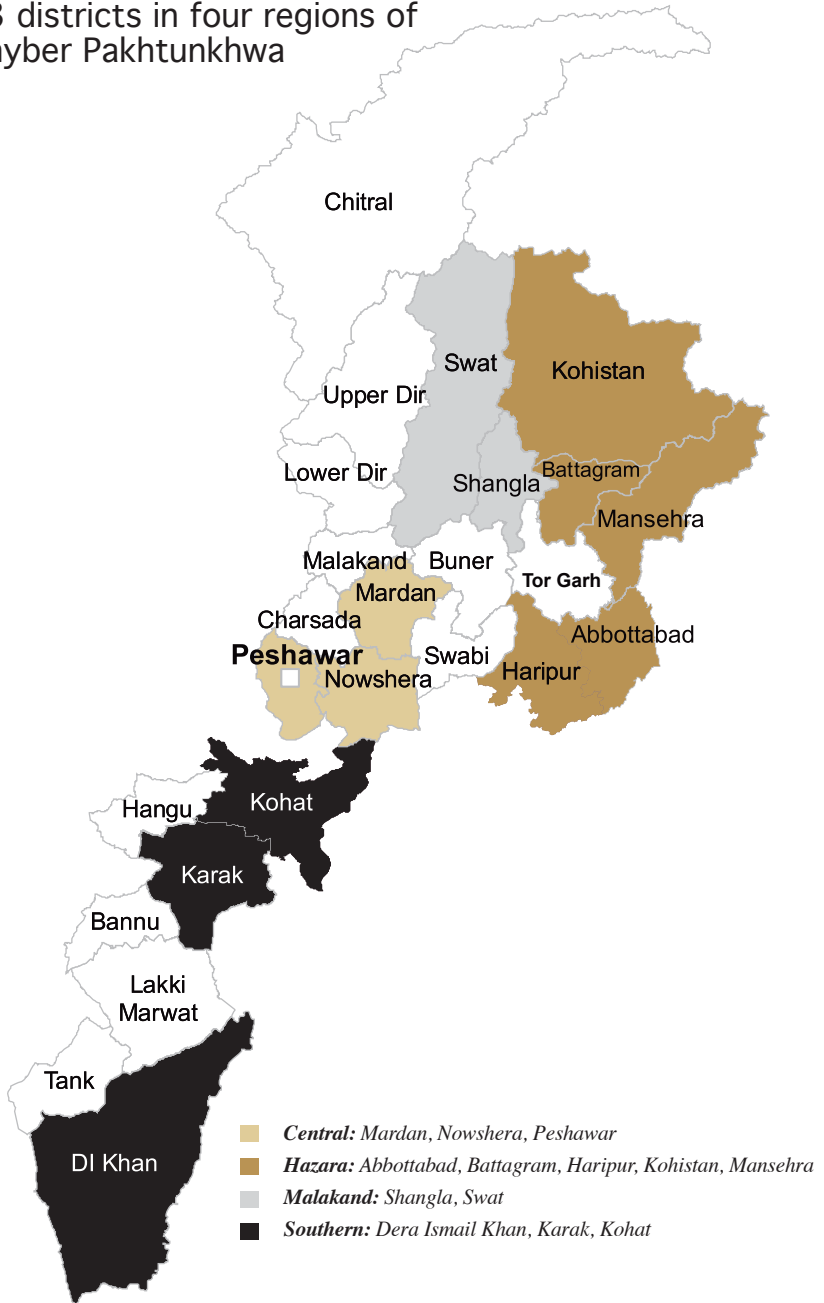
OBS - Pakistan Results 2010 to 2017

	2010	2012	2015	2017
Pre-Budget Statement	●	●	●	●
Executive's Budget Proposal	●	●	●	●
Enacted Budget	●	●	●	●
Citizens Budget	●	●	●	●
In-Year Reports	●	●	●	●
Mid-Year Reports	●	●	●	●
Year-End Report	●	●	●	●
Audit Report	●	●	●	●

Available to the public ●
 Not produced ●

Published late, or not published online, or produced for internal use only ●

13 districts in four regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



GOVERNANCE

The Foundation helps citizens to be more informed, skilled, organized and confident in engaging in governance and public policy. It assists them to know and claim their right to access quality basic services and participate in democratic processes. The Foundation also strengthens the supply side of the governance equation. It assists public representatives, particularly local councilors, and government officials to increase their interactions with citizens and realize the benefits of working together. The Foundation's strong commitment to equity is reflected in the priority it places on working with and for marginalized groups like the poor, women and the youth.

Capacities in Citizen Monitoring Training CSOs in Social Accountability

Working intensely with more than 120 CSOs in 13 KP districts since 2014, the Foundation is creating capacities and conditions for greater citizen engagement in governance. The CSOs include rural community-based organizations of women and men, advocacy organizations working on civic rights & journalist associations.

A participatory assessment of public satisfaction with government services helps identify grievances, with each documented as a problem statement.



The Foundation's Ms. Shahida Tanoli facilitating a participatory assessment in District D. I Khan

CSO partners attend a two-day intensive training workshop on social accountability. They are introduced to its definition and four pillars:

- *organized, capable & responsible citizens*
- *responsive & effective government*
- *reliable, relevant & available information*
- *context & cultural appropriateness*

CSOs are also assisted in better understanding concepts like, active citizenship, emphasizing that social accountability is not just about collecting data but about asserting citizenship rights. Three case studies from Pakistan assist participants to better understand social accountability in real & familiar situations.

In collaboration with Media Matters for Democracy, the Foundation is helping CSOs and journalists to generate news reports on social accountability actions and upload them on a digital app, Awam (people). Where needed, the Right to Information (RTI) law is used to access related government data.



The Foundation's Mr. Riaz Khan facilitating group discussion in a training workshop

Continued and customized assistance is provided as CSOs begin applying social accountability skills.

Backing demands with data

Rising number of TB cases was identified as a key problem by a CSO in Shangla. A community meeting was convened and a resolution passed demanding TB services. Before it was presented to the District Health Officer, the Foundation assisted the CSO in making the resolution stronger by including information it had collected in 2018 showing more than 1,000 persons affected by the disease in three UCs of the district. This data underscored the urgent need for providing treatment facilities in the local DHQ.



Citizen Engagement for Better Governance & Service Delivery

Social Accountability Action Plans

Each SAP documents the grievance and the public demand to address it. It charts the journey from problem identification to resolution. Typically, it includes community meetings to validate the SAP and get broad-based backing for demands to address the identified problem. They are presented to public representatives and government officials for action.

The Foundation's 120 CSOs in KP's districts of Abbottabad, Battagram, Dera Ismail Khan, Haripur, Karak, Kohat, Kohistan, Mansehra, Mardan, Nowshera, Peshawar, Shangla, Swat are implementing about 300 SAPs.

The most common issue appearing in 92 SAPs is the access to clean drinking water. It accounts for about one-third of total SAPs. This is followed by 73 SAPs about basic facilities in schools like furniture, functional toilets, etc.

49 of the 287 SAPs have already resolved problems benefitting an estimated 206,015 households or 1.51 million people through improved supply of clean drinking water, pavement of rural roads, regular collection and disposal of solid waste, provision of furniture and other basic facilities in schools, and, making medicines and other essentials available in healthcare facilities. These have entailed better targeting of an estimated Rs.3.18 million local government and Rs.18.85 million other public funds.

Social accountability actions by CSOs are also resulting in intangible impacts like bringing communities together and encouraging inclusive decision-making. They are promoting citizen engagement with public representatives and government officials, who also benefit by gaining a better understanding of public needs.

A road more travelled...

An unpaved road connecting the mohallas of Village Noordi in District Haripur needed repairs. The CSO held a series of meetings with the local MPA & the VC Nazim over two months but had little success. Consistent followup by the CSO led to success in March 2018. The MPA allocated Rs.7 million for the road and construction work started. A glitch was encountered when the owner of land through which the road was to pass filed a court case against the construction. The CSO arranged for local mediation and an out-of-court settlement was reached, enabling the resumption of construction. The road was completed in August 2018, providing ease of passage to about 120 local households.



The Foundation was invited by the Pakistan Audit & Accounts Academy of the Auditor-General of Pakistan to present its social accountability experiences.

“ *Women must be treated as equal councillors.*

Ms. Sehar Naeem
VC Councillor



“ *If we deliver better governance, Pakistanis living abroad will return home.*

Councillor

The first in a series of consultations brought together more than 400 elected councillors (including about 70 women) from districts Abbottabad, Haripur & Mansehra. Similar consultations are planned in other districts like Dera Ismail Khan, Mardan & Swat. Recommendations from the consultations will be collated and presented to decision-makers designing the new local government for KP and also Punjab.

The Foundation presented the historical trajectory of local government from pre-independence in 1947 to the present. Key milestones in this journey include local governments introduced by General Ayub Khan 1959, General Ziaul Haq 1979-85, General Pervez Musharraf 2000-09, and, the 2013 local government laws promulgated by provincial assemblies following powers devolved under the 18th Constitutional Amendment 2010. Authority devolved to local government, the balance of power between elected and non-elected duty bearers, and, fiscal decentralization were some of the key elements drawn out from different local government structures over time.

“Assessing local governments over time will help us learn from different experimentations, and, place the present system in a historical context.

The Foundation’s Ms. Rashida Dohad presenting LG’s historical trajectory

Best Practices in Local Government Consultations with Councillors

The current local government system in KP was shaped by legislation passed in October 2013. Elections were held in May-August 2015, and the new local government system became functional in September 2015. Its four-year term concludes in August 2019. The government is working on the design of a new local government structure, which may be introduced through new legislation or an amendment to KP’s Local Government Act 2013. The Foundation is engaging more than 3,000 councillors from across KP in consultations to draw out best practices & make recommendations to assist the new legislation.



Councillors' Experiences

Positive

- This system is very good. It must continue.
- Citizens have greater access to their representatives.
- More development funds have been provided than before.
- Public funds are more effectively used. Corruption has reduced.
- Women gained recognition due to the space created for them. Some have also moved ahead in the political system.

Challenges

- Councillors are not treated with due respect.
- Government departments seldom respond to VC requests for actions based on monitoring visits. The link with the bureaucracy is weak.
- Bureaucracy's support to VCs & higher tiers is not available. In many cases, technical staff is not available.
- The number of councillors at the VC/NC level is very large, making the structure difficult to manage.
- Polarization within VCs was a challenge.
- VCs do not have complete freedom to allocate funds. At times 30-40% of funds were cut.
- Women only have 2 reserved seats. Women are not given due importance.
- Women were restricted to fund women-specific schemes, compartmentalizing them.
- Councillors elected on reserved seats are denied funds & not treated equal to others.
- Declaring Nazim the person getting most votes is not viable as all contestants are vying for the post. They subsequently do not cooperate with the Nazim.
- Limited training was given, most councillors even Nazims are unaware of their roles.
- The system lacked coordination among its tiers.
- Without proper monitoring & accountability measures, corruption by contractors could not be checked.
- Councillors were unable to access possible funding sources.
- Without proper office space, Tehsil members found it difficult to function.
- The jurisdiction of LG tiers & higher levels of government were not clear.
- Monitoring committees had limited utility due to unclear roles.



Sardar Saeed Anwar, District Nazim, Abbottabad

Key recommendations

General

- This is a good system, it must continue.
- Mechanisms must be put in place for coordination between tiers.
- Contradictory policies like CDFs & DDACs must be removed.
- Train councillors, especially those on reserved seats.
- The purpose of affirmative measures like reserved seats needs to be made clear.
- All councillors must be treated equally.

Electoral process

- The post of VC Nazim must be specifically contested.
- The post of Tehsil Naib Nazim must be reserved for women.
- District Nazim must be indirectly elected.

Structure

- The proposal to remove the District tier is untenable.
- Reduce the number of VC/NC members.
- Retain the number of VC members
- Increase the number of seats reserved for women.
- Increase the size of VCs by revising its delimitation.

Fiscal decentralization

- The proposal to give authority over district funds to the DC is not viable.

Accountability

- Project committees must be formed to oversee infrastructure schemes.



80 year old Ms. Shafai Jan from Village Magri in District Abbottabad gets her first ever CNIC. The Foundation's CNIC Campaign with NADRA



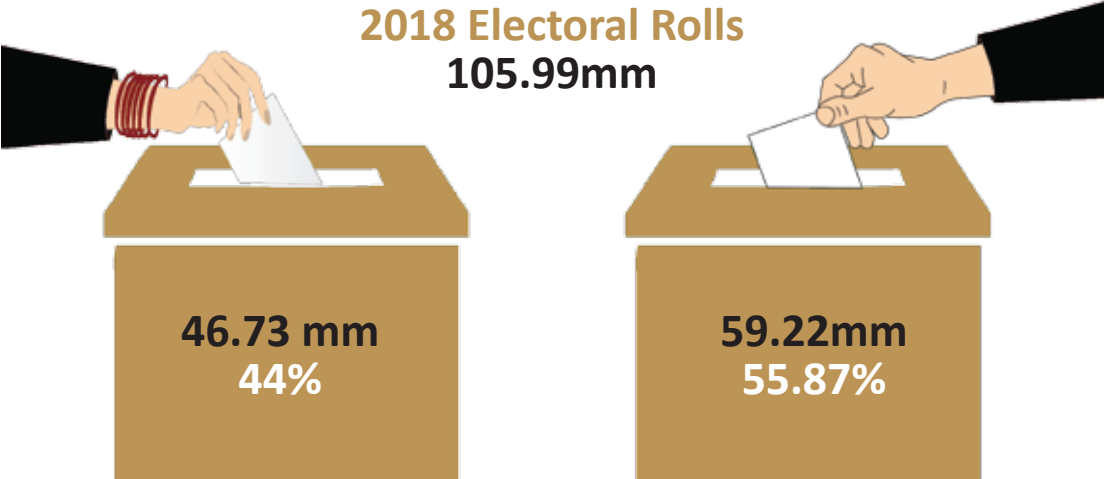
Closing the Gender Gap in Voters Registration

Round-the-clock, all-out efforts by the Foundation, NADRA and the ECP helped 7,014 women in 50 very poor villages of Districts Abbottabad & Haripur get their CNICs and be able to use their right to vote. NADRA officials confirm this is six times more than average numbers processed daily. The Foundation also identified 9,718 women who are among the 12.5 million women across Pakistan who do not have an CNIC. The intensive six-week campaign was run with support from TDEA & UNDP.

Public Participation: 2018 Elections

The 2018 elections was an important milestone in Pakistan's journey from transitional to stronger democratic governance. It was the first electoral contest after the passage of the Elections Act 2017 that included affirmative measures for women's participation as contestants and voters. The Foundation made significant contributions to reduce the gender gap in voters' registration, mobilize citizens to use their right to vote, involve women and the youth, and support election observation.

2018 Electoral Rolls 105.99mm





Message urging citizens to vote displayed on a 20x60 billboard strategically placed on the Karakorum Highway

Mobilizing Citizens to Vote

The message: *all citizens, women and men, must use their right to vote* was projected through a mix of billboards, posters and text messages. The media campaign reached more than 3.6 million citizens.

Involving 17,000 Women & Youth Voters

With the Foundation's assistance, 90 young women & men from Abbottabad, Mansehra & Haripur made efforts to engage 17,000 other voters. They were assisted in becoming more familiar with the importance of voting. They also identified priorities which the young want included in party manifestoes.

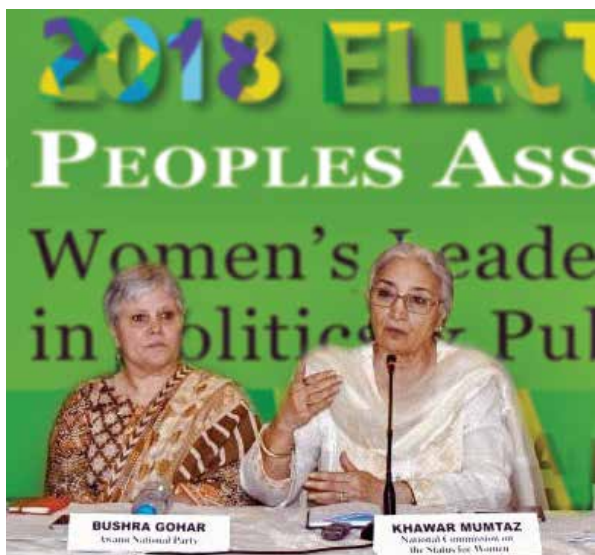
Unpacking, Comparing Manifestoes

A comparative analysis of 2013 and 2018 manifestoes of key political parties including the Pakistan Muslim League-N, Pakistan Tehreek Insaf & Pakistan Peoples Party was prepared by the Foundation. Its findings were presented at a Peoples Assembly. More than 200 rights activists from Abbottabad, Haripur & Mansehra came together with political leaders and the ECP at this event co-hosted by NCSW and the Foundation.

The comparative analysis was also shared at a post-election meeting with about 60 elected councilors and activists from Abbottabad, Haripur & Mansehra.

“*Reservation of seats is an important first step for increasing the number of women legislators. Follow up is needed to trace their actions to effectively represent women's interests.*”

Ms. Khawar Mumtaz
Chairperson, NCSW





Celebrated journalist Syed Talat Hussain led the training of journalists.

Improving Media Reporting on Women's Participation

50 journalists from districts Abbottabad, Haripur, Mansehra & also Islamabad generated hundreds of ideas for news stories around six themes on women's participation in the 2018 elections at a training organized by the Foundation. They were provided data on trends in women's participation as voters, electoral contestants & legislators was reviewed. Recent legal & administrative affirmative measures were also discussed, including reforms under the Elections Act 2017.

Supporting Election Observation

The Foundation supported the nationwide election observation led by the National Commission on the Status of Women by observing polling in four national and five provincial constituencies in districts Abbottabad, Haripur and Mansehra. Polling was generally orderly but appeared to be slow. Many respondents confirmed that polling procedures were better than the last election. However, affirmative measures like private space for breast-feeding and ramps for the differently-abled voters were not available.

Inclusive Democracy

Affirmative Actions for Women, the Elderly, Transgender & the Differently-abled

The Elections Act 2017 and administrative interventions by the Election Commission of Pakistan provided affirmative measures for women, the elderly, transgender and the differently-abled. The Foundation helped popularize them for effective implementation.

Elections Act 2017

- Political parties must give at least 5 per cent tickets to women on general seats.
- ECP authorized to nullify the result of any constituency where women's votes are less than 10%

ECP Measures

- Returning officers will provide sex-disaggregated voters' data
- Differently-abled voters given the option of a postal ballot
- Facilities like ramps installed in polling stations
- Priority to pregnant, elderly & transgender voters

TOLERANCE

A focus on inclusion cuts across the Foundation's programme and internal management. It helps all voices to be heard in ways that no one is subjected to any form of exclusion, which contributes to instability, blocking democratic consolidation.

“The Elections Act 2017 provides important stipulations that the ECP will follow.”

Ms. Nighat Siddique
Additional Director General (Gender)
Election Commission of Pakistan



Women & Policy Priorities

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

As part of the global campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Foundation brought together about 60 elected councilors and activists from Abbottabad, Mansehra and Haripur. The Foundation presented its analysis of the 2018 manifestoes, assisting them to review pledges by political parties. They also recommended policy priorities for parliaments after the 2018 elections.



*Balloons released in the sky innovatively highlighted the colour **orange** to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*

Fundamental Rights Policy Recommendations

The Foundation was part of a 16-member civil society delegation that presented a set of recommendations to the Honourable President of Pakistan, Mr. Arif Alvi, concerning stronger constitutional governance, effective rule of law and protection of fundamental rights of expression and association.



The Foundation's Ms. Rashida Dohad among the civil society delegation that called on the President of Pakistan

POVERTY REDUCTION

The Foundation is primarily a public advocacy organization. It also works with people in some of the poorest regions of KP to reduce burdens of poverty through essential cost-effective community interventions including infrastructure like drinking and irrigation water schemes, bridges, roads, and pavements. The terms of partnership between the Foundation and local people also builds local capacity to work together,

Pathways Out of Poverty

Partnerships with the Poor

The Foundation was selected as a partner to the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund for assisting at least 8,000 very poor families in District Kohistan to combine consumption support received under the Benazir Income Support Programme with assets and skills to move to the next level of well-being with better food security and resilience to climate change. The initiative was to begin in 2018 but was delayed.



The Foundation is committed to a collaborative learning culture, creating opportunities for knowledge-sharing, innovation and forward-thinking leadership. Regular team discussions help shape strategies for programme interventions and internal management. More formal training is also provided. The Foundation also organizes periodical internal stock-taking on actions and their immediate & long-term impacts. Best practices are drawn and course correction taken, if needed. These events and regular team meetings help build capacities and improve interpersonal interactions. Core values & purpose are also reaffirmed.



Omar Asghar Khan Foundation

A public advocacy organization helping build a state responsive to its citizens. It strengthens the resilience of citizens -- particularly the most vulnerable -- so that they can claim their rights from the state, promote inclusion, and reduce the burden of poverty. The Foundation works across Pakistan, with its strongest fieldbase in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It has offices in Islamabad and Abbottabad.

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