



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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Additional Chief Secretary ACS Annual Development Programme Coronavirus Disease 2019 **Civil Society Organization Drinking Water and Sanitation Financial Year** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government **Member National Assembly** Memorandum of Understanding **MPA Member Provincial Assembly Provincial Finance Commission Public Finance Management** PFM **Public Service Message PSM** Social Accountability Action Plan Women Leaders Group



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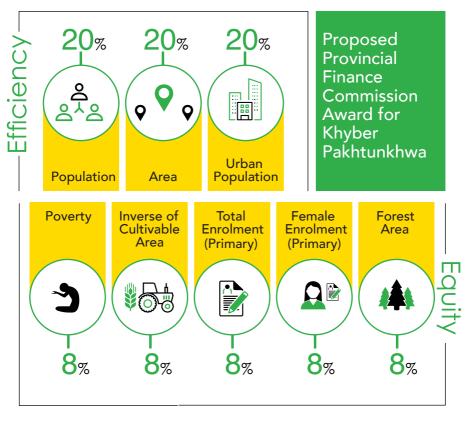
Covid-19 dominated 2020. pandemic unleashed death, illness and fear across the world. It also brought devastating social economic effects. Routines and rhythms of everyday life nearly disappeared. Project workplans and timelines were disrupted, and agile adaptations were reauired. continually risks and assessing adjusting strategies, priorities and resources. The Foundation raised its game to overcome these challenges.

The Foundation mobilized resources for contributing to Covid-19 responses. A well-timed public information campaign popularized measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic; hand hygiene was promoted by installing 43 handwash units in public places of Districts Abbottabad, Haripur and Mansehra; and, two rounds of food and essential non-food items provided to about 3,000 families across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Nearly half a million families in some of the poorest areas of 12 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had better access to improved schools, healthcare, clean drinking water, veterinary services, irrigation, paved rural roads, and other essential services due to social accountability actions the Foundation and its 223 civil society partners. These improvements were possible by expending an estimated million public Rs.888.24 including better targeting of Rs.44.63 million local government funds.

The Foundation's analysis of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's budget for FY2020-21 helped better understand sectoral priorities and the distribution of development funds. An innovative Provincial Finance Commission Award proposed for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa presented ways to ensure fair, transparent budget allocations; and, also improve responses to challenges like gender inequality and climate change.

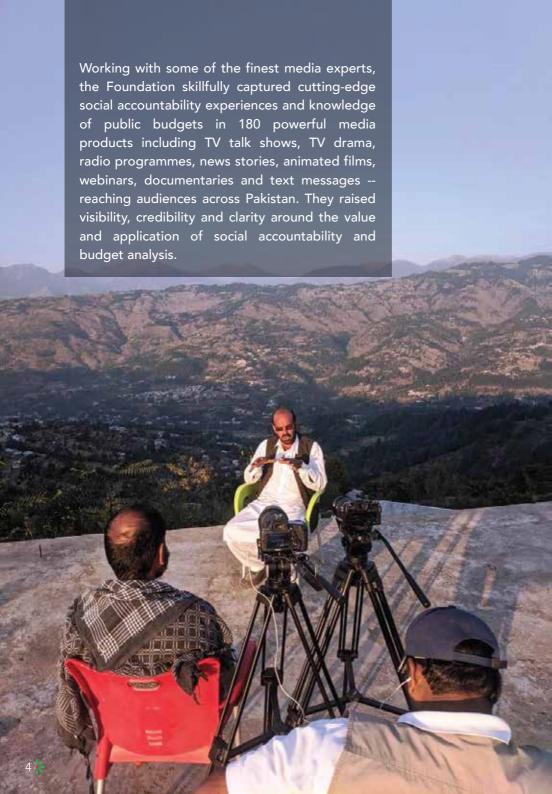
24 recommendations to improve public finance management and establish empowered local government in the province were discussed and endorsed by more than 50,000 citizens (12,894♀ and 37,685♂) in 12 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts, recognizing that powerholders must take responsibility for public finance and governance decisions that affect the delivery of quality services and the outcomes of development.



The Foundation further expanded the constituency of support for the 24 recommendations by discussing them with more than 30 high level government officials; leaders from political parties: different senior journalists & reporters working with national and international publications, TV, radio and digital platforms; and, including actors, writers, artists directors and producers.



KP's ACS chairing a meeting with the Foundation to discuss its budget analysis and social accountability experiences, Peshawar, December 2020



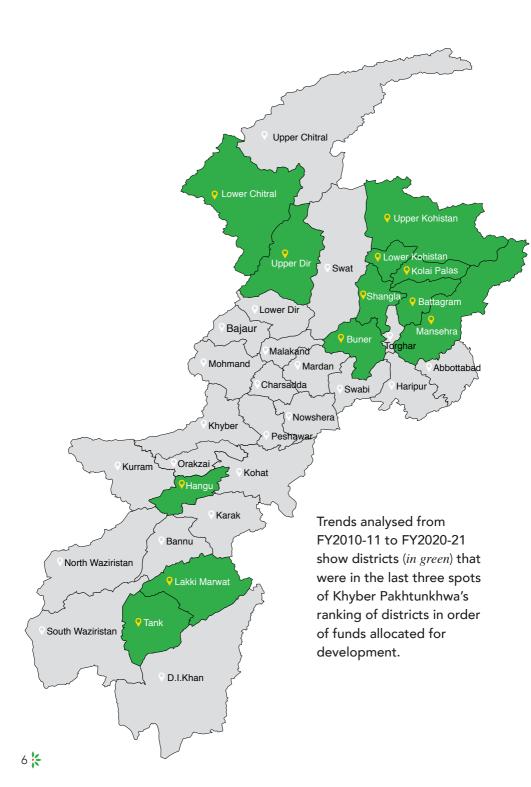
The Foundation trained leading national organizations in using social accountability and budget analysis to promote gender equity. Support was also provided to actions for reducing modern slavery, manifested in early & forced marriages, child labour and social disharmony.

Feasibility studies were completed by external consultants on a range of water and sanitation projects designed to strengthen resilience of Abbottabad city residents against the impacts of climate change.

The Foundation's MOU with the Economic Affairs Division of the Government of Pakistan signed in 2017 for a two-year period was renewed for another two years in March 2020. The Foundation also received a three-year (2020-23) certification from the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy.



Despite restrictions imposed by Covid-19, the Foundation continued to strengthen staff capacity through online and in-person training. These helped them better understand the corona virus pandemic and economic and social impacts, become more familiar with changes Pakhtunkhwa's Khvber local government legislation, and also polish English language skills.



KP Budget FY2020-21

Analysis of development priorities, recommendations for PFM reforms

The Foundation mapped distribution pattern of development funds to districts and assessed trends over the period FY2010-11 FY2020-21. For fair, transparent allocations, the Foundation reiterated the Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) Award it had proposed last year, including creative criteria to help meet complex, contemporary challenges like gender inequity and climate change.

The proposed PFC Award was applied to Swat, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, the seven southern districts and six districts of Hazara. Variations between allocated amounts were compared with shares due if the proposed PFC is used.

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 advances norms and standards in budget transparency, participation & oversight.

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

The Foundation also recommended increased granularity of budget information as trends analysed since FY2013-14 showed that more than half of KP's ADP has consistently been retained in block funds. In FY2020-21, 69.1% or Rs.219.69 billion of the total development outlay of Rs.318 billion was retained as block funds.

The Foundation combined public testimonies with its analysis of budget allocations to understand the impact of public finance decisions on people's lives. These were drawn from social accountability actions partner CSOs trained by the Foundation since 2017. Based on the analysis, Foundation recommended reforms to improve public finance management in the province.

Recommendations for Improving Public Finance Management in KP

- Establish credible & effective mechanisms for capturing a range of public perspectives on public finance priorities.
- Promote engagement of citizens, especially the poor, in improving the use of public funds for delivering quality public services.
- Use creative criteria to devise a PFC Award for fair & transparent allocation of development funds to districts.
- Extend the scope of the PFC
 Award beyond the District ADP.
- Establish local government & allocate, disburse not-less-than 30% development funds to empower it.
- Reduce block funds & increase granularity of information on priorities & spending.
- Provide sex-disaggregated budget data.
- Support gender-responsive budgeting, mainstream women's interests in every sector.
- Improve fiscal discipline & better budget execution.

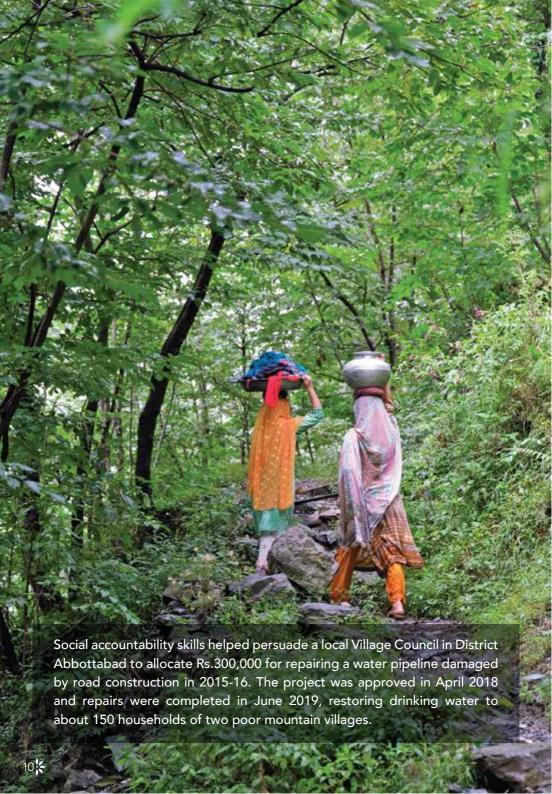
Expanded constituency of support

Public endorsements & interactions with government officials, journalists

The Foundation and its 223 CSO partners discussed its budget analysis and social accountability actions with more than 50,000 citizens in the province. Based on evidence generated, a 24-point Citizen Charter of Demands for better PFM and stronger local government was proposed which was endorsed by 12,894 ♀ and 37,685 ♂ in 12 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts.

The constituency of support for recommendations these was expanded through a series of meetings with more than 30 high level government officials; leaders different political parties: journalists & senior reporters working with national international publications, TV, radio and digital platforms; and, artists including actors, writers, directors and producers.





Citizen Engagement

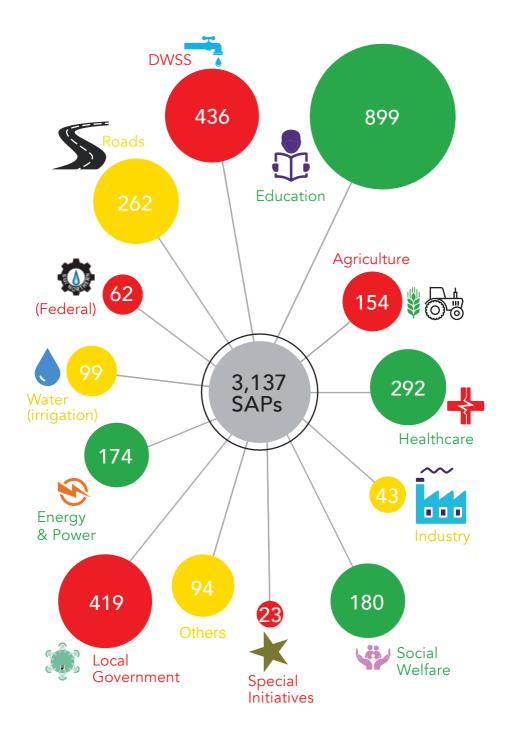
Using social accountability for improved government services

From 2017, the Foundation helped 223 CSOs to develop capacities in social accountability through formal training, field-based mentoring and experience-sharing.

Participatory public assessments of public services helped trained CSOs preparing 3,137 Social Accountability Action Plans (SAPs). The most common demand. expressed in 899 SAPs, called for improvements like furniture. drinking water, toilets and boundary walls in local schools. Access to clean drinking water came second with 436 SAPs, accounting for 13.9% of the total. These largely called for repairs to damaged distribution pipelines or in some cases extension of old water supply schemes to meet the water needs of a growing population. 1,269 SAPs, or 40% of total SAPs, identified public services that were needed but not available. For example, demands for civil dispensaries were common where public healthcare is absent.

The Foundation supports new channels of citizen engagement in governance that go further than electoral participation, and help governments be more accountable and responsive to public needs. Citizens become more informed, skilled, organized and confident in contributing to public policy & finance decisions. The Foundation prioritizes working with and for the poor and other vulnerable groups.

The Foundation also strengthens the supply side of the governance equation, assisting public representatives & government officials to increase their interactions with citizens to realize the benefits of working together.



More than 20,000 actions were taken by CSOs to implement SAPs. These included convening community meetings, assisting in public assessment of government services, defining problems and drafting petitions to demand improvements which were presented to relevant government representatives.

Nearly half a million families in some of the poorest areas of 12 KP districts had better access to improved schools, healthcare, clean drinking water, veterinary services, irrigation, paved rural roads, and other essential services due to social accountability actions of the Foundation and its 223 CSO partners. These improvements were possible by expending Rs.888.24 million public funds, including Rs.44.63 million local government funds.





The Foundation's team in conversation with senior journalist Syed Talat Hussain to shape a media plan with the intent to share, network and pursue policy impact.



Creative Communications

180 television, radio & social media products

73 success stories were documented Foundation from by the its multi-layered and nuanced social accountability actions in 12 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts during 2017-20. Interfacing with different communities, public representatives officials, government these are powerful stories of problems faced by people, pathways they chose to resolve them, the stakeholders they engaged with and the ways in which the stakeholders responded.

The stories were classified by subject and subcategorized in themes. Each assessed for impact applicability across districts. The full spectrum of media platforms available the restrictive Covid-19 under conditions was studied and rated according to reach and effectiveness in drawing interest from its intended audience. The selected media produced an integrated, yet varied game-plan for strategic projection of the core content. Working with some of the finest media experts, this plan yielded 180 diverse media products.





Tabdeeli Awam Se (people-driven change) a series of 8 TV talk shows on social accountability.





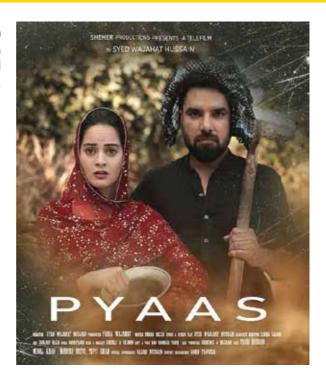


180 Media

Pyaas (thirst) a 45-minute TV drama based on a collage of social accountability stories.



Sanjhi Koshish, Sanjhi Taraqi (collective effort, collective development) a series of 15 radio programmes & 10 PSMs.





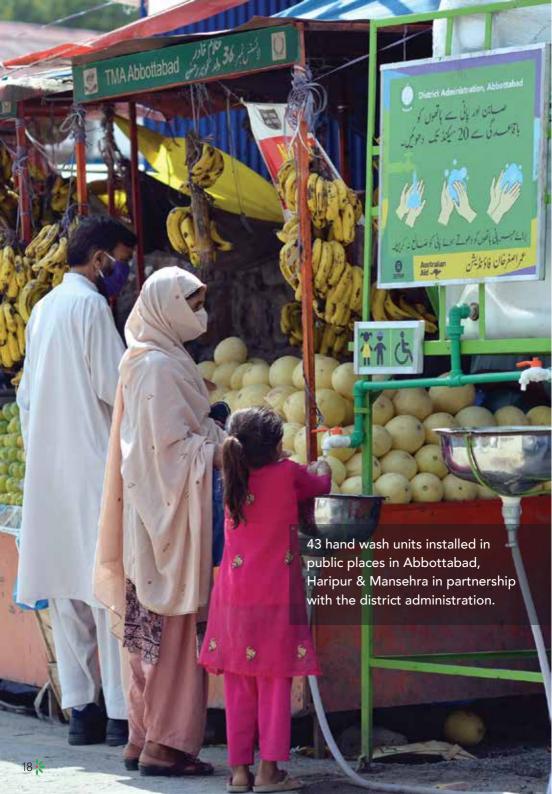
6 animated films on public actions for public services.

3 documentary videos



A series of 3 webinars moderated by the renowned journalist, Syed Talat Hussain, 10 web stories, 8 op-ed pieces, 106 news stories & features.

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Women & Leadership

Capacities, connections, responses to Covid-19

Women Leaders Groups (WLGs) reviewed their journey from July 2017 to June 2020 in which they helped organize women in Districts Abbottabad, Haripur and Mansehra, and claim their rights & entitlements as citizens. The journey had two phases. In the lead up to the 2018 elections, the WLGs helped women, youth and other vulnerable groups participate in the electoral contest. After the July 2018 elections, the WLGs helped local women and other vulnerable groups discuss policy priorities and governance, advocating the inclusion of their interests in them.

In 2020, the WLGs also played an important role in helping local communities become more familiar with Covid-19, better understand and adapt preventive measures, including promoting hand hygiene.

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.



"We will upload information on hand hygiene on our FB page." Ms. Saira Bano, lawyer & member WLG-Mansehra



Climate Resilience

Urban community responses to climatic events

In 2020 an external firm studied the feasibility of a community-led project designed to help residents of Abbottabad city enhance their resilience to climate events. The project will improve solid waste management, provide clean drinking by water installing filtration plant and cleaning pipelines, and, plant trees to reduce soil erosion, flooding, landslides, and pollution. The study analysed the technical, environmental, social, and financial aspects of the project. It proposed its engineering design, economic viability and sustainability.

These efforts are a part of Oxfam's initiative to increase resilience to climate change in secondary cities of four countries: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Philippines. In Pakistan, Sialkot & Abbottabad are the selected cities. The Foundation will assist Oxfam in implementing the project in urban Abbottabad.

Oxfam is working under the technical & financial lead of the Asian Development Bank which has set up a US\$150 million multi-donor trust fund to support fast-growing Asian cities to reduce the risks, poor and vulnerable people face from floods, storms or droughts, by helping to better plan and design infrastructure to invest against these impacts.

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. Community interventions help build resilience to disasters and improve drinking water, roads, and other essential infrastructure.



Covid-19

Humanitarian assistance, facilities & public information campaign

The Foundation used its extensive experience of disaster management to promptly respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Its contributions included:

- One month's food & essential health & hygiene assistance to nearly 3,000 vulnerable families in 13 KP districts.
- Protective gear & sanitizers for health providers, essential government staff and community partners.

- 43 hand wash units with supply of soaps installed in public places in Abbottabad, Haripur & Mansehra in collaboration with district administration.
- Public information campaign on preventive measures including radio programmes, billboards, posters, banners and other material.
- Psycho-social support through animated films and links to relevant helplines.



