

Omar Asghar Khan Foundation

Annual Report

2021



Omar Asghar Khan Foundation strengthens the voice, visibility and resilience of citizens to claim their rights & entitlements from the state, curb inequalities and exclusion & reduce the burden of poverty. Founded in 2000 as a public advocacy organization, the Foundation's skilled and experienced team of professionals works with local communities, civil society and governments in Pakistan. Using social accountability and budget analysis the Foundation opens channels of citizen engagement that makes governance responsive, increases trust in public institutions and helps people make a difference in their lives. Combining learning and connecting, it also promotes social inclusion, climate resilience and poverty reduction. Primacy to the voices & interests of the poor is at the heart of the Foundation's work.

Annual Report



Acronyms

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FY	Financial Year
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgets
IBP	International Budget Partnership
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
OBS	Open Budget Survey
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
WPC	Women Parliamentary Caucus

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The Foundation's team retreat - Strategy 2021-25



The Foundation's Strategy 2021-25

In 2021, the Foundation and its key partners defined its strategy 2021-25. They reviewed the past five years (2016-20) and ranked analysis of public budgets and social accountability as the Foundation's most impactful contributions. Continued efforts in these niche areas were recommended. *Governance, Budgets, Inclusion & Resilience* were selected as the Foundation's priority areas for 2021-25. Its vision, mission & values were also reviewed & refined.

Our Vision

A society in which all people live with freedom, dignity, respect & wellbeing.

Our Mission

To strengthen the voice, visibility and resilience of citizens, especially the more vulnerable, to claim their rights & entitlements from the state, curb inequalities and exclusion, & reduce the burden of poverty.



1

Equality

2

Inclusiveness

3

Compassion

4

Respect

5

Integrity

6

Transparency

7

Excellence

8

Commitment

9

Simplicity

10

Eco-responsibility

Our 10 Core Values





Ms. Ayesha Naeem, KP's Parliamentary Secretary-Administration & Dr. Sumera Shams, Chair-KP WPC (above) and Ms. Fazilat Jahan, Chief-Social Protection & Gender Mainstreaming, Planning & Development & Ms. Shazia Atta, Deputy Secretary-Finance (below) discuss effective use of budget allocations



Social Accountability

The Foundation focused on the supply and demand sides of the governance equation. On the supply side, it worked intensely with the Women Parliamentary Caucus and government officials in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to support effective use of public budgets. This included tracking utilization of funds for Darul Amans to better respond to violence against women. Budgets for training and entrepreneurship to support women's economic empowerment were also pursued. These efforts will contribute to improved compliance with CEDAW and SDG5.

On the demand side, social accountability actions by 80 civil society organizations (CSOs) trained by the Foundation gave 240,000 households in five Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts access to improved public services like new schools, medicines in public healthcare units, street lights, paved sewerage lines, improved agricultural extension and veterinary facilities.

Social accountability opens channels for citizen engagement with government for delivery of improved public services & making governance more responsive & accountable.





*Women leaders (above) & male allies (below)
attending community-based Leadership & Advocacy Training*



Citizen Leadership

More than 1,200 women and 600 men received leadership and advocacy training in five Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts. Platforms were also created and strengthened at village, district & provincial levels bringing together government officials and civil society activists to support citizens in accessing public services. These platforms also supported actions in response to public grievances. For example, responding to a complaint by a domestic violence survivor, local activists contacted her husband and mediated a respectful truce. Similarly, two sisters were assisted in seeking justice against the unlawful sale of family property by their brothers. In a case of marriage by choice, the Foundation helped a young girl take shelter in a Darul Aman until her case was decided by the local court.

Using a cascading approach to capacity building, the Foundation's team trained by Shirkat Gah in Leadership & Advocacy in turn trained local activists as trainers who led the training in local communities.



Local Government in KP

The Foundation mobilized voters for the first phase of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's local government elections which was held on 19 December 2021. Local community activists trained in local government in 2020 were equipped and energized to help citizens understand ways in which they can participate in the electoral process, as voters and contestants.



An Election Commission of Pakistan video on KP's local government elections was telecast through 11 cable networks reaching 2.27 million viewers in the province. The 4-minute video was also shared as a whatsapp message with an estimated 2,500 women leaders and 5,600 male allies. The video provided information on the voting process, including important details like the number & colour of ballot papers in KP's local elections. The video also gave details of affirmative measures for pregnant and lactating women, elderly, the differently-abled and trans persons.



Budgets

Gender Responsive Budgets

An MOU was signed committing greater collaboration between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Women Parliamentary Caucus and the Omar Asghar Khan Foundation. Mr. Mahmood Jan, Deputy Speaker of KP's Assembly & Patron of KP's WPC, MPs and the Chair of KP's Commission on the Status of Women participated in the MOU signing ceremony.

Under this MOU, the Foundation helped the WPC make gender-responsive budget proposals that resulted in an unprecedented allocation of Rs.1 billion for women's empowerment in KP's Budget FY2021-22. It included Rs.150 million for the KP Commission on the Status of Women. This allocation also raised the voice and visibility of the WPC.



Dr. Sumera Shams, Chair & Ms. Rashida Dohad, Executive Director signing the MOU between the KP WPC & Omar Asghar Khan Foundation



KP's Finance Minister, Mr. Taimur Khan Jhagra (left), Chair of KP WPC, Dr. Sumera Shams (right), Chair of KP Commission on the Status of Women, Dr. Riffat Sardar, (below) with other MPs & government officials discussing GRB proposals for KP's Budget FY2021-22



The Foundation extended its budget footprints across Pakistan by analysing provincial budgets FY2021-22 of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan, in addition to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that it has regularly assessed since 2010.

The findings of the analysis were discussed with MPs and government officials of each province with the intent of promoting transparent and gender responsive budgeting, which would also achieve better compliance with CEDAW & SDG5.

“Information on the budget was very useful. I am sure it will help us in legislative oversight & examining expenditures.”

Ms. Uzma Kardar
Member, Punjab Assembly





“Complex budget concepts & figures were presented so well -- they were easy to understand. This will help us in our parliamentary debates & duties.”

Ms. Shamim Mumtaz
Member, Sindh Assembly



“Details of budget allocations are very useful. It will help us in understanding the use of public resources.”

Mr. Sanaullah Baloch
Member, Balochistan Assembly



AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS



KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA BUDGET

OMAR ASGHAR KHAN FOUNDATION



AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS

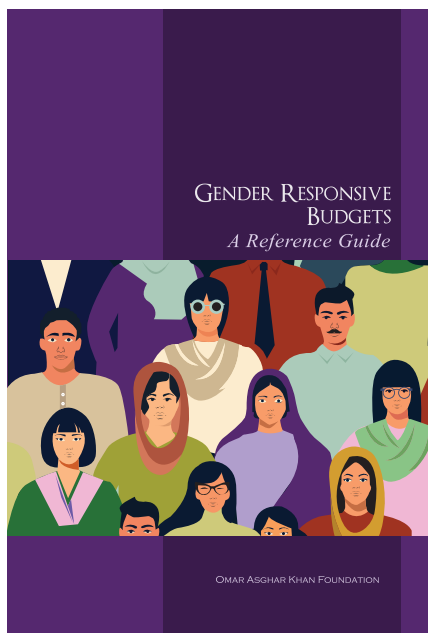


BALUCHISTAN BUDGET

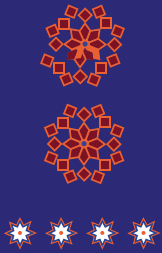
OMAR ASGHAR KHAN FOUNDATION

The Foundation documented its analysis of four provincial budgets in a series of attractive byte-sized publications. It also produced a Reference Guide on Gender Responsive Budgets.

These publications were shared with parliamentarians, government officials and civil society activists across Pakistan.



AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS



SINDH BUDGET

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AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS



PUNJAB BUDGET

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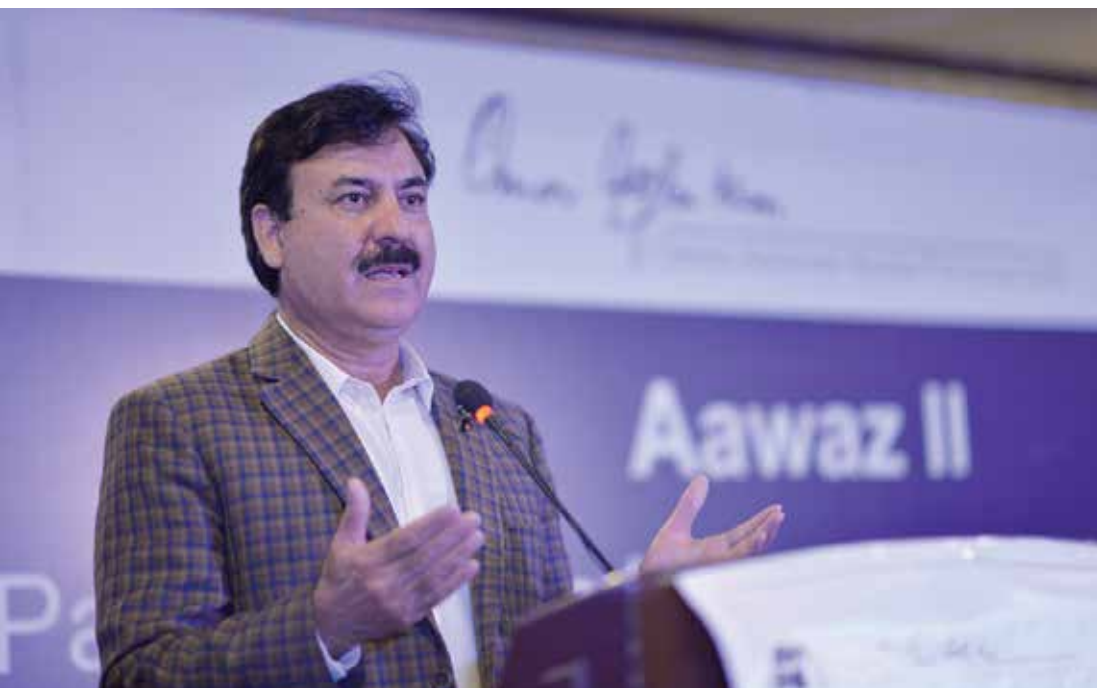
The Open Budget Survey evaluates public access to budget information and opportunities provided by governments for public participation in the budget process at the national level. It is led by the International Budget Partnership, and extends to more than 100 countries.

Open Budget Survey 2021

The Foundation compiled the data from Pakistan for the global Open Budget Survey 2021.

CSO Capacity in Budget Analysis

In collaboration with the International Budget Partnership, the Foundation completed a three-part series of online training for 10 leading CSOs in Pakistan. They learnt the basics of budget analysis, identified key budget documents and ways to access them. The Foundation presented Pakistan-specific data and also used its animated films on budget analysis. Follow-up in-person training events are planned in 2022.



“The labour survey will help the government in improving policies and actions to prevent child labour.”

Mr. Shaukat Yousafzai
KP Minister for Labour



“Interfaith dialogues are essential for increasing mutual understanding & social cohesion.”

Mr. Ravi Kumar
Member, KP Assembly

Preventing & Responding to GBV & Child Labour

The Foundation supported partners in nine KP districts to engage local communities and the government in preventing and responding to gender-based violence, early-age marriages, child labour and social discord. Two key change pathways were pursued: (a) behaviour change, and (b) citizen engagement in governance. Special attention was given to including the voices and interests of vulnerable groups, especially, the differently-abled, non-Muslim religious minorities and transgender persons.



Celebrating diversity & promoting social integration

Voices & Interests of the Vulnerable

The Foundation's efforts helped improve one-window services for the differently-abled, assisting their registration and access to assistive appliances. The Foundation also advocated legislative and policy actions for the rights of the differently-abled and transgender persons in KP. Stronger institutions like the KP Commission on the Status of Women, Ombudsperson KP for Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace and the KP Commission on the Protection & Welfare of Children were advocated for the rights and entitlements of women and children.



*Ms. Rukhshanda Naz, Ombudsperson KP (above)
& Mr. Ijaz Khan, Deputy Chief, KP Child Protection & Welfare Commission (below)*



Climate Resilience

Urban responses to climatic events

In 2021 three community-led projects were initiated to help residents of Abbottabad city improve solid waste management and the supply of clean drinking water. Working in close collaboration with local urban communities and the district administration, these projects are helping them better prepare for climate change.

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 is Oxfam's lead partner in Abbottabad.



The Foundation & Oxfam are 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 & vulnerable people face from floods, storms or droughts.



