

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.

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Annual REPORT

OMAR ASGHAR KHAN FOUNDATION



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ASN	Area Support Network
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
DWSS	Drinking Water Supply Scheme
FY	Financial Year
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgets
IBP	International Budget Partnership
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MP	Member of Parliament
OBS	Open Budget Survey
PFM	Public Finance Management
SAPs	Social Accountability Plans
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TVETA	Technical & Vocational Education & Training Authority
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WPC	Women Parliamentary Caucus

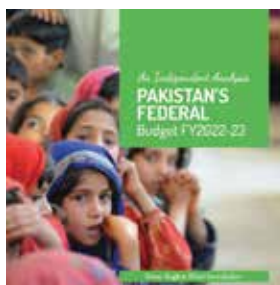
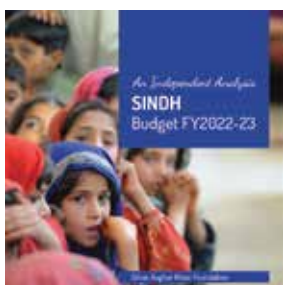
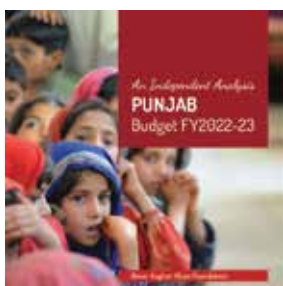
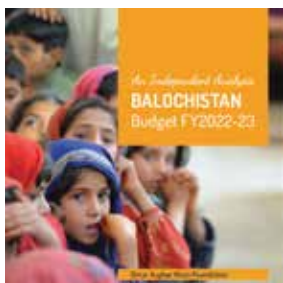
Social Accountability

In 2022, the Foundation continued to make its mark as an effective influencer of fair, gender-responsive and accountable public finance management. Its assistance to the Women Parliamentary Caucus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa led to an allocation of Rs.3.5 billion for women's empowerment in the province's budget FY2022-23. It also deepened its engagement with parliamentarians and other stakeholders in Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab, with the aim of promoting gender-responsive budgets and improving the delivery of public services.



GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETS

Analysis of Federal &
4 Provincial Budgets
FY2022-23



In 2022, the Foundation analysed four provincial and the federal budget of FY2022-23. Its findings were categorized under six themes:

- *Gender Based Violence*
- *Women's Economic Empowerment*
- *Social Services (Health & Education)*
- *Climate Change*
- *Social Inclusion: (focus on vulnerabilities of PWDs, transgender persons and non-Muslim religious minorities)*
- *Institutions that Advance Women's Empowerment*

The budget analysis generated knowledge that helped parliamentarians and other stakeholders promote gender-responsive budgets, that will also improve compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and SDGs, especially SDG5.

The Foundation documented its budget analysis and recommendations in a series of attractive, easy-to-use byte-sized publications, available on its website www.oakdf.org.pk

Rs.3.5 billion was allocated for women's empowerment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Budget FY2022-23 in response to GRB proposals made by KP's Women Parliamentary Caucus, with the Foundation's support. This allocation was more than three times greater than the Rs.1 billion secured in the preceding financial year. The KP WPC's successful promotion of gender-responsive budgets also helped raise the voice and visibility of its members within and beyond the provincial legislature.



KP WPC Chair & Members present GRB proposals to KP's Finance Minister, 30 May 2022, Peshawar



The Foundation and Shirkat Gah teams work with MPs and other stakeholders in Sindh (*above*) and Balochistan (*below*) to promote gender-responsive budgets, policies & laws



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Tracking Public Funds from
FY 2014-15 to FY2020-21

The Foundation's assessment of Pakistan's federal & four provincial budgets (2015-20) helped identify 1,674 projects, with a combined expenditure of Rs.131.99 billion, that promote women's economic empowerment, women's financial inclusion & women's empowerment collectives.

This analysis was completed by the Foundation in collaboration with Publish What You Fund as part of its six-country (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan & Uganda) multi-year project. The evidence generated by this work will help policymakers, funders, and gender advocates to support better funding approaches to advance WEE.

The findings of the six-country study placed cross-cutting emphasis on the need for more published details of project-level information: what is the funding for? what groups of women & girls are to benefit? what is the strategy, intended outcome? what is the actual impact? what approaches work or don't work? It concluded that more granular information will help ensure that underperforming investments are not repeated, and that scarce resources are channelled where they are most beneficial.



Recommendations

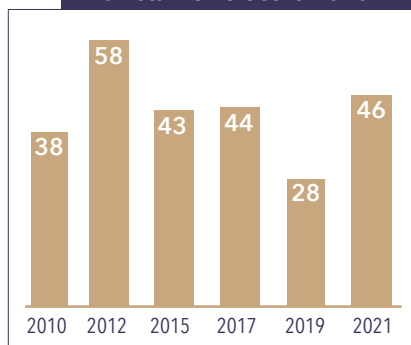
- *Encourage governments to provide sex-disaggregated budget data: to help assess government spending on WEE & provide evidence to demonstrate their commitment to gender equity.*
- *Advocate for the inclusion of gender assessment in government planning & monitoring: to generate evidence on their impact on gender equity.*
- *Build government/legislators' capacity in GRB to shape more gender-responsive policies & budgets, & improve oversight of gender-responsiveness of government policies & budgets.*
- *Advocate budgets for women's financial inclusion and women's movements & organisations.*
- *Extend the scope of WEE to other marginalised groups, such as transgender people & PWDs: focus on the intersectionality of gender-based inequity.*

<https://www.oakdf.org.pk/publications/>

FAIR & TRANSPARENT BUDGETS**Open Budget Survey (OBS)
2021**

Pakistan's OBS score has improved from 28 in 2019 to 46 in 2021, mainly due to improvements made possible by the Public Finance Management Act 2019. The law helped ensure production and timely public access to a Pre-Budget Statement and the Citizen Budget.

The Foundation & IBP discussed the OBS 2021 results with Dr. Ayesha Ghaus Pasha, State Minister for Finance, Government of Pakistan. Dr. Pasha appreciated the OBS. She said that its findings will help make further improvements in budget transparency in Pakistan. It was agreed that the Foundation/IBP will assist the Finance Ministry to implement the OBS recommendations like increased public participation in the budgets & also help renew Pakistan's membership in the Open Government Partnership.

Pakistan OBS Score 2010-21

The OBS is a global survey conducted every two years in over 100 countries. It is led by the International Budget Partnership. The Foundation is responsible for conducting the OBS in Pakistan since 2010.



BUDGET ANALYSIS

Building Civil Society Capacity

Seven Pakistani civil society organizations (CSOs) working on GBV, women's rights, healthcare, education & governance attended a five-day intensive training on budgets facilitated by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) and the Foundation. The training helped participants become more familiar with budget documents, learn skills in budget analysis & advocacy, and also social audit. Case studies from Pakistan and other countries assisted learning from experiences. Participants designed advocacy strategies for using budget skills to further their organisational goals.

The training was the second in a series organized under an EU-funded three-year (2020-22) project: Collaborating On Open & Accountable Budgeting which is strengthening civil society capacity in more than 20 countries including Pakistan to actively engage in budget processes & advocacy for building the conditions for transparent, inclusive & accountable public budgeting.



DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS

Social Accountability

Women leaders and male allies from about 100 civil society organizations in five KP districts (Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Nowshera and Peshawar) were assisted in pursuing more than 1,800 social accountability plans (SAPs). The Foundation helped them engage with local councillors and government officials through khuli kutcheries and one-on-one meetings. They were also provided updated information on public complaint mechanisms like the Pakistan Citizen Portal to facilitate the redressal of public grievances on public services.



Government actions on 353 SAPs pursued by Foundation-trained CSOs helped increase public access to improved delivery of drinking water, schools, healthcare facilities, waste disposal and other public services benefitting an estimated 240,000 households in 5 KP districts.





A new DWSS was demanded for Village Gali Banian (District Abbottabad) which does not have sufficient supply as it is at the tail-end of four villages that gets water from an existing scheme. This was one of 22 public petitions demanding improvements in public services presented by 10 women and 4 men from 7 local CSOs to Abbottabad's Tehsil Mayor during a Public Day held at the Mayor's office in Abbottabad in August 2022.

Street lights were demanded in Pabbi (District Nowshera) to reduce crime & GBV. This was one of 41 public petitions presented by 30 women leaders to the Deputy Commissioner Nowshera at a khuli kutcheri for ♀ organized by the District Administration in Nowshera in January 2022.



PUBLIC EXPENDITURE TRACKING

Implementation of KP Budget FY2022-23

The Foundation worked intensely with the Women Parliamentary Caucus and government officials in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to track and support effective use of public funds allocated in KP's Budget FY2022-23. Details on budget allocations and updates on projects/schemes were provided by senior representatives from Social Welfare & Women Empowerment, Education, Health, Population Welfare, Agriculture, Industries (TEVTA), Forestry, Planning & Development and Finance Departments. Challenges were also highlighted and recommendations made to promote GRB.

The Chair of KP WPC (right), its members & senior government officials discussing GRB expenditures (below)

This information assisted in tracking public expenditure. It also helped develop GRB proposals for the province's budget FY2023-24, for example, funds were recommended to enhance the capacity of staff at Darul Amans (first responders), extend the outreach of BoloHelpline (a helpline for GBV), and increase investments in successful projects like agriculture training for women farmers. Support was also recommended for expediting the generation and use of gender disaggregated data.



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Local Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

With the completion of the two-phased local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (2020-21), a new two-tiered local government structure became functional in the province. It includes 70 tehsil councils, 2,835 village and 504 neighbourhood councils.

The Foundation assisted women leaders and male allies in five KP districts to become more familiar with the KP Local Government Act 2019 and its subsequent amendments. This helped them better understand the local government structure, authority given to various tiers and budgets available through fiscal decentralization. The information helped elected councilors be more effective public representatives and assisted citizens in more effective engagement with them.



RIGHTS & DIVERSITY

Community Actions Against Exclusion & Intolerance

The Foundation contributed to promoting inclusion and rights and reducing exploitation, in its capacity as Aawaz II's Provincial Lead in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Aawaz II is a multi-year programme that works with local communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab to promote the rights of children, women, youth and other marginalised groups to strengthen and facilitate their development. The British Council leads on the delivery of the Aawaz II community engagement component which aims to create awareness and behaviour change and increase citizen-state engagement to promote change in the harmful practices of early and forced marriage, gender-based violence, exclusion, exploitation and intolerance.

At the conclusion of its first two-year phase in December 2022, Aawaz II had reached more than 31 million people in nine districts of KP and 13 districts of Punjab. In KP it helped create a critical mass of 9,902 active members and 6,760 trained youth change-agents, who designed and delivered small scale collective and social action projects to address discriminatory practices and promote social inclusion. Their efforts benefitted nearly 50,000 women and girls, persons with disabilities, transgender persons, and religious minorities. Plans for Aawaz II's second phase, expected to begin in 2023, are underway.





Mr. Ravi Kumar & other MPs from KP respond to demands for facilities & budgets made by non-Muslim religious minorities from nine KP districts.

Aawaz II Provincial Consultation: Social Integration of Religious Minorities in KP February 2022



Under Fempower, the Foundation brought together women leaders, male allies and government officials to form Area Support Networks in Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Nowshera and Peshawar. The ASNs led about 200 social action initiatives to address exclusion and exploitation. These included actions to help women obtain basic documentation like CNICs, access social protection instruments like the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), resolve minor community disputes and benefit from legal advice on GBV.

To facilitate referral pathways for women experiencing or at risk of GBV, the Foundation arranged a series of exposure visits that helped ASN members and other activists to become more familiar with the mandate and services of government support facilities such as Women Crisis Centre/Darul Amans, Child Protection Units, District Reconciliation Council and Working Women Hostels. They were also assisted in holding detailed meetings with the Social Welfare & Women Empowerment Departments in the districts.



Under Aawaz II, the Foundation brought together about 60 women, transgender persons, PWDs and non-Muslim religious minorities from nine KP districts to discuss referral pathways used by survivors of GBV with senior representatives of the Social Welfare & Women's Empowerment Department, the KP Commission on the Status of Women, Ombudsperson KP for Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace and the KP Child Protection & Welfare Commission. The multi-stakeholder dialogue aimed to facilitate better access to available services. It was convened in collaboration with the KP Commission on the Status of Women as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV.

CLIMATE CHANGE Flood 2022 Response

With support from local philanthropists, the Foundation and its local partners contributed to relief efforts following the devastating 2022 floods. One-month's food & non-food supply was provided to 200 flood-affected families in some of the poorest areas of Districts Upper and Lower Kohistan. Dengue-prevention kits were also distributed to 100 families in urban areas of District Nowshera.



Under Aawaz II, the Foundation brokered a dialogue between the government and vulnerable groups (women, PWDs, transgender persons and non-Muslim religious minorities) from six flood-affected KP districts (Swat, Nowshera, Charsadda, Swabi, Peshawar and Mardan) to help shape rehabilitation policies, programmes and public budgets that are responsive to the interests and needs of the most vulnerable. Recommendations included providing training & equipment to first responders to assist PWDs in flood-affected areas, ensuring non-discrimination in distributing relief assistance to non-Muslim religious minorities and providing safe places for transgender persons.



Transgender (*top*) and PWD (*right*) activists who are members of Aawaz II's Provincial Forum in KP recommending improved relief assistance.

CLIMATE CHANGE Sustainable Cities

The Foundation in partnership with Oxfam Pakistan successfully completed a four-year (2019-22) pilot project: Building Resilient Urban Communities (BRUC) in Abbottabad city. BRUC was one of the sub-projects of the Asian Development Bank's trust fund to support fast-growing cities in Asia 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 such climate impacts.

Under BRUC, the Foundation and Oxfam facilitated the participation and collaboration of local communities, elected councilors, district administration and public/private service providers, like the Water & Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) & the Tehsil Municipal Administration, to demonstrate effective stakeholder collaboration for improving solid waste management and water supply in ways that increases resilience to impacts of climate change. Water supply and waste management facilities constructed under BRUC were formally handed over to WSSC for post-project operations and maintenance. The Foundation and Oxfam signed an MOU to form a strategic alliance (upto March 2023) to undertake post-monitoring, maintenance and care of interventions.

