

2017

Annual Progress Report



Strengthening Electoral and Legislative
Processes (SELP)

UNDP

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AWP	Annual Work plan
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVE	Civic and Voter Education
DEC	District Election Commissioner
DRO	District Returning Order
DVEC	District Voter Education Committee
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
EO	Election Officer
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
IEC	Information, Education & Communication
IT	Information Technology
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LoA	Letter of Agreement
MCGA	Micro Capital Grant Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner

PIPS	Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services
PML (N)	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PPP	Pakistan Peoples' Party
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
REC	Regional Election Commissioner
RO	Returning Officer
SELP	Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes
ToRs	Terms of References
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WPC	Women Parliamentary Caucus

Introduction

The Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes (SELP) Project seeks to develop more inclusive, and accountable governance institutions, systems and processes. It improves the supply side of governance by enhancing the capacity of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the Senate and Provincial Assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. Moreover, it supports the demand side by developing the capacity of civil society in advocacy and civic engagement, increasing the representation of women, youth, and minorities informing all aspects of programming.

The two main activity strands are to provide technical support to the ECP to increase public trust in electoral process, and to strengthen the legislative institutions to enable them to become effective, inclusive and responsive legislatures. The Project is structured around two key strands: Electoral Cycle Support to the ECP and Strengthening Legislative Institutions.

The project is based on the concept of the electoral cycle which addresses both one-off and resource-intensive election support and capacity development for democratic institutions based on a longer-term development agenda within the broader context of democratic governance. This approach therefore emphasizes institutional capacity building for the ECP, and other governance institutions; encourages sustainable electoral policies and the participation of traditionally disadvantaged groups. Strategically, the project takes an “electoral cycle” approach to assistance, providing support pre-elections, during elections, and post-elections. Of particular importance to post-election period, the electoral cycle approach promotes stability and accounts for the critical post-electoral phase which sets the stage for the next election thereby strengthening the democratic process. These include developing the ECP’s capacity in accordance with current (5) Five Year Strategic Plan (2014–18); advocacy and implementation of electoral reforms; and civic and voter education campaigns, particularly for women and youth. The strategic “post-electoral” period strengthens the institutional mechanisms for elections, such as voters’ list updates and audits, and re-evaluates policies which then feed into the next election.

Apart from its support to ECP, the project seeks to strengthen the core functions of the Senate of Pakistan and the two Provincial Assemblies of KP and Balochistan by providing support to Parliamentary committees, developing the capacity of the Members and Secretariat staff, improving linkages with the public. The project also technically assists to effectively and proactively oversee the country’s progress on development goals closely working through Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Taskforces and Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses. These initiatives serve the key purpose of sensitising the parliamentarians towards key developmental issues. Furthermore, this active parliamentary engagement is also part of UNDP’s efforts in enhancing oversight functions of the legislative institutions with regard to the country’s progress on developmental goals.

These programme components have formed the core outputs for the project.

Output One

- *Increased public trust in electoral processes*

Output Two

- *The Parliamentary system strengthened through more Effective, Inclusive, and Responsive Legislatures*

Output Three

- *Strengthened Processes, Mechanisms and Institutions for promoting a more Inclusive Democratic Culture*

Combined, all three outputs provide a conceptually coherent approach towards consolidating democracy in Pakistan by enhancing standards of democratic governance, and therefore strengthening state-society relations. Consistent with the specific targets and indicators under SDG 16, all are focused on generating cross-cutting results which support the evolution of more inclusive and participatory institutions, promote social cohesion, and address the marginalization of women, youth and minorities in decision-making processes.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

UNDP's SELP is supporting the parliamentary institutions as well as the ECP. Hence the situational analysis is a reflection of the overall political environment of Pakistan affecting governance and institutional performances.

According to July 2017 results, Pakistan ranked 122 of 157¹ nations on the SDG index. However, it is important to mention that the country has taken some key actions to deliver on SDG targets. The parliamentary institutions in Pakistan have adopted the SDGs as a key development agenda with the formation of the SDGs Task Forces at the federal parliament and provincial assemblies.

The much-awaited enactment of Elections Act, 2017 during the year is widely appreciated as a key legislation and a step forward towards strengthening the democratic system in the country. The Act included several electoral reforms including enhancing transparency in electoral processes, strengthening of ECP by increasing its administrative, financial and judicial authority to prepare an action plan before the general elections and enrolling citizens automatically as voters who obtain National Identity Card (NIC) from NADRA. The Act also mandates ECP to lead voter education campaigns for women, religious minorities and other marginalized groups. Political parties are now mandated to provide minimum of 5% tickets to women members on general seats.

However, challenges emerged for the government right after the enactment of this legislation. Right-wing groups protested against the alleged amendment of the clauses concerning finality of the Prophethood. Due to the controversy, there were country wide protests and the federal capital city remained under siege for nearly three weeks. The protest ended after the government reverted to the original provisions in the previous law and the Law Minister resigned.

Another important development with direct impact on the political landscape was conduct of the 6th population census which was done after 19 years. It was a positive development before the national elections as the count provided an updated political map of Pakistan that could lead to an accurate vote tally in the elections. In light of the preliminary results of the census, delimitation process for constituencies for national and provincial assemblies is in progress. As per its constitutional mandate, ECP is leading the delimitation process. However smaller provinces and marginalized groups like transgender and persons with disabilities raised questions over the authenticity of the figures released at the end of the nationwide exercise. The electoral roll carries more than 97 million voters with the gender gap of more than 12 million between women and men. Considering the seriousness of the matter, the ECP has taken measures to minimize the gender gap which includes launching an ECP-led "Women's NIC and

¹ SDG Index & Dashboards 2017 Report

<http://www.sdgindex.org/assets/files/2017/2017-SDG-Index-and-Dashboards-Report--full.pdf>

Voter Registration Campaign". However, bearing in mind the huge gender gap, it is feared that millions of women in Pakistan will not be able to vote because they do not possess NICs, a prerequisite for exercising the right to vote in Pakistan.

The year 2017 also proved to be important in terms of the electoral and parliamentary history of Pakistan. Disqualification of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by the Supreme Court on charges of corruption and hiding assets has created political instability. The prime minister's disqualification has triggered a new debate on the balance of power between key state institutions.

Important political alliances were also made and some were broken as, during 2017, political parties in the country were gearing up for Senate and general elections scheduled for 2018. Electoral alliance of the religious-political party, *Mutahida Majli-e-Amal* (MMA), was revived and a forward block within the ruling party PML-N was formed in Balochistan Assembly by provincial legislators which resulted in a political disorder by the year end.

In this backdrop, a certain degree of skepticism regarding occurrence of Senate Elections in March as well as general elections before August 2018 also persisted by the end of 2017. Even though much of the picture regarding holding of the Senate and General Elections has become clear, a certain level of uncertainty still persists on the matter due to the existing political scenario in the country.

1. Project Performance and Results

3.1 Contribution toward Country Programme Outcome

CPAP Outcome

Pak_Outcome45:

The capacity of Institutions to be more democratic and accountable is strengthened, including, inter alia, the engagement of civil society organizations, media and academia;

Indicator: 1. Number of Election Commission officials (female and male) with improved capacities and results management systems to administer fair and transparent elections

Indicator: 2. Number of federal and provincial parliamentary committees that undertake legislative changes and administrative reviews based on gender- and evidence-based analysis (policy/issue papers)

Indicator: 1. Number of Election Commission officials (female and male) with improved capacities and results management systems to administer fair and transparent elections

Under electoral assistance in 2017, the training team focused on developing customized training curriculums and handbooks for various trainings, in collaboration with the ECP including handbooks and manuals for the Training of Presiding Officers (POs), Assistant Presiding Officers, District Returning Officers and Returning Officers (ROs) in anticipation of trainings to be conducted for polling staff of General Elections 2018. Apart from developing training material, UNDP also suggested viable training methods and techniques to effectively conduct such trainings. *This improved knowledge and methodologies will in turn build the capacity of the election officials, and help them conduct free, and fair elections and make the ECP an effective and democratic institution.*

In efforts to build the institutional capacity of the ECP, UNDP and the ECP jointly organized the four (4) batches of training on Electoral Management Course (EMC) and three modules of BRIDGE²: Boundary Delimitation, Legal Framework and Gender and Elections for 113 ECP Officials (Female: 04, Males :109) with the assistance of International BRIDGE Facilitator. *The core purpose of this course is to enhance the capacity of ECP officials on various aspects of election management in order to support long-term management and electoral administration sustainability of the ECP.*

² Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) is a modular professional development program and is the most comprehensive curriculum and workshop package for elections in the world. It was designed to be used as a tool for capacity development and as professional development for people working in elections.

UNDP also arranged a one-week training course on *Leadership and Management* for senior management of ECP (grades Basic Pay Scale-19 and above) at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) University, Lahore from 13th to 18th February, 2017. A total of 20 participants (F:02, M:18) participated in this course. The objective of this programme was to develop the understanding of officers on leadership and to strengthen their techniques for managing the performance of their team members. *This helped in improving the management style and administration of the senior management of the ECP.*

As a result of advocacy efforts of the UNDP, the senior management of ECP decided to fully implement the Results Management System (RMS) in General Elections 2018 and all upcoming by-elections. Moreover, in collaboration with the ECP Information Technology (IT)-Wing, UNDP developed Results Transmission System (RTS). With the support of UNDP, the ECP piloted RMS and GIS during seven (7) by-elections held country-wide during 2017 and RTS in 3 by-elections. ECP, in collaboration with UNDP, trained 1,883 Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers for various by-elections on the use of RMS and transmission of the results from polling station to the Office of Returning Officer electronically using RTS. *Application of improved RMS and RTS ensures that ECP has the capacity and ability to hold transparent, fair and well-managed elections with timely results being produced, and accepted by all stakeholders. This will also serve to bolster public confidence in the electoral process.*

These trainings will help improve the institutional capacity of the ECP and its results management systems to administer fair and transparent elections

For more details and references, please refer to the section "Output 1" on page 11.

[CPD#45.1]

Indicator: 2. Number of federal and provincial parliamentary committees that undertake legislative changes and administrative reviews based on gender- and evidence-based analysis (policy/issue papers)

During the reporting year, UNDP contributed in various initiatives intending to bring reforms and introducing amendments in legislation and parliamentary rules of procedures at federal and provincial legislatures. The details of some of the successes are:

1) After holding provincial roundtable consultative workshops on Elections Bill 2017 in January 2017, UNDP proposed multiple points to the Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms—including one concerning women participation in general elections. *The committee compiled the Elections Bill 2017 which was eventually passed as Elections Act 2017 in October 2017*

2) Due to the efforts of UNDP team, the Committee on Rules of Procedures of the Balochistan Assembly introduced 5 reforms in the Assembly's Rules book—including introducing Zero Hour and Call Attention Notices, Allocation of Time to Raise Matters of Public Importance in the

Assembly business, giving the Assembly's Standing Committees power to appoint sub-committees, formation of a Committee on Ethics — *hence contributing towards enhancing the functions of the provincial legislature;*

3) Also, the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of Balochistan Assembly, after attending various activities including orientation workshops organized by the Project, successfully *introduced and got passed from the Assembly the Provincial Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) Act* hence paving the way for the establishment of the important Commission for women in the province;

4) Furthermore, the Project team is also working with the KP Assembly Committee on Rules of Procedures to introduce more than 25 amendments to the rules book of the Assembly which is set to be introduced before the House for approval. *The committee is reportedly committed to table the proposed amendments before the House for approval in near future.*

5) The KP Assembly, with support from UNDP, is set to formally notify a Special Committee on SDGs—a first-ever Committee to monitor progress on the country's commitment on the Agenda-2030 in any of the legislative House of the country.

These legislative changes and administrative reviews will in the long run, build the capacity of Institutions to be more democratic and accountable.

[CPD#45.2]

For more details and references, please refer to the section "Output 2" on page 20.

Output One

The government of Japan and UNDP signs partnership agreement:

With the concurrence of the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the Government of Japan generously agreed to support the ECP and Pakistan's electoral processes, through UNDP. In this backdrop, on November 22nd, 2017 – His Excellency, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Takashi Kurai, and the Country Director of UNDP in Pakistan, Ignacio Artaza, signed an agreement to provide US\$ 5.9 million over three years (2017–2020) to support the ECP, and to further strengthen its capacity to hold elections. This project will build upon UNDP's longstanding commitment to develop the capacity of key democratic institutions including provincial and national assemblies, and the ECP itself. In the run-up to the 2018 general elections, through this grant, UNDP will support the ECP in the following key areas:

- ✓ Training of polling officials particularly the Orientation of Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers in Punjab and Balochistan for general elections 2018
- ✓ Procurement of additional equipment for ECP to support the implementation of the Results Management System (RMS)
- ✓ Training of Election Tribunals to address election-related complaints during the 2018 electoral process
- ✓ Voter education and information initiatives, specifically for youth/women, to bolster participation in the 2018 electoral process
- ✓ UNDP, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and in coordination with the ECP, to support initiatives to strengthen the capacity of media professionals to develop balanced, inclusive, and objective election reporting.
- ✓ Support the ECP's efforts in development of ECPs five years' strategic plan, post-election review support, Electoral Management Course, and other institutional professional development activities.

The ECP highlighted UNDP's support through their website. For additional information, please follow the link below:

<https://ecp.gov.pk/PrintDocument.aspx?PressId=54533&type=Image>

Round Table Conferences on Elections Bills 2017:

The project held a series of Round Table Discussions on the Draft Elections Bill 2017. The objective of the discussions was to gather perspectives from provinces on the Draft Bill. The Roundtables were held in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta in January 2017.

The events provided a unique opportunity for provincial legislators, election experts and representatives from academia, civil society and the media to review the Bill and make

recommendations resulting in gathering useful perspectives from the stakeholders in the provinces on the Draft Bill. The events produced very useful input in the shape of observations and recommendations which were compiled and subsequently shared with the Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms. The following table shows details of the Round Table Discussions:

Sr #	Location	Date	Participants		
			Male	Female	Total
1.	Quetta	17.01.17	44	06	54
2.	Peshawar	18.01.17	30	11	41
3.	Lahore	18.01.17	19	14	33
4.	Karachi	19.01.17	21	19	34
Total			114	50	162

Assistance to ECP in developing Training Material:

Under electoral assistance, the training team assisted ECP in the development of a training planning matrix, curriculum and rollout plan for the training of polling staff taking into account lessons learned from previous electoral processes. As part of ECP's joint Material Development Committee, UNDP focused on developing customized training curriculums and handbooks for various trainings in anticipation of trainings to be conducted for polling staff of General Elections 2018, including training material to be used for Training of Lead trainers, Master Trainers, District Returning Officers(DROs), Returning Officers (ROs), Presiding Officers, Senior Assistant Presiding Officers, as well as orientation of Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers. UNDP has developed the material in accordance with the Elections Act, 2017 and Election Rules, 2017, along with suggesting viable training methods and techniques to ECP for effectively conducting such trainings. This improved knowledge and methodologies will in turn build the capacity of the ECP officials, and help them conduct free, and fair elections and make the ECP an effective and democratic institution.

By the end of 2017, the following training package of polling staff had been developed and approved by the ECP:

- i. Handbook for Presiding and Assistant Presiding Officers;
- ii. Five-day trainer manual for the trainer of lead trainers;
- iii. Three-day training manual for the training of master trainers;
- iv. Two-day trainer manual for the training of Polling Staff;
- v. Set of fourteen pre-printed charts describing polling process, counting process, preparation of statement of count and ballot paper account, Result Transmission system, packing of election material etc;

- vi. Pre and post assessment to evaluate the knowledge gained by participants;
- vii. Training evaluation forms for all three tiers to assess the effectiveness of training material; training methodology, contents, facilitators skills and knowledge as well as the logistical arrangements;
- viii. Trainer evaluation Performa to assess the capabilities of trainers;
- ix. Placemat to be used by Presiding officers at polling day to serve as a guide.

BRDIGE/ Electoral Management Courses for ECP Officials:

In efforts to build the institutional capacity of the ECP, UNDP and the ECP jointly organized the four (4) batches of training on Electoral Management Course (EMC) for 113 ECP Officials (Female: 04, Males :109). The topics to be covered under the training include: Election Dispute Resolution, Civic and Voter Education, Electoral Roll Registration, Electoral Systems, Political Finance, Electoral Technology, Pre-poll activities, Delimitation, General Elections, Senate Elections, Presidential Elections and Local Government Elections. Moreover, the soft-skills related sessions will cover topics including communication skills, leadership and teamwork. *The core purpose of this course is to enhance the capacity of election officials on various aspects of election management in order to support long-term management and electoral administration sustainability of the ECP. By attending these courses, the insight of ECP-officials was enhanced on global best practices, combined with local procedures and practices.*

Under the umbrella of EMC, all 113 ECP Officials (Female: 04, Males :109) were also trained on three BRIDGE modules: Boundary Delimitation, Legal Framework, and Gender and Elections. BRIDGE is a modular professional development program and is the most comprehensive curriculum and workshop package for elections in the world. It was designed to be used as a tool for capacity development and as professional development for people working in elections. BRIDGE Training modules were delivered by a UNDP International BRIDGE Facilitator along with other national BRIDGE facilitators from the ECP and UNDP. The key components of the training on **Legal Framework** course included: Constitutional mandate of the Election Commission, Election Laws and Rules, Code of Conducts, legal framework of local government elections, electoral roles and international best practices in electoral legislation and regulations. The key components of the training on **Boundary Delimitation** included: Introduction to Delimitation of Constituencies, International Standards and Best Practices in Boundary Delimitation, Implications of Delimitation of Constituencies, Gerrymandering, Legal Framework in Pakistan for Delimitation, and Working with Census/Revenue Units used in delimitation. The key components of the **Gender and Elections** course included; protection for women's political participation; international perspective & Region wise participation in electoral process, Potential gender issues in elections and their mitigation, Quotas and representation of women, and female friendly polling station etc. *The objective of the roll-out of these modules is to enhance the insight of ECP-officials on global best practices of election*

administration, combined with local procedures and practices. As a result of the roll-out of BRIDGE modules, the pool of ECP-BRIDGE facilitators has also started to build up.

During the beginning of the year, UNDP also arranged a one-week training course on Leadership and Management for senior management of ECP (grades BPS 19 and above) at LUMS University, Lahore from 13th to 18th February, 2017. A total of 20 participants (F:02, M:18) participated in this course. The contents of the training include seminars on Impact of Leadership Styles on Decision Making, Communication, Gender Diversity, Change Management, Stakeholder Management, Time Management and Conflict Management. *The objective of this programme was to develop the understanding of officers on leadership and to strengthen their techniques for managing the performance of their team members. This helped in improving the management style and administration of the election commission.*

Information Technology for Elections:

As a result of advocacy efforts of the UNDP, the senior management of ECP decided to fully implement the Results Management System (RMS) in General Elections 2018 and all upcoming by-elections. In this regard, UNDP assisted ECP in procuring hardware equipment, updating software according to Elections Act, 2017, and developing training material for training data entry operators on technology. The successful roll-out of a revised computerized RMS system for the 2018 elections will need more than developing the software and testing. Relevant hardware will be required for each Returning Officer's office in order for the system to operate effectively. For the 2018 elections, there will be 849 Returning Officers (estimated 272 for National Assembly Constituencies and 577 for Provincial Assembly Constituencies). Hence, the following set of hardware, along with their supporting components, will be required: 1150 computers (849 for the ROs and 301 for backup support), 900 multifunctional printers (849 for ROs and 51 backup support), 900 USBs (849 for ROs and 51 backup support), and internet connection at 849 sites for entering results data on Election Day and printing and scanning election results forms for publication on the ECP's website. Following ECP's official request to UNDP to continue its support in procuring computer hardware, and related services, UNDP procured 1150 Laptops, 900 Multifunctional printers/scanners, 900 USBs with capacity of 16 GBs and 600 geo-compatible mobile devices for ECP.

Furthermore, for successful application of RMS, continuing from last year 2016, *over 70,868 polling stations have been digitally mapped using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to date.* Below is the breakdown of GIS mapped polling stations by location:

#	Area/province	# of Total Polling Stations GIS Mapped
1	KP & FATA	10,198

2	FATA	1,159
3	Punjab	39,978
4	Sindh	14,647
5	Balochistan	3,676
6	Islamabad	490
	Total	70,868

Furthermore, in anticipation of the envisioned provisions within the new electoral reform legislation, Elections Act 2017, the ECP Secretary directed his staff to increase the number of GIS-mapped polling stations to 100,000. The GIS mapping of another 30,000 polling stations by March 2018 is firmly on track. Once completed, the GIS mapping of all polling stations will add another critical layer of transparency to electoral administration by removing the ability of electoral officials to create 'ghost polling stations', or change the location of polling stations just before an election. Once all the polling stations have been mapped through GIS, ECP, government, political parties, election candidates and general public will be able to locate polling stations on the ECP website, using google maps. In addition, UNDP is supporting ECP in incorporating the relevant changes in the RMS according to the current text of the new electoral reform legislation. The changes consist of the inclusion of the tendered votes in the results form and incorporation of GIS polling scheme in RMS software, among other process and software enhancements and amendments. Moreover, with the support of UNDP, the ECP piloted RMS and GIS polling-scheme in seven (7) by-elections held country-wide during 2017:

- i. NA-4 (Peshawar)
- ii. NA-120 (Lahore)
- iii. NA-260 (Quetta)
- iv. PS-114 (Karachi)
- v. PS-81 (Sanghar)
- vi. PP-20 (Chakwal)
- vii. PB-7 (Ziarat)

Moreover, in collaboration with the ECP Information Technology (IT)-Wing, UNDP developed Results Transmission System (RTS). RTS was successfully piloted during the NA-120/ Lahore By-election, held on September 17th, 2017 and again during NA-4/Peshawar By-election held on October 26th, 2017. The Statement of the Count (Form 45) was directly transmitted from the Presiding Officer to the Returning Officer in the presence of observers and media. This system speeds and standardizes the way in which election results are processed and relayed to the public, increasing transparency and trust in the process. In this regard, ECP, in collaboration with UNDP, trained 1,883 Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers of by-elections on the use of RMS, GIS and transmission of the results from polling station to the Office of Returning

Officer electronically using RTS. Application of improved RMS and RTS ensures that ECP has the capacity and ability to hold transparent, fair and well-managed elections with timely results being produced, and accepted by all stakeholders. This will also serve to bolster public confidence in the electoral process.

Evidence from the use of computerized RMS in Pakistan and across the globe demonstrates its ability to deliver accurate results free from mathematic error, and to remove opportunities for Returning Officers to tamper with results. The implementation of RMS was covered in the media in the following news article:

- i. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1327524>
- ii. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/263037-ecp-designs-rms-for-transparency>

In addition to above, ECP has pledged the countrywide implementation of RMS in General Elections 2018 in its report “Road to General Elections”. Also, FAFEN has reviewed RMS in its report on Elections Bill 2017, the link to which is below:

- iii. <http://fafen.org/fafen-review-and-recommendations-on-elections-bill-2017/>

SELP also supported the IT Wing-ECP in developing a mobile application, ‘CLICK ECP’. This application has been developed for the general public and can be installed in any iPhone and Android-based mobile. Through this tailor-made mobile application, all stakeholders will be able to stay in touch with the updates from ECP. This application was launched by the President of Pakistan, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain on the eve of National Voters’ Day at the President House on 7th December 2017. For additional information on the launch of ‘Click-ECP’, please refer to the following links:

- i. <http://nation.com.pk/08-Dec-2017/ecp-launches-mobile-phone-app>
- ii. <https://www.facebook.com/undppakistan/posts/1599160063463602>

Aspiring Women Candidates:

By year-end 2016, UNDP held a competitive process to evaluate and select six (6) CSOs to assist UNDP in training Aspiring Women Candidates (AWC) for General Elections 2018. The project ran from October 2016 until January 2017. Through the AWC Project, UNDP capacitated 5,967 women to engage in electoral processes at eight (8) different cities. The participants were associated with different political parties and were trained under 217 training workshops held during four (4) months.

Sr. No	CSO	City	Province	Women Trained	No. of Trainings
1	Pak Women	Peshawar	KP	958	31

2	CGPA	Kohat	KP	330	15
3	CGPA	D.I.Khan	KP	330	15
4	Agahе	Multan	Punjab	908	36
5	Agahе	Lahore	Punjab	904	36
6	GEЕSE	Faisalabad	Punjab	921	30
7	Pahel Pakistan	Karachi	Sindh	915	30
8	Taraqee Foundation	Quetta	Balochistan	701	24
			Total	5,967	217

Participants of these trainings belonged to different mainstream and local political parties. The core objective of these trainings was to enhance the insight of the women, interested in contesting elections, on the following:

- ✓ Ability to enhance insight on electoral processes,
- ✓ Ability to increase hands on knowledge of AWCs on nomination and electoral processes,
- ✓ Develop capacity of women cadre of political parties on constituency profiling and election campaign strategy,
- ✓ Familiarize AWCs how to contest elections.

Following the completion of AWC Project (*Women's Engagement in Electoral Processes*), UNDP organized a one-day Experience Sharing Workshop on March 28th, 2017 with partner organizations. Highlights of the project were shared with the CSOs, as well as the challenges and future strategy to increase participation of women in electoral processes. Later, based on the recommendations drawn during the workshop, UNDP prepared a comprehensive workshop report. The report documented the challenges faced as well as the lessons learned during the project. The report also suggests the future strategy that should be adopted for designing the next phase of AWC Project. The report was shared with all stakeholders.

Support to Public Relations/ Communications Wing, ECP:

The data from General Elections 2013 revealed the gap between the registration of men and women voters as 12.17million. To mitigate this situation, ECP has taken special measures to increase the number of women voters by next general elections. Following 2013 General Elections, initiatives to promote voter education have focused on the districts with low voter turnout (i.e. below 40%). In these areas, the aim is to develop a 'local infrastructure' of local actors trained to conduct community based civic and voter education campaigns that are sensitive to the local cultural context. The intent is to provide awareness, information and skills

to motivate active civic engagement and promote social cohesion, especially among youth and women.

In this regard, UNDP engaged six (6) CSOs to conduct grassroots engagement on Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) and voter registration and voter education in tehsils with less than 40% registered female voters. The CSOs implemented the activities in 17 districts of KP, Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh from September 2016 to February 2017. The CSOs conducted a baseline to highlight the barriers to women CNIC and voter registration and identified the key stakeholders and the role that they can play for women CNIC and voter registration. Some of the barriers highlighted were lack of knowledge and importance on CNIC and voter registration, distance to NADRA offices, a lengthy process to obtain a CNIC, rigid cultural norms and male dominance for women to obtain their CNICs and register their vote. The CSOs carried out field activities that included formation of voter mobilization committees, advocacy meetings with stakeholders, mapping of Women without CNICs, referral of women to the NADRA centres, motivational stalls and seminars at girls' schools among others to motivate and individuals to get their CNICs and vote registered. Through these activities, by the end of February 2017, a total of 135,934 (M: 31,567, F: 104,367) people were directly engaged through these outreach initiatives designed to promote civic literacy. As a result, **13,054** CNICs of women were registered through Mobile Registration Vans and at National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) facilitation centers.

In addition, UNDP supported the ECP Gender Unit in drafting the campaign document as well as on aggressively advancing the finalization and approval of ECP's revised ***"Women's NIC and Voter Registration Campaign"*** in coordination with the ECP Gender and Electoral Rolls Units. The campaign is based on the three-pronged approach, aiming to minimize the gap between women and men voters in Pakistan by engaging concerned government institutions, civil society and other stakeholders. An updated version of the Campaign includes complementing NADRA's ongoing campaign in 79 districts and building upon ongoing initiatives by civil society organizations throughout the country, while opening space for other partners, civil society organizations, etc. to complement the overall strategy through other initiatives as they may arise in the future. for highlighting women's participation in the electoral process.

The ECP officially requested UNDP to support the Campaign, in response to which, UNDP/SELP signed a Cooperation Agreement with Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA) on October 12th, 2017. The Agreement was signed by Ignacio Artaza, Country Director, UNDP and Shahid Fiaz, CEO, TDEA.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Justice Sardar Muhammad Raza launched ECP's 'Women NIC and Voter Registration Campaign' at the ECP Secretariat on December 4th 2017. During his keynote address, the CEC remarked that through this campaign, unregistered women will be

mobilized and facilitated to acquire NICs so they could be added in the electoral rolls. He added that the ECP started this campaign in order to minimize the existing gap between men and women voters.

The launch of the campaign was covered in media, the link to which are below:

- i. <https://www.facebook.com/undppakistan/posts/1595589313820677>
- ii. https://twitter.com/UNDP_Pakistan/status/937680304592039942
- iii. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/252271-ecp-launches-drive-to-bridge-male-female-gap-in-voter-lists>
- iv. <https://www.ecp.gov.pk/PrintDocument.aspx?PressId=54558&type=PDF>

To implement the campaign in 79 districts, TDEA engaged 69 grass root level CSOs and conducted 08 training events in Islamabad with a view to building the programmatic and operational capacity of its partner organizations, so that they could improve not only their project implementation but also internal structures. The campaign aims to register NICs of 800,000 women and reach out to 5,000,000 people for civic and voter education. By the end of the year, TDEA had conducted **9,427** supported activities in order to promote civic participation of women and reached out to **33,840** individuals for civic and voter education. As a result, **41,058 women** were identified without NICs and **2,913 women** were facilitated in NIC registration with NADRA.

Furthermore, UNDP is also providing assistance to the Gender Unit at ECP in drafting Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for the ECP as well as holding working meetings of 'Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group'. The group is led by the and includes relevant government and civil society organizations, to support the ECP by giving strategic support at the national and provincial levels in gender mainstreaming the electoral process, generating dialogue and enhancing collaboration between ECP and relevant institutions.

On the occasion of National Voters' Day, held on December 7th, 2017, the ECP aimed to convey a strong public message related to participation in the electoral process, particularly of women. In light of this, on ECP's formal request, UNDP provided Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material to the ECP offices to use in order to observe this day countrywide and for the run-up to the general elections. This included: 65,000 English Brochures, 135,000 Urdu Brochures, 1,112 banners, 10,000 streamers, 205,000 flyers, 205,000 stickers, 56,000 badges, pens and caps 500 standees.

Output Two

Legislative gap analysis in each province on SDGs:

For targets under each SDG to be achieved, a conducive legislative and policy framework will need to be in place. For Provincial Assemblies, this will mean a substantive legislative, multi-sectoral, reform agenda. To support this process, UNDP commissioned six grants to conduct research on legislative/policy gaps hindering the country's progress on the SDGs and produce analytical reports on legislative and policy gaps. The studies were commissioned in late 2016 and related to Goals 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 13 (Climate Change) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

	CSO	SDG Case Study	Scope of Study
1.	Aurat Foundation:	Study on SDG-4 (Quality Education)	Balochistan
2.	Centre for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA)	Study on SDG-4 (Gender Equality)	KP
3.	FATA Research Centre	Study on SDG-13 (Climate Action)	KP
4.	Lead-Pakistan	Study on SDG-13 (Climate Action)	Balochistan
5.	Lead-Pakistan	Study on SDG-5 (Gender Equality)	Balochistan
6.	Pakistan Institute for Legislative Development & Transparency	Study on SDG-16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)	KP
7.	Pakistan Institute for Legislative Development & Transparency	Study on SDG-16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)	Balochistan
8.	Trust for Democratic Education & Accountability	Study on SDG-4 (Quality Education)	KP

During the reporting year, the findings of each report were shared with stakeholders through a number of validation workshops organized in Balochistan and KP. The aim of the workshops was to discuss and endorse findings, with intention of raising awareness and generating a way forward as well as to inform stakeholders of the conclusions of SDG analysis reports in Balochistan and KP. The events resulted in an active discussion, with the participants

expressing their opinion on the matters discussed in the report and endorsing the findings of the research study. The details of the workshops held are following:

Sr. No	SDG Case Study	Location	Date	Participants
1.	Stakeholders' Workshop on Study Reports on SDGs-4 and 5, Balochistan	Quetta	7 Oct, 2017	83
2.	Stakeholders' Workshop on Studies on SDG-4 & 5, KP	Peshawar	10 Oct, 2017	90
3.	Stakeholders' Workshop on Study on SDG-13 (Climate Action), Balochistan	Quetta	6 Oct, 2017	51
4.	Stakeholders' Workshop on Study on SDG-16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), Balochistan	Quetta	12 Sep, 2017	50
5.	Stakeholders' Workshop on Study on SDG-16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), KP	Peshawar	14 Sep, 2017	31

Support to SDG Task Forces:

With UNDP's support, two SDG Task Forces (TFs) have been established in Balochistan and KP Assemblies. Working in partnership with other CO Units, UNDP focuses on developing the knowledge of the TFs on each SDG, providing technical and policy advice on legislative reforms that are required to achieve SDG targets locally, defining the operational mandate of the TFs and developing their Strategic Plans.

In this respect, UNDP supported an orientation meeting with SDG Task Force (TF) of Balochistan Assembly on 12th April in Islamabad. Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, who is also the Convener of the TF, was the Chief Guest for the event. More than 15 Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) attended the maiden orientation session with the provincial Task Force since its establishment. The tailor-made event provided basic orientation to the members of the provincial Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, the transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the agenda for SDGs, national and international perspectives on the SDGs as well as an interactive discussion amongst the members on the way forward towards enhancing the oversight role of the Assembly on the progress over SDGs.

Moreover, UNDP also organized a two-day "Knowledge-Sharing and Action Planning" workshop with the KP Assembly Task Force on SDGs. The event, organized was held from

20th to 21st June in Swat in which 17 persons participated. A resolution calling upon the provincial government to make the SDGs a cross-cutting theme for all development programmes was drafted and signed by the MPAs.

In pursuance of the decisions made in the workshop in Swat, SELP staff along with the Convener of the SDG TF, Arif Yousaf held a meeting with Muhammad Luqman, Director General of the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) of the KP Planning and Development Department (P&D) on 6th July 2017 in Peshawar. The objective of the meeting was to support the interaction of SDG TF with the relevant departments so as to keep the Assembly abreast of the plans and schemes related to achieving sustainable development goals in the province.

In another event in continuation of the workshop held in Swat, 23 MPAs, five secretariat officials, and four officials from different departments of the KP Assembly participated in a two-day meeting of KP Assembly Task Force (TF) on SDGs from September 23rd to 24th, 2017. As one of the main agenda items, the TF members were briefed from Departments of Finance, Local Government, and Planning & Development of KP Government on the allocation and utilization of funds for SDGs. The officials of the departments briefed the TF on the on-going and completed projects under the SDGs umbrella. Based on the briefings from the provincial departments, necessary actions were suggested by members of the TF.

In addition, a two-day orientation workshop under the title of "Orientation Workshop on Parliamentary Engagement on SDGs for Committee Chairpersons of the KP Assembly" was held on 13th to 14th December 2017. 16 Chairpersons from different Standing Committees and three senior officials of the Secretariat of the Provincial Assembly attended the tailor-made interactive workshop that resulted in an interesting discussion and sharing of ideas on the topic. Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Assistant Country Director of UNDP, gave a presentation covering the national infrastructure for implementation and monitoring of SDGs and related initiatives in KP.

UNDP also supported the formation of four sub-committees of the SDG Task Force of KP Assembly: environment, economic, social and governance. With UNDP support, the four (4) Sub-committees of the Task Force held their inaugural meetings on October 12th and 13th, 2017 at the KP Assembly. During these inaugural meetings, officials from relevant government departments briefed the honorable MPAs on the funding and utilization status in the province against the SDGs falling in their areas of focus. The sub-committees now regularly hold their meetings on monthly basis. In these meetings, officials from the relevant branches of the executive update the members of the sub-committees on their development initiatives and also bring into their knowledge the challenges and issues faced by them in implementing those initiatives.

Furthermore, UNDP/SELP also supported the European Union (EU)'s 'SUBAI' parliamentary support project by holding an event in Lahore involving SDGs Task Forces of various provincial/regional Assemblies. The UNDP-Pakistan's Assistant Country Director and Head of DPU, Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, participated in the event led by SUBAI. The Head of DPU gave a detailed presentation on SDGs in the event was attended by as many as 30 participants, including members and secretariat staff of the Punjab Assembly, Balochistan Assembly, AJK Legislative Assembly and GB Legislative Assembly. The presentation focused on the evolution from MDGs to SDGs and the role of MPs in the implementation of SDGs.

A similar event was held in Karachi on September 14th, 2017 by SUBAI in collaboration with UNDP. The event included members and secretariat staff of the KP and Sindh Provincial Assemblies. UNDP's presentation was followed by that of Ms Rehana Memom, representative of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh. She briefed the participants about Sindh's SDG Support Unit, established with support from UNDP, and its related work/functions.

Support to establishment of Senate Library:

UNDP signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the Senate Secretariat to revamp the Senate Library and its extension to make it contemporary with the state of the art facilities to provide for integrated Library and Research Services to honourable Senators. This intervention was implemented on a cost-sharing basis, with the Senate responsible for civil works, whereas UNDP, through UK Aid support, provided technical assistance and resources for equipping the facility and providing research materials. The facility was formally inaugurated on 23rd August, 2017 at a ceremony held at the Senate Building in Islamabad. The Chairman of the Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani, the Country Director of UNDP, along with other members of the Senate and government officials participated in the event. The enhanced facility is envisioned to complement the training and research services provided for by PIPS, and thus broaden the scope of parliamentary services available to legislators. UNDP/SELP is forming a coordination partnership with PIPS for parliamentary support activities.

Parliamentary Road Shows:

With financial support from UKAid, UNDP arranged five (5) Parliamentary Road Shows titled "How Parliament Works?" through September to December, 2017 with students and faculty members at five different universities all over Pakistan. The aim of the events was to increase public awareness about the role, powers and responsibilities of the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies among the youth. At each event, UNDP/SELP gave a presentation on the composition, role and powers of the Parliament. The presentations were followed by Questions & Answers sessions. The students enthusiastically took part in the interactive sessions which was evident from the diverse nature and types of questions they asked from the presenters at each show. Following are the details of each Parliamentary Roadshows:

Sr. No.	University	Date	Participants
1.	Balochistan University of IT, Engineering & Management Systems, Quetta	13 th September, 2017	100
2.	Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar	15 th September, 2017	72
3.	Hazara University, Mansehra	18 th October, 2017	70
4.	University of Balochistan, Quetta	22 nd November, 2017	100
5.	Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan	24 th November, 2017	65
6.	Lasbela University of Agriculture, water & Marine Sciences	22 nd December, 2017	110

Forums on Elections Act, 2017:

UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) on October 23rd, 2017. The MoU aims to collectively strengthen legislative processes and promote a more informed and accountable government. The signed document is also envisaged to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate collaboration with PIPS in an effort toward strengthening the role, functions and outcomes of the Parliament of Pakistan and that of the Provincial Assemblies. The key focus areas to this effect are: capacity building of members and staff of Standing Committees, Women Caucuses and Task Forces on SDGs in the legislative houses at federal and provincial levels and; development of linkages between the Senate and the Provinces – in addition to strengthening the capacity of PIPS institutionally for the long-term sustainability of legislative support in Pakistan.

UNDP, in collaboration with Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) and the ECP, arranged three seminars, ***“Elections Act, 2017: Towards a Transparent Electoral Process in Pakistan”, in Islamabad, Quetta and Peshawar*** on 17th, 28th and 31st October respectively. The seminars were attended by journalists, representatives from CSOs, academia, university students, provincial lawmakers and secretariat officials. At the event, Mr. Darren Nance, CTA-SELP, and Quraysh Khattak, Elections and Parliament Officer-SELP, spoke about various aspects of the new elections law enacted on October 2nd, 2017. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the stakeholders, with ECP, PIPS and UNDP officials moderating the discussion and questions. The speakers responded to questions from the audience following the presentations.

Similarly, UNDP-SELP partnered with EU's Project, SUBAI to arrange two knowledge-sharing workshops on '*Engagement of Women in Electoral Processes*' and the '*Elections Act, 2017*' for the Women Parliamentary Caucus of all four Provincial Assemblies.

In this regard, the first two-day workshop for WPCs of Balochistan and Punjab was organized in Lahore on 8th-9th November, and on 11th -12th November, 2017 in Bhurban for WPCs of KP and Sindh. MPAs, along with senior secretariat officials of the respective Assemblies attended the workshop. The objective of the two-day event was to give orientation to women members of the Provincial Assemblies on salient features of the new law, specifically related to women's engagement and participation – and discuss initiatives for the greater inclusion of women in electoral processes. The participants were given orientation on salient features of the Elections Act, 2017 specifically related to women's engagement and participation in electoral processes. Members of the WPCs shared their respective achievements and discussed functions and the challenges faced by the women's caucuses. Members of the WPCs termed the event as extremely useful, noting the need for enhanced coordination between the Provincial Assemblies.

Capacity Building of Members and Secretariat Staff of Provincial Assemblies:

UNDP is a proud partner of the provincial assemblies of Balochistan and KP in holding orientation sessions for MPAs, capacity building sessions for the members and staff as well as providing technical assistance to relevant committees. Following are the brief details of the capacity-building sessions held with the secretariat staff, and members of the two provincial assemblies:

- i. A five-day short course, on "*Legislative Analysis and Legislative Drafting*" for secretariat staff of the Balochistan Assembly was held from March 21st to 26th, 2017 at Lahore. 19 officials of the Assembly completed the short course. Honourable Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly Ms. Rahila Durrani and Secretary of the Provincial Assembly Mr. Rehmat Ullah Jathak also attended the course.
- ii. UNDP/SELP team organized two knowledge-sharing workshops on a UNDP-commissioned study on "*Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Gender Budget Analysis*" with 16 members of KP Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) on 1st February, 2017 and with 17 Committee Chairpersons and members of the SDG Task Forces, KP on 2nd February 2017.
- iii. UNDP organized a consultative meeting involving the Speaker, MPAs and senior staff members (19 participants) of the Balochistan Assembly to review the Rules and Procedure (RoPs) and Conduct of Business of Balochistan Assembly, on February 18th, 2017 in Lahore. The event provided an opportunity to the participants to review and

- discuss key finding of a study, conducted by UNDP, on the review of Balochistan Assembly's Rules and Procedure (RoPs) and Conduct of Business.
- iv. Two knowledge-sharing media workshops on the concept of holding public hearings and how to engage with media was held in with 19 Committee Chairs and MPAs of KP Assembly. A similar workshop was held with 12 women MPAs of KP WPC in March 2017.
 - v. Two knowledge-sharing workshops on '*Connecting the Assembly to the Public through Media Reporting*' were held on 8th-9th August, 2017 involving 22 KP Assembly Secretariat public relations officers and media reporters/journalists in Islamabad and from September 20th - 21st, 2017 involving 18 Public Relations of Balochistan's Provincial Assembly Secretariat and media persons covering the Assembly.
 - vi. UNDP, with the support from UK Aid, and in collaboration with Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), organized a two-day "Parliamentary Leadership Excellence" Workshop for Committee Chairpersons and Members of the Balochistan Assembly on 25th - 26th September, 2017. 24 participants, including 9 women, attended the workshop.

Promoting the Climate Agenda for Sustainable Development in KP

UNDP-Pakistan with support from UKAid, is closely working with the KP Assembly in enhancing the legislature's role to influence climate-related budgeting in the province. To this affect, the members of the Assembly have already formed a Working Group (WG) on Climate Change consisting of influential members of the legislature—including a sitting provincial Minister and the Chairperson of Standing Committee on Environment.

The Project, in collaboration with the Governance of Climate Change Finance (GCCF) Project, organized a one-day workshop, titled "*Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight of Climate Change Finance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*". 15 Members and Senior Officials of the KP Assembly participated in the event. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the participants to the climate-related initiatives in KP, climate change finance and the province's challenges regarding climate change. During the workshop, a list of recommendations was prepared by the participants to increase the effectiveness of budgetary oversight role of the Assembly.

Furthermore, a knowledge-sharing session on "*Budget-review with the Climate Change Lens*" was held with KP Assembly's Working Group on Climate Change on 23rd May, 2017. The Working Group consists of Members of the Provincial Assembly and senior officials of its Secretariat. 19 members of the group attended the session. The objective of this session was to share preliminary budget review guidelines with the Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) and to identify key areas to examine when reviewing budget documents from a climate change lens.

In continuation of the efforts for making the Working Group more active in the Assembly, an agenda-setting session of the Working Group was hosted by UNDP on 28th September in Islamabad. 21 participants, including nineteen (19) Members of the WG and two officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Afforestation Project of KP Government attended the session. The objective of the session was to invite and get briefing from the EPA and the Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project on the status of public spending related to Climate Change and to identify key allocations for the next budget cycle of 2018.

As a direct result of the meeting, a resolution drafted by MPA, Amina Sardar, an active member of the KP Assembly's WG on Climate Change, was passed by the Provincial Assembly on Monday, October 23rd, 2017. The Resolution recommended to the KP Government to promote tree planting at public and private schools of the province and take measures for making tree planting mandatory in schools.

Support to Strengthening Rules Procedure and Conduct of Business of Provincial Assemblies:

UNDP interventions aiming at providing technical assistance to the provincial legislatures have been focused on advising the Provincial Assemblies on introducing diverse sets of reforms, a few of which have started to see the light of day.

The Balochistan Assembly, during the reporting year, approved five key amendments in the Assembly's Rules of Procedures (RoPs) and Conduct of Business. The RoPs' amendments came as a result of a UNDP-commissioned study reviewing the rules of the Assembly. In February 2017, the findings of the study were shared with the members of the provincial legislature in which the Speaker was also present. A number of proposals for amendments in the RoPs came forward as a result of the study, which also provides a comparative analysis with RoPs of other legislative houses. The amendments made are; 1) Inclusion of Call Attention Notice; 2) the provision to empower Committees to form Sub-committees; 3) introduction of Zero Hour in the Assembly business; 4) Constitution of Business Advisory Committee and; 5) Allocation of time for raising points of public importance during assembly sessions.

The amendments have not only been approved but they now have become part of the day-to-day business in the Assembly. The amendments are envisaged to help the Assembly enhance its functional capacity enabling the lawmakers to represent their constituents in a more effective way. Moreover, eight other amendments are under consideration of the Provincial Assembly's Committee on RoPs and Privileges. The amendments are likely to be passed in the first quarter of next year.

Output Three

United Nations Civic Education Volunteers Batch February- August, 2017:

SELP, in partnership with United Nations Volunteers, is working to strengthen and improve the engagement of citizens, particularly women and youth in electoral processes. Among other activities, the project recruited twenty-four (24) UN Youth Volunteers (UNVs) from four provincial capitals: Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi and Lahore to promote civic education in educational institutes and communities for a period of six months, from 15th February to 14th August 2017.

The UNVs used various techniques to conduct activities on civic education themes. These techniques were in the form of seminars, awareness sessions and lectures, group activities and role play, street campaigns, awareness walks, community meetings, focus group discussions, workshops, radio shows, online blogs, message tickers on cable television network and articles in newspapers.

The following civic education themes/topics were covered in the above-mentioned activities: Rights and responsibilities of citizens including the right to vote; Importance of NIC and voter registrations; Importance of voting especially informed voting; Active citizenship; Democracy and its characteristics; Political system and democratic institutions; Good Governance and its characteristics; Human Rights; Building a civil society.

Below is a numerical breakdown of the activities conducted and the gender disaggregated data of people reached during the activities performed by 24 UN Youth Civic Education Volunteers during the six months of their deployment in the field:

Sr. No.	Location	No. of Activities			No. of Participants			
		Individual	Group	Total	Male	Female	Trans-gender	Total
1	Peshawar	121	07	128	2,755	784	20	3,559
2	Quetta	105	22	127	2,954	996	0	3,950
3	Lahore	120	20	140	2,319	2,619	18	4,956
4	Karachi	144	02	146	2,274	1,892	0	4,166
Grand Total					10,302	6,291	38	16,631

Update on Upcoming Batch of United Nations Civic Education Volunteers:

UNDP/SELP is recruiting 28 UN Civic and Voter Education Youth Volunteers (UNVs) from four universities in Pakistan: University of Sindh, Hazara University, Bahauddin Zakariya University, and Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences.

The recruitment plan of the UNVs is tabulated below:

University	# of Volunteers	Campus City	Province
Hazara University	7	Mansehra	KP
Bahauddin Zakaria University	7	Multan	Punjab
Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS)	7	Lasbela	Balochistan
The University of Sindh	7	Jamshoro	Sindh

In this regard, UNDP/SELP earlier called applications from students of above-mentioned universities for the recruitment of UNVs. In response to the advertisement, by the end of application deadline, UNDP received a total of 730 applications: 138 from Hazara University, 75 from Bahauddin Zakariya University, 401 from the University of Sindh and 116 from Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences. Following the longlisting and shortlisting of candidates, UNDP/SELP will hold on-campus interviews to finalize the candidates.

The project will build the capacity of UNVs by training and providing them with a guide, handouts, presentations and a manual. These volunteers will then be capacitated to achieve the above-mentioned main objective. The UNVs will identify schools, colleges, universities and communities and liaise with faculty and community elders in their respective districts to conduct civic and voter education trainings/sessions/activities. They will be using different techniques for example trainings, mentoring, arts and craft sessions, exhibitions displaying work, role plays, mock polling, use of campus radios, and distribution of material.

Some civic and voter education trainings/sessions/activities will be conducted individually and others in groups, depending on the type of activity. It is recommended that individual activities be attended by 15 to 20 participants, while group activities may be attended by at least 40 participants.

Lessons Learnt

The demand driven approach for the technical interventions has proved to be essential for local ownership and institutional 'buy-in' for all aspects of technical assistance provided to the ECP as well as the legislative houses. This is critical to securing institutional ownership of planned interventions and generating sustainable outcomes that offer tangible evidence of value for money. This approach is also fundamental to the exit strategy for external assistance as demand-driven initiatives are more likely to be sustained after interventions have been concluded. In case of the ECP, with continuous support and advocacy from UNDP, the commission has started to become proactively involved in the capacity building initiatives. To train election officials for the upcoming general election, the ECP has taken a lead role in developing training curriculum, planning and coordinating training activities, and selecting trainers. Over the period of time, with the assistance of UNDP, ECP has established its own pool of qualified trainers including three BRIDGE accrediting facilitators along with more than 25 BRIDGE workshop facilitators and is no longer dependent on development partners to conduct BRIDGE trainings.

On the legislative front, as well, UNDP's working relationship with the Senate and KP and Balochistan Assemblies has been based on the principle that the legislative houses themselves are best suited to identify the areas they need to improve in and lead the initiatives aimed at enhancing their own capacities. This approach is reflected in the various technical interventions UNDP is engaged in, which are aimed at enhancing functional capacities of members and Secretariats of the legislative Houses. Based on close interactions and initiatives for providing assistance to the legislative houses during 2017, the following lessons were recorded:

The demand driven approach for the technical assistance to the legislative houses has proved useful in securing institutional ownership of the activities. This approach together with the balance in relations with the political leadership of the assemblies as well as the secretariats' bureaucracy has resulted in a very conducive environment for the UNDP team to smoothly carryout its parliamentary assistance activities. Given the said benefits of its approach, the team intends to continue it through the crucial year of 2018.

In addition to the above, UNDP's institutional support to the ECP and the parliament has helped UNDP in making a good progress toward the outputs. The institutional expertise in the subject matter has enabled the project team concerned to effectively connect with the stakeholders and implement the project activities thus contributing towards the progress.

A purely technical approach, devoid of political guidance/assessment, risks triggering blowback that can do much harm to the brand and reputation of implementing organizations, and their donor partners. Therefore, for each output, individual political strategy has been designed to ensure that optimum results are achieved for each output. These will be regularly

reviewed and modified in accordance with political developments and regular political analysis.

Key Priorities for 2018

- ✓ In partnership with United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), provide support to ECP in training over 500,000 polling officials in ICT, Punjab and Balochistan, in preparations for upcoming general elections 2018.
- ✓ Provide technical assistance to IT Wing-ECP to update and implement Results Management System (RMS) and Geographic Information System (GIS)-mapping of polling stations.
- ✓ UNDP will continue to support the ECP-led “Women NICs’ and Voter Registration Campaign” in 79 districts across Pakistan. As a result of the support, ECP Women NICs and Voter Registration campaign has commenced as an effort to minimize gap of 12.17 million between men and women registered voters in Pakistan. The campaign aims to register NICs of 800,000 women and reach out to 5,000,000 people for civic and voter education.
- ✓ UNDP will provide support to Gender Unit at ECP in drafting gender mainstreaming strategy for the ECP as well as reactivating and holding working meetings of ‘Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group’.
- ✓ UNDP will provide support ECP to increase the public outreach across the country through voter education and information campaign
- ✓ In partnership with United Nations Volunteers (UNVs), SELP will engage 28 volunteers from 4 universities to promote civic and voter education at educational institutions and within communities.
- ✓ UNDP will continue to build the capacity of law-makers as well secretariat officials of Senate of Pakistan and two Provincial Assemblies of Balochistan and KP.
- ✓ UNDP/SELP will engage youth for promoting democratic culture and peace-building through workshops/conferences.
- ✓ UNDP/SELP will continue to promote parliamentary engagement on SDGs through various initiatives involving law-makers and the civil society.
- ✓ In partnership with UNESCO, UNDP will organize a mentorship programme and conduct trainings of journalists and editorial staff to strengthen capacity of media professionals for inclusive and objective election reporting