



Sub-National Governance
Programme



Building Capacities for Local Governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

This document provides an overview of the training initiative planned by the Sub-National Governance Programme (SNG) for the capacity building of elected representatives and government officials, under local government act 2013. The training plan was being implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) through partnership with the Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Department (LGE&RDD).

Context

In the last general elections of Pakistan held in May 2013, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged as the single major party in KP and formed its first coalition government. Keeping in view its 'change agenda and political manifesto, PTI announced devolution reforms, and promulgated the Local Government Act (LGA) in November 2013.



Improving public service delivery

The LGA introduced two pioneering reforms in KP. The first was creation of the Village and Neighbourhood Councils (V/NCs) throughout the province – for rural and urban areas, respectively – with a vision to be mobilised as the engines of growth replacing the old tier of union council. Second key reform was devolution of 30% of provincial development budget to districts – approximately PKR 42 billion estimated for the fiscal year 2015-16 – to accelerate service delivery in key sectors, especially in health and education. This necessitated prior legislation and capacity enhancement in districts to manage such large additional resources.

Meanwhile, then proactive Supreme Court of Pakistan announced 30th May 2015 as the deadline for holding local government elections in provinces. This gave little time to the KP government to undertake preparatory steps, galvanise energies and build requisite capacities in districts; including tehsil/town administrations and V/NCs. As the stop-gap arrangement, donors' support was called in by the government to create planning and fiscal regime for the newly created decentralised tiers, and build capacities to manage institutional change and new development portfolio in districts.

Apart from other devolution related legislative and fiscal responsibilities, the DFID-funded Sub-National Governance (SNG) programme was asked by the government Planning and Development (P&D) and Local Government, Elections and Rural Development (LGE&RD) departments to plan, design and impart a District Training Plan (DTP) to introduce and embed local government regime at decentralised tiers.

Implementation

Responding positively to the government request, SNG planned and designed the DTP, which was later implemented in 6 SNG focus districts of Hairpur, Nowshera, Buner, Karak, Lakki Marwat and D.I.Khan.

Employing the mechanism of Local Government Working Group – institutionally housed within the Local Government School – SNG work on DTP included interface with and learning from the experiences of other development partners and programmes.

The DTP captured three thematic areas of devolution, i.e.

- i. Local Government Act 2013
- ii. Decentralised Development Planning
- iii. Budgeting



The capacity development endeavour was kick-started with the organisation of a provincial level orientation/training workshop, in which all district Nazims participated along with top level political leadership, and senior government officials from departments and districts. Concurrently, 12 training modules were prepared and 23 training courses were imparted in 6 SNG focus districts.

Number of officers and elected representatives trained included:

22 district Nazims belonging to 22 districts of the province formally trained on LGA 2013 and planning and budgeting processes.



287 local government political representatives including

44 women members were trained on Local Government Act 2013

377 district government officers including

8 women officers were trained on decentralised planning and budget making



Results

The impact evaluation and results of the DTP were shared with the GoKP and development partners in dissemination workshop held at Peshawar on February 01, 2017. Operationalising capacities built through DTP, following notable improvements were made in the functioning of district governments and understanding of the trainees towards the new local government system in the province:

- According to the independent assessment, 90% of the training participants were reported to be satisfied from the contents and quality of the DTP.
- Some participants had no understanding of the budget rules prior to the workshop. After the training, all participants had developed some knowledge of the rules with 45% having partial and 45% having a good understanding of the Budget Rules 2016.
- Close to 80% participants have responded that their understanding of LGA 2013 has increased "a lot". Before the workshop, 77% participants had a little or partial understanding of the Local Government Act in KP.
- After the training, over 80% participants had developed a sound understanding of rules of business for the district governments in KP.
- Local Government School of the LGE&RD Department is using training modules developed by SNG for relevant future devolution related training (both government and donor funded) for all KP districts.



Funded by



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