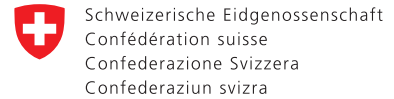


# Strengthening Human Rights Protection Mechanisms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

## The Context

The overall human rights context in Pakistan is characterised by sensitive socio-cultural norms and religious, political and security factors. Discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities, regional inequalities with respect to access to basic services, limited freedom of press and political instability are some of the prominent contributing factors to the prevailing context. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, in particular, faces challenges in protecting the rights of its citizens due to weak governance structures, poverty, low literacy rate, limited access to basic services, extremism and conflict in the region. Religious minorities, women, children, social activists and media personnel are the frequent victims of human rights violation. While the federal government remains responsible for ensuring compliance with international human rights treaties, the 18th Constitutional Amendment devolved significant responsibilities to the provinces in 2010. However, there has been limited progress on the development of subnational legislation, monitoring frameworks and implementation, which has hampered effective compliance of human rights standards in the provinces. Despite the strong commitment of the KP government to safeguard the rights of its citizens, its limited capacity and resources are creating hurdles in the implementation of such laws and policies.

## The Project

'Strengthening Human Rights Protection Mechanisms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa' is a component of UNDP's 'Decentralization and Local Governance (DLG)' programme. The DLG programme has a timeframe of four years and a budget of USD 8.7 million. The main goal of the programme is to strengthen the capacities of provincial authorities to implement the 18th Constitutional Amendment with a focus on development planning, public finance and local governance. The SDC allocated CHF 1 million for the human rights component of the DLG programme. This component will be implemented over two years, starting from 1st June 2016.

### Project Partners:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Directorate of Human Rights of KP

The project aims to improve the human rights situation in KP by supporting the devolution of human rights governance from the federal to provincial level, and strengthening institutional protection mechanisms.

## Policy Level Impacts

Through this intervention, Switzerland will facilitate the KP government in developing a provincial human rights strategy to provide better protection to human rights of vulnerable groups. This is intended to be achieved by building the capacity of KP government's line departments including, Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Department, the Directorate of Human Rights KP, the provincial assembly, and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Furthermore, the civil society will be facilitated to increase their awareness on human rights legislation and protection mechanisms to keep the KP government accountable on its human rights obligations. Inclusive and accountable services will stimulate trust between the government and the people.

<b>Total Budget:</b>	CHF 1 million
<b>Time Frame:</b>	2 years
<b>Dates:</b>	June 2016 – June 2018

Switzerland is committed to introduce and strengthen the implementation, monitoring and coordination frameworks in KP. Through engagement with provincial legislators, legislative gaps will be filled and steps will be taken to harmonise existing provincial legislation, rules and regulations to bring them in line with the international human rights conventions to which Pakistan is signatory. A number of activities are planned under this project, including technical capacity building trainings of the concerned government institutions on the constitutional context of human rights, establishing rights based monitoring and evaluation systems and establishing human rights reporting unit and a grievance redressal mechanism.

### Further information

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