The EU supports the KP government in its effort to integrate poor regions and those affected by militancy and natural disasters into the national development agenda by improving access to basic public services, enhancing sustainable livelihoods and strengthening the trust between local government and communities in rural areas.

The challenge
In 2011 the KPK province, and Malakand division in particular, faced grave challenges in the aftermath of successive disasters, militancy and civil unrest. This resulted in 2.3 million internally displaced people, severe loss of infrastructure, weak public administration and 6.3 million people living in an extremely fragile socio-economic situation. The EU supports the KP Government address these challenges through the KP Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) policy.

How do we address the challenge?
The EU provides directly support the KP budget to implement CDLD policy. This enables local communities to access additional public funds to implement small public infrastructure schemes such as paths, walking bridges, additional classrooms, health centers, irrigation channels and water pumps.

By increasing the coverage of priority services in health, education, water and sanitation and irrigation for poor rural communities through an inclusive planning and investment process at the village level, the CDLD policy of the Government of KP also promotes democratic governance and increases local government legitimacy. In particular, it helps improve the relationship between communities and their local government representatives, as they work together to address communities’ priority needs. This helps rebuild citizens trust in government institutions and makes local government more accountable.

What do we do?
To improve public infrastructure such as walking bridges, solar electrification, irrigation channels, water pumps and basic education and health facilities

Formation and strengthening of Community Based Organizations (CBO)

Training of CBOs and government officials for planning and implementation of small public infrastructure projects

Drafting of inclusive Village Council Development Plans

What are we aiming to achieve?
A fiscal and regulatory framework at provincial, and district levels to provide additional resources to rural communities

Local governments officials who are better equipped to respond to communities’ priorities

Community Based Organizations (CBO) engaged in local planning and ability to access funds to implement their priority small public infrastructure schemes

“Construction of pedestrian bridge in village through CDLD program has reconnected the village with the main transport road. Now girls have resumed their schools and women have easy and timely access to the Basic Health Unit (BHU) in Bumburate”

Shaira Gul, Women CBO, Brone Kalash valley (Chitral)
Support to policy

Through the KP KGCD programme the EU is supporting the KP government to implement their Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) policy aimed at increasing public investments at community and village levels and improving trust between citizens and their government. This is in support of the KP decentralization agenda as well as provincial efforts to address socio-economic inequalities in rural KP.

What can we learn from this project?

Adopting a bottom-up approach to development through participative village council development plans (VCDPs), complemented with availability of funds from government, has been an important aspect of the policy implementation in the last two years. This has resulted in increased empowerment of communities to drive their own development, high level satisfaction with the government among communities and in local governments becoming more responsive to communities’ needs - specifically women’s needs.

These results have been attained through continuous learning, followed by relevant revisions of the CDLD implementation systems at district, tehsil and village levels so that the selection of projects and funds disbursal mechanisms have become increasingly efficient, inclusive and transparent.

Expected Results

- **Infrastructure Development**
  - Over 4,600 small infrastructure projects completed including 904 women specific projects
  - Over 5 million rural poor including 500,000 women benefiting directly from small public infrastructure in 15 districts in KPK

- **Capacity Building**
  - Over 11,000 local government officials trained on inclusive planning and supporting implementation of communities’ development schemes
  - Over 1,500 Village Level Development Plans drafted and reflecting communities’ priorities

- **Funding to Community Based Organisations**
  - Additional Funds of over PKR 8 billion disbursed to community based organisations in rural areas through the KP Government budget

EU in Pakistan

The European Union (EU) funds projects and programmes around the world in order to help addressing global and local challenges. The reduction of poverty and the respect of fundamental rights and freedoms are key objectives in this context.

In Pakistan, the EU is committed to a stable, democratic and pluralistic country that respects human rights and benefits from its full economic potential by supporting sustainable and inclusive development for all its citizens. The EU provides Pakistan with about €100 million annually in grants for development and cooperation. Among other issues, the EU supports Pakistan in its efforts to tackle poverty, increase education, promote good governance, human rights, rule of law and ensure sustainable management of natural resources. EU-funded projects are covering all of Pakistan with a special focus on Sindh and Balochistan.

The collaboration between the European Union and Pakistan is grounded in the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) signed in 2019. Areas of cooperation under the SEP include peace and security, democracy, rule of law, human rights, good governance, energy, climate change and science and technology.

The EU is one of Pakistan’s largest trading partners. The EU supports Pakistan’s integration into the world economy and its sustainable economic development, namely by granting it preferential access to the European single market under the GSP+ system since 2014. Under this scheme almost 80% of Pakistan’s exports enter the EU duty and quota free. In 2018, Pakistan’s exports to the EU were worth €6.9 billion.

In order to enjoy the trade preferences under GSP+, Pakistan needs to demonstrate progress on the implementation of 27 international conventions on human rights, good governance, labour rights and environmental protection.

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