



Support to Democratic Institutions (SUBAI) Project

Duration	Budget	Location	Implementing Partners
Nov 2016 - Oct 2019	€8.5 million	Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan	Palladium

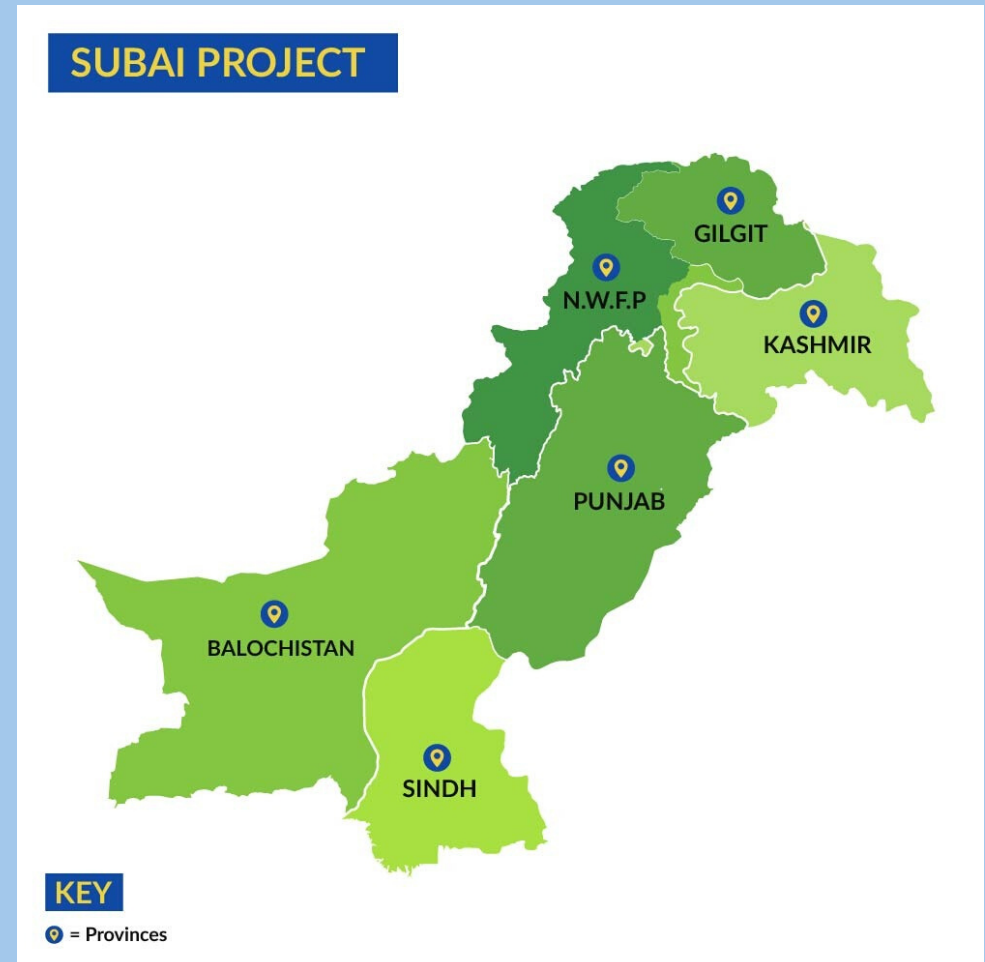
The European Union (EU) is committed to supporting Pakistan in consolidating its democratic system, institutions and processes. Democracy and human rights are guiding principles and core values for the EU. Both are of vital importance for alleviating poverty and eradicating social, economic and political exclusion. Since 2012 the EU has been collaborating closely with Pakistan for parliamentary support and promotion of good governance.

The challenge

Since the 2008 general elections, Pakistan has taken steps to build and strengthen democratic institutions and processes. Among the most important political developments since then has been the passing of the landmark 18th amendment, which devolved legislative powers to provincial assemblies. This also increased the need to enhance the skills and capacity of members of these assemblies, which the EU supported through the SUBAI project.

How do we address the challenge?

SUBAI aimed to improve the functioning of Pakistan’s parliamentary institutions, in particular the provincial and legislative assemblies. It worked together with the assemblies in building professional parliamentary institutions. In collaboration with the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Studies, the project helped achieve effective legislation, improved policy and budget oversight and made assemblies more accessible to citizens through greater transparency.



What do we do?



Institutional Development

Development of strategic plans, legislative manuals and support to parliamentarians in law making



Support to assemblies admin

This included trainings, exchange visits, consultation sessions, re-organisation of workflow and structures



Transparency

Websites, promotion of public participation and citizen inputs in legislation



Young Parliamentary Associates

Induction of young graduates to support the work of the Assemblies

What are we aiming to achieve?



Institutional Development

Strengthened institutions and framework of provincial assemblies. Better equipped elected representatives, committees and other parliamentary bodies



Support to assemblies admin

Strengthened secretariats of provincial assemblies



Transparency

Improved transparency and accessibility of provincial assemblies



“We at the provincial assembly of KP are grateful to the European Union for providing us with the opportunity to have the development of our Strategic Plan supported by SUBAI. The Strategic Plan for KP Assembly is a stepping stone that will provide a platform for the existing and those to follow Honourable Members of KP Assembly to clarify their roles and responsibilities.”
Honorable Asad Qaiser (former Speaker of the Provincial assembly of KP) in March 2018

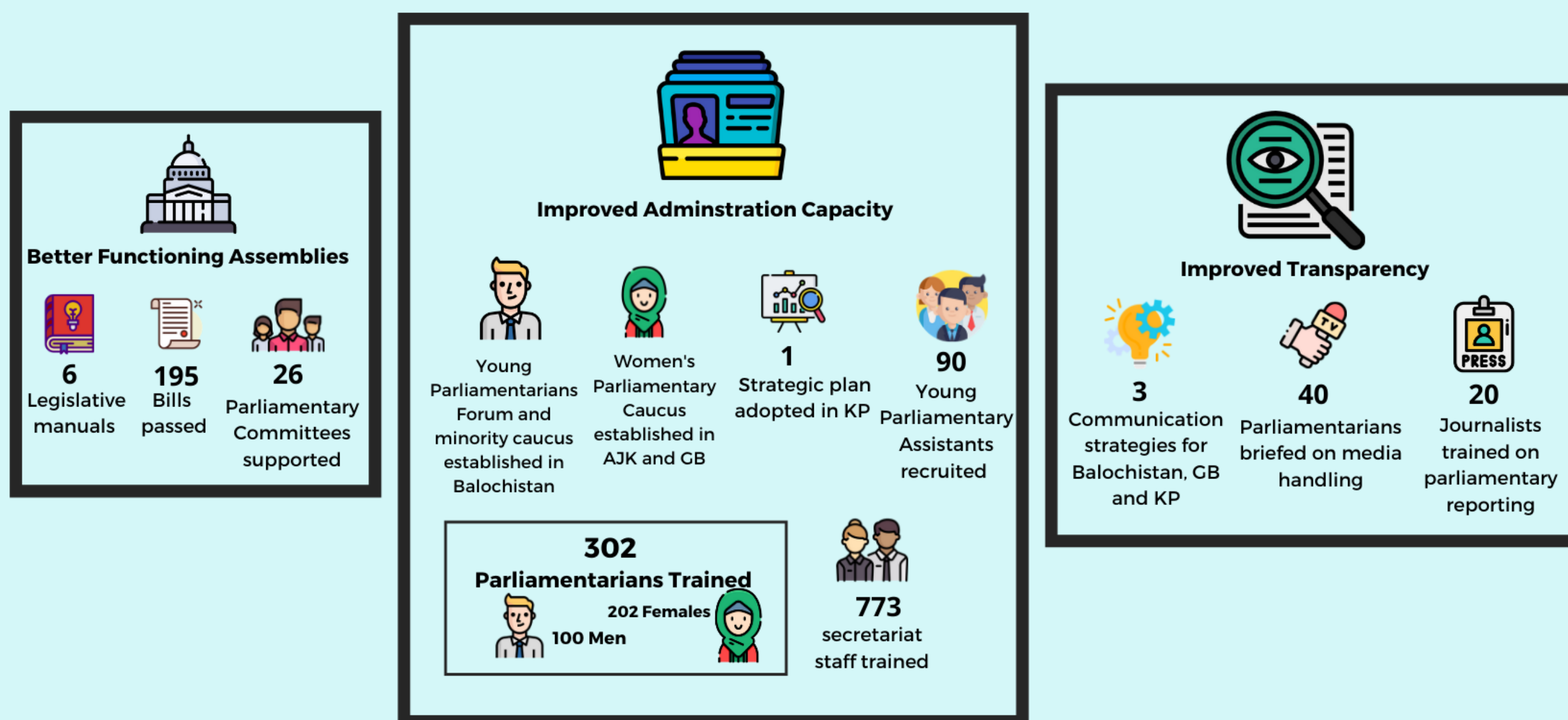
Support to policy

SUBAI worked to develop synergies with other EU and UN funded projects in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh in order to maximise the impact and results of EU assistance. For example, field visits on nutrition were organized in collaboration with other EU partners in Sindh. The aim of the visits was to support Assembly Members to better understand nutritional issues and develop advocacy positions.

What can we learn from this project?

Democracy is a gradual and continuous process that needs to take into account the socio-economic and cultural context of the country. SUBAI is the second project funded by the EU in the field of good governance in Pakistan. It followed a project addressed to the Federal Parliament. The EU will build on the success of recent years and continue supporting Pakistan in its democratisation process through a new programme that will work with the four provincial assemblies and the federal parliament at the same time.

Expected Results



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, and migration but also sectors such as 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, Pakistani 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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