



September 2011

Cross-Cutting Themes: Good Governance and Gender Equity

A government that is responsive and accountable to its citizens' needs and supportive of women's development is critical to Pakistan's future. USAID integrates a concern for good governance and gender equality into its five programmatic areas: energy, economic growth, stabilization, education, and health. Our objectives are to encourage public-sector accountability and transparency, develop civil society's ability to act as a partner with government, and promote women's access to employment, education, healthcare, and other key resources. USAID monitors these cross-cutting themes in each program with a variety of well-developed indicators. We also have several targeted programs designed to foster democratic institutions and women's development.



Energy

USAID provides technical assistance to help the Government of Pakistan (GOP) develop appropriate energy pricing, regulatory, and privatization policies; implement its energy reform plan; and improve its record of accountability to the public. Our activities include capacity building for key energy institutions and their staffs, audits of the performance of power generation and distribution companies, and monthly energy roundtables with citizen participation.

Women benefit from USAID's energy programs in several ways. In our work with Pakistan's Ministry of Water and Power and other agencies, we seek to mainstream awareness of gender equity into government policies and action plans. Our dam and hydropower projects in FATA and elsewhere strengthen women's healthcare and economic activity by providing electricity to households and small businesses as well as water for irrigating farms.



Economic Growth

USAID helps strengthen governance in economic affairs by working to improve policy management and fiscal discipline at the federal and provincial levels. To enhance business opportunities for Pakistani firms, USAID promotes liberalized trade policies and an enabling regulatory environment for private investment. USAID also encourages public participation in economic policy-making by supporting business and farmers' associations and other civil society institutions.

Cross-Cutting Programs

Complementing our cross-cutting themes, USAID has several programs aimed specifically at fostering democratic institutions and women's development.

- The **Municipal Services Program** helps cities in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa improve service delivery and meet citizens' basic needs.
- The **Political Parties Development Project** helps political parties respond to constituent interests and exercise transparent and inclusive governance.
- The **Gender Equity Program** supports governmental and civil society organizations that seek to advance women's rights and end gender-based violence (www.af.org.pk/gep).
- The **Citizens' Voice Project** encourages citizen engagement in democratic processes, such as advocacy for policy reform and monitoring of government performance.
- The **Small Grants Program** and **Ambassador's Fund** supports local, citizen-led programs and initiatives (www.sgafp.org.pk).
- The **Anti-Fraud Hotline** helps stop corruption by enabling citizens to voice concerns about possible fraud, waste, and mismanagement in USAID programs (www.anti-fraudhotline.com).

USAID's economic growth program includes several projects targeting women. The Livelihoods Rehabilitation Project provides women in conflict and flood-affected areas with micro-grants for seeds, agricultural tools, sewing machines, hand looms, and other supplies. The Entrepreneurs Program supports small businesses run by women in remote and vulnerable areas. The Trade Program has placed recent women college graduates into management-level internships at top export companies. The new Smallholder Dairy Project assists women working in livestock.



Stabilization

USAID's stabilization programs in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province seek to build trust between citizens and local authorities. Our efforts emphasize public accountability and include multiple layers of independent monitoring of government performance so as to enhance community involvement and reinforce government's responsiveness to citizens' needs.

Among our projects to stabilize small communities is the provision of more than 350 village water systems, primarily used by women, and the rehabilitation more than 50 schools for girls. USAID has contributed \$160 million to the Benazir Income Support Program, which provides a social safety net for Pakistan's most impoverished citizens, particularly women.



Education

To improve the quality of administration and accountability at government-run schools, USAID is working at the federal and provincial levels to address issues of standard setting and quality control in education. USAID also supports the engagement of parents, communities, and civil society organizations in schools.

USAID's programs help girls obtain an education by improving school infrastructure to accommodate their needs, promoting curricula that reflect gender equality, and creating conditions that encourage families to send their daughters to school. A program specifically targeting women is the Partnership for Women in Science and Technology, which offers university scholarships, internships, and U.S. exchanges to women students. Other programs, such as the Pre-Service Teachers Education Program, the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program, and the Fulbright Scholarship Program, emphasize gender equity in the selection of candidates.



Health

In cooperation with non-governmental organizations, the U.S. government is working with the GOP and provincial governments to deliver high quality, cost-effective health interventions that increase contraceptive use, reduce fertility rates and infant mortality, and prevent maternal deaths. USAID is helping federal and provincial health authorities prepare for an unprecedented reorganization of the health sector, which is aimed at strengthening health systems and improving health service delivery.

Many of USAID's health programs primarily benefit women by providing improved care in the areas of maternal, newborn, and child health, family planning, and infectious disease control.



New sewing machines from USAID create incomes for women micro-entrepreneurs



Community members and USAID worked together to build a new school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa