

Annual Report 2006 & 2007



Aurat Foundation

Report: Annual Report 2006 & 2007

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Introduction

Aurat Foundation (AF) runs both national and regional projects. In the last two years AF has a number of national projects and regional projects. Some of its main projects include the Transforming Public Commitment into Gender Responsive Governance (Oct 2007 – Mar 2008), Development Communication Experience for Empowering Rural Women (April – Sept 2007), 'We Can' Campaign (Nov 2007 – April 2008), Legislative Watch Programme (Jan 2008– ongoing) and Enabling Women's Effective Participation in Political Institutions (Jan 2005 – ongoing). The relevant projects and their main activities are summarized in this Report. These summaries focus on exhibiting an overview of the type of projects AF undertakes i.e. macro level projects that focus from the federal to the grassroots; projects that work primarily with the legislatures and other decision-making structures and bodies; information awareness; and regional projects focusing on different individual needs of each separate region.

We hope this brief description of events and activities undertaken by Aurat Foundation during the last two years, under different projects and programmes will contribute in developing a synergy in terms of accumulated efforts, as well as an accumulative outcome of these efforts.

Aurat Foundation

June 2008

About Aurat Foundation

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation is a civil society organization committed to working for women's empowerment through enabling their active participation in governance at all levels. For this purpose, the Foundation has defined its niche as a source of information to women and to undertake advocacy on their behalf with the state and society. The Foundation further believes that an enabling environment for enhancing this shift towards women's greater role in governance is an influential support network at the local level for addressing women's immediate concerns, and a larger social and political framework that facilitates a more active role for citizens' organizations and groups to play a role in promoting more accountable governance and participatory democracy in the country.

The Foundation, registered in 1986 as a non-profit society under the Societies Registration Act 1860, has its Head Office in Lahore, and five regional offices in the federal and the provincial capitals with an outreach extending to all of Pakistan's districts. The Foundation also has a General Body of 16 members and a Board of Governors.

The goals of the Foundation are to:

- Assist women to acquire greater control over knowledge, resources and institutions.
- Influence social attitudes and behaviour for a sensitive and responsive social environment to address women's concerns and development.
- Develop a strong network of civil society organisations to support women at the community and district level.
- Undertake advocacy with public servants and public representatives for development policies and planning as well as supportive legislation that increases women's access to development opportunities and resources.
- Facilitate women's greater participation in political processes and governance.
- Develop and strengthen networks of citizens' organisations for strengthening citizens' struggle for accountable and transparent governance and participatory democracy in Pakistan.

Strategy

The Foundation works primarily with the collaboration of civil society groups and organisations and also acts as a support organization for them.

The Foundation has three strategic areas that define the parameters within which the Foundation operates.

- Information for women to build capacity for decision-making and action, and information about women's issues and concerns to decision-makers;
- Capacity building of citizens groups, public authorities and public representatives to support women's participation in decision-making, their activism and enhance their

access to opportunities and facilitates at the local and district levels, as well as for citizens' own participation in good and democratic governance;

- Advocacy for developing an enabling environment for women's empowerment and participatory democracy in Pakistan.

There are currently three types of Programmes that Aurat Foundation has been running since 1995. These are defined within the scope of the three strategic areas given above:

1. Information Programme for Grass Roots Action and Organisation;
2. Programme for Strengthening Citizens' for Advocacy and Action; and
3. Advocacy Programme for Affirmative Legislation and Policies.

The three Programmes are institutionalized through organisational structures built within each Programme. These include the Information Network Centres and the Citizen Action Committees, and the Legislative Watch Groups, which now form a part of Aurat Foundation's outreach and the core of its networks.

The structures under these Programmes are being integrated at various levels so that the impact of Aurat Foundation's work is focused and coordinated. This has enabled Aurat Foundation to reinforce the work at the various levels and to move with ease and speed at the community, intermediary and macro levels.

Board of Governors

1. **Mr. Arif Hasan** (President): Mr. Arif Hasan is a prominent development practitioner and human rights activist based in Karachi. He is an architect and planner by profession. He made immense contributions towards Orangi Pilot Project, an important development initiative based in Karachi. For his services Mr. Arif Hasan was awarded Netherlands Urban Heroes Award 2000 and Pakistan's Hilal-i-Imtiaz, one of the highest civil awards for a living person.
2. **Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan:** Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan is the most prominent development expert and practitioner in Pakistan. He founded The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme and now heads Rural Support Programme Network, a coalition of about a dozen rural support programmes in the country. He has received the Global 500 award in 1989, the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 1990, the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1992 and the WWF Conservation Medal in 1994.
3. **Ms. Masuma Hasan:** A prominent development expert, Ms. Masuma Hasan is a former civil servant and has served as Cabinet Secretary, Pakistan's ambassador to IAEA and Austria (with accreditation to Slovenia and Slovakia).
4. **Mr. Tasneem Siddiqi:** A development expert Mr. Tasneem Siddiqi is a former civil servant. He rose to fame for his monumental work "Khuda ki Basti" to regularize slums in the country and make them livable.
5. **Mr. I A Rehman:** A prominent human rights activist Mr. I A Rehman is a journalist and intellectual who served as Editor of the daily paper The Pakistan Times during 1990,s and is continuing to write on current affairs. Currently he is a Director of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). He has received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2004.
6. **Dr. S M Nasim:** A prominent economist Dr. SM Nasim has served in various international organizations including the World Bank. He was previously Professor of Economics at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad.
7. **Ms Samina Rehman:** Ms. Samina Rehman is a prominent women's rights activist and educationist from Lahore. She is an active member of Women's Action Forum.
8. **Qazi Azmat Isa (Mr)** (Treasurer): Qazi Azmat Isa works for the World Bank as Senior Community Development Specialist. He is development practitioner and has served as head of Balochistan Rural Support Programme.
9. **Ms. Nigar Ahmad:** Ms. Nigar Ahmad is the founder Executive Director of Aurat Foundation. Trained as an economist she taught economics at the Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad before switching over to the development world. She is an active member of Women's Action Forum and Chairperson of South Asia Partnership-Pakistan.

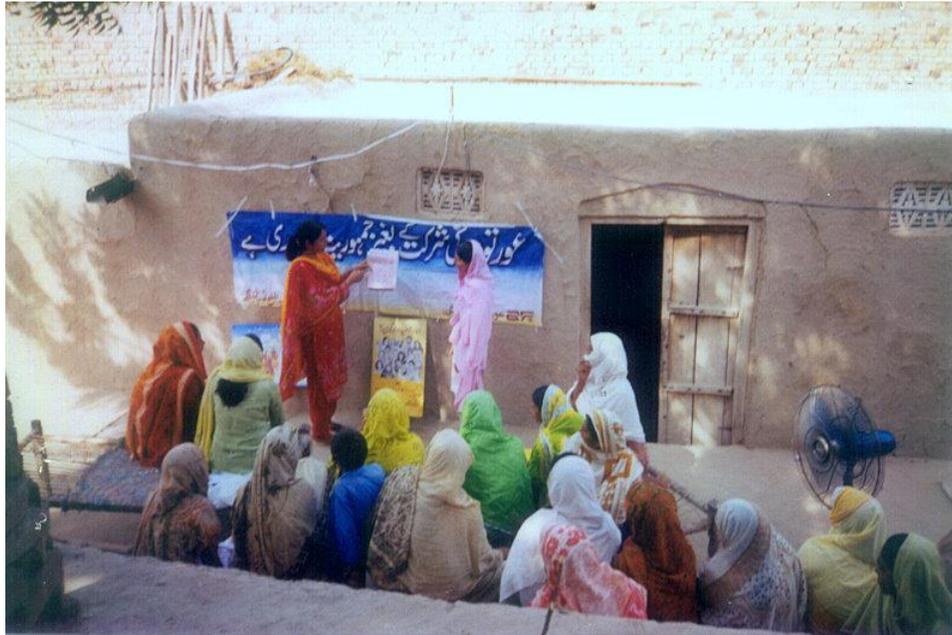
Executive Council

The 8-member Executive Council consists of the senior management/directors of all the offices, of which five members are women and three men. The total strength of the organisation is around 80, of which over 50% are women. The programme staff has expertise in relevant programme areas.

1. Ms. Nigar Ahmad Executive Director
2. Ms. Misbah Tahir Resident Director, Lahore
3. Ms. Anis Haroon Resident Director, Karachi
4. Ms. Nasreen Zehra Project Director
5. Ms. Rukhshanda Naz Resident Director, Peshawar
6. Mr. Younas Khalid Resident Director Quetta
7. Mr. Naeem Mirza Member Management Committee, Islamabad
8. Mr. Sajid Mansoor Qaisrani Member Management Committee, Islamabad

National Projects

I- Women's Participation in Local Government Elections



Duration: July 2005 – June 2006

Sponsoring and Funding Agency: CIDA

Objectives

To mobilize and facilitate women candidates to contest elections to 24,508 seats in 6127 union councils in Pakistan as well as for 33% reserved seats in the tehsil and district councils

Background

In 2000 the Government of Pakistan took affirmative action to reserve 33% seats for women at all tiers of local government, under the Local Government Ordinance 2000. At the lowest tier, i.e. the union council level, the provision was for direct elections to the reserved seats for women by all registered voters while at the other two tiers, i.e. tehsil and District, elections were indirect.

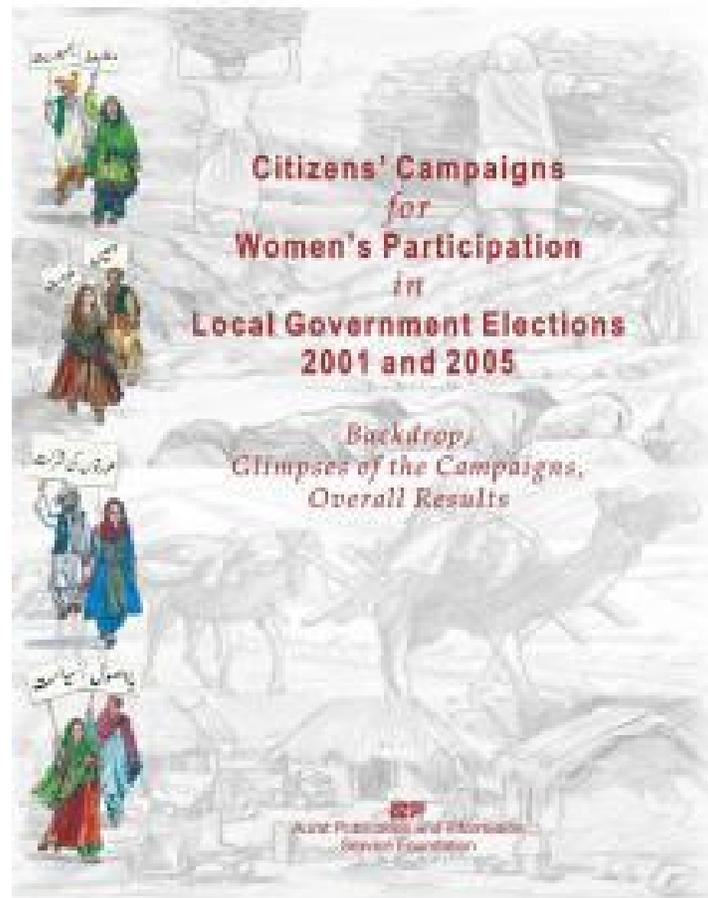
Aurat Foundation (AF), activated and organized its network to undertake the 'Citizen's Campaign for Women's Representation in Local Government' to mobilize support for women to contest as candidates in the Local Government elections held in 2001 under the new law. The result was beyond all expectations as over 90% of the seats were occupied after the final count of the ballots was done.

In June 2005, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced fresh elections to Local Government. Following the same spirit and aspirations as in 2001, AF and its network in 110 districts, launched another countrywide campaign for 'Women's Participation in Local Government Elections 2005 (WPLGE)' to mainstream women in political structures and decision-making at the lowest tier of governance in Pakistan. The Campaign was to mobilize and

facilitate women candidates to contest elections to 24,508 seats in 6127 union councils in Pakistan as well as for 33% reserved seats in the tehsil and district councils.

AF set up the Campaign structure as before at the AF headquarters in Lahore and in all five AF regional offices, to plan, coordinate and execute the activities required. At the district level 104 District Coordination Committees were formed along with 27 tehsil/taluka and 20 Town committees from among the existing AF networks of the Citizens Action Committees, etc.

In 2005 LG Elections, altogether 98.27 % women reserved seats were filled in phase I and 209 seats remained vacant. In phase II, 95.63 % women reserved seats were filled and 533 seats remained vacant. The ratio of rejection of nomination papers of women candidates has also dropped because of the general awareness created by the CSOs on the electioneering process, importance of women participation and importance of voting. Throughout the WPLGE Campaign, Civil Society Organizations were actively involved with government in facilitating awareness regarding free and fair election processes. CSOs have succeeded in creating a legitimized role before government through their efforts of conducting LG elections and mobilizing large number of women contestants.



The introduction of the Second Citizens' Report was written by Ms. Nigar Ahmad, Executive Director of the organisation. This introduction titled 'The Beginning of the End' is being reproduced below.

The Beginning of the End



In response to the continued pressure of the women's rights organisations, the Government of Pakistan reserved 33 per cent seats for women at all tiers of local government for Local Government elections scheduled in 2001, with direct elections to the reserved seats for women at the lowest tier, i.e. at the union council level. Some reservations were expressed by the ruling Party about the actual availability of such a large number of women willing to come forward to stand for direct elections at the level of the union council.

To ensure maximum participation of women, Aurat Foundation (AF), activated and organised its networks to undertake the 'Citizen's Campaign for Women's Representation in Local Government' to mobilize support for women to come forward to contest as candidates in the Local Government elections held in 2001 under the new law. The result was beyond all expectations as over 90 per cent of the seats were occupied after the final count of the ballots was done, and around 32,222 were elected as union councillors. Before the new councillors had taken oath, Aurat Foundation had been able to elicit financial commitments for a follow up Programme for strengthening women for local level governance.

Under this Programme, Resource Centres for women councillors (funded by CIDA) were set up in 70 districts and linked with the groups of voluntary activists in the Citizens' Action Committees network of the Foundation. This involvement with the Resource Centres has enabled women councillors to have access to an actual physical place to interact with their constituents with the freedom and ease they would not have been able to enjoy at home with their family responsibilities. Furthermore, they have found in these Centres the political space to strengthen their capacities to address the demands of the electorate.

The experience and immediate assistance of the Citizens Action Committees has also supported the women to play an active role in handling the problems of their constituents, most of whom are women. A documentation of the experience of the first set of women councillors elected under the new system is also being done.

Aurat Foundation decided that at this stage what was required was not an occasional campaign to support these public representatives directly elected by their constituents, but a sustained process to firmly place these women in the political system, that is, a citizens' movement, and not solitary events. This should also reflect an advanced stage of the struggle for women's political empowerment because our political agenda was no longer just 'representation', but 'leadership'

in Local Government. All future Campaigns would, therefore, be a part of the 'Citizens' Movement for Women's Leadership in Local Government'.

In June 2005, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced fresh elections to Local Government. Following the same spirit and aspirations as in 2001, AF and its network in 105 districts, launched another countrywide campaign for 'Women's Participation in Local Government Elections 2005 (WPLGE)' to mainstream women in political structures and decision-making at the lowest tier of governance in Pakistan. The Campaign would mobilise and facilitate women candidates to contest elections to 24,508 seats in 6127 union councils in Pakistan as well as for 33 per cent reserved seats in the tehsil and district councils.

AF set up the Campaign structure as before at the AF headquarters in Lahore and in all five AF regional offices, to plan, coordinate and execute the activities required. At the district level 104 District Coordination Committees were formed along with 27 tehsil/taluka and 20 Town committees from among the existing AF networks of the Citizens Action Committees, etc.

The four Provincial Governments in Pakistan, reluctant to share power and resources with the Local Governments elected in 2001, demanded some fundamental changes in the Local Government Ordinance before the next elections as a pre-condition to accepting the new tier of governance. They pushed for amendments to the LGO that were finally made at the last minute on 6th June 2005.

These major amendments reduced the number of seats in a union council from 21 to 13, increased the powers of provincial chief ministers, and appointed caretaker administrations to replace nazims during the election period, and created a system of electing district and tehsil naib nazims. The amendments sparked off a widespread protest across the country, in which AF played a major role and coordinated a countrywide protest by the district level networks, especially against the reduction in seats. In the end, after considerable lobbying by NGOs like AF it was decided to reduce women's seats to 4 rather than 3. As the electoral process continued in 2005 it undermined the process of devolution itself.

The Local Government elections, held on a non-party basis in Pakistan, turned into a sham as political parties actively backed selected candidates. Manipulation of the electoral process and a rigging of the election results took place in many constituencies across the country, as instances of chaos, violence, and disruption in voting were reported at a relatively high number of polling stations, particularly in Sindh and Punjab provinces, by independent observers e.g. the International Crisis Group. The ruling party and the government administration were visible in most of these violations, which brought the autonomy of the Election Commission of Pakistan into question. This left no room for the socially and politically weak, especially the women, to have any stake in the process. Both the activists and the majority of candidates, particularly women, felt cheated and disheartened.

This is despite the fact that the results of women's participation in the 2005 Local Government elections were very encouraging. In the 54 districts where Local Government Elections were held in the first phase, altogether 98.3 percent seats reserved for women in the union councils were filled. The results of the 56 remaining districts in the second phase showed 95.63 of these reserved seats were filled. Some of the major achievements of the project were the mobilization

of 156,925 women candidates, the training of 40,178 women candidates, and the ‘coaching’ of 112,298 persons at facilitation camps. In addition

AF helped with the preparation of 38,860 identity cards and the registration of 31,804 voters. While AF was committed to working actively with the Election Commission and supporting women’s participation in the election, it felt morally obligated to condemn the corruption of the election process. A national AF consultation called in Islamabad in September 2005 with the partner networks confirmed large scale tampering with the electoral results.

It was realised by all present in the Consultation that the local level activists in our networks could not take on the local political elites at this stage of their own evolution as an emerging social force. But since they were determined to distance themselves from the unethical political activities, it was decided to stay out of the third phase elections for the tehsil and district councils. Seminars and public meetings would be held to raise the issue of election rigging.

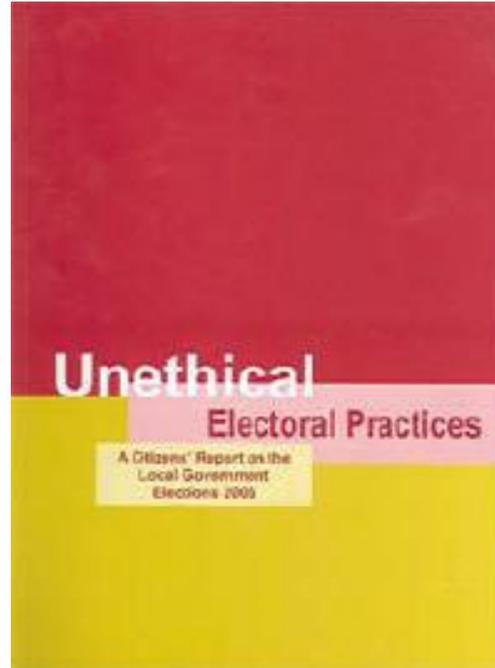
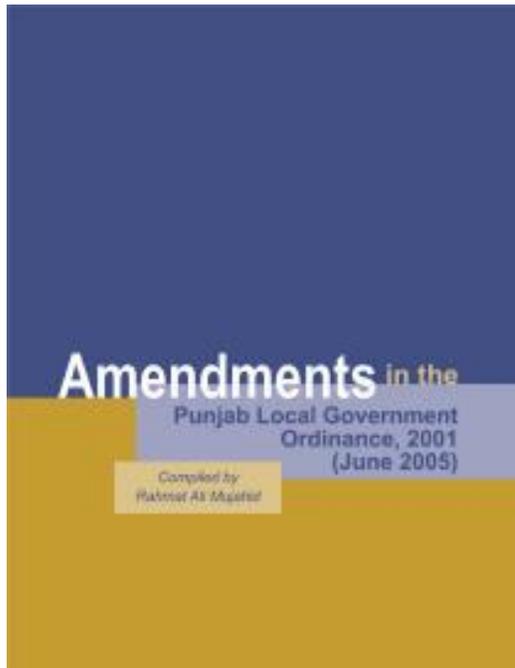
These seminars and workshops were held but the devastating earthquake on 8th October in NWFP and Azad Kashmir shifted the public focus and concern away from the ‘unfair and unfree elections.’ This Citizens’ Report is not going to capture the ‘behind-the-scenes’ process of the 2005 Local Government elections. The District Coordination Committees did not have much to report, which meant that there was a familiarity with the new system of elections, a general social acceptance of women’s role as candidates because they did not seem to ‘rock the boat’ as much as was expected by their opponents, (it was, as we said, a ‘silent revolution’!), and the full and active participation of the political parties did not leave much political space and scope for the citizens to mobilize and intervene on behalf of the women, except at the time of monitoring on polling day, if that was possible.

This Report gives instead some valuable information of the socioeconomic backdrop to the electoral processes in 2001 and 2005 in the form of the district profiles of the 105 districts, some glimpses of the two Campaigns, (for which the material from the Citizens’ Report of 2001 was used again,) and the overall results of the Campaigns, a part of which we could take credit for. But much more so in 2001 than in 2005! Any hope that the new system of Local Government was really going to allow the people to control their own destinies, flickered out even before it could become a flame.

The ease with which the provincial governments pushed forward their own agenda through amendments and manipulation of election results, gave a clear signal that these public representatives wanted no sharing of power with any ‘local competitors in their backyards’. The National Reconstruction Bureau of the Federal Government whose ‘baby’ the Local Government Ordinance 2000 was, looked on almost indulgently while making the required noises. Any system that could be subverted so easily and so soon, was always designed to be incapable of transferring an atom of power to the people! The introduction to the First Citizens’ Campaign Report was titled ‘The Beginning of the Beginning’. It is only appropriate that we title the introduction to the Second Citizen’s Campaign Report as ‘The Beginning of the End’.

Nigar Ahmad
Executive Director
Aurat Foundation

The titles of the two other publications under the Campaign are being reproduced below:



Summary of Main Activities

A Second Citizens' Campaign for Mobilising Women Candidates for Local Government Elections was launched. Since the strategy was very similar to the previous Campaign, after adjusting for the lessons learnt from the previous experience, within 10 days of the announcement of the Election Schedule on 30th June, District Coordination Committees were in place in 110 districts of the country, to start mobilizing women candidates for filing their nominations for the 18th and 25th of July. The citizen's campaign main activities included:

1. Preparation of ID cards & Voter Registration

The District Coordination Committees (DCC) and Tehsil Committees actively started the process by providing facilitation to women and men as well, for issuance of identity cards and registration as voters to maximize the number of registered women voters. In certain areas this was done through mobile vans in collaboration with NADRA.



ID Cards & Votes Registered by DCCs

Sr. No.	Regions	ID Cards Made M/F	No. of facilitation	Total No. of Votes Registered
1	Peshawar	14777	24343	-
2	Lahore	7608	10003	7312
3	Islamabad	12838	-	21530
4	Karachi *	6461	7617	4364
5	Quetta	2340	3244	1807
Total		44024	45207	35031

2. Campaign Institutional Framework

Aurat Foundation set up the following institutional mechanisms for the smooth and effective functioning of the Campaign from National to Union level.

National Steering Committees

A National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Campaign was chosen at the Campaign headquarters, with a manageable size so that it could meet frequently. Project Management Committee

Provincial/Regional Steering Committee

Five Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs) were formed in all four provinces including two for Punjab; the most populous province – one for Central and Southern Punjab, at Lahore, and the other for Northern Punjab and some districts of Hazara in Islamabad.

District Coordination Committees

District Coordination Committees (DCCs) to coordinate and manage the Campaign were formed, comprising of 20 to 30 members from NGOs/CBOs, trade unions, lawyers' & journalists' associations, church groups, and individual citizens as well. AF Campaign staff had no problem in the formation of a DCC in the districts with Citizens' Action Committees (CACs) and Aurat Foundation's Resources Centers (AFRC). A total number of 104 DCC were formed out of 110 districts. Responsibilities for mobilisation were shared between AF and the DCCs.

DCC Formation Meeting

Regions	No. of Districts	No. of Meetings held	Total No. of Participants
Lahore	25	52	1818
Karachi	23	34	1063
Islamabad	13	13	463
Peshawar	21	20	843
Quetta	24	24	430
Total	106	143	4617

Town and Tehsil Coordination Committees

Tehsil coordination Committees (TCCs) were formed in 27 selected tehsils all over Pakistan with formal structures like the DCCs and were supported financially by AF. However, informal structures of TCCs were also in place, in almost every district of Campaign area. These informal Committees worked in close coordination with the DCC network and extended their full support to carry out all activities.

Town Committees were formed under the DCC in all the four provincial capitals, that were divided into Towns instead of Tehsils. Twenty Town Coordination Committees were formed in Lahore and Karachi, two in Peshawar and one in Quetta

Breakdown of DCC/TCC formed

Sr No.	Regions	Total No. of Districts	District Coordination Committee Formed	Tehsil Coordination formed	Town Committees
1	Lahore	25	24	-	9*
2	Karachi	23	22	5	8
3	Islamabad	13	13	6	-
4	Peshawar	21	22	12	2*
5	Quetta	28	26	4	1*
	Total	110	104	27	20

Source: AF Regional Teams

- In Peshawar 2 Town Committees were formed under DCCs
- In Quetta no Town Committee was formed; instead a committee based on AF Staff was formed to conduct the campaign activities
- In Lahore 30 Town Committees and 73 Tehsil Coordination Committees were voluntarily formed. No financial reimbursements were made for them.

Districts with CAC/AFRC Structure

Sr No.	Regional Offices	Total Districts	Districts with CAC /AFRC Structure
1	Lahore	25	17
2	Islamabad	13	12
3	Peshawar	21	16
4	Karachi	23	15
5	Quetta	28	15
	Total	110	75

Source: AF Regional Teams

3. Planning & Review Meetings

Planning was done at both AF and DCCs level and reviewed from time to time. Another important area of planning was the integration of AF networks of Political Education Programme, Citizens Action Committees, Documentation and Resource Centers, Information Network Centers and Aurat Foundation Resource Centers for efficient implementation of Campaign activities.



Ms. Nigar Ahmad addressing a planning meeting

AF Planning Meetings

Sr No.	Title of Activity	No. of Activity
1	Two Day National Planning meeting of AF staff	1
2	Two Day National Consultation with the Campaign Coordinators	1
3	Two day Regional Planning Meetings	5

Source: AF Regional Teams

DCC Planning Meetings

Regions	No.of District	No. of Meetings	No.of Participants
Lahore	25	25	906
Karachi	22	22	664
Islamabad	13	13	372
Peshawar	21	22	533
Quetta	24	24	443
Total	105	106	2918

4. Meetings with Government and Non-Govt. for an Enabling Environment

All regional offices of AF and DCCs conducted several formal and informal meetings with different stakeholders like media, political parties, religious leaders, local elders, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) and Local Government

Departments. Dialogues were initiated and Campaign staff ran around for issuance of notifications, orders and permission for nomination facilitation camps, identity cards, voter's registration, election monitoring, material publication and dissemination etc. Regular meetings with all these departments, especially ECP, helped AF achieve some of the objectives of the Campaign. Moreover, collaboration with the media helped in defining the political but specifically non-partisan role of AF and its field networks.



Regional Level Meetings with Political parties, Media, Religious Leaders, ECP, NRB and Local Government Department

Regions	Meetings with Political parties	Meeting with Media	Religious Leader/Local Elders	ECP	NRB	LG Dept
Karachi	6	5	1	10	-	3
Peshawar	8	1	2	1	-	1
Lahore	-	1	-	13	-	6
Islamabad	7	-	2	14	10	4
Quetta	6	12	2	16	-	8
Total	27	19	7	54	10	22

Source: AF Regional Teams

5. Mobilization of Women Candidates

To maximize participation of women in elections as candidates and as voters a comprehensive and strategically designed mobilization campaign was launched in collaboration with district partners. The main concern was that all reserved seats at the level of the union council level for women should be filled.

Mobilization activities included seminars at district and tehsil level, community level meetings and dialogues with political parties, trainings, corner meetings, media briefings, meetings with line departments, religious groups and scholars, local groups, political parties and ECP. Banners,

posters and stickers were displayed in the main locations and a video CD of AF specially produced for the Campaign, was shown on local channels. Providing legal and moral support to threatened prospective women candidates was part of the mobilization strategy.

Region-wise Mobilization Activities

AF Regions	Total Mobilization Activities	Total Participation
Lahore	1112	61394
Islamabad	1494	32870
Karachi	800	19606
Peshawar	1102	17127
Quetta	1456	27049
Total	5,964	1,58,046

6. Information and Facilitation Camps for Nominations

A total of 273 Information and Facilitation Camps were set up at district and tehsil level during the period assigned for receiving nomination papers of candidates. These camps provided information on election rules and procedures and facilitated women candidates (and many others), in processing their nomination papers, to ensure minimum rejections.

The services provided at these facilitation camps included: Information on the eligibility of candidates for different categories; verification of candidate, proposer and seconder, from the voters' list; type of nomination forms and particulars to be filled in the forms; amount of election fees and process of deposit; free legal services in filing in the nomination papers; and dissemination of information through pamphlets, posters, booklets about the Local Government System and the Campaign



Nomination Facilitation Camps Phase I & II

Province	Total Districts	Total Camps	Men	Women	No of Facilitation
Balochistan	28	40	12556	4315	16871
NWFP	24	51	32579	1623	34202
Punjab	35	119	38932	17197	56129
Sindh	23	63	13411	5514	18925
Total	110	273	97478	28649	126127

Data Source: AF Regional

Monitoring of Nomination Facilitation Camps Phase I & II

AF teams monitored facilitation camps in both phases. A total of 206 camps were monitored all over the country. There was a lot of impact of these camps as prominent and eminent personalities visited them and they were highlighted in the media. Lawyers provided free legal assistance regarding the filling of the nomination forms and other related procedures. Because of this aid, very few nomination papers of women were rejected. The cases which came to the notice of the Legal Aid Committees were pursued by the lawyers' teams.

AF Monitoring of Nomination Facilitation Camps

Sr No.	Regions	No. of Camps	Monitored by AF
1	Lahore	90	56
2	Peshawar	40	40
3	Karachi	61	49
4	Islamabad	32	32
5	Quetta	50	29
	Total	273	206

Data Source: AF Regional Teams

7. Programme for Training Women Candidates

The Training Programme was redesigned from the knowledge and experience AF acquired from the first Citizens' Campaign in 2001 and from the 70 District Resource Centres AF set up for the capacity building for women councillors. The training on 'how to run a campaign' was designed according to their needs and prevailing conditions and provided in regional/local languages accordingly. The package also included knowledge about rules and procedures for better understanding and effective participation.

Training of Trainers (TOT)

Training-of-Trainers workshops (TOTs) were conducted by the Campaign staff for further orientation of potential female candidates. The CACs and AF networks had in all districts identified Resource Groups for the AFRCs that included local knowledgeable and experienced persons to address the information needs of women councillors. The content of the TOT was already finalized after discussions with the Campaign Staff, keeping in view the situation and demands of the districts.

Training of Trainers Workshops

Training of Trainers Province	No. of Training Workshops	Male Trainers	Female Trainers	Total No. of Trainers Trained
Sindh	4	37	51	88
Punjab*	6	48	165	213
NWFP*	4	9	85	94
Balochistan	4	23	83	106
Grand Total	18	117	384	501

Data Source: AF Regional Teams

**From Punjab & NWFP 13 districts are the responsibility of Islamabad office, 10 of Punjab & 3 of NWFP Islamabad office did 2 TOTs, 1 each for Punjab and NWFP Cluster In Punjab Islamabad trained 6 males, 62 females In NWFP Islamabad trained 0 males, 11 females*

Training of Women Candidates

The candidates' training was started immediately after the completion of the round of the TOTs. For conduct of training, 3 to 5 union councils were combined in a cluster. The resource teams were comprised of two female and one male member from DCC.

The DCC Coordinators organized the training workshops with facilitation from Local Government officials, local NGO networks, Women Councilors' Forums, political parties and local groups and biraderies. They fully supported the training and helped in arrangements and logistics.

Training Workshops of Women Candidates by Province

Province	No. of Training Workshops	Total No. of Trained Women Candidates	Others	No. of Trainers
Sindh	202	4040	2831	190
Punjab	967	23959	9420	308
NWFP	361	4259	3010	94
Balochistan	46	1152	343	75
Total	1567	33410	15604	667

Data source: AF Regional Teams

Islamabad Region is dealing with 13 districts of which 10 are from Punjab & 3 from NWFP

Monitoring of Women Candidates' Training

The Women Candidates training was monitored by AF field staff of all offices and DCC Coordinators in selected districts due to shortage of time. AF Regional Offices developed monitoring tools, which were sent in advance to the DCC's.

Regions	No. of District	No. of Training Monitored by AF
Lahore	25	75
Karachi	23	34
Islamabad	13	31

Peshawar	21	24
Quetta	4	7
Total	86	171

Data source: AF Regional Teams

8. Voter Education

The Citizens Campaign also focused on voter education for general awareness of the importance of vote and how to cast a vote etc. It also highlighted specific women's issues and women candidates. Citizen Action Committees (CAC) and AFRC played an important role in the voter education campaign before the initiation of Local Government elections. During the WPLGE campaign the DCCs and the TCCs in all districts played a significant role in educating voters. These activities continued throughout the CCWR

Turn out in LG Elections 2005 (Phase I & II)

S #	Province	Registered Voters			Polled Votes			Turnout (%)		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Punjab	19402605	16410648	35813253	11929333	7213699	19143032	61.48	43.96	53.45
2	Sindh	7395600	5580699	12976299	3520466	1356425	4876891	47.60	24.31	37.58
	NWFP	4310412	3465009	7775421	2475106	730195	3205301	57.42	21.07	41.22
	Balochistan	1399267	1197183	2596450	549558	256814	806372	39.27	21.45	31.06
	Total	32507884	26653539	59161423	18474463	9557133	28031596	56.83	35.86	47.38

Note: The turnout based on unofficial result received from Returning Officers. The registered votes of un-opposed Union Councils are not included

9. Media Campaign

The involvement of media at national, provincial and local levels was very successful because it played an active role in preparing materials and giving valuable advice and assistance on dissemination of the Campaign material. Through the initiatives of the Provincial and district team's regular coverage of the campaign activities was given to the print and electronic media. Articles, feature news and photographs were printed in almost all daily newspapers. Write-ups of the campaign prepared by AF provincial staff were also published in the newspapers and their periodicals. As a part of the strategy, AF National and Provincial teams kept regular interactions with the media personnel and updated information regarding the local government elections. members and local politicians over the issue of women's political participation.

Details of Provincial Media Briefings

Sr. No.	Regions	No. of Meetings held
1	Lahore	Not done
2	Karachi	2
3	Quetta	2
4	Peshawar	1
5	Islamabad	1
	Total	6

*Data Source: AF Regional Teams***Details of District Media Briefings**

Sr No.	Regional Offices	No. of Districts	No. of Activities	No. of Participants		
				Females	Males	Total
1	Islamabad	13	15	93	266	359
2	Lahore	24	100	256	614	870
3	Karachi	22	22	88	480	568
4	NWFP	21	23	31	302	333
5	Quetta	24	45	150	631	781
	Total	104	205	618	2293	2911

*Detail list is attached in the annexes***Data of Print Media**

Sr No.	Region	Total no. of District	Published news items	Published Photographs	Articles/ Column	Reports/Editorial/ Features
1	Islamabad	13	1278	932	5	11
2	Karachi	23	637	153	07	04
3	Peshawar	21	474	65	11	03
4	Lahore	25	1579	504	53	Nil
5	Quetta	16	394	78	13	-
	Total	98	4362	1732	89	18

*Data source: AF Regional Teams & DCC Coordinators***10. Electronic Media Campaign**

In the CCWR 2000-2001 campaign, electronic media, mostly radio and cable television, was used by DCCs and by the Campaign staff.

In order to reach the target audience- men as primary and women as secondary audience- two TV channels were chosen to be used for the campaign: Indus I-Plus and ATV. Both channels reach 50 countries besides Pakistan, and have vast coverage nationwide in both urban and rural areas.

FM Radio stations were used for reaching the target audience in both the Phases of Local Government elections. Altogether 24 FM Radio Stations with a total coverage of 58 districts of Pakistan, were used during the campaign.

Districts covered during the Media Campaign

Sr No.	Province	No. of Districts	Districts
1	Punjab	24 Districts	Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujrat, Sailkot, Sheikhupura, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahau-din, Jehlum, Rawalpindi, (Islamabad), Chakwal, Layyha, Mianwali, Khanewal, Vehari, Multan, Bahawalpur, Muzafargarh, Kasur, Sargodha, Okara, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Attock (Hasanabdal)
2	NWFP	15 Districts	Peshawar, Mardan, Mansehra, Abbotabad, Noshehra, Charsadda, Kohat, Karak, Bannu, Sawat, Sawabi, Lakki Marwat, Tank, Haripur, D.I Khan
3	Sindh	10 Districts	Karachi, Nawabshah, Hyderabad, Thatta, Jam Shoro (Noriabad), Sukkur, Sanghar, Tharparker, Badin, Shahdaad Kot
4	Baluchistan	9 Districts	Quetta, Kalat, Sibbi, Ziarat, Dera Bugtti, Noshki, Pishin, Mastung, Bolan

In Baluchistan Districts of Turbat, Zhob, Loralai and Khuzdar were also covered through FM Radios during the media campaign

Details of Programmes

Total Radio Stations	Format of Programme	Total No. of Programmes	Topics	Duration
Phase I				
12	Talk Show	36	Why Women in Politics/ Problems of Women in Politics/ Women development in enabling environment	30 min each
Phase II				
12	Do	36	Do	30 min each
Total		72		

Jingles

Radio Stations	Series of Jingles	Durations
11	3 jungles daily for 3 days 9 per days	108 min
Total	297	

Television

TV Channel	No. of Programmes	Format of Programme
Indus TV	2	Live talk shows
ATV	1	Talk Show
Total	3	

Details of electronic media campaign, FM radios, and TV channels are attached in the annexes

11. Election Day monitoring

As part of the Project activity, AF staff and DCC members did election monitoring in selected areas. In some selected districts of Sindh, NWFP, Quetta and Punjab, AF teams themselves in collaboration of DCC members did the monitoring; all other districts were monitored by the partner network. All the three levels were dealt at the AF, DCC and Media level.

Polling Day Monitoring by AF and DCCs Phase I & II

Regions	No. Districts	No. of Polling stations monitored By DCC	No. Districts	No. of Polling stations monitored By AF Team
Lahore	25	852	11	140
Islamabad	13	200	13	67
Karachi	12	157	15	122
Peshawar	21	- *	21	257
Quetta	4	34	-	-
Total	75	1243	60	586

* AF Peshawar team and DCCs members collectively monitored the Election Day activities

12. Results of the Local Government Election 2005

The Final Position of Women Elected to Reserve Seats in Phase I & II

Phases	Total Women Reserve Seats	Unopposed	Total Seats Contested	Vacant
Phase I	12128	2191	11919	209
Phase II	12212	1898	11679	533
Total	24,340	4,089	23,598	742

Nominations and Rejections by Province

Sr No.	Province	No.of UC	Seats	Nomination			Rejections			
				M/W	P/W	T	M/W	P/W	T	%
1	Punjab	1654	6616	8988	6693	15681	343	459	809	5.16
2	Sindh*	547	2188	3458	2690	6148	175	181	356	5.79
3	NWFP	556	2224	2660	1984	4644	192	142	334	7.19
4	Balochistan	275	1100	1472	1181	2653	102	78	180	6.78
	Total	3032	12128	16578	12548	29126	812	860	1679	5.76

Seats include both categories for Muslim Women & Peasants /Labor

* Elections in district Ghotki were postponed. Total UC of district are 42. Out of Total 589 UC in Sindh. Elections were held on 547 UC. Elections for 168 seats were not held

Source: ECP

Filled and Vacant Seats by Province

Province	Seats	Elected						Vacant			Seats filled	% of seats filled
		Contested			Uncontested			M/W	P/W	Total		
		M/W	P/W	Total	M/W	P/W	Total					
Punjab	6616	8190	5463	13653	178	647	825	10	58	68	6548	98.97
Sindh*	2188	2719	1991	4710	162	252	414	8	19	27	2161	98.76
NWFP	2224	2160	1453	3613	271	433	704	32	72	104	2120	95.32
Balochistan	1100	1173	922	2095	114	134	248	3	7	10	1090	99.09
Total	12128	14242	9829	24071	725	1466	2191	53	156	209	11919	98.27

Source: ECP

Note: The total numbers of seats include both categories of women reserve seats

* Elections in district Ghotki were postponed.

13. Phase II – Elections in 56 Districts

The second phase of the elections was held on 25th August 2005 in 56 districts for 3053 Union councils comprising of 39689 seats, of which 12212 seats were reserved for women in both the general and worker/ peasant categories.

District Participation in Elections by Province

Province	No. of Districts	Districts
Punjab	18	Rawalpindi City district Attock, Chakwal, Jehlum, Mianwali, Bhakkar, Faisalabad City District, Jhang, TTSingh, Hafizabad, Gujrat, Mandi Bahudin, Narowal, Lahore City district, Sheikhpure, Nankana, Kasur & Okara
Sindh	12	Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Dadu, Matlari, Jamshoro, Badin, Sukkur, Khairpur, Nawabshah, Larkana, Shahdad Kot & Shikarpur
NWFP	12	Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Kohistan, Swat, Shangla, Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Chitral and Malakand Protected Area
Baluchistan	14	Kalat, Washuk, Lasbela, Jhal Magsi, Quetta City District, Dera Bugti, Killa Abdulla, Chagai, Kohlu, Loralai, Zhob, Musakhel, Kech & Panjgur

Source: ECP

14. Nominations

In 56 districts of the second phase of LG Elections a total of **27,427** nominations were filed of which 15,356 and 12,071 women nominations on General Muslim women and peasant seats were accepted respectively. The ratio of women nominations on reserved seats has comparatively increased in LG election in 2005.

Nominations and Rejections by Province

Sr No	Province	No. of UC	Seats	Nomination			Rejections			
				M/W	P/W	Total	M/W	P/W	Total	%
1	Punjab	1810	7240	9333	7326	16659	347	364	711	4.26
2	Sindh	521	2084	2826	2131	4957	213	181	394	7.94
3	NWFP	430	1720	1701	1278	2979	195	124	319	10.70
4	Balochistan	292	1168	1496	1336	2832	100	77	177	6.25
	Total	3053	12212	15356	12071	27427	855	746	1601	5.83

Source: ECP

Note: The total number of seats includes both categories of women seats

In phase II against 12,212 seats, women were elected to **11,679** to seats, whereas 533 seats remained vacant. 1898 women were elected unopposed. Of the total of 79651 seats in UC, 24,341 women seats were reserved for women.

Filled and Vacant Seats by Province

Province	Seats	Elected						Vacant			Seats filled	% of seats filled
		Contested			Uncontested			M/W	P/W	Total		
		M/W	P/W	Total	M/W	P/W	Total					
Punjab	7240	8569	6139	14708	249	667	916	14	62	76	7164	98.95
Sindh	2084	2466	1668	4134	89	222	311	5	15	20	2064	99.04
NWFP	1720	1284	842	2126	176	270	446	186	204	390	1330	77.32
Balochistan	1168	1265	1118	2383	112	113	225	23	24	47	1121	95.97
Total	12212	13584	9767	23351	626	1272	1898	228	305	533	11679	95.63

15. Phase III – District Level Seminars

After the completion of first two phases of Local Government elections, it was finally decided by AF in collaboration with all its partners, that the Citizens' Campaign would restrict its activities in the third phase to dialogues or seminars to initiate debate on the role of all stakeholders in the electoral process, and imperative need for transparent, free and fair elections for the writ of the people to hold sway and for the future of democracy in Pakistan.

Seminars

Regions	No. of Districts	Total No. Of Seminars held	Participants			No. of AF Monitored Districts
			F	M	T	
Lahore	25	22	1078	1057	2135	4
Karachi	23	21	1047	1145	2192	15
Islamabad	13	13	872	595	1467	13
Quetta	8	8	187	432	619	7
Peshawar	21	15	165	860	1025	Not done
Total	90	79	3349	4089	7438	39

Data Source: AF Regional teams

Overall Women's Situation in Phase III

Phase III	Total seats	Contesting Candidates	Returned	Unopposed	Vacant
District Council	2027	4005	2001	193	26
Tehsil Council	2027	4789	2006	78	21
Total	4054	8794	4007	271	47



II- Legislative Watch Programme (Extension of Phase III)

Duration: 12 months (Jan 2006 – Dec 2006)
Sponsoring and Funding Agency: Royal Norwegian Embassy

Objectives

To monitor and evaluate the role and performance of the legislatures, government, political parties and other key state institutions by assessing the implications of bills, laws, plans, policies and court judgments for women and; by highlighting and strengthening the role of women parliamentarians; and to provide gender perspective to policy framework and law reform input to federal and provincial governments, political parties, legislators, concerned ministries and state institutions; and mainstream gender into governance institutions, laws, plans and policies.

Main Activities

1. National one-day Core Group Meeting was held where around 28 AF/LWP staff and 15 Legislative Watch Group (LWG) members from all AF stations discussed the current political situation and reviewed advocacy and capacity-building interventions undertaken by the LWP during the previous year. The participants brainstormed strategies to engage with decision-makers and parliamentarians, including women legislators. New approaches were discussed to implement and take forward the AF/LWP objectives, particularly in the context of law reform and repeal of discriminatory laws.



2. 20 LWG Meetings were held 4 by Islamabad (6 March, 8 May, 9 August, 16 August), 5 by Karachi (23 April, 16 May, 27 June, 27 Nov. 12 Dec.), 4 by Lahore, (18 May, 24 May, 29 August, 19 September), 4 by Peshawar (14 February, 7 March, 11 July, 28 December) , and 3 by Quetta (10 April, 18 August, 15 September) where around 58 LWG members and 16 LWP staff reviewed past activities and regularly strategised future activities and developed work plans for implementation of the programme.
3. National two-day AF/LWP/LWGs Experience-Sharing Meeting held in Karachi on 22-23 March 2006 where around 28 AF/LWP staff, including the RDs and regional coordinators of major AF programmes, and 15 LWG members discussed women's situation in the country, particularly in the context of recent gains made by women. The

impact of women's quotas in politics was reviewed and measures discussed to strengthen women's political and legislative representation. The meeting took stock of the success indicators of the Phase III of the LWP, and spelt out new ideas for the formulation of future LWP proposal. The issues of violence against women and religious extremism were discussed with the view to develop new strategies.

4. Regular attendance of Assembly Sessions throughout the project duration by LWP staff who engaged in hectic advocacy and lobbying for positive law reform and the repeal of the discriminatory legislation through regular attendance of the sessions of federal and provincial legislatures, including the Senate throughout the reporting period. The LWP staff at all 5 AF stations also conducted individual and group meetings with parliamentarians and ministers on the sidelines of the assembly proceedings. The LWP staff also provided information and law reform input in the form of legislative drafts to legislators at the premises of the assemblies. The attendance of assemblies also facilitated the LWP staff in obtaining legislative material, e.g. draft bills, resolutions and copies of the agenda and debates. This material was then made available to other concerned civil society organizations and individuals.
5. 16 Networking Meetings with women's rights and human rights organizations on topics which included women's legal rights issues and role of women councilors in local government in the northern areas; discussion on the PPPP Bill on the Hudood Ordinances; case hearings of issues pertaining to Swara and Vani cases in the Supreme Court; meeting with NGOs and CBOs on status of earthquake relief and reconstruction activities, especially women's issues; on urban developmental issues affecting women; review of the Women's Protection Bill; and ILO C177 and labour laws in Pakistan and rights of home-based workers. Over 26 AF/LWP staff members provided information to over 540 activists of 28 like-minded CSOs, and 210 sympathizers in other 12 interest groups on current and specific issues concerning women.
6. 15 information dissemination meetings by all offices with law students/ university students and members of bar councils/associations. Around 830 lawyers/members bar associations, law and university students as well as received information and gained knowledge on crucial legal right issues of women and some related issues; their understanding on women's legal rights issues improved through discussions and interaction with about 25 AF/LWP staff during the reporting period.
7. 10 networking meetings with media groups/press club/journalist organisations on issues including Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002; Women's Protection Bill and the repeal of the Hudood Ordinances; on the gang rape of Shahzadi Nagor (from Naushahro Feroze, Sindh); on home-based worker women and their legal rights; and on electoral reforms for free and fair elections. Around 425 media people were informed about AF positions on crucial issues of women's legal rights, discriminatory laws, ending violence against women and right to information; linkages with the media community and friends in media at all AF offices and at some other places further strengthened.
8. 2 three-day Capacity-Building Workshops with NGO activists, lawyers, and media. These were 2 (17 – 19 April 2006 in Islamabad and 11-3 September 2006 in Lahore)

combined workshops of all 5 stations and dealt with issues such as Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms of Success Indicators” and “Discriminatory Laws and Strategies for Action; and Review and Recommendation on Women’s protection Bill 2006. Eminent persons such as Asad Zaidi and Dr. Simi Kamal participated as resource persons. About 62 lawyers, NGO activists, media personnel and a few parliamentarians, who are LWG members, as well as around 20 AF/LWP staff from all AF stations participated.



9. 10 Face-to-Face Dialogues or Seminars/Panel Discussions with Politicians and Ministers on issues such as Hudood Ordinances: Emerging Realities and Action required; Women’s Struggle in Pakistan – A tribute to Shahla Zia; Amendments in the Hudood Ordinances: Implications & Impact etc. Eminent persons such as Justice (R) Nasira Javed Iqbal, Sherry Rehman (MNA, PPP), Mr. M.P Bhandara, MNA PML-Q, Ms. Arfa Sayeda Zehra, Chairperson NCSW, Mr. Farooq Tariq (chief coordinator, Pakistan Labour Party) participated as speakers. Over 2300 people from civil society, political parties, legislatures, legal community and cross section of society as well as media people and AF/LWP staff were informed/educated about women’s legal rights, women’s rights movement, amendments in the Hudood Ordinances, law on freedom of information, violence against women, discriminatory laws, different issues concerning governance, e.g. the Hasba bill and ‘charter of democracy’ at all AF stations during the reporting period.
10. 15 Information Dissemination Meetings with members of political parties/Women’s Wings 3 by Islamabad (2nd May, 12th May and 15th November), 3 by Karachi (29th June, 16th October, 20th November), 3 by Lahore (28th April, 18th August, 15th December), 3 by Peshawat (24th April, 29th June, 15th October) and 3 by Quetta (8th March, 18th October, 23rd November). About 24 AF/LWP staff provided information to over 380 women members of political parties, office-bearers of women’s wings and women councilors on local government, discriminatory laws and customary practices, international human rights instruments, ILO convention and family laws; relationship further strengthened with women’s wings of major parties and general women cadre of parties, at all AF stations and in some other districts.

11. 12 one-day Capacity-Building Workshops with Women MPAs/Women in Parties/LWGs. 3 workshops were held by each office. Over 1300 members of political parties, including about 45 women legislators, around 69 LWG members and 75 AF/LWP staff gained knowledge on issues of discriminatory laws; proposed amendments through women's protection bill; issues of gender mainstreaming, strengthening of women's wings in political parties and manifesto suggestions through extensive sessions taken by experts, economists and social activists at all AF stations during the reporting period
12. 3 one-day Capacity Building Workshops with Women MNAs/Senators/Women in Parties/LWGs on the topics on Charter of Democracy: What does it offer to People and the Hudood Ordinances: Time for Repeal were held. About 1250 political and civil society activists, including 27 women and men legislators, 10 LWG members and 8 AF/LWP staff debated and gained knowledge on the 'Charter of Democracy', signed by the two mainstream opposition parties; and developed and reaffirmed civil society position on the repeal of the Hudood Ordinances.
13. 4 Strategy Meetings with a Small Group of Key Parliamentarians on bill of domestic violence, reforms of UN systems etc. 6 important legislators of major political parties were briefed and given proposals on important amendments in the Hudood Ordinances, UN reforms and the bill on domestic violence



14. One-day national Working Group Meeting comprising 6 legal experts and women's rights activists critically analysed the proposed amendments presented in the National Assembly through an official bill "Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2006"; clause-wise scrutiny of the bill was made and a critique developed from the civil society perspective.
15. A large amount of material was prepared including booklets titled "The State of Pakistan's Economy and the Federal Budget 2006-7" by Akbar Zaidi; "A Critique of the Zina Ordinance" by eminent Justice (R) Dr. Javid Iqbal, in English; a pamphlet titled "Hudood Ordinance ko mansooh hoona chahiya"; A book titled "Opinions of Eminent

Jurists on the Hudood Ordinances”, carrying opinions of 18 renowned jurists and senior lawyers in favour of the repeal of the Hudood Ordinances.

16. Three-day national AF/LWP/Resource Service Training (held in Karachi 24-26 May). Around 25 AF/LWP/RS staff gained knowledge on concepts and tools of “legislative drafting and monitoring skills”. They also received information and knowledge on the subject of a research “changes in socio-economic patterns for women and girls”; Mr. Arif Hassan, Mr. Tasneem Siddique, Ms. Anis Haroon, Mr. Naeem Mirza, Mr. Younas Khalid and Ms. Rukhshanda Naz were the resource persons.
17. 5 Seminars/Panel Discussions where over 350 people, from different walks of life and civil society activists received information/orientation on the law on freedom of information, Palestinian resistance, role of women in decision-making and the Hudood Ordinances.



18. Advocacy Campaign (Press Conferences/Public Meetings/Walks/Demos). The AF/LWP staff remained engaged in awareness-raising drive under larger civil society alliances or forums by participating in walks and demos in major cities to celebrate International Women’s Day, to protest against US President’s visit to Pakistan, violence against women, repeal of the Hudood Ordinances, war policies of the United States, peace and the Hasba Bill, as well as, against the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti and military operation in Balochistan. The civil society message on these critical issues was widely disseminated to public through media coverage.
19. 6 Exposure Visits were organized: 1 by Islamabad (7 December) to Lok Virsa, Shakarparian, Islamabad; 2 by Karachi (one leftover of 2005); 1 to Police Station near Sugar Mills, Karachi (12 May); 1 to District Resource Centre for Women Councillors and Citizens’ Action Committee, Mirpurkhas Gymkhana, Mirpurkhas (29-31 December); 1 by Lahore (5 December) to Women’s Crisis Center and Dastak shelter home; 1 by

- Peshawar (21 November) to Islam Purr Swat, famous for its pushmina shawls prepared by women, and Maskin Swat, a shelter for young girls started by Wali-e-Swat; and 1 by Quetta (16 September) to District Jail, Quetta. About 80 LWG members, AF/LWP staff and media persons received first-hand information about women's situation at a few institutions visited and got information about problems of women and their activities.
20. 44 Media Inputs were made by the offices across the country including 1 panel discussion on Radio Pakistan, Islamabad (8 March) to mark the International Women's Day; panel discussion on ATV live transmission (18 September) on the role of NGOs; 11 articles in Daily Post by Sheikh Asad Rahman, the LWP Coordinator, Lahore, on Balochistan situation (15 May, 22 May, 29 May, 5 June, 19 June, 3 July, 10 July, 17 July, 14 August, 9 October, 16 October); 2 panel discussions on CNBC TV (22 August) on the killing of Akbar Bugti (22 August, 29 August); 1 interview BBB Radio (9 October) on the implications of Women's Protection Bill, 2006; 1 forum by Daily Express on the situation of prisoners in the prisons of Punjab Province; 1 media briefing (13 November) about Hasba bill to British Council Islamabad; 1 feature in Daily Jang (22 April) on the topic of provincial budget; 1 radio programme on Radio Pakistan (26 June) on the provincial budget of Balochistan; 1 panel discussion on PTV (22 July) on women's economic participation; 1 debate on PTV (16 August) on women's political participation.
 21. Campaign for repeal/amendment of discriminatory laws: two of the Hudood Ordinances were amended through the enactment of Protection of Women, Act, in 2006. The LWP devoted most of its activities and activism through all possible channels of advocacy and lobbying, including capacity-building workshops, seminars, media inputs and public demonstrations, as well as, through legislative input to get these laws repealed. Prominent jurists, Islamic scholars, public representatives, women legislators and civil society representatives participated in these activities as resource persons and speakers. Some important publications, e.g. the "*A Critique of the Zina Ordinance*" by a prominent jurist; "*Opinions of Eminent Jurists on the Hudood Ordinances*" and "*Opinions of the Intelligentsia on the Hudood Ordinances*", as well as, some pamphlets were brought out to highlight the issue and influence decision-makers and legislators for legislative action. The LWP, particularly its Peshawar office, also remained busy in advocacy and lobbying against the passage of controversial Hasba Bill, during this period. Upon the initiatives of the Peshawar office, a coalition of NGOs called "Resistance against Hasba (RAH)" having one-point agenda to fight against the Hasba Bill, was formed on 19 July, 2005. The alliance undertook a number of activities to resist the Bill during the reporting period.
 23. Other activities included interaction with decision-makers, parliamentarians and politicians and maintaining these linkages; the LWP teams have been given special observer status in the provincial assemblies of NWFP and Punjab, whereas, teams in Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad were taken on board by the governments on committees on violence, disaster and crisis centers management; continued the process of capacity-building of concerned groups of the LWP (young female and male lawyers, NGO activists and media personnel) through structured activities of workshops with eminent experts and resource persons, during the reporting period; continued interaction with civil society organisations and other interest groups; Legal aid and counseling was provided to

around 20 survivors of violence and; they were referred to lawyers and other channels for support like shelter homes and rehabilitation centers; participation as resource persons and speakers on various forums including with Uks office on 06 Jan 2006, Asia Foundation on 16 January 2006, NDI on 27 March 2006; Crisis Centre, Karachi on 19 April 2006; Action Aid, Lahore on 6 September 2006; NCSW on 19 August 2006 etc

This project has been extended for Phase III and is currently in progress. Its activities and publications are being arranged/written/edited.

III- Transforming Public Commitments into Gender-Responsive Governance

Duration: October 2007-March 2008
Sponsoring and Funding Agency: Heinrich Boll Foundation

Background

Since independence in 1947, Pakistan has veered back and forth between democratically elected and authoritarian military leaders, coupled with an unstable relationship with neighbouring India and Bangladesh. From 1988 to 1999, following Zia ul Haq's death, democracy – albeit an unstable one – reigned; power alternated between Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, with neither completing a full term as Prime Minister. Finally, in October 1999, a Chief of Army Staff, Pervez Musharraf, led a coup against Sharif and took over as President.

Over the past eight years, President Musharraf has made no effort to create independent institutions, improve the provision of education and other social services, or fully establish local governance systems in 2000 and networks. The situation has worsened significantly over the past year: the judiciary is now thoroughly politicised, the media is restricted by a “code of conduct”, and a biased interim government. Musharraf continues to prioritise his own political survival. However, neither the Pakistani people nor the international community trust him any longer, leaving him in an untenable situation.

In January 2008, there were at least four major suicide attacks within Pakistan; more have followed. Violence and military activity in the tribal areas have risen significantly. The lack of accountability and transparency through both the presidential and parliamentary elections has amplified the confusion, the instability, and Musharraf's loss of credibility. Recently, these political fights have been compounded by a concurrent rise in militancy, which has fed into the ongoing sectarian violence throughout Pakistan and the fight for more autonomy in Balochistan. The spike in suicide bombings has another important repercussion for Pakistan's civil society: the public has little to no appetite for an overt U.S.-Pakistan partnership.

Following were the important salient features of state actions during the reporting period:

- On October 6, Musharraf was overwhelmingly re-elected President while still acting as Chief of Army Staff. The majority of opposition delegates boycotted the election, and the Supreme Court began assessing the legitimacy of the results.
- On November 3, Musharraf declared a state of emergency and dismissed Muhammad Iftikhar Chaudhry once again, staffing the caretaker government and judiciary with loyal supporters. As a result, his already-wavering public support plummeted.
- In late November, Musharraf removed his uniform, appointing General Kiyani as the new Chief of Army Staff, and a day later was inaugurated in a new term as president.
- On December 27, nearly two weeks after Musharraf ended emergency rule, Benazir Bhutto was assassinated at a campaign rally. Her 19-year-old son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and her husband, Asif Zardari, were appointed in her stead. In light of the

violence that ensued, the parliamentary elections were postponed till February 18.

On the other hand in the last few decades, there has been an increasing awareness of the necessity of recognition of women's issues at the political level. With this realisation came the need to have a clear agenda identifying the issues at all levels and what needs to be done to redress these problems.

Over a period of time women's organizations and other governmental and non-governmental organizations have taken the role of providing recommendations to the political parties, primarily with the intention to include them in their election manifestos, as an initial indication of their party's commitment to the cause of women's empowerment. A number of these suggestions eventually became a part of the manifestos, a number of them were implemented and many were not dealt with at all.

Objectives

- To consolidate recommendations and suggestions made by the women's movement from its inception.
- To focus also on international platforms such as Beijing and the National Plan of Action or the Inquiry Commission Report of Pakistan 1997 where these recommendations were placed in government sponsored and accepted reports.
- To consolidate the manifestoes of political parties and the public commitments made regarding issues of women's concerns – this includes the National Plan of Action and the Inquiry Commission Report 1997 as mentioned above.
- To analyse the recommendations that have been approved (i.e. committed to) and those that have been ignored.

Critical Areas of Concern for Women

There are 13 broad areas of concern for women that have been identified:

1. Political participation and representation
2. Legal rights
3. Violence
4. Economy and poverty
5. Employment
6. Agriculture
7. Education and training
8. Health and population
9. Environment
10. Physical infrastructure

11. Institutional mechanisms
12. Media
13. Women with disabilities

Out of these, 7-10 priority areas were selected and divided and each AF office was given responsibility on collecting data on that specific area.. Once the initial data had been collected from the districts, through Citizens' Action Committees and other partners, it was analysed how many of these recommendations had been taken further by the political parties and the government to see: what were the hurdles towards proper implementation; what were the possible solutions? What were the gaps of implementation? What could be done to fill these gaps? And was another approach required?

Summary of Main Activities

1. One-day National Working Group Meeting in Lahore

A one-day national capacity building meeting was held in the first week of December 2007 in Lahore. Two senior staff member from each of five offices attended the meeting. The background and objectives of the project were shared. Though the gains and achievements of the women's movements have offered tremendous opportunities for women to reclaim their rights and status in society, the process is marred with enormous challenges and barriers. The foremost among these is the lack of documentation of the historic gains made by women in Pakistan in various areas, particularly in the areas of women's political representation and law reform in the interests of women. Civil society organizations in general, and women's rights groups in particular, have not undertaken impact studies of how women of Pakistan, particularly from low-income groups and rural areas, have benefited from the quotas for women and changes in policies and laws that have been so loudly spoken about at public forums, including media.

The strategy was discussed thoroughly i.e. that monitoring and listing the reported/unreported actions/commitments on women's related issues and developments through scanning of media, official statistics and community sources of Aurat Foundation partner networks. This will include looking critically at and analysing this information by the Project staff. (The material reviewed was attached as in Annexes 2.1-2.3. in the project completion report) Questions were raised about where the data would be collected from and how Aurat Foundation's partners would be involved in data collection. It was decided that data would be collected from 1975 (International Women's Year) onwards and that areas mentioned in the National Plan of Action or recommendation for women's empowerment (prepared by Aurat Foundation before the 2002 general elections and discussed with political parties to transform party manifestos accordingly) would be used as a yardstick. Aurat Foundation partners from all 110 districts would be involved to find out relevant information from the districts. To make it easy for partners, the task of translating recommendation for women's empowerment was given to the Peshawar office.

2. Introduction of the Project: Transforming Public Commitments into Gender-Responsive Governance (TPCGRG)

In the introduction of TPCGRG data collection project the participants were briefed about the importance of the activity with the help of following points:

- Documenting the achievements of the women's movement
- Evaluating the success of our program
- Using experiences as a learning opportunity
- Sharing our achievements with those who ask us about the result of our struggle
- Explaining guidelines on completing the matrix provided to participants

3. In-house Meetings (Karachi, Quetta, Lahore, Peshawar, Islamabad)

An in-house meeting of programme staff was held at each regional office in the second week of December 2007, soon after returning from the National Working Group meeting. Coordinators of national and provincial projects participated in the meeting. Project objectives were shared and a strategy was evolved to get maximum information/data on gains/achievements of the women's movement from departments. Areas of concern and responsibilities were distributed among staff. The meeting gave an opportunity to all members to understand the women's movement, its demands and Aurat Foundation's efforts for women's empowerment. Collecting data was a learning experience and orientation for them on women's issues. The matrix of recommendations and the dates of the regional workshops were also finalised in the in-house meetings.

4. Matrix of Recommendations for Women's Empowerment / Data Collection and Research (100 Districts)

The team at regional offices level designed, translated, typed and placed the recommendations into a matrix after consensus and it was compiled at the national level for Data Collection and Research (100 Districts). In the following 72 districts matrix of recommendations for women's empowerment / data collection and research were completed for the following 73 districts:

Balochistan	Sindh	Punjab	NWFP
1. Bolan	16. Badin	38. Attock	63. Abbottabad
2. Chagai	17. Dadu	39. Bahawalpur	64. Bannu
3. Jafferabad	18. Ghotki	40. Bhakkar	65. Battagram
4. Kalat	19. Hyderabad	41. Chakwal	66. Buner
5. Kechh	20. Jacobabad	42. D G Khan	67. Charsaddah
6. Killa Abdullah	21. Jamshoro	43. Faisalabad	68. D I Khan
7. Killa Saifulla	22. Kashmore	44. Gujranwala	69. Karak
8. Lasbela	23. Khairpur Mirs	45. Gujrat	70. Malakand
9. Loralai	24. Larkana	46. Hafizabad	71. Mardan
10. Mastung	25. Matyari	47. Jhang	72. Nowshera
11. Naseerabad	26. Mirpur Khas	48. Khanewal	
12. Noshki	27. Naushero	49. Khushab	

13. Pishin	28. Nawabshah	50. Lodhran	
14. Sibi	29. Sanghar	51. Mandi Bahau Din	
15. Ziarat	30. Shahdadt	52. Mianwali	
	31. Shikarpur	53. Multan	
	32. Sukkur	54. Muzaffargarh	
	33. Tando Allahyar	55. Pakpattan	
	34. Tando Muhammad	56. Rahim Yar Khan	
	35. Tharparkar	57. Rajanpur	
	36. Thatta	58. Rawalpindi	
	37. Umerkot	59. Sargodha	
		60. Sialkot	
		61. Toba Tek Singh	
		62. Vehari	

5 Regional Workshops (Karachi, Quetta, Lahore, Peshawar)

Regional workshops with partners of selected districts were held at the four provincial capitals from 8 to 17 December 2007. Two Citizens' Action Committee members from each district were invited. The workshops had a uniform agenda (Annexe 3) as decided in the planning meeting held on 26 October 2007 in Lahore. The workshops started with an introduction of the Project and sharing objectives of the workshops. Each of the districts was then given five minutes to speak about the law and order situation of the district. The session was meant to assess the situation of the district to let them know that Aurat Foundation was concerned about their problems and about how the partner groups would be able to collect data.

The next session reviewed the history of the women's movement in Pakistan, its achievements and challenges. Participants were told there were two branches of the women's struggle: one focused on their oppression as industrial workers and the other was concerned with the acquisition of political rights, such as the right to vote. Socialist women attempted to reconcile both of these objectives, while another sector concentrated mostly on the right-to-vote campaign, disassociating themselves from the class struggle. Promoting the education of women was a first step in moving beyond the constraints imposed by *purdah*. The nationalist struggle helped fray the threads in that socially imposed curtain. Simultaneously, women's roles were questioned, and their empowerment was linked to the larger issues of nationalism and independence. In 1937 the Muslim Personal Law restored rights (such as inheritance of property) that had been lost by women under the Anglicisation of certain civil laws. There have been various attempts at social and legal reform aimed at improving Muslim women's lives in the subcontinent during the twentieth century. These attempts generally have been related to two broader, intertwined movements: the social reform movement in British India and the growing Muslim nationalist movement. Since Partition, the changing status of women in Pakistan has largely been linked with the discourse about the role of Islam in a modern state. This debate concerns the extent to which civil rights common in most Western democracies are appropriate in an Islamic society and the way these rights should be reconciled with Islamic family law.

6. Women's Movement and its Demands

The following events and eras were covered in the session:

- Women's effective role during the Pakistan Movement (Ms Saeeda Bano's Speech during Delhi-Lahore Rally)
- Women's agitation to obtain property share (1948)
- Women's movement for the right to be in a political process – after continuous struggle women got the right to vote in 1956
- Women's movement from decade to decade till the military regime of Zia-ul-Haq
- Movement started against imposition of discriminatory laws in 1979
- First case of Fehmida Allah Bakhsh at Karachi under *Zina* Ordinance in 1981
- Birth of Women's Action Forum (WAF) in 1981
- First demonstration of WAF against discriminatory laws on 12 February 1983
- Movement gives birth women's rights organizations such as Shirkat Gah and Aurat Foundation
- Repeal of all discriminatory laws against women (e.g. *Hudood* laws, Muslim family laws, Qanoon-e-Shahadat, Offence of *Qazf*, Citizenship Act etc.)
- Proper and effective legislation to end all forms of violence against women
- 33% women's representation at all levels including parliament
- Direct mode of elections for women instead of reserved seats
- Fundamental rights of women in the Constitution
- Abolishment of Federal Shariat Court through repealing Chapter 3 A of the Constitution
- Recognition of women in political parties
- Commitment to uphold state obligations under all International Treaties (CEDAW, ILO, UDHR, CRC etc.)
- Increase of women's quota in employment

7. Pre-requisite for Holding Free and Fair General Elections

In the last session, the matrix of recommendation for women empowerment was shared and discussed and methodology of data collection was agreed upon with partners. Most of the participants found it a difficult exercise. The following resolution was shared with district partners, and with their support, it was sent to the media and all concerned departments of the government.

We consider that holding free, fair impartial General Elections in Pakistan will not be possible without:

- Forthwith reinstatement of the judges of the superior courts as they were on 2 November 2007
- Forthwith withdrawal of Emergency (Martial Law)
- Forthwith restoration of the Constitution along with all fundamental rights, without any unconstitutional amendments
- Forthwith restoration of power of judiciary curtailed under the PCO
- Forthwith removal of judges appointed under the PCO
- Forthwith appointment of a truly independent and effective Election Commission with the consensus of the major political parties
- Forthwith appointment of neutral caretaker governments at the Federal and Provincial levels, with the consensus of the major political parties
- Forthwith withdrawals of all amendments in PEMRA ordinances as well as withdrawal of the ban and all restrictions on the print and electronic media
- Forthwith release of Chief Justices, judges of the Superior Courts, lawyers, journalists, human rights activists, political leaders, workers and other civil society activists and withdrawal all cases registered against them from 3 November 2007
- Forthwith stop the involvement of agencies in the country's politics
- Forthwith cancellation of transfers, postings and appointments after 3 November 2007 which should be declared null and void.

8. Provincial Meetings with All Parties Women Politicians as Legal and Policy Formulation Consultancy (Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar) – Unstructured Activity

Provincial meetings with women politicians were held in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar. The Quetta meeting had been planned for 28 December but was cancelled due to the assassination of Ms Benazir Bhutto the previous day. (Details are in Annexe 4.)

Date	Province	Total Participants
12 December 2007	Punjab	51
15 December 2007	Sindh	63
8 January 2008	NWFP	83

In each of these conferences the following joint declaration was made:

- We demand a total ban on the use and display of arms by political parties.
- They should not use coercion or force to extract support or to suppress dissent.

- Parties should hold regular elections to choose their office-bearers and should practise democratic norms and culture of tolerance.
- Parties should issue more tickets to women and also offer financial support for their expenses.
- They should disqualify all those members who use derogatory language and get involved in anti-women decisions through jirgas. Even if a party issues a ticket to such a person, the Election Commission should reject their nominations.
- The Election Commission should be independent and guarantee fair and free election
- The political parties should also believe and practice democratic norm in internal and national elections
- The element of force and fear should be eliminated to acquire support or suppress dissent
- The religion minorities as a part of joint electorate system should be guaranteed their maximum and fair participation.
- A large number of missing voters are women. The state and political parties should facilitate the maximum registration of women.
- Women should be given 33% reserved seats in the assemblies and they should contest on general and reserved seats.
- Women wings of the parties should be made autonomous and financial strengthened.
- A cross party caucus for women is needed to expand and strengthen women's alliances.
- The condition for a graduate must be removed, as there is only 29% literacy among women.
- The political parties should consider their women councillors with a good track record for the assemblies too. Since they have vast experience of working at the grass roots.
- The polling and transportation arrangements should be made by the state itself and there should be complete transparency in election expenses of the candidate.

9. Material Scanned (Karachi, Quetta, Lahore, Peshawar)

Material available at Peshawar office library was scanned accordingly and a list of selected books/ reports was prepared and sent to the head office and the Karachi office.

The demands/achievements of the women's movement accepted by successive governments, legislatures and the judiciary in various areas affecting the lives of women were listed and recorded by Aurat Foundation staff and partner Citizens' Action Committees (CACs) and Resources Centres (included in Annexe 1). The working group assessment and their key recommendations are attached as Annexes 5 and 6 respectively.

A booklet on the findings of the working group was prepared but not published. Copies were widely circulated and the booklet may be published once the project completion report is accepted by HBF and the final instalment is released.

10. District Round Table Meetings – Unstructured Activity

After the assassination of Ms Benazir Bhutto and the change in the election date all the district partners were asked to postpone the ongoing activities of the campaign. Before this they were asked to hold the district seminars before 5 January 2008. Once things began to normalise, they were asked to start with the activities of the campaign after the 10th of *Moharram*, which was on 20 January 2008. Aurat Foundation also linked the activities of the HBF project Transforming Public Commitments into Gender-Responsive Governance with PACFREL to gain maximum results.

The following was the agenda of the District Round table meetings:

- Introduction of PACFREL
- Work Plan and Demands from Government
- Reporting format of district seminar (detailed report of the activity, minimum four photographs and program media clippings)
- Women's movement and its demand
- Introduction of the Project (HBF) (Data Collection)
- Matrix of demand and way of Filling

11. Analyses of achieved results, impacts for the target group and development of the organization

The Project staff was the key group for analysing the data received from seventy-three districts. It was shared by many district that no written data is available at district level to gauge the implementation of the laws specially in the earth quake affected areas government offices were destroyed and so as the documentation. Most of this analysis is available in the form of matrix developed by the districts and analysis undertaken by the AF staff.

IV- A Development Communication Experience for Empowering Rural Women

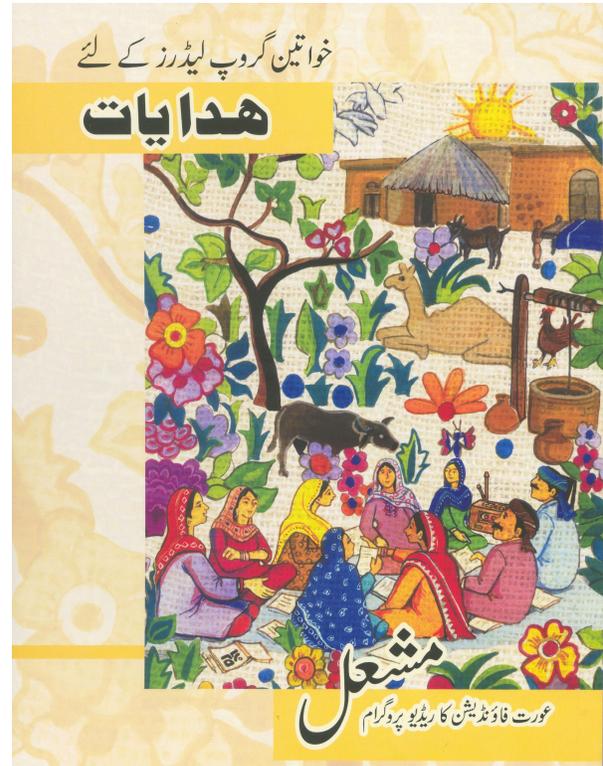
Duration: April-September 2007
Sponsoring and Funding Agency: National Rural Support Programme

Background

In Pakistan, rural women's work is not only crucial to the survival of their households but also to the agricultural economy, yet they remain among the most deprived in the country. They are disadvantaged in their ownership and access to resources and income-generating opportunities. They perform a multitude of tasks, which consume all their time and energy, but their productivity is so low that they have to be involved in a number of activities, sometimes even simultaneously, to meet their household needs. This is all because they do not have information or training in simple technologies that can make their tasks more productive while reducing their burden. Unable thus to emerge from the grind of poverty, women's health continues to suffer while they in turn are the primary care-givers for their families. Added to this is the ever-present pressure of crippling societal norms that physically and socially restricts their search for 'a way out'.

While there is no lack of institutions or programmes for farmers, women farmers have not been perceived as more than mere 'unpaid family help'. Usually agriculture extension workers interact, at most, with poor male farmers; it is considered redundant to meet the farmers' family because it is also assumed that households have shared interests and priorities. The reality is that households have shared as well as conflicting interests, based on gender and generational differences in societal and economic roles. Therefore, women's needs and priorities may remain unidentified in household surveys unless a determined effort is made to identify them.

Recognising the invisibility of women farmers' issues in statistics, government policies and programmes and the link between this invisibility and the very visible poverty in their lives, Aurat Foundation decided to direct its energies towards women farmers' issues. Starting with the First National Conference of Peasant Women in 1991, Aurat Foundation has implemented both long-term and short-term projects such as the Information Network Centres Programme, (the information focal points for women at the community level) and the Radio Programmes on Food Production Technologies and Basic and Reproductive Health Information.



With this backdrop, we thought it unlikely that rural women, economically so marginalised and politically so powerless, could ever mobilise sufficient resources to meet even their minimum needs. We also realise that 'development' is a holistic phenomenon and cannot be tackled with a piecemeal approach to entire processes, for life does not stand still, and the meagre inputs of today may be totally obsolete or redundant tomorrow.

But this is the reality for the overwhelming majority of rural women in Pakistan. Decisions are made on their behalf by their family males, resources are provided for some development schemes requested on their behalf by some government or civil society 'well wisher', who is heard wondering later why these women have turned their backs on some great employment opportunities, or are refusing to benefit from the newly provided health facilities and adult literacy centre. He may not have realised that the women were not rushing to queue up for the new job opportunities that were better-paid, because most likely they did not have the time for it, or had responsibilities at home that restricted their movement, like a permanently sick relative. The Basic Health Unit was actually located in a very deserted place. The choice of location was as a result of a political tussle among the local councillors, each of whom wanted the BHU near his village. As a result, the concerned health authority decided that it would be located at a point equidistant from all the nearby villages. Women do not like using any facilities located in deserted places!

Thus the rural women would have to decide among themselves what development initiatives could address their concerns, which ones were according to their own priorities. But they do not have the required knowledge to take the correct decisions and no one takes them seriously enough to consult them. So the women in rural areas and other similar depressed, disadvantaged groups must take themselves seriously and insist on participation in decision-making that concerns their lives. This is 'empowerment'!

But women would feel this confidence, this pride, once they realised the significance of the unpaid labour and services of girls and women to the household economy, and their contribution to the national economy as unpaid labour in household production activities, as low paid workers and producers in the informal sector, and as unpaid, unrecognised, unappreciated family 'workers'. Otherwise the substantial majority of rural women in our country would never recognise their rightful claim to their share of national resources, or the courage to reject what is decided by others as 'essential' for their development, or have the confidence to express themselves in any other than their prescribed social roles, or the audacity to dream of a right to a life with dignity and laughter!

For Aurat Foundation these concerns determined the ultimate choice of the format for disseminating agriculture technologies information to peasant women, which had been a major demand at the National Peasant Women Conference in Lahore in 1990. We chose the format of a family drama serial because it allows for entertainment, laughter, continuity in involvement, and adequate space for all the social messages we wanted to convey to our rural sisters, along with the most relevant and economical technology information.

Since we wanted quality entertainment for them, we convinced the best, the most popular TV playwright, Haseena Moin, to write this drama serial, especially for the programme! She wrote 26 episodes, or a serial to be heard over six months, and was gracious enough to give us the

freedom to modify the script without her permission. This we did (as little as possible), according to the requirements of politically correct gender portrayal, as well as with a sensitive regard for the cultural norms of rural Punjab.

Hence the most exciting, the most self-fulfilling of Aurat Foundation's creative adventures was the experience of providing information and training to women's groups in rural areas through the communication channel of radio dramas. The first such effort was an innovative 'package', in the format of a family drama serial, broadcasting food production technologies over the radio for peasant women in Punjab. To ensure peasant women's access to this information, posters and pamphlets on information broadcast were produced and sent to the Centre. Supervised Radio Listening Centres were established at the village level, and an answering service was set up in the Aurat Foundation headquarters to respond to queries from the Listening Centre members and general listeners. This Project was funded by UNIFEM and was one of the two Asian projects showcased by UNIFEM at the 1995 Beijing Conference for Women.

The 'Resource Kit', or the audio and printed material produced for the Radio Programme Project, was a special development communication experience in enhancing rural women's self-esteem and self-recognition, while simultaneously building their knowledge and capacity for good farming and providing healthcare to their families.

Training of Women Village Leaders

Aurat Foundation had offered to train a team of community women leaders of the women community organisations of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) to use the Resource Kit for developing the self-confidence of their community organisation members and enable them to use their increased knowledge and capacity for effective decision-making. The Project was implemented in regional office Fateh Jung, Kotli Satiyan, Muree, Pind Dadan Khan, Hasan Abdal, Daultala, Choa Saidan Shah, Pind Dadan Khan Rawalpindi, Attock, Jehlum, Talagang, Chakwal, Gujar Khan, Pindi Ghep, Islamabad and Jund. It was planned to conduct training of 700 village women leaders selected by the RSPN in District Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.

Objectives

Women leaders of 700 NRSP village community organisations will be trained to:

- Conduct weekly/fortnightly group meetings listening to one or two episodes of the radio/audio programme
- Encourage participation in group discussions on specific information provided;
- Facilitate women members to identify social issues impacting on their lives;
- Discuss ways and share experiences to address specific problems individually and collectively.

Summary of Main Activities

First Phase

1. Audio quality of the recorded material was checked and cassettes were reproduced for the Programme, ensuring quality control. The information provided was further confirmed the validity. The printed material especially pictorial posters with information in the cassettes and few new changes were made in posters and one new poster was included e.g. TB cure awareness was added.
2. A meeting was held at head office Lahore for in depth scanning of the audio cassettes to familiarise the training teams with the content, identifying the social issues and messages incorporated, formulating the workshop programme, developing the lesson plans for the training sessions.
3. The in-house meeting was held to test the training module before going to women village leaders. A training of AF staff (other than project staff) at Peshawar office was held. 10 members attended the training. In the daylong session, two episodes of the drama were heard. After each episode participants were asked to identify issues from the drama. The issues were written on flip charts and discussed in detail. It was noticed that information related to agriculture was interesting. However when social issues were discussed it was observed that most of the issues they heard before but they are unable to link their impact with their social life. Changes were made in the module (especially the six episodes). The project staff was provided information on TRIPs, AOA and other important issues related to agriculture to update their knowledge. It was advised that keeping in view the rural status of the women it would be better to avoid jargon and use simple understandable language.

Orientation Meeting with NRSP Social Organizers

On April 24th, 07 Aurat Foundation Peshawar team departed for Islamabad. The six members AF team reached RSPN office after long travel of five hours due to strike in the support of Chief Justice Pakistan. The meeting scheduled to be started at 10:00 am but due to road blockage it started at 12: 45 and a little bit changes were carried out in the program due to short span of time. A total number of 13 social organizers participated from Doltala, Attock. Muree, Kotli Satian, Talagang, Hassan Abdal, Chakwal, Pind Dadan Khan, Rawalpindi, Jund, Gojar Khan, Jehlum and Islamabad. The program started with the brief introduction of the participants, AF staff and Aurat Foundation was given.

Session I: Rural Women's Issues

The first session was on issues of rural women and agriculture. . This session started by revealing a poster to the audiences “My Wife Does Not Work”. Then the participants were asked how many kinds of workwomen do especially rural women. Responses came as Cooking, Cleaning, Livestock, Fieldwork, Jobs, Taking care of elders and children etc. After getting the responses from the participants the importance of domestic work was highlighted. The house hold work was divided into two groups i.e. (1) paid work, and (2) unpaid work. Then they were told that women only get income in case of formal jobs. Most of their work, which consume most of the energy and time, considered unimportant and thus unpaid. The work cost their health and other basic needs. They are unable to emerge from the grind of poverty. It was discussed that women themselves are unaware of their productive role in the family and in the society and economy at large. To improve their status it is necessary to acknowledge their work. It was also discussed

that women often consider their work as unimportant because they don't have information and knowledge to improve the quality. If they have latest information and skills, then they would be able to change themselves. They were also informed that policies and agreements signed by the government in the field of agriculture are directly linked with the lives of women.

Session II: Project Introduction

Before the project introduction the need of launching such project was highlighted that why did AF and NRSP sign a partnership focused on rural/peasant women; because they contribute to the national economy, survival of their homes, but still remain among the most deprived in terms of facilities and opportunities. As they work for endless hours other than household chores but their work remains invisible. After that a brief introduction of Developing Communication Experience to Empower Rural Women Project was given that included the mechanism to be adopted to run the project successfully. The participants were told the objectives and methodology of the project

Session III: 1st Episode of Radio Drama Mishal

To familiarize social organizers of NRSP with the audio drama, 1st episode of radio drama Mishal was played. They were explained that how the women leaders will identify issues from the episode and how will they relate them with women.

At the end, work plan for conducting Three-Days Radio Listening Training Workshop was shared with the social organizers who were responsible to ensure the participation of village women leaders. The social organizers suggested suitable dates of the workshops as the harvesting season of wheat was about to start and women would be busy in fields then it will not be possible for them to participate in the workshop. With mutual consent of all the participants some changes were carried out in the plan for the convenience of the women leaders and NRSP staff as well. The telephone numbers of Aurat Foundation and its staff members involved in the trainings were shared with them.

A simple feed back form was developed in Urdu keeping in view the women leaders. The form asked their opinion on information provided, whether they liked or disliked the workshop, is this valuable to them or not and why? How they get benefited from the information? What they needed in the future and why? Who is most striking character in the drama and why? Which printed material they liked the most? Any suggestion for future?

All the participants filled the forms. Where the women were unable to write AF and NRSP staff helped them out. Almost 99% women liked the format of the project, trainers and the printed material. Most of them demanded the same training for men at their villages. The feed back form was given to the social organizers of NRSP to use in the monitoring visits in future.

Second Phase

Training of 700 Women Leaders of NRSP

Aurat Foundation had held three-day training workshops each for the 35 groups of women leaders, 700 women leaders were trained that how to facilitate the village women to acquire information in the drama serial. They were provided printed materials and episode-wise guidelines. A series of three-day training workshops were held during May to July. A total of

814 women leaders were trained in 35 workshops from 13 regional offices of NRSP. In some areas women participated more than one workshop, the reason was to learn more and more.

Apart from providing training, the workshop was considered a platform where women from various villages could come together. They appreciated the opportunity to get acquainted with each other and be able to share their experience. AF was able to form linkages with women working at community level. There was a firm resolve of the women to unite and support each other in the matter affecting their lives.



Each workshop was divided into six formal sessions followed by the session of work planning. It was decided that due to the household burden on women only two sessions of three hours would be conducted in order to make them comfortable

Methodology

In original project document workshops were planned at Islamabad. The planning meeting was held in RSPN office with NRSP team on 3rd April 2007. On the request of NRSP team and availability of women village leaders it was decided to conduct workshop close to their areas. It was not an easy task for team because project took long time in negotiations. Five teams were formed and areas and workplan were decided mutually. The teams were selected from AF office i.e. Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar. Later on four team members were included to cover workshop in time.



All the six episodes were played during the three days and one by one; each episode of the drama was heard, followed by identification of agriculture and social issues in the plenary and each of the issue was discussed in detail.

Response of the Participants on Radio Drama

General Comments

Participants told that it was first experience to listen information in the form of a radio drama. Women were very excited for next episodes. A woman told that as we've watched dramas but its first time we are listening it. It is difficult to hold attention but story is that much interesting that it has grabbed our attention. Participants shared that the workshop is totally different and interesting as compared to other workshops they have attended. The women were so involved in the drama; in every session women were discussing characters as real members of their own community. Some women encouraged their young daughters to participate in the workshops, and they were interested in agriculture institutions. They were amazed how women can join agriculture institutions. A woman said that she was got one day permission from her father in law but when she came back after first day and share information, her father in law allowed her to attend the whole training, She said that he was asking about the treatment of worms in the animals' skin. Luckily fourth episode was addressing this problem. So she shared it at home then her father-in-law sent a message to AF team that please conduct a workshop at our village too.



Response on Training/Trainers by Participants

General Comments

The women shared that it was a very informative workshop. They more actively participated in the training as compared to the other trainings they had attended.

They agreed to rebuild their hopes and their health after attending the workshop.

One of them shared that she discussed this workshop with her husband. Her husband appreciated her and said that it is your right so take care of your health, yourself.

One of them shared that she discussed the workshop with her family. Her family had asked her to share all the issues with the people of the area that will be beneficent for them.

Women also shared that they didn't feel any hesitation to express their views due to good behavior of trainers. They all liked the way of training and shared that they will adopt the same strategy as trainer. There should be more posters on vegetables even there is a need to develop posters on other crops as well.



They were interested to have AF regular publications i.e. Mishal and Humjoli.

One of the participants shared that this workshop has made me realized that I have some identity.

One of the participants shared that it's a new experience for her to listen a drama in a group.

Participants took keen interest in drama because it was a family drama where there was a daughter in law and mother in law, a loving husband and other characters. Participants liked the Malkani character on one hand but on the other hand they were criticizing as why she did not give education to Bala because her own sons were highly educated. The story was around an ideal "Bahu and Saas" and participants wanted to listen more episodes. They enjoyed the love chat of "Nihaal and Mishal" and "nok jhok" between "Mishal, Bala and Bilal. When they shared what they learned in the workshop, remarks of their families were that you should attend such meetings where you get knowledge instead of sitting and gossiping.

The workshop gave an insight to trust our daughters and showed the way how to give them confidence. One woman said that my organization name is "Mishal", which she chose by being inspired through newsletter of Aurat Foundation Mishal. One of the participants said that she was a shy and quite person but the workshop gave her the strength to speak because the trainer asked her to speak several time and become vocal. Another shared that her father in law was not permitting her on the first day but her husband convinced him to let her go. She said when she went back she shared the information with them and her father in law advised her to write down all the information, as it is very useful for everybody. So that day she was there without any tension. It was demanded to provide such trainings to their men as well.



The participants shared that the workshop is totally different and interesting as compared to other workshops they have attended. One of the participants shared the workshop information with her family, who asked her to share all the issues with the people of the area that will benefit them.

They also shared that they didn't feel any hesitation to express their views due to good behaviour of trainers. The whole program with small tips such as preserving vegetables and snake bite etc were very useful. It's the first, one of its kind of training in which we have participated as

it not only gave us information about improved living through agriculture and other routine tasks but gave awareness about our self as women also.

They further shared that they acquired information as how to gather women and to share information with them through motivation.

They said that they have learnt a lot about agriculture, health, environment, animal rearing, education and social issues concerning women. They got the confidence to speak in the gathering and the interesting thing was that they got lot of information which was new for them. They felt lucky to get the opportunity to attend such kind of workshop where they all sat and talked about useful things together.

The participants liked all the six episode and they were eager to listen further as they familiarized these issues as their own. One of the shared that she felt hesitant to express her views with anyone but now she got the confidence, this kind of meetings would help in developing confidence.



Suggestions from Participants

- All the participants suggested playing drama through video then they will be able to adopt different methods in same manner, as they would have seen.
- They demanded the workshop kit. After completion of 3-day training, kits should be provided to participants.
- They also suggested that such kind of training should be arranged every month.
- There should be more opportunities for women in sports. Sport should also be part of the Drama serial, so that they will be aware the importance of sports.
- They also suggested that such kind of training should also arranged for men of their area to aware them too.
- One of them suggested that training should be arranged in evening so that most of women can attend the training. But most of them disagreed to come in evening.

Printed Material Distributed

The drama serial is accompanied by a package of 62 posters with greater detail on crop production technologies, livestock care and healthcare. This material was pasted on walls when particular issue was highlighted and later on disseminated among women. Apart from the poster printed as package; other AF printed material was also distributed to aware women on other issues.

V- CEDAW Implementation through Lobbying and Advocacy with CEDAW Committee at the UN and National Stakeholders in Pakistan

Duration: April – August 2007
Sponsoring and Funding Agency: UNIFEM

Objectives

Attendance of the 38th Session of the CEDAW Committee in May 2007 by women activists from Pakistan, where the Government of Pakistan would be presenting its combined initial, 2nd and 3rd periodic report. The purpose of the initiative was to mobilize known women activists as committee members for lobbying and advocacy on crucial issues/concern of UN CEDAW Committee members. This would them to not only observe the review process firsthand, but also lobby with CEDAW Committee members and to share their experiences with other stakeholders, and help plan future strategies and follow-up activities for further advocacy on the implementation of CEDAW.

Main Activities

1. One 1-day National-Level Meeting of Concerned NGOs/Activists on CEDAW Review Process/Shadow Report/Participation in 38th Session was held on 03-04-2008 in Islamabad. The participants were a number of prominent women activists from around Pakistan who have been integral players in the women's movement. The agenda had three points – Shadow Reports prepared by Shirkat Gah and Pakistan Commission for Justice and Peace, participation in 38th CEDAW session and Shirkat Gah Shadow Report and input by committee members.
2. Participation in the 38th Session of the CEDAW Committee at the United Nations. AF staff (Ms. Rukhshanda Naz and Mr. Naeem Mirza), along with several other activists participated in several group meetings of Pakistan NGO delegation to discuss the salient features of the Pakistan NGO Statement; prepared the first draft of the NGO Statement; discussed and finalized it. The team participated in an 'informal meeting' with the CEDAW Committee members, at one of the UN committee rooms, on 21 May during the lunch break, to brief them about the civil society position on different issues concerning implementation of the CEDAW in Pakistan.
3. On 21 May 2008, the NGO delegation from Pakistan formally presented civil society's perspective and viewpoint on the Pakistan Country Report before the CEDAW Committee. Ms. Fareeda Shaheed from Shirkat Gah spoke on the occasion and Ms. Rukhshanda Naz from Aurat Foundation read some selected portions of the following NGO Statement. The full text of the Statement was also distributed to all CEDAW Committee members. The Pakistani NGO delegation also answered some questions raised by the CEDAW Committee members during the session.

NGO Statement: Pakistan

Presented at the 38th Session of CEDAW Committee
United Nations: 21 May 2007

Thank you Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the representatives of five leading NGOs present here, and also on behalf of several other NGOs and committed activists at home, who have been struggling for gender equality, justice and peace in Pakistan for the last several decades.

We would like to bring to your attention the following critical issues.

Institutional Mechanisms (policy and enforcement)

- The Ministry of Women's Development, the national machinery on women in Pakistan, is marginalized within the national bureaucracy. It ostensibly has a policy-making role, but its mandate is extremely restrictive at present. It has no influence in carrying out its legislative agenda through the Parliament; all positive provisions in the Ministry's initial draft bills for Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2004 (relating to 'honour' killings) and Protection of Women Act, 2006 (amendments in the Hudood Ordinances), were dropped or drastically changed by the law ministry and later by the federal cabinet.
- The ministry is extremely constrained both in financial and human resources; it lacks will as well as capacity to follow-up and implement the National Plan of Action, 1998, the National Policy for Advancement and Empowerment of Women, 2002, and the CEDAW. It also has patriarchal environment and preferences – several key positions in the ministry are held by men from civil service and retired military men, who have no track record of any contribution to women's cause.
- The National Commission on the Status of Women, with a watchdog role, does not enjoy independence and/or any influence to make it incumbent upon the government to respond to its recommendations on major issues, e.g. for the repeal of the Hudood Ordinances in 2003; amendment in the Citizenship Act and legislation recommended on home-based women workers. The NCSW also lack resources and capacity to perform its duties under its mandated constitutional role.
- There does not exist any mechanism to promote cross-sectoral, inter-ministerial ownership and an enabling environment for implementing and monitoring the provisions of CEDAW.
- The government is not clear about the timeframe for further action to bring about equality of law and withdraw its general declaration on CEDAW; neither does it have any inclination or time-line in mind for the ratification of the Option Protocol on CEDAW.
- The planning and mechanisms do not exist to collect gender disaggregated data in all social and economic sectors to change operational definitions of 'work' and economic productivity to accurately assess women's economic contributions in labour force; no

steps have also been taken to maintain gender disaggregated data of voter turn-out of women to gauge the level of their participation in political and electoral processes.

Legal Framework (laws and customary practices)

There exist a number of laws and legal provisions discriminatory to women, undermining the equality of their legal status in three types of laws (Islamic laws, such as the Hudood Ordinances, Law of Evidence and *Qisas* and *Diyat* provisions of the PPC¹; the common law, such as the PPC and; the customary law practiced by the parallel legal and quasi-legal systems in rural areas, such as *panchayats* and *jirgas*). Some of these are discussed here briefly:

- The Citizenship Act, 1951, continues to harbour discrimination towards female citizens, whose foreign spouses are not entitled to Pakistani citizenship.
- The Law of Evidence, 1984, is discriminatory to women in two respects. Firstly, it has left it to the courts to decide the competence of a witness in accordance with the qualifications prescribed by the injunctions of Islam and, secondly, it has halved the value of women's testimony in the case of financial transactions, if these are reduced to writing.
- The age of adulthood for girls has been defined differently in various laws. It is still discriminatory in the Hudood Ordinances where the adult culpability starts at 18 for males and 16 or puberty for females. This provision of puberty conflicts with other laws such as the Child Marriage Restraint Act and the Majority Act which disregard puberty. This is also in conflict with the Child Rights Convention to which Pakistan is a State Party.
- The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2004 (relating to 'honour' killings) has failed to remove main legal lacunas responsible for 'honour' crimes, i.e. the perpetrators still enjoy immunity through the waiver of retribution (*qisas*) and/or payment of compensation (*diyat*) by the heirs (*wali*) who are usually common descendant in the family, where most of the 'honour' crimes are committed.
- The Protection of Women Act, 2006, has amended two of the Hudood Ordinances (the Zina and Qazf Ordinances) with some positive amendments, such as shifting the offence of rape from the Hudood Ordinances to Pakistan Penal Code, where it could be proved through any circumstantial evidence. However, the law has not touched the two other Hudood Ordinances (the offences of property and drinking) and has also failed to remove several discriminatory provisions in the ordinances it amended. These are: i) the age of adulthood in the Zina Ordinance remains "18 years for a male or 16 years for a female or puberty"; ii) testimony of female and non-Muslim citizens remains absent. This means that women cannot be eye-witnesses in the cases of zina (fornication) liable to Hadd, and non-Muslims can only be witnesses if the accused is non-Muslim; iii) non-Muslim cannot be presiding officer of the court if the accused is Muslim and; iv) the Hudood Ordinances are applicable on religious minorities which is a discrimination on the basis of religion.

¹ Pakistan Penal Code

- The proposed 'Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Bill, 2006, is a private members bill moved in the National Assembly by the head of the ruling party, seeking to eliminate anti-women customary practices. This is an extremely weak piece of legislation, mitigating already available punishments for some offences, for example, the three to ten years rigorous imprisonment for settling disputes by marrying off girls and women in the existing provision (310A) in the PPC has been lowered to upto three years imprisonment in the proposed bill.
- The Human Trafficking Ordinance, 2002, deals with external human smuggling only, and has failed to address the issue of internal trafficking of women particularly carried under the cover of customary practice of bride price and its link with the external trafficking of women.
- Inadequate registration of births and marriages leads families to marry off under age daughters despite legal prohibitions against child marriages.
- There do not exist any initiatives or mechanisms to review and revise the personal laws of religious minorities to ensure women's legal rights.

Representation of women (political/legislative, administrative and judicial)

- Reservation of seats for women (33 percent at the local level and 17 percent for the national and provincial legislatures) is encouraging, however, the modality for electing women for the national and provincial legislatures is through PR system (party lists). This system deprives women of the opportunity of dealing directly with the electorate and developing their own constituencies. The nomination system also allows complete control over selection to political party leadership, opening the door to nepotism on the basis of relationship or influence rather than merit.
- There is also a gender imbalance of 21% in the possession of national identity card (NIC). NIC is a requirement for voting and all government schemes. Almost half of all Pakistani women are deprived of their right to vote and of access to other schemes and resources.
- The increase in women's share in public services to 10% has not been implemented as yet; there had been some public pronouncements at the high level about it, but there had been no cabinet approval, legislative action or notification issued in this regard so far.
- There had been no appointments of women as judges of the higher courts since 1994; all women appointed then have already retired; recently, some appointments had been made at the lower judiciary level recently.

Violence against Women (policy framework and enforcement)

There is no holistic and independent policy for elimination of VAW and the issue is not recognized by the government as a 'national priority issue of public safety'.

- There is no legislation on 'domestic violence' and 'sexual harassment' defining them as criminal offences; (some private members bills for ending domestic violence and customary practices have been moved in the National Assembly recently; these should be

encouraged, however, since, there are a number of serious loopholes in these bills, they must be debated and discussed with all the concerned stakeholders, particularly women's rights groups and legal experts).

- There had been no let up in incidents of VAW (Pakistan Responses: para 7; page 4) in recent years despite the enactment of a law relating to 'honour' killings; a woman provincial minister was murdered and there were several cases of rape/gang rape recently; the government has not taken any concrete measures to check this rising menace as perpetrators continue to enjoy complete impunity; the impact of the more recently enacted law (Protection of Women Act, 2006) is yet to be seen:
- The establishment and performance of high level ministerial committees (Pakistan Responses: paras 21 & 22; pages 7 & 8), such as Media Awareness Campaign Committee comprising federal minister and Members of Parliament to launch media awareness campaign; Federal Cabinet Committee for monitoring and proper follow-up of violence cases and; a National Committee on prevention of Violence against Women, headed by the interior minister, are not known to even informed sections of society.
- The inadequate number of shelter homes and women's police stations with limited human and financial resources provide negligible service delivery to survivors of violence against women; only 17 of the 25 Women Crisis Centers are operational in a country of 110 districts offering temporary relief with meager resources, and without any widely publicized helpline known to public.
- The existence of Gender Crime Cell at the National Police Bureau (Pakistan Responses: para 21; page 7) in the federal capital Islamabad is little known to public even in the city it is based; it is extremely constrained by human resources and the details of how many reports it had received and disposed of were never divulged to public.

Key Recommendations

We call upon the Government of Pakistan to:

1. Show commitment to uphold State obligations under CEDAW; create mechanisms to ensure that effective quantitative and qualitative monitoring mechanisms are in place to review progress on CEDAW; withdraw general declaration on CEDAW and ratify the Optional Protocol;
2. Ensure that appropriate budgetary allocations are made to implement the NPA, National Policy and all women's development programmes; increase budget allocations and prevent ADP budget cuts on the social sector; allocate specific budgetary resources to all on line ministries/departments for interventions benefiting women and girls;
3. Strengthen the national machineries and institutional structures and mechanisms for women's development at the federal, provincial and district levels by renewing their mandate and enhancing their human and financial resources;
4. Repeal all discriminatory laws, including the Hudood Ordinances and provisions in the Citizenship Act, Law of Evidence, Qisas and Diyat and; eliminate contradictory

provisions in law regarding the legal age of children/adulthood in accordance with the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Women, 1997 and the CRC;

5. Eliminate all harmful customary practices like ‘honour’ killings, *vani*, *swara* etc. and; abolish all parallel legal and quasi-legal systems to ensure a uniform, integrated judicial system in the country, including the abolition of the Federal Shariat Court;
6. Reform all personal status laws to ensure equality of status, as well as women’s financial security and rights in accordance with current socio-economic realities and to expedite the process of justice in the family courts and; review and revise the personal laws of religious minorities to ensure women’s legal rights.
7. Enhance the proportion of representation of women to 33% in the national and provincial legislatures and; ensure that elections to reserved seats are direct and constituency-based and; ensure that strict and prompt action under the law is taken against all those who seek to restrain or disallow women from exercising their right of franchise and contesting elections;
8. Ensure the implementation of 10% quota for women in public services and; ensure effective representation of women in all key policy/decision-making bodies and forums, including the Election Commission, Law Commission, economic/planning sector bodies, superior judiciary, advisory task forces etc.;
9. Enact special legislation on domestic violence, sexual harassment and child sexual abuse, and ensure that all cases of domestic violence against women are registered and prosecuted and; enact legislation to ensure proper investigation in women’s burn cases;
10. Amend laws relating to prostitution and trafficking of women, recognizing women as victims of these practices, and undertake measures to rehabilitate or repatriate victims;
11. Establish support structures (shelters, crisis centres, legal aid and counseling centres, burn units) with effective support and referral systems as well as a 24-hour help-line at district level all over the country for female victims of violence;
12. Compile and maintain gender disaggregated data in all social, political and economic sectors, particularly on women’s labour force participation and; create a national database on women’s employment.

[Read by Rukhshanda Naz from Aurat Foundation before the CEDAW Committee]

Presented on behalf of NGOs:

Aurat Foundation, Shirkat Gah, Noor Education Trust, Films d’Art, National Commission for Justice and Peace.

4. The delegation members attended the day-long CEDAW Committee session on 22 May and monitored the presentation of the introductory official statement of Pakistan delegation, headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Women’s Development, on the Pakistan Country Report and subsequent CEDAW queries and Pakistan’s responses. Monitored the session closely, noted the questions asked by the CEDAW Committee experts and formulated questions and positions from the civil society perspective; informally handed over these positions/notes to experts.

5. 1-day National-Level Meeting of Concerned on NGOs/Activists and Ministry of Women's Development/Legislators/Media on Sharing of Experiences of the CEDAW Review Process/Shadow Report/Participation in 38th Session was held in Islamabad on 22-08-2007. The event was meant for debriefing the fellow Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on the proceedings of the 38th session of the committee held at the United Nations. The speakers shared the experiences of the Review Process and decided on future strategies which included a shared responsibility for the next report due in May 2009; translation into Urdu of the concluding comments and their dissemination etc
6. Four 1-day Provincial-Level Meetings of Concerned NGOs/Activists and Women's Departments/Legislators/Media on Sharing of Experiences of the CEDAW Review Process/Shadow Report/Participation in 38th Session. The meetings, organized by AF, were held in Peshawar (20-07-2007), Lahore (10-08-2007), Quetta (15-08-2007) and Karachi (31-08-2007) with the objectives of sharing the Pakistan NGO statement made at CEDAW Committee at UN; sharing of concluding remarks of the CEDAW Committee; and identification/finalization of strategies for critical issues of concern for women. The participants were representatives' of Civil Society Organizations, donor agencies, and public representatives, bar associations.



The NGO delegation at the General Assembly Building of the United Nations in New York for participation in the 38th Session of the CEDAW Committee

Regional Projects

A. North West Frontier Province (NWFP)

I- Integration of TB Activities into the Programmes of Aurat Foundation in NWFP

Duration: 18 months (March 2006 – Sept 2007)
Sponsoring and Funding Agency: AGEG / GTZ (STCP)

Objectives

To improve the awareness of community women in 3 districts of NWFP on TB related issues and to increase women's access and utilization of District TB control services in 3 Districts of NWFP(Charsadda, Karak and Malakand).

Main Activities

Three main activities were designed to accomplish the objective of raising awareness: one-day workshop, focal group formation and district launch.

1. One Day Orientation of AF staff held on 04-04-2006 on the project and TB disease
2. Formation of district TB focal groups, which comprised of members of the INC and CAC, activists at the district level and members of Aurat Foundation Resource Centres (AFRCs)
3. District Program Launch: a 2-day training and orientation workshops to introduce the project; establish links with Executive District Health Officers (EDO), WHO and District TB Officer (DTO); plan campaign activities and discuss TB from a social perspective. Follow up meetings were conducted one per quarter per district, till September 2006.

District	Venue	Date	Man	Women
Karak	AFRC Karak	April 14-15, 06	10	38
Charsadda	Town Hall Charsadda	April 18-19, 06	9	24
Malakand	Malakand Inn Hotel Malakand	May 15-16, 2006	13	20

4. **Awareness Campaign:** The awareness activities were organized by the districts and Focal Group members. There was one campaign each quarter in three districts from May 06 – July 07
5. **Material Developments:** There was a large amount of material developed which included the development of Mishal (Rural Women News paper) Edition No 118, No, 117; publishing of Hamjoli (Magazine for community women) Edition No 107, 108; designing, printing and distribution of TB posters; stickers with slogans about TB and

names of diagnostic centers in the district were printed and placed in relevant areas; TB Rickshaw Awareness Drive painted with names of diagnostic centres etc

6. **Field Visits:** There were a number of Information Dissemination Meetings (IDM) held with various relevant stakeholders such as paramedics in the districts, which were conducted in June 2006 and trained 8 men and 57 women; with 303 women groups of INC coordinators, who disseminated the information through dissemination meetings to 1130 community/ grass roots women; and with 10 diagnostic centres to discuss the situation about TB case detection. The team received feedback about activities and welcomes their suggestions for future strategies.
7. **Special Activities:** These activities were for special purpose, places where focal group couldn't intervene, in far-flung areas such as Kurd Sharif Community, Jata Ismail Khel etc. 631 women and 405 men are oriented in 21 areas.
8. Networking meetings were held between the DTO and TB Focal groups in each district on a quarterly basis with the agenda to share progress, review activities etc
9. Consultative and Advocacy Process with Public Representatives i.e. three tiers of councillors and representatives of local government. This aimed to develop a pressure group of public representatives for the control of TB and to discuss the constraints seen in the district. Regular meetings were held with relevant persons throughout the project in all three districts.
10. Media sensitization/Utilization: This included the project team recording a TB Programme on radio FM 107 etc.
11. Integrated Activities: The ITBAP team incorporated the TB issue in Effective Sensitization Awareness Drive (ESAD) project of Aurat Foundation. The team discussed the TB disease, its social aspect with participants in workshops on violence against women in the community; with Home Net workshops with home-based working women in the relevant districts; with Khwendo Kor on World TB Day; with Church World Services etc.

II- Securing Protection for Citizens in State Custody (SPCSC)

Duration: 4 months (Jan 2007 – April 2007)
Sponsoring and Funding Agency: OXFAM-GB

Objectives

Despite its absolute prohibition under both international law and the laws of most, if not all, national jurisdictions, the use of torture persists. Although publicly condemned it is practiced under cover in many states throughout the world. Indeed, the same state officials who are responsible for upholding and enforcing the law typically perpetrate torture.

Aurat Foundation started a four months pilot phase project “Securing protection for Citizens in state custody (SPCSC) or EAW in Police Custody from January 2007 to April 2007, in collaboration with Oxfam GB. The area selected for the project was district Peshawar due to the reason that all the major courts, parliamentarians and law making and enforcing heads are present here the stake holders of the project were police personnel, media personnel, lawyers and parliamentarians.

The objectives were to create an enabling environment where the sense of being exploited is non-existent; to promote sense of positive use of power; and to bring attitudinal change among different institutions towards women and people in custody.

Main Activities

1. Two Days Consultative Workshops on ‘Torture’, its definitions, national and international obligations and women and torture, were held with the three main stakeholders (Police, Media and Lawyers) in April 2007 where 20 male and 7 female police officers, 23 male and 5 female media personnel and 16 male and 6 female lawyers were the main participants. The participants developed a charter of demands to the Government addressing the ratification of CAT by Government of Pakistan.
2. Meetings with Parliamentarians were held to share the objectives and information of the project. This was meant not only to get their consensus on the issue that the government should sign CAT and its Optional Protocol, but also to formulate the existing law that forbids the practice of torture. Before the meetings, the staff prepared a material on torture that was presented to each parliamentarian who was met. Around 16 meetings were held. Almost all the parliamentarians promised that they will go through the document and will write comments on it that will be shared with all the participants in the provincial Consultation.
3. Collections of Newspapers’ clipping and analytical report was ensued to analyse the intensity and kinds of torture happening.
4. Provincial Consultation on 07-05-2007, Torture with 68 participants who belonged to the police, media, lawyers, parliamentarians etc. The charter of demands was presented and discussion was conducted on how to bring this up on a national level to build pressure to ratify CAT.
5. Monitoring and supporting the Knowledge Attitude Practice Study being conducted by an Oxfam consultant.

B. Sindh

I- Legal Empowerment for Women and Disadvantaged Groups

Sponsoring and Funding Agency: The Asia Foundation

Objectives

The major objective of the project was to empower the people about rights and laws resulting in legal empowerment, while at the same time providing them information on their basic rights such as health; and also to empower the concerned officials and communities to use the rules in order to obtain their rights. The project was implemented in Mirpurkhas district with the support of Aurat foundation that had strong network in that district. The efforts were made to the effective functioning of the HMCs at gross roots level.

Activities carried out under the Project in the following UCs of Mirpur Khas district:

1. Union Council 6 Mirpur Khas (Urban)
2. Union Council Kherao (Rural)
3. Union Council Mirwah, (rural-urban mixed population)

Main Activities

1. Introductory Meetings with government officials, social activists, elected representatives and Media Persons of the district. Meetings were conducted with the DSSP support Unit to obtain the updates and reliable information on the disbursement of funds in various union councils in the Mirpurkhas district; with CACs, district support units of DSSP in the chosen districts and EDO Health in Mirpurkhas.
2. Thee surveys were conducted for the measurement of the project activities: the base line survey, the mid term survey and final survey. During the survey 700 – 800 persons were questioned on the ground realities with connection to basic health facilities. The project team conducted exposure visits, training workshops, monitoring visits and consultation meetings under the project and in the every activity team involved the citizens, govt. officials and the elected person for the betterment of the basic health facilities.
3. Two consultation Meetings were conducted with the Union Councils in March 2007 with stakeholders including journalists, educationists, civil society representatives, doctors, paramedical staff, health technicians, government officials, elected representatives etc with the objectives of introducing the participants to the DSP loan and Legal empowerment pilot project, share some of the health related responses of the baseline survey; discuss and emphasize the role of Health Monitoring Committees; and to provide a space for networking and coordination among all stake holders.
4. Awareness Raising sessions were held with collaboration of ADB with elected representatives, members of HMC, Journalist, educationist, civil society representatives, Doctors, Health technicians, Government officials, LHWs and others on 11th and 13th

April, 2007 in the office of Union Council No. 06 Mirpur Khas and the office of Rural Health Center UC Mirwah Mirpur Khas District with the objectives to discuss role of HMC; share the findings of base line survey and to build networking/ coordination among all stake holders

5. Orientation Sessions were held in union council-6 Mirpur Khas and union council Mirwah on April 11 to 13, 2007. The sessions were organized in collaboration with Nazims of both the union councils and were attended by councilors, citizens, journalist, educationist, doctors, paramedical staff, lady health workers and government officials. The premises of UC-6 Mirpur Khas, Mir Wah and Rural Health Center Mir Wah offices were available for the meetings. The objectives of the orientation sessions were to brief Nazims and government officials about the project; to discuss coordination among the concerned departments; and to highlight the issue of health
6. Monitoring and Evaluation Training held on 21-22 April 2007. The objective of the Training was to build capacity of Health Monitoring Committees and to form a group for the betterment of health facilities. The group was briefed on the government's capacity and funding for health, education, water and sanitation; the Health Policy 2005, which was introduced and discussed and the relation between poverty and health etc; discrimination against women, gender biases and lack of good governance making women, children and minorities more vulnerable; laws that are discriminatory to women; discussion on establishing monitoring committees of Local Government and their guidelines; the role of civil society, media and government on such basic and integral issues.
7. Two exposure visits for experience sharing of two districts of HMC Mirpurkhas to Hyderabad on 20-04-2007 and Hyderabad to Mirpurkhas on 11-05-2007 were conducted with the objectives of the exposure visits were to share experiences, strategies and functioning of HMC in other district. The two committee members shared their experiences and problems shared by both of them and lessons learnt on both sides and how to work together to achieve better results.

Outcomes of the Project:

The following were the outcomes of the Project:

- AF conducted 10 seminars conducted in which 1357 persons participated.
- Hundreds of community people knew about HMC and its roll.
- 10000 Flyers about the role of HMCs were published and 7000 disseminated among people.
- A network comprising Nazims, Councilors, Lady Health Workers, Doctors, Media persons and social activist was formed under the project that would work on health related issues at local level.
- Women of poor house hold learnt about health facilities.
- Media took the issue in newspapers for the awareness of people.

- A documentary was run on cable network on the functioning of HMC.
- Elected representatives first time knew about government's health policy.
- People observed that such type of valuable information about health had been disseminated first time directly at community level.
- Participants committed that they would properly follow the things on wards because they were not aware about HMCs in past.
- HMCs were formally formed and they started functioning with close coordination with concerned departments.
- A woman was inducted in HMC Mir Wah.
- HMCs started conducting meetings on regularly basis.
- HMCs conducted surprise and planed visits of BHUs and held meetings with the officials of Health department. And regularly monitored and reported on them.
- The presence of HMCs was observed by patients and Doctors.
- The behavior of Doctors also changed with them after effective monitoring and reporting system.
- Health staff started to attend BHUs and RHCs properly after the frequent visits of HMCs
- Health technician were maintaining the record properly.
- HMCs got confidence after learning about their roles and health policy.
- Patients have been coming to HMCs for support.
- Media took health issues on priority and stories and articles were written on the issue for awareness of the people.
- The coordination among HMCs and Health department had built up.

II- Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project

Duration: Oct – Dec 2006
Sponsoring and Funding Agency: Provincial Project Management Unit – GJTMAP, Sindh, Department of Local Government and Rural Development, Government of Sindh and UNDP-Pakistan

Objectives

The objectives of these training workshops were to sensitize the participants about gender issues, dynamics of gender based violence and Musalihat Anjuman (MA) as redressal forum for conflict resolution, to highlight the existing Pakistani Laws and legal procedures for handling cases of violence against women, to share with participants the project objectives and Rules of Business (RoBs) for functioning of MA to get a clear understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities in order to effectively curb gender violence at the grass-roots level, to orient the MA members and other local government functionaries regarding paralegal services, to improve the working relationships and coordination amongst the stakeholders.

Main Activities

1. There were six six 4-Day training work shops conducted in taluka Mehar and taluka Johi of district Dadu and taluka Khanpur and Garhi Yaseen of district Shikarpur between November 29, 2006 and December 28, 2006. Twelve participants from each Union Council were invited: one Nazim, one Naib Nazim, one secretary, one convener with two members of Musalihat Anjuman, three members of Insaf Committee and three women councilors. A total of 72 persons underwent these trainings.

The workshops dealt with gender sensitization and legal literacy. The workshops were conducted primarily by AF staff, but with the aid of resource persons who were experts in their fields. The areas covered included: Gender; inequality; gender-based violence, effects of gender-based violence and the remedial measures; basic human rights; the state and its laws; rules of business of Musalihat Anjuman; legal rights of citizens; verbal conflicts; the remedial measures; and record keeping and reporting at UC level.

C. Punjab

Strengthening Dar-ul-Aman through Citizen Support in Punjab

Duration: 18 months (March 2006 – Sept 2007)
Sponsoring and Funding Agency: GTZ

Objectives

This project is a follow-up to a previous project: Mera Ghar - Women Crisis Centre project. Four manuals were developed under that project but were not implemented as the project was shut down prematurely. This project uses these manuals and focuses on gender justice delivery mechanisms, towards improved services for women survivors of GBV in eight districts of Punjab, are strengthened.

Main Activities

1. Planning meetings were held in June/July 2007 where the consultants present draft of six pamphlets on family laws and two posters on ethics (how to deal with survivors)
2. Orientation Workshop for the Partner group including the Citizen Group on 10 August 2007 where concept of Mera Ghar was presented and linked with Strengthening Dar-ul-Aman (Dua) through Citizen group in Punjab activities and briefed about the new activities. Through this workshop AF developed a network for Dar-ul-Aman with the potential partners (Govt. Organizations and civil societies). Follow-up plan/schedule developed with district representatives according to their availability. A form was developed by project team for record and follow-up of referral cases shared with participants.
3. A number of Consultative Meetings were held in May with institutions and individuals for project advisory committee.
4. Consultation & Sensitization Meetings were held regularly in all the chosen UCs with stakeholders such as women councillors, media, lawyers, bar associations, elected representatives NGOs, health departments, representatives DUA, town councillors etc. Issues such as how to improve the Duas, simple information material and visiting rights of the media; sensitisation on violence against women; role of Nazims; strong referral systems; links with Misalhati-e-Anjuman; rehabilitation of survivors; 12 consultation meetings with Councilors, Nazims and 12 Sensitization meetings with Media and other community groups.
5. Project coordination meetings were held with AF team, GTZ, Women Protection Project, MDM and other relevant stakeholders in August 07, October 07, November 07, December 07, January 08, March 08 to share experiences and findings and to clarify AF's role and activities that are being carried out.

6. 12 exposure visits were conducted of different DuAs across Punjab throughout the project.
7. Follow up visits were also regularly conducted to maintain liaisons with DuA management and explore for future needs. Strategy of follow up mechanism of DUA could be helpful for resolving management issues inside DUAs, management system is very weak and they are being considered as sub jail due to these management constraints for attitudes of managers towards survivors are negative , these could be monitor by DUA project team.
8. Two 3-day thematic training workshops were held (23-25 June 08 in Multan; 27-29 Feb 08 in Rawalpindi) with district partners & stakeholders of 12 districts of Punjab. The themes mainly focused on violence against women and DuA guidelines. Discussions included rights, women's rights and power relationship in patriarchal society etc. Other topics included therapeutic community, morning meetings and counseling.
9. The Advisory Committee of the DuA project met to discuss the shape and formulation of the project and its activities (4th Sept 2007; 13th November 2007).
10. Other activities included the establishment of an DuA Advisory Desk and identification of at least 12 net-working partners to support DuAs at the district level.
11. In 12 districts of Punjab, media high lighted issue of GBV gave coverage to each district level activities focusing image building of DUAs and also other activities such as pane flex on rickshaws.
12. Referral services based on the AF's original practice of legal referral services this concept and practice was inbuilt in this referral services of DUA project, initially a referral services form was developed for the survivors of GBV , to get their cases details and their particulars and refer them accordingly for legal help and to get shelter, other forms of referral services is based on case or any quarries from the district partners or any phone calls to get information about shelter houses or family laws this is also an effective source of developing linkages among the DUAs and all the stake holders.
13. Liaising: DUA project liaison officer had constant effort of liasoning with the district partners , DUA among GTZ-WPP office , intra office personals project directors and project team regarding the project activities, correspondence , telephoning, field visits and arrangements of work shop meetings report writing , dealing with logistic and accounts/budgeting for the activities. There was a very active role played by resource persons.
14. Setting up of free information desk at district level: these desks are set up in four districts Lahore, DG Khan, Rajan pur, and Muzzafar Garh. In district Lahore information desk were set up at civil court and Lahore high court. In far fling districts like Rajan pur and DG Khan setting up of information desk was the initiative of CACs coordinator through their legal Aid committee. Lawyer's panel of these districts offered to use their chambers and set up information desk to give information on

15. A large amount of material was also developed and widely disseminated under this project which included 6 pamphlets of family laws and violence against women; 2 posters on ethics of Dar-ul-Aman management and other institutions dealing with women survivors; 4 Pana flux for awareness raising against violence against women; 1 flyer on Good Image of DUA; family laws audio cassettes in Urdu and Punjabi; and thematic training manual for the capacity building of stakeholders to strengthening DUA.

The project is continuing therefore a number of activities are still in progress or are to be done within the remaining project duration.

