

October 20, 2017

Dear Mr. Haug,

UNDP is pleased to share the Annual Progress Report (July 2016-July 2017) of the Youth and Social Cohesion Project, funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The report contains an overview of UNDP's efforts to strengthen social cohesion and enhance the economic potential of youth in some of the most deprived and underdeveloped areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The report also highlights our efforts to institutionalize informed decision-making on peace building in the province through partnerships and collaboration with relevant government departments and academic institutions involved in peace building initiatives in the province.

The project has made considerable headway in creating openings for innovatively engaging young people in initiatives that instill qualities of leadership and tolerance. All this has been achieved in close coordination and collaboration with the provincial government, particularly the departments of Planning and Development and Home and Tribal Affairs. In order to continue with its efforts of empowering marginalized young people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UNDP is actively mobilizing resources to ensure that the momentum gained during the last two years is sustained and communities are able to take ownership of the development work that they have overseen during the implementation stage.

We would like to request for release of remainder of the funds (amounting to NOK 3,500,000). This will allow the project to continue with its current momentum and finalize all planned activities within the given timeframe.

Please note that the amount should be disbursed to the below bank account;

Bank Name: DNB Bank ASA
Address: Stranden 21, Aker Brygge, 0021 Oslo, Norway
Account Title: UNDP contributions (NOK)
Account Number: 7001-02-43287
IBAN Number: NO4370010243287
SWIFT: DNBANOKK
Bank Code: 00019
Account Code: 1001

Yours sincerely,



Ignacio Artaza
Country Director

Enclosure; Project Progress Report July 2016-July 2017

Mr. Arne Haug
Development Counselor
Royal Norwegian Embassy
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Islamabad



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DP

Pakistan



PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT-

JULY 2016-JULY 2017

Youth and Social Cohesion Project



A. Project Background

The second half of the last decade brought immense suffering for the people of Pakistan in the form of natural and man-made disasters. The latter have especially compounded the existing development challenges in the country by underscoring the need to secure sustainable peace in some of the most deprived and underdeveloped areas of the country including Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). These developments are taking place in the context of major shifts in the demographics of Pakistan with young people between 15 and 29 years forming around 31% of the population. This upsurge in the population of young people offers both opportunities and challenges. In this regard, youth centric development hinging on opportunities for economic growth and personal development can be instrumental in creating a cohort of constructively engaged youth who can lead the country towards a prosperous and progressive future.

UNDP Pakistan is implementing the Youth and Social Cohesion Project which aims at improving the state of young people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through *institutional strengthening and grassroots development*. The project is in line with the *UN Strategic Plan 2014-2017* which calls for a 'stronger focus on youth in development'¹. It also compliments *Pakistan's Vision 2025* roadmap which sets forth proposals for 'a rapid scaling up of investments' in the realm of youth development (among others)². The *institutional component* of the project supports informed decision-making at the government level through collaborative research studies, development of an open source Virtual Platform for Peace and Development (VPPD), and creation of platforms for exchange of knowledge and information between government departments, civil society organizations, and national and international institutes of higher learning.

The *grassroots component* includes development interventions in some of the most deprived and underdeveloped areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These focus on community mobilisation, small scale infrastructure support, livelihoods and mentorship trainings for youth, and establishment of multi-function community centres that serve as hubs of sports, cultural, and recreational activities. This report sheds light on the project's achievements in terms of implementing and/or completing the above mentioned activities during the *reporting period (July 2016-July 2017)*. The project has engaged a reputed consulting firm to undertake a counter-factual research to gauge the project's impacts in terms of strengthening social cohesion in the target areas. The baseline for the assessment has been completed; the end line study will be conducted in 2018, providing a comparative assessment of the project's impacts.

B. Youth and Social Cohesion Project Progress (July 2016- July 2017)

Output1: Enhanced understanding among institutions and civil society organizations regarding the drivers of violence and conflict amongst youth.

Research

- 1- During the period (July 2016- July 2017) UNDP prepared final versions of the research studies completed in collaboration with academics from the Department of Political Science at the

¹ UNDP (2013) 'Our Strategic Setting' published in the 'UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017' (source: [file:///C:/Users/hamza.hasan/Downloads/UNDP_strategic-plan_14-17_v9_web%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/hamza.hasan/Downloads/UNDP_strategic-plan_14-17_v9_web%20(1).pdf)). Accessed on October 4, 2017.

² Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform (2014) 'Executive Summary' published in *Vision 2025: One Nation-One Vision*. (source: <http://pc.gov.pk/uploads/vision2025/Vision-2025-Executive-Summary.pdf>).

University of Peshawar. The shorter versions of the researches entitled '*Susceptibility to Radicalization and Violence among Youth in D.I. Khan*' and '*Radicalization and Female Students in Pakistan: A Case Study of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Universities*'³ include selected findings on the possible factors that determine social cohesion among youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The former study reveals how shifts in national and international politics affect young people in areas with complex ethnic and sectarian fault lines. The research also sheds light on the limited social and recreational space for young people in the district in fluctuating political and economic contexts. These factors have severely curtailed opportunities for young people's economic growth and personal development and undermined social cohesion in D.I. Khan⁴. The study on radicalisation amongst female university students highlights the penetration of obscurantist world views in this vital demographic and outlines some corrective measures to address the trend⁵. During the design and analysis phase of these studies, researchers from the University of Peshawar were supported by specialists from the *Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)*. Their technical inputs improved the capacities of local researchers and helped them to undertake technically sound and robust researches exploring multi-layered factors that determine peace and social cohesion in complex social environments.

- 2- During the reporting period, UNDP also concluded a comprehensive *Conflict Mapping Research* to understand the contours of strife in four districts of Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (D.I. Khan, Tank, Lakki Marwat, and Karak). These districts share borders, lie in the vicinity of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and have some of the lowest development indicators in the province⁶. The study is useful in two respects; first, at a more immediate level, data and knowledge generated from the project will be utilized to inform project design and expansion in the next phase⁷; second, the research findings will be disseminated to policy makers in the *Home and Tribal Affairs Department and the Planning and Development Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa* to ensure that local social, economic, and political dynamics are taken into account while planning and/or implementing peace building interventions in the targeted districts.
- 3- An impact assessment has been commissioned to measure the impacts of the project in terms of strengthening social cohesion in the target areas. The study is based on a robust counterfactual research design which was developed in collaboration with academics from the Yale University US and Warwick University, UK. The baseline phase of the research has been

³ An abridged version of the research was shared with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in October 2017.

⁴ Raza, S. (2016) 'Research Findings' included in *Susceptibility to Violence and Radicalization among Youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa* (unpublished short version).

⁵ Aman, S. (2016) 'Radicalization and Female Students in Pakistan: A Case Study of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Universities' unpublished short version.

⁶ The World Bank (2012) 'Emergency Project Paper on a Proposed Grant in the amount of US\$ 18 million under the Multi Donor Trust Fund for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Balochistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for a KP Southern Area Development Project' (source: http://sadb.gkp.pk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/KP_SADP_EPP.pdf).

⁷ Project expansion in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018 will be informed by the research.

completed to benchmark critical indicators for impact depth and scope of project activities; an end line survey will be conducted in 2018 to provide an assessment of the intervention's impacts on the intended beneficiaries in line with the project's theory of change.

#	AWP Targets	Achievements (July 2016- July 2017)	C-Total	% of Achievement
1	Complete 3 researches on youth and social cohesion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3	3	100%

Partnerships

The project has developed linkages/partnerships with reputable research institutes and international universities to leverage their research expertise in the areas of peacebuilding and socio-economic development. In this regard, the project has signed MoUs with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway and the University of Durham, UK. These partnerships have paved the way for the transfer of skills and knowledge from international centres of excellence on peace building to local actors. Following a guest lecture by Dr. Stephen. M. Lyon, Deputy Director of the Durham Global Security Institute in April, 2016, UNDP invited academics and research experts from PRIO to conduct a two capacity development workshop on research and academic writing skills with students and faculty members of the University of Peshawar: the workshop was organized in August- September 2016. In addition to this, PRIO has engaged with academics, development practitioners, government functionaries, and donor organizations and contributed to expert analysis and discussions on peace and development. Furthermore, experts from the Institute have provided useful feedback and advice to academics from the Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar to help define their research designs and methodologies.

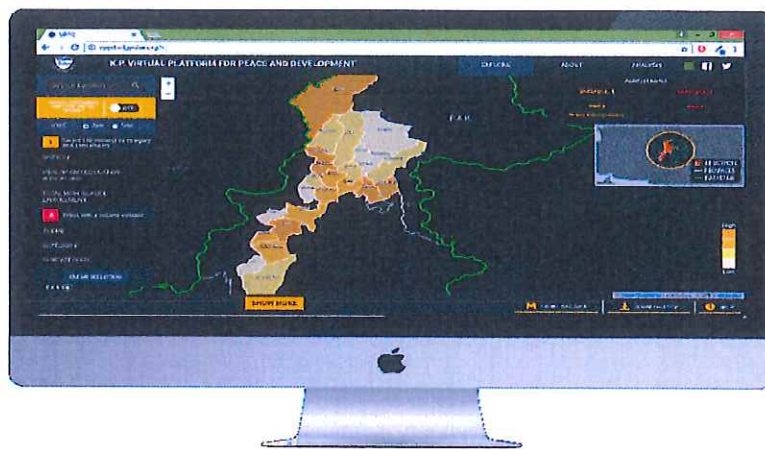
In October 2016, the project organized a guest lecture by Dr. Hassan Abbas, a renowned academic and expert on Pakistan, teaching at the National Defence University, Washington D.C. for interactive sessions on 'Peace Building in the Age of Insecurity'. The audiences for the sessions included representatives from development partners and UNDP. Dr. Abbas provided a summary of his presentation in an article focussing on the social and political determinants of peace. The article also provided an overview of the possible actions that the government and civil society in Pakistan can take to strengthen social cohesion among youth in the country.

VPPD

Throughout the reporting period, the VPPD Unit at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), University of Peshawar, continued to develop the open source VPPD Platform. The Platform connects, analyses, and visualizes disparate information on peace and development in the form of tables and graphs to provide useful information (for informed decision making) to policy makers from the home

and tribal affairs and planning and development departments, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The following new developments have taken place during the reporting period;

1. The Platform has been operationalized and available online (vppd.sdgpulse.org). It hosts open source information from reliable national (Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies database) and international databases (ACLED database). District profiles are being created based on information collected from local newspapers. This initiative is being implemented through student interns who are tasked with collecting, collating, and geo-tagging incidents (disruptions in peace) reported in local print media. The information is then uploaded on the Platform by the software team.



Pic 1: VPPD- Layout

2. A total of six analytical reports exploring relationships between development and peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially its southern districts have been uploaded on the VPPD website (link given above). In addition, a trends analysis report, analysing incident patterns in D.I. Khan over a period of six months has also been developed. These studies will be used by policy makers in the Home and Tribal Affairs Department and the Planning and Development Department to design and implement peace building initiatives.
3. The project has taken significant steps to network the platform with relevant government departments, civil society organizations, and donor agencies. After the soft launch of the Platform in May 2016, another formal launch was undertaken in December 2016 on the inauguration of the new Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) department building. Furthermore, the Platform was presented at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Digital Youth summit followed by a special presentation for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board who are also interested in developing a similar software to measure and monitor development in the province. Finally, the Home and Tribal Affairs Department has started sending selected staff members to learn about the functions and applications of the platform; this will help in ensuring the sustainability of the Platform after the end of UNDP's support.

Output 2: Social Cohesion and community resilience strengthened in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Community Organisation

An extensive community mobilization effort targeting both male and female residents underpins the project's strategy in the target areas. In this regard, the mobilisation of men and women in the target villages to form Community Organisations (COs), including both Men's Community Organisations (MCOs), Women's Community Organizations (WCOs) and Local Support Organizations⁸ (LSOs) allows them to identify development priorities, mobilise village resources, and take ownership of the initiatives aimed at uplifting their living standards by strengthening social cohesion. Moreover, community mobilisation has provided opportunities to the youth of the intervention areas to assume leadership roles in overseeing development work in their villages. The table below presents the latest figures from two target Union Councils of D.I. Khan. The project relied on existing networks developed by CSOs in Bannu to reduce mobilization efforts and achieve targets in a relatively shorter period of time; the same strategy will be replicated during the project expansion phase.



Pic 2: Social Mobilization Meeting, Bannu

Union Council Musa Zai, D. I. Khan				
Community Organizations (COs)	WCOs ⁹	MCOs ¹⁰	LSOs ¹¹	
Number of COs	18	16	4	
General Body Members	328	226	554	
Executive Body Members	90	80	170	
Total Members	418	306	724	
Union Council Zandani, D.I. Khan				
Community Organizations (COs)	WCOs	MCOs	LSOs	
Number of COs	12	13	1	
General Body Members	560	819	1379	
Executive Body Members	60	65	125	
Total Members	620	884	1,504	
Total Formation				
Total COs	WCOs	MCOs	LSOs	
	30	29	5	
Total Members	1,038	1,190	2,228	

⁸ LSOs consist of selected members of MCOs and WCOs from a cluster of villages. They are the apex representative body of community members for a group of villages.

⁹ Women's Community Organizations.

¹⁰ Men's Community Organizations.

¹¹ Local Support Organizations.

Skills Development and Mentorship Trainings

The project also launched partnerships and activities that sought to generate meaningful and sustainable livelihoods along with support services for vulnerable youth in the project's target communities. Specifically, the project launched market-driven skills development services, mentorship services, and sports opportunities for local youth.

- 1- **Skills Development Trainings:** UNDP partnered with Empowerment thru Creative Integration (ECI), a local private organization, to deliver market/demand driven skills trainings to local youth in the target villages of D.I. Khan and Bannu. The trainings were preceded by market assessments, orientation sessions with beneficiary communities, and selection of interested trainees/youth (young men and women) based on their interest in a particular training programme. The trainings imparted to youth from the target villages of D.I. Khan and Bannu included computer literacy, beautician course, tunnel farming, commercial tailoring, grocery trading, livestock management, and basic entrepreneurship.



Pic 3: Skills training, D.I. Khan

UNDP initially planned two trainings for the youth in target villages of D.I. Khan (targetting 40-50 young men and women) during the reporting period. However, the training component had to be expanded in light of the positive feedback and increased demands from local communities. During the *reporting period a total of 10 training sessions were organized to benefit 141 young men and women from the target villages* (breakdown in Annexure 1). In July 2017, UNDP conducted a telephone survey with randomly selected male and female beneficiaries of the skills training programme to assess the impact of the component in terms of creating opportunities for income generation. *The survey revealed that almost one third of the total respondents (40 contacted from Bannu and D.I. Khan) had started small scale enterprises after completing their trainings with UNDP.* The small scale enterprises set by the beneficiaries included home based beauty parlours, tailoring businesses, and shops.

Testimonial

I always thought that physical disability will keep me dependent on others for support. I am thankful to UNDP for providing me with an opportunity to earn my own money- now I am also a pillar of financial support for my family (Samiullah- A 23 year old beneficiary of trainings on tailoring skills)

#	AWP Targets	Achievements (July 2016- July 2017)	C-Total	% of Achievement
1	Conduct skills trainings for 600 youth	160	310	52%

- 2- **Mentorship Trainings:** Mentorship trainings were implemented in collaboration with Act-International, a local NGO. These trainings aimed at strengthening youth led social cohesion by

imparting young people with the necessary skills and knowledge that could be instrumental in improving their social skills, increasing their success in a highly competitive job market, and building their interest in community development. The mentorship trainings included courses sessions on life skills, leadership, and conflict resolution. These trainings have been instrumental in developing a sense of public good among the beneficiaries whereby the youth beneficiaries of this intervention started implementing community development plans after the completion of their trainings.

Youth groups have played a leading role in identifying and overseeing small scale infrastructure support initiatives in their villages. During the implementation period, a youth group from the Village Ruknao in UC Zandani, D.I. Khan formulated a development plan to set up a drinking water supply scheme in their village; the initiative benefitted more than 200 residents of the settlement.

Testimonials

- *Our goal is to provide basic services to our community through collective action for development. We only need an opportunity to organize ourselves; we are thankful to UNDP for providing us with this opportunity. (President of Youth Group Village Ruknao)*
- *I am very thankful to UNDP for giving me this opportunity to express myself. Participation in this drawing competition has boosted my confidence; it has also proved that if given an opportunity, differently abled persons can also prove their mettle in different fields. (Iqra Maryam- a visually impaired beneficiary of the mentorship initiative)*

#	AWP Targets	Achievements (July 2016- July 2017)	C-Total	% of Achievement
1	Undertake mentorship programme for 500 youth	1694	1938	100% (239 variance)

Skills Development Trainings

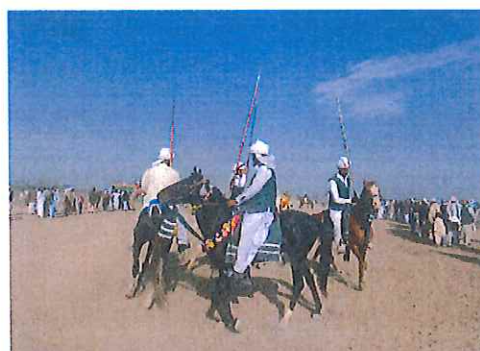
Sr. No	May 2017	2016-April	Men	Women	Total
1			71	70	141
2					

Mentorship Trainings

Sr. No	May 2017	2016-April	Men	Women	Total
1			1,152	542	1,694
2					

A detailed list of project beneficiaries along with the types of skills trainings and mentorship trainings is provided in **Annexures 1 and 2**.

- 3- Sports and Recreational Activities:** Sports and recreational activities provide young people with healthy alternatives to potentially aggressive and anti-social behaviours. In areas like D.I. Khan and Bannu a sense of team work, positive competition, and cooperation engendered by participation in sports and extra-curricular activities can strengthen social cohesion. The project collaborated with Zaaan Communications, a local NGO specializing in youth engagement through sports and extra-curricular activities to organize village level sports competitions.



Pic 4: Aspaan Festival, D.I.Khan

Furthermore, the project organized cultural festivals to revive an indigenous counter-narrative of peace, tolerance, and inclusiveness in the project areas. As of July 2017, a total of **5,000 youth participated** in sports competitions while more than 90,000 attended sports events and cultural festivals organized by UNDP.

During the reporting period, UNDP organized street theatre performances in three villages of D.I. Khan. The activity was organized in collaboration with the students and staff of the dramatics society of the University of Peshawar. The performances highlighted the role of traditional festivals and cultural activities in strengthening social cohesion among communities. The highlight of the reporting period was a sports competition organized by a WCO in village Fateh, UC Zandani, D.I. Khan which helped in ending a long standing dispute between members of opposing sects.

Testimonials

- *'We can overcome our differences and misunderstanding by learning more about each other and by jointly participating in activities which foster teamwork, creativity, and inclusivity' (School Principal Government Girls High School Fateh)*
- *People of this area have been living in fear for a very long time. They have a lot to say but cannot express these fears. They need a medium to convey their feelings. I think that the theatre performance today helped them voice their feelings. I think that similar performances in future will allow local youth to explore their talent and raise their voice through the medium of theatre (Sheikh Mehboob- Resident of Musa Zai Sharif).*

#	AWP Targets	Achievements (July 2016- July 2017)	C-Total	% of Achievement
1	Organize sports and recreational	4,022	101,023	67%

activities for up
to 150,000
youth

Small Scale Infrastructural Support and Multi-functional Community Centres

Small scale infrastructural support and establishment of multi-functional community centres provide deprived communities with much needed access to basic services and a public space for organizing cultural, recreational, and development related activities. A brief overview of the two is provided below;

Small scale infrastructural support interventions include paved streets, drainage systems, water supply schemes, and rehabilitation of Basic Health Units (BHUs) in the target villages of D.I. Khan and Bannu. These interventions acted as a gateway for initiating 'softer' initiatives aimed at positively engaging young people.



Pic 5: Water Supply Scheme Garha Meherban, D.I. Khan

Also, the infrastructure support component interventions were identified by members of the village level community organizations and their implementation was overseen by members of the beneficiary communities in line with the principles of participatory development. As of July 2017, a total of 28 small scale infrastructure schemes have been implemented in 14 villages of D.I. Khan and Bannu.

Multi-function community centres serve as hubs of village level cultural, recreational, and development related activities. These centres were established in collaboration with Heritage Foundation Pakistan (HFP), an organization renowned for constructing disaster resistant eco-friendly structures in crisis prone areas. A total of 6 community centres have been established as of July 2017; these include 4 eco-friendly structures constructed by HFP (UCs Musa Zai and Zandani, D.I. Khan), a new building set up by a local contractor (Musa Zai Sharif, D.I. Khan), and a government building (sports complex in Bannu) renovated by UNDP. The Project is now exploring opportunities for partnering with a relevant government department (*District Sports Departments, District Administration*) to take formal ownership of the community centres in D.I. Khan for long term sustainability of the initiative.



Pic 6: Community Center Garha Sheikh, D.I.Khan

The infrastructure support schemes have benefitted nearly 33,000 beneficiaries in the target villages of D.I. Khan by providing them with clean drinking water, improved health services (rehabilitation of Basic Health Unit), better mobility and access (paved streets), and safety from water and vector borne diseases (drainage systems). All training and mentorship activities under YSCP were organized in the multi-function

community centres; youth from local communities regularly gather in the community centres to use its resource centres (equipped with computers and books) and sports facilities.

Testimonials

- *The water pump is helping all residents to access clean drinking water, we no longer share our drinking water source with animals'. (Male LSO member Village Garha Mir Alam)*

#	AWP Targets	Achievements (July 2016- July 2017)	C-Total	% of Achievement
1	Rehabilitate 27 infrastructure schemes	10	27	100%
2	Construct and operationalize 6 community centres	4	6	100%

Communications Strategy

The Project Management Plan of the YSCP has an extensive communications component tasked with highlighting project achievements. These are highlighted in human interest stories/case studies, documentaries, and news articles which are shared with the communications unit for hosting on UNDP website. A brief overview of the communications material produced during project implementation is given below;

1. A total of 16 case studies/human interest stories have been developed since 2015. The case stories has focused on the impacts of UNDP's interventions on the target communities, and have been shared with the communications unit for hosting on UNDP Pakistan website.

UNDP-YSCP: Selected Human Interest Stories Links

- 1- *Progressing towards Peace and Development*
<http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/successstories/progressing-towards-peace-and-development-.html>
- 2- *Community Mobilization to Support Solar Water Supply in D.I. Khan*
<http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/successstories/community-mobilization-to-install-solar-water-supply-in-d-i-khan.html>
- 3- *Theatre Performance in D.I. Khan*
<http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/successstories/theatre-performance-in-dera-ismail-khan.html>
- 4- *Conflict Resolution in Villages Garha Jutt and Garha Dasti*
<http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/successstories/conflict-resolution-villages-garha-jutt-and-garha-dasti-of-de.html>

5- *After years of Insecurity, a Traditional Fair brings D.I. Khan Together*

<http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecoverysuccessstories/after-years-of-insecurity--a-traditional-fair-brings-di-khan--to.html>

2. Two documentaries have been produced to highlight project achievements in D.I. Khan. The content of the documentaries has been shared below;
 - a) *'A New Dawn'- a three minute documentary dealing with the UNDP's work in D.I. Khan has been produced and shared with key stakeholders.*
 - b) *A one and a half minute interview of Ms. Yasmin Lari, Chief of the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan, depicting UNDP's partnership has been produced.*
3. Project briefs and info-graphs have been developed to provide project beneficiaries, donors, and other interested parties with short overviews of project design and achievements respectively. In this regard, the number and types of documents produced are given below;
 - a) *A total of 19 community of practice meetings have been organized under the YSCP since January 2015. These meetings provide a platform for likeminded organizations, working on peace and development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (and elsewhere in Pakistan) to share their knowledge and experience with their counterparts. The communications focal point at YSCP is responsible for coordinating with network members for upcoming events and for recording the minutes of these meetings.*
 - b) *UNDP Pakistan invited Dr. Hassan Abbas, Carnegie Fellow at New America, Professor and Chair of the Department of Regional and Analytical Studies at the National Defence University, Washington D.C.. The session held on 3 October 2016 engaged 23 civil society activists and representatives from international donor organizations involved in peace and development work in the country. The event focused on the political and social determinants of peace and social cohesion in Pakistan and provided a useful context for development actors engaged in peacebuilding work.*

Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

Since 2016, YSCP is part of the Youth Empowerment Programme, an umbrella strategy encompassing UNDP's work on young people in Pakistan. The Programme comprises YSCP (**USD 2.9 million-RNE funding**), the Youth Employment Project in Karachi (**USD 4 million till date- USAID funding**), and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Economic Development projects (both funded by UNDP with a total budget of UNDP 2.5 million). All of these projects aim at uplifting the state of young people in deprived areas through interventions that provide pathways for economic growth and personal development. Under the Youth Empowerment Programme, **PC15** (Government Project Document Formats) have been submitted to the governments of Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; in this regard, YSCP has been able to **secure USD 2.4 million** to establish camping villages and train youth on livelihood skills and entrepreneurship in selected tourist destinations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

YSCP has also engaged the **Government of Japan (USD 3.5 million proposed)** and the **Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) (RBAP Funds- USD 500,000)** for additional funds to focus on building peace and social cohesion in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In addition, MoUs have been signed with the National Bank of Pakistan (under the Prime Minister Youth Programme) and Telenor Pakistan to

jointly work towards providing young people with opportunities for economic empowerment and constructive engagement. The Programme has also signed a MoU with Microsoft. The partnership will help in equipping young people (from UNDP intervention areas) with the necessary skills and knowledge to generate income in an increasingly competitive market environment by using Information Technology. UNDP has also started an innovation challenge which involves disbursement of grants to youth groups in the target villages to encourage them to organize activities which promote social cohesion in their villages.

Challenges

- Considerable negotiations were required to arrive at the final versions of the collaborative research studies which maintained a balance between academic rigour and pragmatic policy considerations.
- Local research consulting firms lack the capacity to undertake complex analyses of large datasets and produce a final product that meets UNDP quality standards.
- The buildings of some eco-friendly community centres established by the Heritage Foundation Pakistan in D.I. Khan were repeatedly damaged by rains and windstorms.
- Incident mapping remains a sensitive area of intervention for development agencies and requires complex negotiations with multiple stakeholders with varying interests and consensus related to the usefulness of these activities.
- Office bearers of WCOs and MCOs sometimes tried to use their influence for personal benefits.
- The impact of 'soft' interventions aimed at strengthening social cohesion can only be measured by employing complex behavioural methodologies and insights. The academics and students from the University of Peshawar require exposure to cutting edge theoretical and practical knowledge in this domain.

Future Course of Action

- The *VPPD Platform* will be networked among relevant government departments and academic institutes through workshops and orientation sessions on a quarterly basis. Design modifications will be introduced in the software to facilitate enhanced user interface whereby academics and interested parties can produce info-graphs and analyses exploring relationships between different variables with a bearing on peace and development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This will make the platform more accessible for the government, civil society organizations, and the general public.
- UNDP will organize research and capacity development workshops for the staff and students of its partner universities in Pakistan in collaboration with reputable international institutes of higher learning (PRIO, University of Durham, UK).
- The project will assist the government in developing a streamlined and development oriented approach/policy to address the challenges of youth bulge and social cohesion in Pakistan.
- The project will expand its existing partnership base to include youth groups that are actively involved in promoting peace and development at the local level. Other potential partners will include private sector organizations with reputable *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)* portfolios.

- An *alternative messaging campaign* will be launched on social media and (possibly) mainstream electronic media to promote values of peace, tolerance, and inclusiveness among a growing mass of young people who are vulnerable to becoming radicalised.
- UNDP will hire the services of reputable research consulting firms to collect data for its future research endeavours. The research design and report writing will be done by UNDP staff.
- A meeting schedule will be finalized and shared with UNDP partners (Home and Tribal Affairs Department and University of Peshawar) to collaboratively address future challenges in project implementation.
- UNDP will rely on existing community groups in future mobilization efforts. This will help in the timely implementation of all project activities without relying on a large team of social organizers at the community level.

Annexure 1: Detailed Breakdown of Skills Training in D.I. Khan and Bannu (July 2016-March 2017)

No.	Training Title	Dates	District	Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1	Basic Computer Literacy	July 19- Aug 7, 2016	D.I. Khan	21	-	21
2	Beautician	Sept 22- Oct 11, 2016	D.I. Khan	-	12	12
3	Commercial Tailoring	Sept 22- Oct 11, 2016	D.I. Khan	-	16	16
4	Basic Computer Literacy	Oct 20- Nov 8, 2016	Bannu	15	-	15
5	Commercial Tailoring	Oct 20- Nov 8, 2016	Bannu	-	14	14
6	Beautician	Oct 28- Nov 16, 2016	Bannu	-	12	12
7	Commercial Tailoring	Oct 28- Nov 16, 2016	Bannu	18	-	18
8	Beautician	Dec 2- Dec 28, 2016	D.I. Khan	-	14	14
9	Electrician	Apr 12- Apr 26, 2017	Bannu	15	-	15
10	Training of Trainers (ToT) on Enterprise Development	Mar 27- Mar 31, 2017	D.I. Khan	2	2	4
<i>Total</i>				71	70	141

Annexure 2: Detailed Breakdown of Mentorship Trainings in D. I. Khan and Bannu
(August 2016- April 2017)

Results	Total target of phase-2			During the month achievements			Cumulative results to date (start of phase- end of phase)			% achieved
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	
Number of people attended mentorship sessions	1152	542	1694	206	97	303	1133	533	1666	98%
Number of social action plans developed	12	06	18	4	2	6	16	08	24	133%
Number of social action plans implemented	12	06	18	2	2	4	12	06	18	100%