



Our Vision

A democratic and just society that guarantees rights, respect and dignity of all individuals.

Our Mission

TDEA-FAFEN strives to strengthen public accountabilities by enhancing capability of citizens' associations to work for civil liberties, improved governance, democracy and peace in Pakistan.

Citizens Action for Democratic Governance in Pakistan (CADGP)

Highlights for Upcoming Months

- FAFEN will identify, cluster and train 1,140 representatives of civil society organizations, including professional associations at the district and regional level to raise demands for electoral and parliamentary governance by forming the district and regional Governance Support Groups.
- FAFEN will mobilize and educate voters, especially women and minority in 300 polling areas in 33 project districts across Sindh and Punjab.
- FAFEN will train 3,000 observers to observe Local Government elections in Sindh and Punjab.
- FAFEN will train marginalized contesting candidates from 33 districts of Sindh and Punjab in Local Government elections.

FAFEN NEWS ALERT

A FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 1, 2015

FAFEN Organizes Candidates Facilitation Camps

Rukhsana Shama

FAFEN is implementing the Citizens Action for Democratic Governance in Pakistan (CADGP) project in 48 districts of Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The project is being implemented by 30 partner organizations. A series of training sessions have been organized by FAFEN to orient the partner organizations about the project objectives and main activities.

In the initial phase, partner organizations planned candidates' facilitation camps in 16 districts of Sindh and Punjab. However, due to the approval issues of district government, the partners were not successful in organizing the candidates' facilitation camps in all selected districts.

The candidates' facilitation camps were organized outside the District Election Commissioner office at the time of nomination process. A total of five camps were planned in each



district. On each camp social mobilizer facilitated the candidates by providing all necessary help in submitting the nomination forms. The social mobiliser also offered training session on election education to women, peasant workers, youth and minorities on the finalization of their nomination process.

The social mobilizer specifically facilitated the women, peasants, workers, youth and minority in filling out the nomination forms. However, during the facilitation camps, it was observed that the ratios of such candidates were less in submitting the nominations forms.

FAFEN partners have shared the success story of Mandi Bahauddin where they have organized eight candidates' camps and facilitated 808 candidates. Although the women candidates were few in number but the strength of peasant candidates were higher in submitting the nominations forms.



Partner Organizations Get Grants

Ghulam Ahmed

FAFEN has finalized the grants of 30 partner organizations under its program, Citizens Action for Democratic Governance in Pakistan. The project duration is 11 months and it is being implemented in 48 districts of Sindh, Balochistan, KP and Punjab.

In Punjab, Awaz, Pattan, PLS, Sangat, SPO, Befare, CPDI, PRWSWO, Suddhar, and Bedari are implementing the project in different districts such as Rawalpindi, Okara, Chiniot, Jhang, Sargodha, Toba Tek Singh, D G Khan, Sheikhpura, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Rahimyar Khan, Attock, Vehari, Narowal, Pakpattan, Lodhran, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar and Khanewal.

In Sindh IRC, MWDO, PPF, Baahnhan Beli, Devcon and Paiman are implementing the project in Naushero Feorze, Dadu, Ghotki, Jamshoro, Larkana, Hyderabad, TM Khan, Thattha, Mirpurkhas, Tharparker and Umerkot.

The CADGP aims to develop new approach to citizens' engagement with the electoral processes that seeks to work closely with political stakeholders at the district, provincial and regional levels and investments in

Punjab: AWAZ, PATTAN, PLS, SANGAT-New, SPO, BEFARe, CPDI, PRWSWO, SUDHAAR, Bedari

Sindh: IRC, MWDO, PPF, BB, DEVCON, PAIMAN, CARAVAN

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: ACE, IRSP, URDO, STEP, AWARD, SUNGI, KK, CDP

Balochistan: CPD, CRD, Legend Society, Youth, Taraqee

sustainable relationships with election administration and relevant public sector organizations for improved enforcement of electoral laws and regulations as well as to develop a greater buy-in for reforms.

The partner organizations will mobilize, train and facilitate voter and candidates by organizing the facilitation camps and trainings. The partners will also play an important role in increasing the turnout of women and marginalized voters. They will also advocate about parliamentary and electoral reforms at district and provincial level by applying different advocacy tools (electronic and social media campaign, public petition and awareness seminars.) The CADGP initiative will play an important role in improving the electoral, legislative and local governance in Pakistan with the support of its implementing partners.

Transparent Electoral Reform Process in Pakistan

Zartasha Niazi

After the 2013 general elections, it was the realization for the first time that women and youth effectively participated by showing their keen interest toward the democratic system. Now the citizens are politically aware and taking keen interest in the debate to fix the election system by holding accountable all democratic institutions. A number of moves have been initiated to advocate for the electoral reform process. Since 2008, FAFEN is playing an important role in identifying systematic flaws and have suggested a number of electoral reforms for holding free and fair elections in Pakistan.

A major role has also been played by the private media channels in transforming the political scenario and educating people on their political rights. There are a number of reasons that really help transform the system and more importantly it is the constitutional amendments that reconfigure electoral institutions, technical improvements such as the computerization of electoral rolls are also great contribution of the electronic, print and social media. In this new media and political environment, public expectations in the realm of elections has increased manifold. As a result, Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms (PCER)

was formed only after pressure from the civil society, media and the political parties.

Since the PCER was formed, it has received hundreds of suggestions but the committee is finalizing its work in closed doors and hasn't made anything substantial which is essentially raising biggest question on the process of PCER.

Few days back, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar told media that the committee had completed 80 % of its work but that only covers the review of six major electoral laws, including the Delimitation of Constituencies Act 1974, Electoral Rolls Act 1974, Political Parties Order 2002, Allocation of Symbols Order 2002, and Election Commission Order 2002.

But in the entire process the PCER hasn't drawn any public confidence and ownership. Because any future changes in the laws will be subject to public questioning and censure, having implications on the legitimacy of elections as well as its results.



Staff trained to conduct CADGP activities

Atif Sandhu

FAFEN organized four training workshops for the project staff members hired by partner organizations (POs) under the project “Citizens Action for Democratic Governance in Pakistan (CADGP)”. The series of events kick started from September 6 and concluded on September 16, 2015.

A total of 83 participants from 30 partner organizations attended the project management training workshops held in Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Peshawar. The project management training was the first capacity building event under CADGP that took place after grant agreements were extended to partner organizations.

The overall objective of the training was to build the capacity of project staff for effective, timely and quality



implementation of CADGP activities in target districts of all the provinces. The participants were trained about overall socio-political context of the country and were apprised on electoral, legislative and local governance issues and suggested reforms agenda set by FAFEN. Local government structures, election procedures, inclusion of socially excluded classes in local government system,



CADGP components, targets and activities were also covered in the training events.

FAFEN also introduced newly developed online reporting system in the training and participants were given detailed orientation about multiple features and usage of the Grants Management Information System (GMIS) with the help of its online demo version.

Identification and facilitation of minority, youth and women candidates were other areas of high importance that were covered in the training. PO staff members designed the customized modules and training agenda in line with the needs of their respective provinces and local government structures. FAFEN Secretariat helped POs refine the “Facilitation Module” as this training module will be used in the field for candidates' facilitation during second and third phases of local government elections in Sindh and Punjab.

FAFEN designed participatory and interactive training methodology that encouraged participants to take active part during the training sessions. The participants shared their past experience and prior knowledge about the larger context and socio-political background of their respective provinces. The training teams comprised FAFEN staff that delivered the training in a friendly manner as well as successfully managed to create effective learning environment throughout the training events.

Partner organizations will receive training on pre-election, polling day and post-election observation and candidates' training as a second round of the capacity building events. This is pertinent to mention here that election related activities and training workshop will be organized for the partner organizations of Sindh and Punjab provinces due to upcoming local government elections. Second round of training workshop will commence soon after Eid-ul-Azha.

Women Come Out to Vote in Upper Dir By-Election

Staff Reporter

FAFEN observed by-election in PK-93 Upper Dir on September 15, 2015. The seat fell vacant due to the disqualification of JI's MPA Malik Behram Khan in fake degree case. In the 2013 general elections, Malik Behram Khan had won election by securing 12,894 votes while PPP's Sahibzada Sanaullah remained the runner up, bagging 9,500 votes.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced the by-election on July 29, 2015. A total of 120 polling stations were set up (14 male, 14 female and 92 combined) for 148,076 registered voters (90,368 male and 57,708 female). These polling stations had 190 male and 119 female polling booths.

FAFEN deployed 30 trained, non-partisan observers to observe the election process. The observers spent maximum time at each polling station and documented their findings on a standardized checklist based on the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1976, Conduct of Election Rules 1977 and instructional handbooks provided to the election officials by the ECP. Later, FAFEN Secretariat finalized reports on the basis of observation data collected from 71 polling stations (six male, seven female and 58 combined).

The election staff was cooperative during the whole observation exercise and no one barred the observers



from observing the electoral process. FAFEN observers, however, reported 30 instances where the election staff had filled the counterfoils in the ballot books with voter information in advance. At nine polling stations, polling staff was seen issuing ballot papers without filling the counterfoils with the required voter information.

For the first time, women voters cast their votes in the Upper Dir by-election as the turnout remained almost six percent. After almost four decades, women were allowed to vote in this area. Due to the deployment of female staff at the women polling stations, a sizeable majority of women came out and cast their votes.

FAFEN observers, however, found out the presence of armed civilians in some political party camps. Unauthorized persons wearing party badges were observed to be present inside seven polling stations. FAFEN recommends that security officials should not be deputed inside polling stations instead they should be instructed to allow local as well as international election observers to carry out their observation in a smooth manner so that transparency of voting process could be ensured. FAFEN also recommends ECP should ensure that all unauthorized personnel, campaign materials and party camps are removed from inside and around the polling stations.



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