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Gender Equity in USAID Programs

Fully including women across society is imperative for the growth and stability of Pakistan. USAID integrates a concern for gender equality into all of its programs to help build a better life for Pakistani women. Our objectives include increasing women's participation in the labor force, expanding girls' access to quality basic education, improving maternal and child health, and promoting women's rights in political, economic and social realms.



Agriculture

Through its agricultural programs USAID seeks to develop the skills of female farmers and strengthen their control over financial resources generated by their work.

- The **Rural Livelihood Development Program** in Baluchistan supports community organizations that train women in business, marketing, and agriculture.
- The **Skills-Based Dairy and Livestock Development Program** creates market linkages, trains farmers and livestock workers, and supports small businesses that produce key inputs for the dairy sector.



Democracy and Governance

A broad variety of programs under USAID's Democracy and Governance Program nurture women's development by ensuring access to fair and just democratic institutions.

- The **Gender Equity Program** seeks to increase women's rights in the workplace and community and at home. The program helps combat gender-based violence and provides grants to civic organizations promoting women's empowerment and equality.
- The **Civil Society: Citizen Voice and Accountability Program** benefits women by ensuring Pakistan's citizens have access to governmental institutions and are able to take part in decision-making processes.
- The **Municipal Services Delivery Program** helps municipalities develop procedures that further women's participation in planning, implementation, and oversight. Improvements in service delivery relieve women of household labor burdens and allow them to move more freely in their communities.
- The **Elections Program** promotes women's participation in elections and supports new voter education and registration initiatives.



Economic Opportunity

USAID's economic growth programs provide women with entrepreneurial opportunities while encouraging employers to incorporate women into their work force.

- The **ENTREPRENEURS Program** helps women-run small businesses in remote and vulnerable areas (especially Khyber Paktunkhwa) by promoting improved production, better access to key support services, and stronger links with profitable markets.



- The **Livelihoods Rehabilitation Project** helps women in conflict and flood-affected areas get back on their feet with micro-grants of seeds, agricultural tools, sewing machines, hand looms, and other supplies.
- The **Pakistan Handmade Program** provides training to small women-owned garment and craft export businesses in product development and productive relationships with international buyers.



Education

USAID's education programs help women learn by improving school infrastructure, promoting curricula that reflect gender equality, and creating conditions that encourage families to send their daughters to school and enroll in higher education.

- **Links to Learning: Education Support to Pakistan Program (Ed-Links)** renovates schools to ensure a comfortable learning environment for female students and teachers and encourages girls to participate in science and technology clubs and U.S. educational exchanges.
- **The Partnership for Women in Science and Technology** offers female students university scholarships, internships, and opportunities to take part in U.S. exchange programs.
- **The Pakistan Children's Television Program** is developing educational programs for young children and their caregivers that encourage gender equality.
- **The Pre-Service Teachers Education Program (Pre-Step)** provides scholarships for women students so they can pursue education degrees from the associate to the doctoral degree level.
- **The Merit and Needs Based Scholarship Program** provides scholarships to female students admitted to Pakistani universities in the fields of agriculture and business administration.
- **The Collaborative Capacity Building of Human Rights and Gender Program** sponsors faculty exchange between American University and the University of Peshawar to help develop the human rights and gender studies departments at the latter institution.
- **The Fulbright Scholarship Program** emphasizes gender equity in selecting candidates for Master's, Ph.D. and post-doctoral study at U.S. universities.



Energy

USAID's energy programs benefit women by expanding their access to electricity and promoting capacity-building and gender awareness in Pakistan's energy agencies.

- **High-impact dam, hydropower, and irrigation projects** increase electricity supplies in South Waziristan, FATA and Gilgit-Baltistan. More electricity benefits women by enabling improved health facilities, greater exposure to the outside world through radio and television, and increased vocational training in the use of electric tools and equipment.
- The **new dam infrastructure** also safeguards families from the effects of flash floods. Improved downstream irrigation benefits farming households, including many women farmers and traders of agricultural products.
- **Gender mainstreaming** in the Ministry of Water and Power and their relevant agencies increases awareness on gender equity issues and assist in formulating gender equity policy and action plans.



Health

USAID's health programs provide women with improved health care, especially in the areas of maternal, newborn, and child health, family planning, and infectious disease control.

- The **Family Advance for Life and Health Program (FALAH)** raises awareness about how the spacing of births affects maternal and child health. FALAH offers training to community workers and health care providers and distributes kits of essential supplies to Lady Health Workers in flood-affected areas.