



OUT OF THE 5.7 MILLION BENEFICIARIES REACHED IN THE MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND ROUND I, 48% WERE WOMEN

The MDTF works in challenging environments where access to women is limited. Even so, Round I has delivered concrete results. Now the MDTF will build on the successes of Round I, drawing lessons to increasingly mainstream gender across its portfolio. This brief highlights the key achievements in reaching out to women in Round I and describes some of the activities in Round II. It also goes beyond project indicators to illustrate how the interventions change women's lives.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Of the **602** community-based organizations (CBOs) established in KhyberPakhtunkhwa (KP), **127** are female-only CBOs. Females make up **21% (over 4,000)** of the total membership of **19,526**.
- **323** economic interest groups (EIGs) were established in KP with a membership of **2,037 (63%)** males and **1,216 (37%)** females.
- **683** community action plans were prepared in KP, of which **240** were developed by female CBOs/EIGs.
- **10** young local women are among the **42** youth interning at the project office through a Youth Internship Program piloted under the KP Southern Area Development Project.
- **7,500** citizens of Khar (**5,000** males and **2,500** females) benefitted from rehabilitated roads, provision of household water, and solid waste management.
- The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) and the provincial governments have provided matching grants to **1,471** small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in KP (**1,069**) and FATA (**402**), from which women have directly and indirectly benefitted.



HOW INTERVENTIONS CHANGE WOMEN'S LIVES

Sarwar Bibi, 50 years old, is a resident of Mandran tehsil, in D.I. Khan. She expresses excitement about the construction and rehabilitation of roads that have improved lives in her community, especially by allowing people to access health care facilities. She was involved in the development of the community action plans and explained how the women collectively prioritized improving access roads. Elected as the chairperson of Roshni Gharbi CBO, she personally supervised the construction of the roads. At a personal level, this experience increased her confidence and self-esteem, especially when the female field staff provided her some basic education that allowed her to maintain financial records for the

CBO. She was the first woman in her community nominated to present to the Commissioner in D.I. Khan the problems women face. Empowered and enabled by these opportunities, she contested the local body elections in her village.

small step produces a ripple of change that sometimes is visible as project indicators and sometimes, as for Sarwar Bibi, has a longer-term, life-changing effect.

Today, Sarwar Bibi serves as the elected lady councilor from her village and spends her time resolving issues for the local women.

This story is an example of how interventions change lives of women. Across the projects there are many women like Sarwar Bibi who are working hard toward women's social and economic empowerment. Each

Activities and implementation modalities in Round II have been designed to ensure that women's needs are prioritized. Measures taken during the first year of Round II are showing good progress toward achieving the targets for greater inclusion of women. Each project has a gender analysis and gender action plan, and sex-disaggregated data and indicators are included in the results frameworks. Some of the activities are highlighted below.

Economic Revitalization of KP and FATA

- The implementation entity (SMEDA) is delivering a series of outreach activities in KP to build the awareness of women entrepreneurs about the Matching Grants (MGs) program.
- One female member of the Grants Review and Decision Committee for KP is also the President of the Peshawar Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Of the 1,601 MGs, the project had awarded by late 2016, only 32 were for women-owned businesses. To promote women's economic empowerment, preferential treatment and more relaxed eligibility criteria for award of MGs will be applied to SMEs that employ women and to those that have or are willing to introduce women-friendly workplaces.

Governance and Policy Program

- **KP:** There has been some progress against the sex-disaggregated data and indicators in the results framework:
 - Of the citizens providing feedback on water supply and sanitation (WSS) services in the districts of Peshawar and Mansehra, 8% were women (baseline 0, target 50%).
 - The percentage of women engaged in monitoring WSS services in Peshawar and Mansehra was 33% (baseline 0, target 50%).
- **FATA:** The FATA GPP has engaged a Gender and Learning specialist to ensure gender mainstreaming in project activities. Moreover, a Gender Assessment of the FATA secretariat was carried out and the draft report shared with the teams.
- A leading woman rights activist in KP was inducted to the Project Steering Committee.

FATA Rural Livelihoods and Community Infrastructure Project

- Recent reports from the MDTF third-party monitoring agent suggest that the project implementing entities have created sufficient trust with the local communities to overcome tribal cultural norms and start targeting women directly in selected tehsils—an achievement that leads to greater access to women.

- A comprehensive study will be conducted to (a) understand local dynamics, (b) identify areas in which women's direct engagement in productive activities is possible, and (c) determine productive and income-generating activities that have the potential to effectively create livelihoods and increase women's participation in the labor force.
- The project will pilot activities that can directly target women, particularly home-based vocational training or community-based women-only vocational training centers (VTCs).

KP Southern Area Development Project

- To provide training for female beneficiaries, the project set up 17 VTCs in three districts, run and managed exclusively by the female CBOs. A systematic assessment is being made to identify how many women have benefited from these VTCs in terms of enhanced livelihoods.
- The project will continue to help women (community members and project staff) become involved in implementation activities and will ensure that these women are trained in operations and monitoring-related issues.

KP Digital Program

- For the women's empowerment pillar of the program, a website (KP Digital Woman) has been set up for women specifically. The website provides links to free trainings and courses women can take that will enable them to access free-lance work from international and local markets. The program, which expects to target at least 2000 women a year, will also provide women-friendly work centers that either are for women only or have designated spaces for women. A women-friendly center has already been established in Mardan.

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