



# Achieving Gender Equality

Women empowerment and Gender Equality are basis for sustainable and meaningful development. Achievement of these goals require sound policies, a holistic approach and long term commitment.

Enhancing participation of women in mainstream development would mean advancing development, reducing poverty and improving prospects for the next generation. Therefore, to uplift the status of women in

society, the Government of Punjab has invested in substantial initiatives for the expansion of equitable opportunities for women. Chief Minister Punjab announced Punjab Women Empowerment Package, 2016 in which Women Empowerment and Gender Equality clearly command a place of prominence among priorities of government. This is reflected in Annual Development Programs (ADP) 2016-17 of various provincial departments.

Sr. No.	DESCRIPTION	ALLOCATION (Rs. In million)
1	Integrated reproductive maternal new born and child health (IRMNCH) and nutrition program	2,500
2	Poverty alleviation of poor women through provision of Heifer and Sheep / Goat in Punjab	672
3	Establishment of 100 bedded mother & child hospital at Muree	450
4	Establishment of Mother & Child center at Bhakkar	15
5	Women Development Fund	295
6	Support for working women Hostels	100
7	Rehabilitation and improvement of Khadija-tul-Kubra female hostel complex along with construction of sports facility	97
8	Rehabilitation of Existing working women Hostels	50
9	Domestic Worker's Training Programme	20
10	Consultancy Services for Sustainable Development of Working Women Hostels (PC-II)	10
11	Establishment of 6 Sub-campuses / Women Universities	311
12	Establishment of 89 Girls colleges	1,713
13	Establishment of Center for the Survivals of Violence Against Women at Multan (VAWC)	121
14	Expansion of VAWC by upgrading the existing Dar-ul-Amans & Shaheed Benazir Bhutto women Crisis Centers in Bahawalpur, Rawalpindi districts of Punjab	34

## Developing Provincial Policy on Home Based Workers

Provincial Policy on Home Based Workers is intended to develop strategies, plans and programmes for the protection and promotion of rights and benefits of Home Based Workers (HBWs). The goals of the policy are to recognize and accept the rights of the HBWs through legislative and administrative actions; accord legal equality, focus on their needs, concerns and demands through an institutional approach at all levels.

A meeting of the Cabinet Committee to review “Punjab Policy for Home Based Workers” was held on 14.06.2016 under the Chairpersonship of Minister for Women Development in the Committee Room “A” of Punjab Assembly.



Committee discussed the aspects of fair wages for Home Based Workers, equal treatment in terms of wages, registration of Home Based Workers and recognition of HBWs as workers, contract and proper documentation, skill enhancement training, health and safety standards, access to markets, health care & social protection, right to complaint for non-payment of wages / violence / sexual harassment, and old age benefits. Possible challenges in the implementation of policy also came under discussion. It was agreed that the draft policy be submitted by Labour & HR Department Punjab to the cabinet for early consideration. A survey for data collection of the HBWs be initiated at the earliest to assess the number of such workers.



## Meeting on “Inclusive and Gender Equal Societies”

A meeting was held regarding “Inclusive and Gender Equal Societies” on 8th June, 2016. It aimed to engage private sector, government departments, civil society and UN agencies to work collectively towards ensuring gender parity in the province.



His Excellency Thomas Drew British High Commissioner, Ms. Hameeda Waheed Ud Din Minister for Women Development Punjab, Mr. Jahanzaib Khan Chairman P&D Punjab, Ms. Fiza Farhan Member United Nations High Level Panel on Women's Empowerment, Ms. Fozia Viqar chairperson PCSW and Vice Chancellor LUMS attended this high level meeting among others at British Council, Lahore.

Role of women of province in national development was discussed and analyzed. Participants also evaluated and appreciated Women Development Department Punjab's pro women initiatives.

## Agreement Between Women Development Department & OXFAM

OXFAM and Women Development Department in the spirit of common vision to empower women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women have signed an agreement on 17th May, 2016.

Key areas of cooperation / activities have been identified accordingly which are as under:

- Awareness raising campaign across Punjab.
- Establishment of career counseling centers at universities of Rawalpindi and Lahore.
- Advance level training for women.
- Establishment of research unit (Communication , Gender, IT / Procurement and Research experts).
- Support capacity building requirements for women.

## Inspection of Working Women Hostels across Punjab

Pursuant to the directions of Secretary Women Development Department, Deputy Director and Assistant Director (P&E) carried out inspection of Working women Hostels across Punjab in the month of April 2016.

## Training of Managers on Budget Management and Hostel Management

Two days training for Managers of Working Women Hostels across Punjab was held on 1st June and 2nd June 2016 at Directorate of Women Development Punjab to impart basic knowledge on budget management and hostel management. This training aimed at capacity building of 16 managers of Working Women Hostels.

## Meeting of BOGs of Punjab Day Care Fund Society

A meeting of BoGs of PDCF Society was held on 30-06-2016 at 12:00 noon, in the committee room-A of the Punjab Assembly, Lahore to review the progress of PDCF Society.

Performance of Punjab Day Care Fund (PDCF) Society is being evaluated on regular basis by Board of Governors (BoGs) of PDCF Society under the chairpersonship of Worthy Minister for Women Development, Punjab/President PDCF Society.

## Members of PCSW Call on Secretary Women Development

Members of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women called on Secretary Women Development Department Punjab Ms. Bushra Aman. They briefed Secretary Women Development about their roles as members of PCSW and the activities they carry out in the field.

