



## PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT

# Making Local Governments Inclusive (MALGI)



**Funded By: National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**

**Awardee: Youth Development Foundation (YDF)**

Target Area: 08 Union Councils of Faisalabad and Lahore

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# 01 Executive Summary

The Youth Development Foundation (YDF) with the NED supported project, promoted political inclusion of women, youth, and minorities in upcoming local government elections in Punjab. For this initiative, YDF worked in partnership with the Punjab provincial Ministry of Human Rights, Minority Affairs, and Interfaith Harmony (HRMA). In 2019, the Punjab provincial assembly passed 2 laws, the Punjab Village and Panchayat Act 2019 and Punjab Local Government Act 2019, which established a new local government system. Approximately 22,000 representatives will be elected under this new system. YDF with consultative process executed the project activities to increase the knowledge around civic engagement of marginalized and vulnerable communities targeting women, youth, and minorities to make the upcoming local government elections inclusive.

## 02 Introduction

YDF with an objective “To promote civic participation among women, youth, and religious minorities in political processes” carried out multiple awareness raising and mock exercise activities in the 8 UC’s of two cities Lahore and Faisalabad, Punjab. Activities implemented under the project are as follows,

- 02 consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders in Lahore and Faisalabad.
- Formation of 03 thematic working groups.
- 2-day orientation session for the working group on Punjab Village and Panchayat Act 2019 & Punjab LG Act 2019.
- 60 Awareness sessions for women, youth, and minorities on the increased importance of civic engagement under the new local government system.
- 60 mock voting sessions for women, youth, and minorities.
- Radio campaign on the political inclusion of women, youth, and minorities on 10 local FM radio stations for 15 days.
- 02 Television program on the theme of political inclusion in local government.

YDF M&E Manager made on-site visits to track the project activities implementation and output systematically, and to gauge the effectiveness of the program. YDF M&E department developed monitoring and evaluation plan to track the progress against the set indicators.

## 03 Purpose of the Project Evaluation

The purpose of project evaluation was to determine the relevance and level of achievement of project objectives, measure the program effectiveness, and provide information for better decision making. The evaluation was also meant to analyze the impact and changes that occurred within the target communities in the 8 UCs of Lahore and Faisalabad. The evaluation plan was developed specifically to gauge the success of the project.

### Project Evaluation Plan

To promote civic participation among women, youth, and religious minorities in political processes



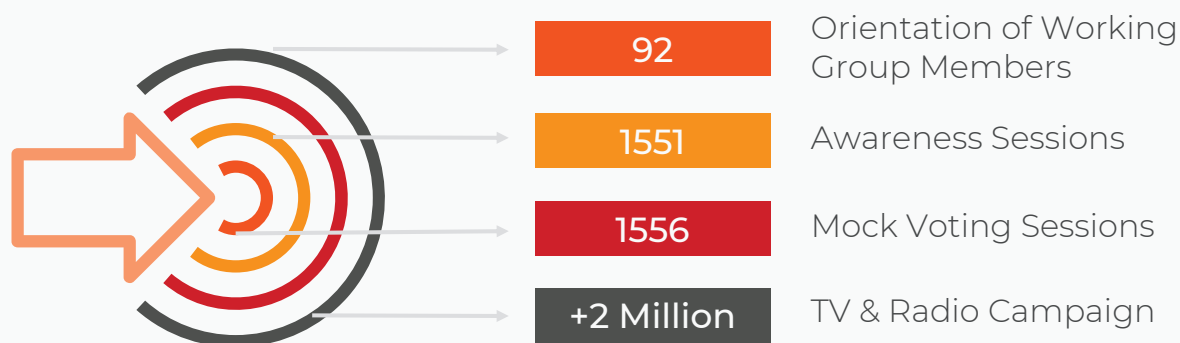
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| <b>1 Orientation Sessions</b><br>Evaluation forms for the participants of the orientation sessions | <b>3 Mock Voting Sessions</b><br>Evaluation forms for the participants of the mock voting sessions          |
| <b>2 Awareness Sessions</b><br>Evaluation forms for the participants of the awareness sessions     | <b>4 Radio PSAs</b><br>Focus Group Discussions with local FM radio listeners about radio awareness campaign |

## 04 Results

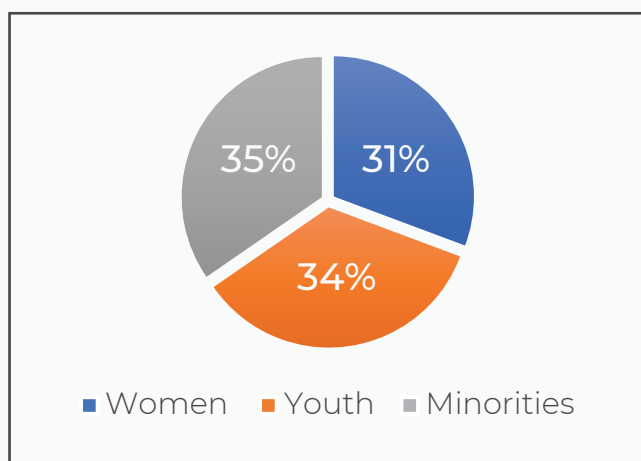
The project success was measured through the feedback collected during the implementation of the different project activities. Following analyses extracted from the collected feedback which explains the success of the initiative.

### Targets Achieved

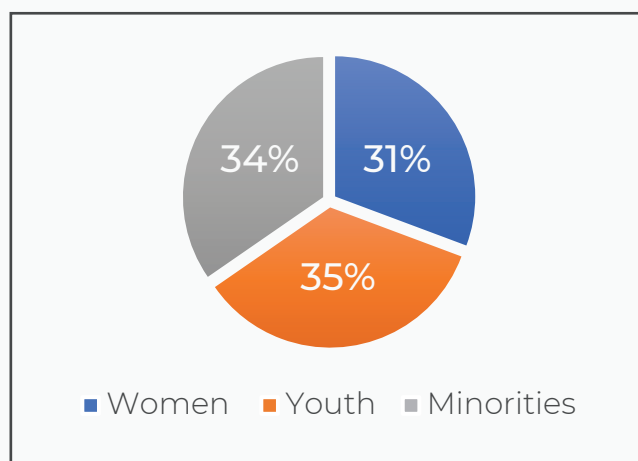
YDF achieved the project target through the implementation of multiple supposed activities that directly contributed to the objective of the project



YDF succeeded to engage 3199 direct beneficiaries including women, youth and minorities from the selected 8 UCs of Faisalabad and Lahore.



Faisalabad



Lahore

## 05 Total outreach of the project



Satisfaction level achieved during Orientation Sessions, Awareness Sessions and Mock Voting Sessions in UC 246, 247, 248, 249 Faisalabad and UC 218, 34, 96, 142 Lahore.

	Women	Youth	Minorities
Do you know about Punjab Local Government Act 2019?	86%	93%	92%
Do you know about Panchayat Act 2019?	87%	94%	90%
Should women & minorities participate in elections?	100%	100%	100%
Do you think the law of local government should be implemented to empower the people?	84%	96%	88%
Do you want to participate in upcoming local government elections as candidate?	13%	21%	17%
Do you know how to check and get registered your vote with the Election Commission?	79%	92%	89%

## 06 Conclusion / Recommendations

After the evolution of orientation session, awareness sessions, mock voting sessions and radio awareness activities it was revealed that the project activities have significantly contributed to project objectives. The progress against the set indicators was quite satisfactory and YDF succeeded to achieve the milestones of the project through the effective implementation of the activities. Although the project has encouraged and supported the marginalized and vulnerable communities for their participation in civic actions and political processes with better knowledge but there is still need to work for the sustainability of the initiative. In this regard following recommendations can contribute towards sustainability of the project activities.

- More areas with marginalized and vulnerable communities should be identified to promote the civic engagement, capacitate communities around electoral process and strengthen the democracy in the country.
- More youth from the minorities should be engaged as civic action agents to minimize the deprivation of the minorities.
- Active women should be identified and trained to enable them support their communities for civic engagements.

## 07 Challenges

During the implementation of the project activities different challenges were faced and the project team coped these challenges with participatory approach to maintain the project quality with successful implementation of the activities. These challenges also contributed towards the organizational learning. Following are some of key challenges YDF team faced during the implementation phase.

- COVID19 has been a challenge through out the project implementation. YDF team following the SOPs during the implementation ensured to minimized the epidemic consequences.
- Political parties' preferences hurdled outreach to people, YDF team removed the misconceptions and motivated the people to participate in the project activities.
- Female participation in the project activities was a quite challenge, YDF with close coordination of working groups and civil society succeeded to achieve the target of female engagement in the project activities.
- It was a difficult job to build confidence of minorities representatives as they had misconceptions about the initiative, YDF team with consultative approach build confidence of the minorities representative which smooth the execution of activities.
- Youth encouragement was a challenge as youth of the target areas had less importance for the civic engagement, YDF team with better mobilization strategy succeeded to attract the youth towards civic engagement.
- To deal with and engage the government representatives (from Ministry & Election Commission) was a bit difficult job as the bureaucracy has their own priorities and engagements, YDF team with better communication and coordinative approach managed to get support from the government departments.

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*After attending the awareness session I got inspiration and motivation to get engaged for the civic actions. I will apply as a candidate and will serve the minorities after winning the seat*



**Mr. Bashir**  
from UC 246 Faisalabad

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**Ms. Nusrat**  
from UC 246 Faisalabad

*We are really thankful to YDF and NED for providing us such an important opportunity for civic engagements in our areas. I have decided to contest in upcoming local elections and after winning will work for marginalized and vulnerable women in my vicinity*

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*Before attending the awareness session, I never considered the political process beyond my reach and for some particular people. But now I take it easy and will contest in election to support the vulnerable people of my area*



**Sana Gulzar**  
from UC 218 Lahore

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**Pervaiz alam**  
from UC 142 Lahore

*I feel that I am more knowledgeable than before and can serve my community through having seat in the local bodies elections. I am confident to support and uplift the marginalized people in my area after winning in the elections.*

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Youth Development Foundation (YDF) is a not-for-profit and non-governmental youth-led organization that has been working on interfaith harmony, social inclusion, local government, preventing and countering violent extremism (CVE) since 2010. YDF brings together youth from diverse cultural, religious and geographical backgrounds to prevent and counter growing trends of extremism through innovative ideas that lead to demonstrable solutions. YDF has been able to bring positive cultural changes in three Pakistani provinces by directly engaging more than 12,000 young people in the last 7 years. Due to its contribution for positive social change in Pakistan, YDF had the opportunity to present youth contributions in conflict mitigation at UN Minority Forum 2013, Geneva, UNAOC Global Forum 2016, Baku, and NEXUS 2016, New York. YDF has had the privilege to work with USAID, European Union (EU), UKAID, USIP, UN agencies, World Faith, and the Swiss Mission Office and Government of Punjab and Sindh.

YDF works with multi-stakeholders including District, Provincial and Federal governments on the promotion of youth-oriented policies and strategies that celebrate cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and religious diversity. Most recently, YDF is working with the Ministry of Human Rights, Minority Affairs, and Interfaith Harmony on drafting a tolerance strategy for Punjab province and dedicated media campaign to counter discrimination, hate-speech and stigmatization during COVID19.



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