

**Civil society organisations (CSO):** Throughout the action, civil society and academia will be engaged as an instrument to secure the rights and interests of women and girls, persons with disability and other socially excluded groups, given their roles as mobilisers and promoters for gender-responsive and leave-no-one behind interventions. The action will bring on board other actors than NGOs from the civil society. Pakistan is seeing a growth of social movements (Aurat March, Pashtun Tahfuz Movement, Haq Do Tehreek just to mention a few) and special interest organisations, including the Homebased Worker Association, female teachers, nurses, lawyers, journalists, students and labour movements. Unlike NGOs, which are externally funded and cannot usually sustain their work beyond the life of the funded programmes/projects, these are organic, constituency-driven movements, which have a much wider outreach and self-sustainability. There are women leaders in these outfits that can be further trained to speak on behalf of women and impact on political issues and processes in the country. Interventions will be implemented in close coordination with the EU-funded programme on CSO rights (AAP 2023).

**Media:** The role of media is vital in generating a democratic culture that extends beyond the political system and becomes engrained in the public consciousness over time. While media acts as a watchdog as well, for Pakistan's delicate democratic set-up, role of media can be catalytic for democracy and development, influencing women and youth participation. Simultaneously, media can be used as a vehicle to advocate for rights and good governance. While previous interventions on women political participation have engaged online and offline media as a side note, their role will be critical in the action.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective (or impact)** of this action is to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities at all levels of decision-making in political and public life in Pakistan.

The **Specific(s) Objective(s) (or outcomes)** of this action are:

1. Strengthen enabling conditions for participation of women and socially marginalised groups in democratic and governance processes.
2. Ensure women adopt behaviours and attitudes for equal participation and leadership (as voters, aspiring leaders, contestants, local councillors and parliamentarians).
3. Incorporate affirmative measures for increased and effective women's participation and representation in the institutional and legislative frameworks.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

*contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)*

- 1.1 Increased awareness of and access to registration on electoral lists for women, persons with disability, religious and ethnic minorities and members of the transgender community.
- 1.2 Strengthened mechanisms for reduction of violence against women and raising awareness on dis/misinformation in political and electoral processes.

*contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)*

- 2.1 Enhanced capacity of aspiring women leaders for political participation, networking and engagement with civil society and media.
- 2.2 Enhanced capacities of women and men parliamentarians and local councillors on gender responsive law-making, budgeting and monitoring.

*contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3)*

- 3.1 Increased capacity of legislatures to promote, adopt and implement gender-responsive laws and policies.
- 3.2 Improved mechanisms for mainstreaming gender in the structures and processes of political parties.
- 3.3 Enhanced capacity of ECP to efficiently and effectively mainstream gender in its structures and processes.