

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP)?

The Project envisages a comprehensive strategy for operationalizing an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Framework for curbing gender violence through formation, strengthening and capacity building of Musalihat Anjuman in selected districts in the country as provided for under sections 102 – 106 of the Local Government Ordinance 2001.

2. What is the main goal of Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP)

The goal of GJTMAP is: "To assist women and other vulnerable section of society in improving their conditions through safeguarding and promoting their rights and lawful entitlements."

3. What are the objectives of Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP)?

The objectives of GJTMAP are as follows:

- To provide women victims of violence an alternative mechanism, whereby they can obtain gender justice;
- To build the capacity of Musalihat Anjuman for dispensing gender-responsive justice;
- To enhance public engagement with utilization of the services of Musalihat Anjuman; &
- To promote women's awareness of their legal rights and men's active participation in ending gender based violence.

3. What are the selected districts of GJTMAP?

The five selected districts in each Province are:

Balochistan: Gwadar, Lasbella, Loralai, Quetta, Ziarat

N.W.F.P: Abbotabad, Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat, Mardan, Nowshera

Punjab: Attock, Bahawalpur, Jehlum, Mianwali, Multan

Sindh: Dadu, Jacobabad, Nawabshah, Shirkarpur, Sanghar

5. What is the role of Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development?

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MOLG&RD) is the model Ministry for executing GJTMAP at the Federal level, along with all four Provincial LG & RD Departments being implementing partners at the Provincial level.

6. What is the role of UNDP in GJTMAP?

The Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project is co-financed by UNDP. UNDP also provides technical support and assistance for the implementation of Project activities. This Project is a component of UNDP's Gender Support Programme.

7. What are the costs and duration of the Project?

The Project was co-financed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), Royal Norwegian Embassy and DFID through grant resources amounting to US\$ 1.546 million for two years (2005-2006). The cost of the Up-scaled Project is US \$ 7.440 million for a period of five years. The duration of Up-scaled Project is five years (2007 to 2011).

8. What is the National Steering Committee (NSC)?

The GJTMAP National Steering Committee, a duly notified forum, is headed by Secretary MoLG&RD, Government of Pakistan (Chairperson) and the National Project Director (Secretary). Other members include: Ministries of Social Welfare & Women Development (SW&WD), Law, Justice & Human Rights, NRB, UNDP, Provincial Secretaries LG&RD, one representative from each Provincial MASS, Zila Nazims of districts, representatives of Law Enforcing Agencies and the National Project Manager GJTMAP. The Committee is a national level forum to monitor, supervise and support the Project activities.

9. What is Musalihat Anjuman?

Musalihat Anjuman (MA) is a community-based, informal, inexpensive and effective means towards dispensing justice to victims of Gender Violence and resolving their disputes amicably. It comprises of a panel of three Musaleheen notified at each Union Council level after nomination from Insaaf Committee. MA's are constituted to resolve issues through mediation, arbitration or reconciliation.

10. Who are Musaleheen and what are the criteria for the selection of MA members?

"Musaleheen" means an impartial person in a panel whose role in Musalihat Anjuman is to assist and encourage parties in a dispute to:

- Assist them in identifying issues, minimize understandings, explore areas of compromise and generate options in an attempt to resolve the dispute;
- Attempt to ensure proper communication of the views of the parties to each other;
- Assess risks; &
- Encourage voluntary dispute resolution.

The criteria for the selection of MA members are provided in Section 102 of the LGO 2001 and RoB's notified by Provincial Governments, which is as follows:

- 1) Both male & female members of the Union Council.
- 2) Publicly known to be persons of integrity, good judgment and command respect.

11. What is Musalihat Anjuman Support Services (MASS)?

Musalihat Anjuman Support Services (MASS) is a Provincial level notified forum for the effective implementation and execution of Project activities. MASS is mandated to facilitate the implementation of the following core functions under the Project:

- Initiating policy dialogue for strengthening the role of MA;
- Assessing the nature and extent of disputes typically resulting in incidence of gender violence in selected districts;
- Working out the dispute resolution needs in the backdrop of the prevailing social context in the selected districts;

- Preparation of a comprehensive training programme for the members of MA in selected areas;
- Conducting the aforementioned programmes for the MA members in association with Training Directorates of LG&RD departments in each province; &
- Holding seminars and workshops for MA members and other functionaries of local governments for sensitizing them to gender and women rights issues.

12. What is Musalihat Anjuman Justice Advocates (MAJA) and who does it comprise of?

The following functions shall be facilitated/performed from the platform of MAJA:

- Promoting and raising awareness about Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms and justice services available via MA's;
- Assisting the functioning of MA on gender violence issues through evidence, document collection, bringing witnesses to the proceedings, liaison with local police for any support etc.;
- Providing follow up for the smooth implementation of the decisions/agreements reached as a result of MA proceedings;
- Dissemination of legal awareness about the rights of women as well as other vulnerable sections of society from the district level;
- Monitoring and serving as watchdogs over the proceedings of MA's;
- Establishing networks/communication channels with District level bodies for minimizing and curbing the menace of gender violence; &
- Facilitating and supporting MA's in order to provide legal aid, shelter, treatment etc. for the victims of gender violence as and when required.

MAJA is a district level notified network of representatives of District Governments, NGOs, Bar and the academia.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.gjtmap.gov.pk>