



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Foreword

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) under constitutional obligation is striving hard to deliver credible and inclusive elections that meet the expectations and aspirations of citizens of Pakistan. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic during the year 2020, the Commission remained engaged in the accomplishment of multifarious electoral events like delimitation of constituencies of local governments, nationwide revision of electoral rolls, preparation of elections to the Senate & Local Government Institutions and bye-elections. Moreover, various initiatives like integrating technologies to enhance system and automating processes as per modern needs including online Recruitment Management System and Complaint Management System were launched. Election Commission also made progress in implementing its five-year Strategic plan (2019-23). In this regard, a monitoring mechanism was also designed to ensure regular monitoring and timely accomplishment of the targets set in the strategic plan.

Institutional development is highly important for successful operation and management of elections. The Commission continued its efforts for voter education campaigns, women participation in elections, public access to election information, financial and budget management, human resource management and integration of technologies etc. to make electoral process more inclusive and credible. ECP imparted training to create a pool of lead trainers equipped with required skills and knowledge to conduct elections for local governments.

ECP continued its efforts to further enhance the quality of electoral rolls in collaboration with NADRA. During the year 2020, the count of registered voters increased from 112 million to 115 million. Women NIC Registration campaign was launched to reduce gender gap between male and female voters that significantly reduced the gap from 11.7% in 2019 to 10.7% in 2020. The Commission also celebrated National Voters Day on 7th December, 2020 as its commitment to create awareness on the importance of voting and to encourage citizens to participate in Pakistan's political processes. International women day and persons with disabilities day were also celebrated for encouraging participation of such segments in electoral process.

ECP appreciates and acknowledges the technical assistance provided by UNDP Pakistan to the Commission. The commitment and hard work of the ECP officers and staff is equally appreciated which resulted in the accomplishment of assigned tasks during the year 2020.

Mr. M. J. Sikandar Sultan Raja
Chief Election Commissioner

Justice Altaf Ibrahim Qureshi
Hon'ble Member

Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani
Hon'ble Member

Justice Ms. Irshad Qaiser
Hon'ble Member

Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi
Hon'ble Member

Preface

Election Commission of Pakistan has a Constitutional obligation of holding elections honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law by providing equal opportunities to all Political Parties, Candidates & Voters and other stakeholders. This report aims to share information about the functions and achievements of the ECP during the year 2020.

The Honorable Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan Mr. M.J. Sikandar Sultan Raja took oath on 27.01.2020, while Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani and Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi also took oaths on the same day at ECP, Secretariat, Islamabad, as members of Election Commission.

ECP is committed to enhance its organizational capacity for the accomplishment of its constitutional role of preparing and maintenance of credible electoral rolls, conduct of elections to the Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments and delimitation of constituencies in a transparent manner. In this regard, input relating to electoral reforms is also submitted before the Parliament from time to time as and when required. The Commission is also engaged in monitoring of electoral processes diligently to promote compliance with the legal framework & Code of Conduct, encouraging voters' participation in election and building constructive relationships with all stake holders.

Notwithstanding the outbreak and subsequent rapid spread of Covid-19 pandemic, ECP continued its efforts for holding bye-elections while adhering to SOPs issued by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Preparations for conduct of local government elections in the provinces, ICT and Cantonment boards were made and boundary delimitation exercise for the Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Cantonment boards was carried out.

A robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism has been established in ECP Secretariat to regularly monitor the implementation of strategic and operational plans at various levels. ECP's official Facebook and YouTube accounts have been made for better outreach to the citizens. The report in hand enlists all the electoral activities in detail carried out by ECP, during the calendar year 2020.

I would like to express my special gratitude and thanks to the ECP Officers and Staff for their hard work and dedication. I am also pleased to acknowledge the technical support provided by development partner UNDP in the preparation of this Annual Report. I hope that the report would be found relevant and useful by the Government and other stakeholders.

Dr. Akhtar Nazir

Secretary

Election Commission of Pakistan

ACRONYMS

ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
A-WEB	Association of World Election Bodies
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CERS	Computerized Electoral Rolls System
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CMS	Complaint Management System
DEC	District Election Commissioner
DDWP	Departmental Development Working Group
DMO	District Monitoring Officer
DRO	District Returning Officer
DVECs	District Voters' Education Committees
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FEA	Federal Election Academy
GDEWG	Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group
GIS	Geographical Information System
HRMS	Human Resource Management System
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ICPS	International Centre for Parliamentary Studies
IEAP	International Electoral Affairs Programme
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NIC	National Identity Card
NCOC	National Command and Operation Centre
PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
PLGA	Punjab Local Government Act
PVP&NC Act	Punjab Village Panchayats & Neighbourhood Councils Act
REC	Regional Election Commissioner
RMS	Results Management System
RO	Returning Officer
SPIC	Strategic Plan Implementing Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Election Commission of Pakistan

a. Formation of Commission under the Constitution

Election Commission of Pakistan was established under the Constitution of Pakistan 1956, where Chief Election Commissioner and such number of Election Commissioners as determined by the President constituted the Commission. The duties of the Commission were to prepare Electoral Rolls and organize elections to the Assemblies. Under the Constitution of 1962, the Election Commission comprised of the Chief Election Commissioner and two members from the respective High Courts of West Pakistan and East Pakistan for a term of three years.

Under Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, the Election Commission was required to be constituted for each General Elections comprising of two members only. Article 218 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 is given below:

Presently Article 218 provides that;

- (1) For the purpose of election to both Houses of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), Provincial Assemblies and for election to such other public offices as may be specified by law, a permanent Election Commission shall be constituted in accordance with this Article.
- (2) The Election Commission shall consist of—
 - (a) the Commissioner who shall be Chairman of the Commission; and
 - (b) four members, one from each Province, each of whom shall be a person who has been a judge of a High Court or has been a senior civil servant or is a technocrat and is not more than sixty-five years of age, to be appointed by the President in the manner provided for appointment of the Commissioner in clauses (2A) and (2B) of Article 213.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Election Commission to organize and conduct the election and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law, and that corrupt practices are guarded against.

b. Duties of Commission

Under Article 219, The [Commission] shall be charged with the duty of—

- (a) preparing electoral rolls for election to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments, and revising such rolls periodically to keep them up-to date;
- (b) organizing and conducting election to the Senate or to fill casual vacancies in a House or a Provincial Assembly; and
- (c) appointing Election Tribunals
- (d) the holding of general elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and the local governments; and
- (e) such other functions as may be specified by an Act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)

1. Electoral Rolls

Article 219 (a) of the Constitution provides that it is the duty of the Commission to prepare electoral rolls for election to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Local Governments, and revise such rolls periodically. Section 27 of the Elections Act, 2017 allows voter registration only on an address given in the NIC i.e. either on permanent or temporary address. However, persons in service of Pakistan (including their spouse and children) may apply to the registration officer for enrollment in the electoral area in which they temporarily reside.

1.2 Activities performed during the year 2020

In order to implement Section 27 of the Elections Act 2017, the Commission carried out the exercise of revision / updation of electoral rolls while taking following measures:

- a. Public awareness campaign was launched through print and electronic media to inform all voters about registration of votes according to addresses of NIC, procedure of filing of claims, objections and applications for correction of votes;
- b. Establishment of Display Centers at prominent places in each district including offices of Registration Officers and Assistant Registration Officers to facilitate voters for filing of claims, objections and applications for correction of their particulars.
- c. For facilitation of voters, ECP provided Short Message Service-8300 (SMS) including details of vote, location, helpline and ECP's website link for downloading forms and information relating to display process.
- d. In addition, public service message with ECP's caption was circulated to all mobile phone subscribers through Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Telecom service providers.
- e. Disposal of claims, objections and applications of correction of votes by the Revising Authorities.
- f. Data entry of all approved applications.
- g. Supply of Final Electoral Rolls-2020 to all offices of District Election Commissioners.

1.3 Achievements

As a result of aforementioned activities the final Electoral Rolls were published on 4th October, 2020. The detail is as under;

Province/Area	Male Voters	Female Voters	Transgender	Total Voters
Punjab	36,371,326	29,862,932	1,886	66,236,144
Sindh	13,443,983	10,907,267	431	24,351,681
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	11,076,630	8,457,201	133	19,533,964
Balochistan	2,753,946	2,047,104	81	4,801,131
ICT	432,731	393,095	7	825,833
Total	64,078,616	51,667,599	2,538	115,748,753

The number of registered voters increased from 112 million to 115 million.

2. Election Operations

2.1 Bye-Elections

As per Article 219(b) of the Constitution it is the duty of Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct election to fill casual vacancies in National / Provincial Assemblies. It is the legal obligation of Election Commission of Pakistan to fill the vacant seat within sixty days from the occurrence of vacancy under Article 224 of the Constitution.

Overall during the year 2020 eight seats of National / Provincial Assemblies became vacant due to deaths of incumbent members; therefore eight bye-elections were required to be announced. Detail is as under:-

Sl. No.	No. & Name of Constituency	Cause of Vacancy
1	PS-52 Umerkot-II	Due to death of Syed Ali Mardan Shah, MPA on 19.01.2020.
2	NA-45 Kurram-I	Due to death of Mr. Munir Khan Orakzai, MNA on 02.06.2020.
3	NA-75 Sialkot – IV	Due to death of Syed Iftikhar-ul-Hasan, MNA on 02.08.2020
4	PP-51 Gujranwala-I	Due to death of Mr. Shoukat Manzoor Cheema, MPA on 03.06.2020
5	PS-88 Malir-II	Due to death of Ghulam Murtaza Baloch, MPA on 02.06.2020
6	PS-43 Sanghar-III	Due to death of Jam Madad Ali Khan on 13.11.2020
7	PK-63 Nowshera-III	Due to death of Mr. Jamshaid-ud-Din, MPA on 03.06.2020.
8	PB-20 Pishin-III	Due to death of Syed Muhammad Fazal Agha, MPA on 20.05.2020.

A seat of Provincial Assembly became vacant on 19th January, 2020, due to death of Syed Ali Mardan Shah, member provincial assembly of Sindh from PS-52 Umerkot-II. In order to fill the vacant seat the following election programme was issued on 12th February, 2020.

Sr. No.	EVENTS	DATE
1.	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officer on	14.02.2020
2.	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officer by the candidates	17.02.2020 to 19.02.2020
3.	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	19.02.2020
4.	Last date for Scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer	22.02.2020
5.	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer rejecting / accepting the nomination papers	24.02.2020
6.	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal	26.02.2020
7.	Publication of revised list of candidates	27.02.2020
8.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	28.02.2020
9.	Allotment of Election Symbol to contesting candidates	29.02.2020
10.	Polling day	17.03.2020

The election programme was however, slightly amended due to Annual Revision of Electoral Rolls and the date of poll, originally scheduled for 17th March, 2020 was moved to 15th April, 2020. All the pre-poll activities had been completed except the poll which was postponed due to rapid and continuous spread of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) in the country. Election Commission of Pakistan took cognizance of the situation while exercising powers conferred upon it under Section 58 of the Elections Act, 2017, read with Articles 218(3) and 254 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and all other enabling powers in this behalf under the law and Constitution, suspended the bye-election programme on 24.03.2020 in the aforementioned constituency till further orders.

In November 2020 various stakeholders approached the Election Commission to hold pending bye-elections. The provincial government of Sindh also requested the ECP to conduct bye-elections in PS-52 Umerkot, PS-88 Malir and PS-43 Sanghar offering commitment to enforce all safety measures to counter the pandemic during these elections. The Commission after carefully reviewing the situation and examining facts decided to hold bye-elections in eight constituencies of national and provincial assemblies, which were earlier postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ECP also directed provinces to ensure strict observance of SOPs during all phases of the elections. Detail is given below:

Sr. No.	Constituency	Cause of Vacancy	Poll Day
1	PS-52 Umerkot-II	Due to death of Syed Ali Mardan, MPA	18.01.2021
2	PS-43 Sanghar-II	Due to death of Jam Madad Ali Khan, MPA.	16.02.2021
3	PS-88 Malir-II	Due to death of Ghulam Murtaza Baloch, MPA on 02.06.2020	16.02.2021
4	PB-20 Pishin-III	Due to death of Syed Muhammad Fazal Agha, MPA on 20.05.2020	16.02.2021
5	NA-45 Kurram-I	Due to death of Mr. Munir Khan Orakzai, MNA on 2.6.2020	19.02.2021
6	NA-75 Sialkot-IV	Due to death of Syed Iftikhar –ul-Hasan, MNA, on 02.08.2020	19.02.2021
7	PP-51 Gujranwala-I	Due to death of Mr. Shoukat Manzoor Cheema, MPA on 3.6.2020	19.02.2021
8	PK-63 Nowshera-III	Due to death of Mr. Jamshaid-ud-Din, MPA on 03.06.2020	19.02.2021

2.2 Filling up of vacant reserved seats for non-Muslims and Women

The Provincial Assembly of Punjab notified the death of Mr. Munir Masih Khokhar, MPA on 17th December, 2019 and the seat became vacant. The next name on the party list of non-Muslims was Mr. Ramesh Singh Arora who was notified on 2nd January, 2020 as returned candidate against reserved seat for non-muslim in the provincial assembly of Punjab in the official Gazette.

The Provincial Assembly of Sindh notified the death of Ms. Shahnaz Begum, MPA, on 18th February, 2020 elected on the seat reserved for women of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP). The next name on the party list of PPPP women candidate was Ms. Sharmila Sahebah Faruqui who was notified as returned candidate against the vacant women reserved seat in the official gazette.

Similarly, the Provincial Assembly of Punjab notified the death of Ms. Shaheen Raza, MPA, on 28th May, 2020 elect on the party list of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI). The next name on the party list of women candidates was Ms. Sania Kamran who was notified on 10th June, 2020 in the official Gazette as returned candidate.

2.3 Senate Bye-Election

A general seat from Balochistan Province in the Senate of Pakistan fell vacant in August, 2020 due to death of Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo, (National Party) whose term of office was due to expire on 11th March, 2021.

In pursuance of clause (5) of Article 224 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Section 105 of the Elections Act, 2017, Election Commission of Pakistan issued election programme and fixed the poll day for 12.09.2020.

Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo was declared elected in pursuance of the sub-rule (2) of Rule-120 of the Election Rules, 2017.

2.4 Assistance to the Parliament

Election Commission of Pakistan provides technical assistance to the Parliament as and when required in shape of attending meetings of different Parliamentary Standing Committees and providing input on private / government amendment bills related to elections. Furthermore starred questions asked by the Hon'ble Members of Senate / National Assembly relating to Election Commission are properly replied.

During the year 2020 the Election Commission of Pakistan assisted the parliament in different ways i.e in drafting new amendments in Elections Act 2017 and Constitutional provisions relating to Election Commission, representation in Parliamentary Committees and furnishing of complete replies to the Senate / National assembly questions.

3. Political Finance

After the enactment of Elections Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017, ECP further strengthened the Directorate of Political Finance to handle the subject of Campaign Finance by Political Parties, Election Expenses (Form-C) by returned candidates as well as all the contesting candidates, scrutiny of financial statements (form-B) submitted by parliamentarians and consolidated statements of accounts (Form-D) submitted by Political parties.

3.1 Digitization of Statements of Assets & Liabilities

Total 1,190 parliamentarians (Members of National Assembly, Senate & members of Provincial Assemblies) had submitted their statements of assets and liabilities (form-B) for the financial year ending 30th June, 2019. These statements (Form-B) had been digitized within 120 days after submission, for a comprehensive / critical comparative analysis with nomination papers as well as previously submitted Form-B.

3.2 Scrutiny of Statement of Assets & Liabilities (Form-B)

ECP conducted the process of scrutiny of statements of assets and liabilities for the financial year ending 30th June, 2019 in light of section 137(4) of Elections Act-2017. Scrutiny of such documents is carried out in accordance with the instructions / guidelines approved by the Election Commission of Pakistan. The main purpose of the scrutiny is to reconcile the previous financial statements given in the nomination papers submitted by parliamentarians as candidates for General Elections-2018 with the statements received for the financial year 2017-18 and subsequent financial years 2018-19.

3.3 Achievements

- As the process of scrutiny is a time bound activity so the ECP had scrutinized the statements (form-B) within 120 days as per section 137(4) of act, *ibid*.
- Statements of assets & liabilities (form-B) of all 1,190 parliamentarians for the financial year ending 30th June, 2019 had been computerized / digitized.
- Constant communication, through letters was made with those 154 parliamentarians (MNAs, MPAs & Senators) who were found to have significant (material particulars) increase or decrease in their declared assets.
- In addition to that, 06 cases were also heard by the Hon'ble Commission for appropriate action.

4. Enlistment of Political Parties

ECP is mandated to enlist political parties and allocate election symbols to eligible political parties as well as scrutinize financial statements submitted by political parties and members of Assemblies and the Senate. It is also mandated to have a check on election campaign expenditure made by all contesting candidates and political parties. ECP carries out following activities for this purpose:

- a. Receive and maintain consolidated statements of accounts submitted annually by political parties for publication in the official gazette;
- b. Receive, maintain and publish statements of Assets and Liabilities submitted annually by Members of an Assembly and Senate.

Chapter-XI of the Elections Act, 2017 provides procedure for enlistment of political parties with the ECP. A political party that fulfills the criteria for enlistment given therein may apply for its enlistment. During the year 2020, five political parties namely "Awami Tehreek", "All Pakistan Kissan Ittehad", "Pakistan Muhafiz Watan Party (National)", "Qaumi Awami Tehreek Pakistan" and "Tehreek-e-Darveshan Pakistan" got enlisted with ECP. The total number of political parties enlisted with the ECP is 130. Out of the 130 enlisted political parties only 54 political parties submitted their financial statements with the ECP within due timeframe i.e. 29th August, 2020 as required under Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017. Moreover, 54 political parties submitted their statements after issuance of show cause notices by ECP under Section 215(4) *ibid*. As a result, 113 political parties retained their election symbols and remaining 17 enlisted political parties have not yet applied for allocation of symbol.

5. Local Government Elections

Article 140A (1) of the Constitution provides that each Province shall, by law establish a Local Government System and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representative of the Local Governments. It is the Constitutional and legal obligation of Election Commission of Pakistan under Articles 140A (2) and Section 219 of the Elections Act-2017 to hold Local Government Elections in all four Provinces including Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) & Cantonment Board under the applicable local government laws.

5.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION IN PUNJAB PROVINCE

5.1.1 Local Government System of Punjab under newly enacted Acts

Section 3(2) of the Punjab Local Government Act, 2019 and Section 10(1) of the Punjab Village Panchayat & Neighborhood Councils Act, 2019 provide that Local Government Institutions in Punjab province shall be established within one year. The Provincial Government, through two Ordinances dated 27.03.2020 extended the period for establishment of LG system in the Punjab Province from 12 months to 21 months with effect from 04.05.2019.

5.1.2 Constitution of a Committee to Review the Punjab Local Government Act, 2019 and Punjab Village Panchayats & Neighbourhood Councils Act, 2019 and Rules framed thereunder

Election Commission of Pakistan constituted a committee with the mandate to examine the Punjab Local Government Act, 2019 and Punjab Village Panchayats & Neighbourhood Councils Act, 2019 and to propose amendments to bring these Acts and Rules framed thereunder in conformity with Elections Act, 2017. The Committee after thorough deliberations proposed amendments/recommendations which were forwarded to Provincial Government for incorporation in the relevant Act and Rules including draft of Proposed Packets, Amendments in Nominations Forms & Election Related Forms to enable the relevant authorities for smooth conduct of LG Elections in Punjab Province.

5.1.3 Delimitation of Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils

Election Commission of Pakistan under Article 222 (b) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Sections-17 & 221 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Section-3(A) of the Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils Act, 2019, issued schedule on 25.06.2020 for carrying out the delimitation of Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils and subsequently revised the same on 20.08.2020 due to non-availability of Electoral Rolls. The Delimitation Committees and Authorities were appointed for the purpose of Delimitation of Villages Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils.

5.1.4 Delay in Publication of Preliminary list of Constituencies of Villages and Neighbourhood Councils

Publication of preliminary list of constituencies was due on 18.09.2020, meanwhile the Punjab Government requested to extend the time for publication of preliminary list of constituencies for getting approval of assigning names of villages and neighborhood from Cabinet of Punjab under section 3(6) of PVP&NC Act, 2019. Election Commission granted extension twice to the Government of Punjab. Election Commission of Pakistan directed the Government of Punjab to give the exact timelines required for accomplishment of all the activities regarding assigning names to Villages and Neighbourhoods so that the process of delimitation could start from where it was halted.

5.1.5 Notification of Electoral Units and Appointment of Election Officials

In view of preliminary arrangements for the conduct of Local Government Elections in Punjab Province under both the Acts, Election Commission of Pakistan under Section 84 of the PLGA, 2019 notified the Electoral Units on 18th September, 2020 for Election to the Upper Tier. It is also added that the Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab was requested to furnish the proposals regarding appointment of Election officials for the conduct of LG Elections in Punjab Province.

5.1.6 Consultation with Punjab Government for fixation of date for the Conduct of Local Government Elections on Both Tiers

Election Commission of Pakistan under Section 91(1) of the Punjab Local Government Act, 2019 and Section 27(1) of the Punjab Village Panchayats & Neighbourhood Councils Act, 2019 convened consultative meetings with representatives of the Government of Punjab on 5th August & 30th December, 2020 at ECP Secretariat in order to fix the Election date(s) for both the tiers of Punjab Local Government Elections. In this regard, the response of the Provincial Government remained awaited in 2020.

5.2 Local Government Elections In Sindh Province

Tenure of Local Government Institutions Sindh expired on 30th August, 2020. ECP asked the Secretary Local Government, Government of Sindh on 10th April, 2020, for provision of maps and other relevant documents for delimitation.

Government of Sindh in response requested that process of delimitation may be deferred / withheld till the final publication of results of Census-2017.

A meeting of the Hon'ble Commission was held to resolve the issue/query raised by the Sindh Government on the delimitation. Resultantly, D.O Letters for official publication of final results of Census-2017 were sent to the:-

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan,	07-05-2020
Secretary, Ministry Law & Justice,	07-05-2020
Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs,	07-05-2020
Secretary, Senate of Pakistan,	30-06-2020
Secretary, National Assembly of Pakistan.	30-06-2020

Election Commission of Pakistan asked Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on 27.08.2020 to intimate steps taken for official publication of results of Census-2017.

MQM filed C.P.No.D-2948/2020 Titled "MQM Vs ECP & Others" before the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh with the plea that ECP may be restrained from carrying out delimitation on the basis of provisional results of Census-2017. As the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh did not restrain ECP, therefore Election Commission of Pakistan issued schedule for delimitation of local government constituencies on 31.08.2020 and appointed delimitation committees 01.09.2020 in Sindh Province. ECP in response to application from the Government of Sindh and MQM (Pakistan) regarding postponement of delimitation activities till the official publication of the Census Report 2017, issued letter dated 11.12.2020 to the Secretary, M/o Parliamentary Affairs and the Secretary, Law & Justice Division asking therein to apprise the Hon'ble Commission regarding steps taken by the Federal Government.

5.3 Local Government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

5.3.1 ECP's preparation for conduct of Local Government Election in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Tenure of Local Government Elections Khyber Pakhtunkhwa expired on 28.08.2019. Local Government Institutions were dissolved vide Notification No.SOG/LG/7-12/LG/2019 dated 4th September, 2019. Election Commission of Pakistan being aware of its constitutional and legal obligations with regard to holding Local Government Elections started its efforts from March, 2018 which are enumerated below:-

- (i) **The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2019 & issuance of Official Notifications by Provincial Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, showing Tehsil-wise No. and Names of Village / Neighbourhood Councils**

Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa vide the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2019 abolished the tier of District Council. Publication of provisional results of National Population Census-2017 and change in criteria of population as required under Section-6 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2019 necessitated fresh Delimitation. Tehsil-wise number and names of Village / Neighbourhood Councils were required for conduct of delimitation, whereas the same was not available in the amended law. Hence, the Provincial Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was asked for provision of said Notifications vide letter dated 16.05.2019 followed by reminders.

ECP did not receive response from the Provincial Government, so the case was fixed before the Hon'ble Election Commission from 17.07.2019 to 18.02.2020. During hearing on 18.02.2020, Secretary (LG&RDD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa submitted a report alongwith an Action Plan / timeline for various steps to be taken with regard to conduct of Local Govt. Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government could not provide the requisite notifications within the deadline; therefore, Election Commission stressed upon Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government for provision of requisite Notifications alongwith the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act / Rules. Notifications of Village / Neighbourhood Councils in respect of 28 Districts out of 35 Districts were received from Local Government Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in March and April, 2020.

(ii) Conduct of Delimitation of Village / Neighbourhood Councils Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

(a) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Councils (Delimitation) Rules, 2020

Secretary Local government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 05.07.2019 submitted draft Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Councils (Delimitation) Rules 2019 to the Commission for review and comments. After review by the ECP the said Rules were notified by the Local Government Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in June, 2019.

(b) Appointment of Delimitation Committees

For conduct of delimitations of Village / Neighbourhood Councils, Election Commission appointed Delimitation Committees on 23.07.2019.

(c) Appointment of Delimitation Authorities

Election Commission of Pakistan appointed Delimitation Authorities on 28.07.2020 for disposal of objections of voters filed against the preliminary list (Form-I) pertaining to delimitation of Village/ Neighbourhood Councils in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

(d) Issuance of Delimitation Schedule

Election Commission of Pakistan issued schedule/ timeline for Delimitation of Village / Neighbourhood Councils in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 25.6.2020, revised on 16.07.2020 & 20.08.2020 and Delimitation process started in the province from 27.7.2020. As per given delimitation schedule / timeline the preliminary list of constituencies Village / Neighbourhood Councils was published by the delimitation committees on 18.09.2020 and after disposal of objections by the Delimitation Authorities, final List of Constituencies i.e. Village / Neighbourhood Councils was published on 25.10.2020 in 28 Districts excluding divisional headquarters.

(iii) Issuance of Notification of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Councils (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2020

Secretary Local Government Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provided Draft Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Councils (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2020 on 14.04.2020, wherein, ECP submitted its input on 18.05.2020; however notification by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is still awaited.

5.3.2 Official Notifications in respect of Seven (7) Districts / Divisional Headquarters and Delimitation Schedule

In December, 2020, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government issued official notification in respect of divisional headquarters and accordingly the schedule for conduct of Delimitation of Village / Neighbourhood Councils was issued on 21.12.2020. Election Commission of Pakistan has made all necessary arrangements for the Conduct of Local Government Elections in 28 Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

5.4 Local Government Elections in Balochistan Province

Tenure of the Local Government institutions in Balochistan expired on 27.01.2019. In order to carryout delimitation, ECP notified delimitation committees and delimitation schedule on 17.01.2019. However, the

Hon'ble Balochistan High Court suspended the notification of the delimitation committees issued by the ECP dated 17.01.2019 in C.P No.143 / 2019, the matter is sub-judice before the Court and next date of hearing is 05.04.2021.

5.5 Local Government Elections in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)

In order to fill the vacant direct seats in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Election Schedule was issued on 04.10.2019 wherein Polling-day was fixed on 02.11.2019. Due to spread of COVID-19 & law and order situation, polling was not held on due date, however, one candidate from UC-29, F-10, F-11 was elected un-contested and was notified accordingly.

5.5.1 Indirect Elections

Ex-Mayor of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) Sheikh Anser Aziz, resigned from his office on 01.10.2020. Federal Government Notified the vacancy of the Mayor MCI on November 11, 2020.

In order to fill the vacancy, Election Commission of Pakistan issued an Election Programme on December 04, 2020, wherein the Polling Day was fixed on 28.12.2020. Resultantly, Pir Adil Shah was elected as a new Mayor of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI). Letter was written to the Federal Government (Ministry of Interior) on 30.12.2020, regarding intimation of the exact date of expiry of the tenure of the Local Government institution in the ICT for further proceedings in the matter.

5.6 Conduct of Local Government Elections in the Cantonment Boards

5.6.1 Delimitation of Wards in Cantonment Boards

Tenure of LG Cantonment Boards expired on 09.12.2019. In light of Section 219(4) of the Elections Act, 2017, ECP initiated the process for conduct of Local Government Elections in the Cantonment Boards. ECP notified the Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities for carrying out the delimitation of Local Government Cantonment Boards constituencies across the country. The schedule for carrying out delimitation of 42 cantonments was issued on 30.01.2020.

After publication of the preliminary list of constituencies on 18.02.2020, representations were invited from the voters of the respective wards in each Cantonment Board and in response, 208 representations were filed before the respective Delimitation Authorities.

Thereafter, Delimitation Authorities disposed off the representations filed against the preliminary publication of wards of Cantonment Boards and as a result, the delimitation of 42 Cantonment Boards was published by the respective Delimitation Committees on 27.03.2020.

5.6.2 Reasons for Non-issuance of Election Programme

The Local Government Elections Programme could not be issued due to COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, Military Land & Cantonment Department requested the ECP to delay the issuance of election schedule till the delimitation of seven re-classified Cantonment Boards.

5.6.3 Fresh Delimitation Schedule of Seven (07) Re-classified Cantonment Boards

Fresh delimitation in respect of seven (07) Cantonments namely Bahawalpur, Kamra, Taxila, Shorkot, Malir, Korangi Creek and Abbottabad was carried out due to re-classification by Ministry of Defence. In this regard, the notifications for Delimitation schedule, Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities were issued. Moreover, the consultative meetings with the Cantonments Authorities for the conduct of Local Government Elections in the Cantonment Boards were held at Election Commission of Pakistan Secretariat to fix date for the Local Government Cantonment Board Elections in pursuance of Section 58 (2) of the Cantonment Board Ordinance 2001 (as amended from time to time).

6. Legal Matters

In order to ensure speedy trial and disposal of pending Election Petitions, numbers of letters and reminders have been issued to the Registrars of the High Courts. Number of Election Petitions pending by December, 2020 was as below:-

Province	No of Election Petitions filed	Decided / disposed of	Pendency
Punjab including ICT	139	118	21
Sindh	80	24	56
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including merged FATA	39	27	12
Balochistan	56	56	0

6.1.1 Cases / Complaints / Appeals Taken Up and Decided By Hon'ble Commission

During the year 2020, twenty five fresh cases / complaints / appeals were filed before the Hon'ble Commission. The Hon'ble Commission heard and decided thirty cases / complaints / appeals during the year out of pending and fresh cases.

6.1.2 Maintenance of Panel of Advocates, Supreme Court and Legal Advisors

In Punjab, Islamabad and Balochistan, wherever Election Petitions and other cases of the Commission are pending, services of Legal Advisors have been hired on contract basis. For better representation of the Hon'ble Commission before the Supreme Court a panel of nineteen prominent Advocates of Supreme Court has been maintained by the Law Wing whose services are engaged on case to case basis.

7. Monitoring

Section 234 of the Elections Act 2017 provides for monitoring of election campaign of political parties and candidates. ECP appoints a District Monitoring Officer (DMO) and Monitoring Teams comprising monitors for each constituency to monitor election campaign. Monitoring teams report any violation of the provision of the Elections Act 2017, the Election Rules 2017 and the Code of Conduct for the Political Parties and contesting candidates to the DMO.

Due to Covid-19 no bye-elections were held in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan during the year 2020, however, 26 violations of Code of Conduct were committed before the postponement of bye-election in PS-52 Umerkot-II and following actions were taken for implementation of Code of Conduct:

Sr. No.	Province	District	Constituency	No. of Violations	No. of Warnings issued	Fine imposed (No.s)	Approx. Banners and flexes removed	Disciplinary Action	Remarks (if any)
1.	Sindh	Umerkot	Bye-Election PS-52 Umerkot-II	26	3	Nil	1000	Nil	Code of conduct has been implemented in letter and spirit

8. General Services (GS)

Election material (Ballot papers etc.) was arranged for the following election activities held during the year 2020:-

8.1 Senate Elections

A general seat from Baluchistan fell vacant due to death of a senator, namely Mr. Hasil Khan Bizenjo, whereupon elections were conducted.

8.2 Local Government Bye-Elections

Mayor (ICT) resigned due to which bye elections were held to fill the seat.

9. Information Technology (IT)

Election Commission of Pakistan has been taking steps to introduce various technologies with the aim of improving its electoral processes and automate many of its routine tasks. ECP is currently working on the following technologies:

- Online Complaint Management system
- Online Recruitment Management System
- Legal Case Management Portal
- Electoral Roll Staff / Personnel Management System
- Development of HR MIS Application
- CERS Connectivity & Network Troubleshooting
- Website management

9.1 Implementation & Achievements

- a) Online Complaint Management System: Online Complaint Management System (CMS) was developed and deployed in ECP, Secretariat, Provincial Election Commissioner's offices and field offices of RECs/DECs for upholding principles of transparency, openness, accuracy and stakeholders' satisfaction. It facilitates stakeholders to launch complaints and to track it through online web portal. The competent authority can check online resolution of the complaint and similarly the complainant can also view the status of their complaints on real-time basis.
- b) Online Recruitment Management system: Online Recruitment System was developed and successfully implemented for hiring of Election Officers. Candidates successfully submitted their bio-data by using ECP ORM system. The short-listing process of applications has been accomplished using the same system. By using the compiled data, letters, SMS and Emails were sent to the applicants for submitting the required documents. Further applications for the post of DD-Networks and DD-database were also received through ORMS and short listing was accomplished, accordingly.
- c) Short Message Service (SMS): This technology provides the capability of sending (broadcasting) bulk SMS to all officers of the ECP in both languages (English & Urdu) using mask of "ECP SECTT". Hon'ble CEC office, Public Relations and Law Wings as well as Establishment Branch are equipped with this service and can transmit bulk SMS to different groups as and when needed. Furthermore the same service has been utilized for informing candidates for Election Officer (EO) regarding various updates on recruitment process and conduct of test.
- d) Helpline Interactive Voice Response (IVR): Special initiative has been taken to start a dedicated Telephone Helpline for assisting general public over automated voice recorded system over telephone / mobile. This service guides stakeholders and general public on recorded audio messages in both languages i.e. English and Urdu. Dedicated operator, on real time basis has also been deputed for assisting General Public and stakeholders. The service is available 24/7 at telephone number 051-8848888.
- e) Legal Case Management Portal: Election Commission of Pakistan has indigenously developed and deployed the solution of Legal Case Management Portal for Establishment Branches and Law Wing of ECP to manage the cases and to keep track of the hearings. The same system provides facilitation to the management of the ECP. The Establishment branches and Law Wing of ECP Secretariat are currently using the system which will also be deployed in Provincial Headquarters in near future.
- f) 8300 SMS Service (Voter Information): Election Commission of Pakistan facilitates the voters / general public through its 8300 SMS Service. Voters can send their CNIC to short code 8300 to know their vote details. On the basis of the SMS information, the voters are able to update / change their votes by visiting relevant office of DEC.

- g) Public Outreach Initiatives (Social Media): As per Strategic Plan, official accounts of Facebook and YouTube have been created for interacting with voters and other stakeholders.
- h) Video Conferencing Solution for ECP and Provincial HQs: This solution allows ECP Secretariat and PEC HQs to virtually connect for holding official meetings through video conferencing system. This system comprises state-of-the-art branded hardware, specialized software having multiple features linked with last mile fiber optics on high speed bandwidth to provide high quality audio / video communication as per global standards. Bids have been received by the vendors of Video Conferencing Solution and technical and financial scrutiny was also conducted and contract was awarded to the vendor.
- i) Website Management: Website security features have been upgraded with the latest technology. IT-Wing has ensured the availability of the latest and updated necessary information for the general public. In this regard following information has been uploaded on the ECP official website on regular basis:
 - i. Press Releases
 - ii. Notifications
 - iii. Cause List
 - iv. Information and Complaint Centers
 - v. Display Centers in terms of Electoral Rolls
 - vi. Reports (Strategic Plan 2019-2023)

Pilot testing is proposed prior to the launch of any IT related intervention for better understanding on its operational and technical aspects

10. Institutional Capacity Development

ECP arranges different training programmes for its own permanent staff and election officials temporarily engaged for the purpose of elections. The Capacity building trainings of the permanent staff is a regular feature, which is conducted frequently at Federal Election Academy whereas; the trainings of election officials are conducted before each and every electoral event.

Training activities of the ECP remained limited, due to Covid-19. However trainings were conducted on limited scale following the SOPs issued by the Government of Pakistan. A brief overview is given below.

10.1 Training of Master Trainers for “Protection Against Harassment Of Women at Workplace Act-2010”

After the promulgation of “Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act-2010”, ECP has taken a number of initiatives to create awareness amongst ECP employees. For this purpose, 02-Day training of Master Trainers was conducted at Federal Election Academy (FEA) for 28 officers. The training was conducted by renowned Training Specialists in the field of Gender Mainstreaming i.e. Mr. Tauseeq Haider and Ms. Faouzia Saeed as per detail given below:

Sr. #	Number of Persons Trained	Total No. of Trainings	Duration of Each Training	Venue	Time Frame
1	28	01	02 days	FEA, ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.	06.01.2020 to 07.01.2020

10.2 Training of Officers for Conduct Of Pilot Project to Identify the Gender Gap

ECP carried out a pilot project, with an aim to determine the causes of low registration of female with NADRA, which was eventually hindering their registration with ECP as a voter. Prior to this initiative it was considered necessary that proper training of all the RECs, DECs and DEOs must be conducted at provincial headquarters. The trainings were conducted as per following detail:

Sr. #	Number of Persons Trained	Venue	Time Frame
1	61	FEA, ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.	03.07.2020 To 06.07.2020

10.3 Training of Delimitation Committees

Delimitation of constituencies is conducted after every census officially published or enactment of any new legislation in any local government. As the Local Government institutions of all the four provinces were established prior to the census 2017 therefore fresh delimitation became mandatory. Moreover introduction of new Local Government System in Punjab and amendments in Local Government Act of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa necessitated the delimitation in these provinces.

Keeping in view the significance of the process, Federal Election Academy imparted Delimitation Trainings for the provinces of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in two phases as per detail given below.

- (i) **First Phase – Training of Master Trainers**
- (ii) **Second Phase – Training of Delimitation Committees**

10.4 Training of Master Trainers

Sr. #	Province	Number of Persons Trained	Total No. of Trainings	Duration of Each Training	Venue	Time Frame
1	Punjab	06	01	01 Day	FEA, ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.	16.07.2020
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	07	01			17.07.2020
3	Sindh	07	01			03.09.2020

10.5 Training of Delimitation Committees for Local Government

Sr.	Province	Number of Persons Trained	Total No. of Trainings	Duration of Each Training	Venue	Time Frame
1	Punjab	117	09	02 Days	FEA, Lahore & Multan	20.07.2020 to 25.07.2020
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	112	08		Peshawar.	20.07.2020 to 25.07.2020
3	Sindh	93	04		Karachi, Sukkur & Hyderabad	07.09.2020 To 08.09.2020

10.6 Training of Trainers for Training Of DROs and ROs

With the introduction of new Local Government System in Punjab, training of Election Officials for proper understanding of the system became necessary to ensure smooth conduct of elections.

Curriculum for the said training was developed by a committee of experts followed by a 03-day Training of Master Trainers for DROs and ROs at Federal Election Academy, ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. Detail is given below.

Sr. #	Province	Number of Persons Trained	Total No. of Trainings	Duration of Each Training	Venue	Time Frame
1	Punjab	20	01	03 Days	FEA, ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.	28th to 30th Sept, 2020

10.7 Training of Lead Trainers

Polling Officials have a vital role to play in the conduct of elections for which ECP opted for the cascade pattern training, which consists of the following tiers.

- (i) **First tier** – **Training of Lead Trainers**
- (ii) **Second tier** – **Training of Master Trainers**
- (iii) **Third tier** – **Training of Polling Personnel**

Sr. #	Province	Number of Persons Trained (Lead Trainers)	Total No. of Trainings	Duration of Each Training	Venue	Time Frame
1	Punjab	26	01	03 Days	FEA, ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.	1st to 03rd Oct, 2020

11. Interaction With International and National Stakeholders

a. Participation at International Electoral Forums

- In response to an invitation from Commonwealth UK, a representative from ECP participated in the Validation Meeting on “new Best Practice Guide of Commonwealth Legislative Approaches to Political Finance Regulations” on 10th – 11th February, 2020 at Commonwealth, UK. The purpose of the Commonwealth Workshop was to exchange experiences in the area of political finance regulation, obtain comments and feedback on the draft of guide prepared by Commonwealth on Political Finance Regulations.
- A webinar on Elections during Pandemic on 12th June, 2020 was organized by Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), ANFREL and the Korea Democracy Foundation. Two officers of ECP participated in webinar.
- The online forum on Trends in Representation and Inclusion in Elections was organized by Commonwealth on 30th September, 2020. Two officers of ECP participated in the forum.
- Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) organized its first Virtual Board Meeting on 1st October, 2020. Six officers of ECP participated in the meeting.
- Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) organized a Webinar on dissemination of electoral information to voters in time of crisis on 29th October, 2020. Six officers of ECP participated in the webinar.
- International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) and International Electoral Affairs Programme (IEAP) organized a Webinar on “how the use of online and remote voting could aid the delivery of elections” during a pandemic on 11th November, 2020. Briefing was shared with five wings of ECP for information.
- Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) organized a webinar on Election Management during COVID-19: Valuable Lessons Learned and Future Outlook on 23rd November, 2020. Briefing of the webinar was shared with five wings of ECP for information.

b. Election Observation

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Observer Mission and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Tajikistan invited Election Commission of Pakistan to participate as International Observer in the International Observation of elections in the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Tajikistan and Local Majlises of People on 1st March, 2020 in Tajikistan. Embassy of Pakistan in Tajikistan participated in SCO Observer Mission on behalf of ECP.
- Commonwealth invited to observe the New Zealand General Election Virtual Visitor Programme. The programme was scheduled from 24th – 25th November, 2020. Three officers from ECP attended the online programme.

c. Interaction with National Stakeholders

- A briefing session was arranged at ECP Secretariat on 17th February, 2020, for 85th Pre-Service Course for 30 trainee officers of Pakistan Provincial Service Academy (PPSA) Peshawar. The objective of the briefing session was to apprise the participants about the role of Election Commission of Pakistan.
- Representatives of Election Commission of Pakistan observed the conduct of Elections in Gilgit Baltistan on 15th November, 2020.
- An online meeting of Pakistan Youth Development Index Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was organized on 18th November, 2020 by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Youth Affairs, in collaboration with Commonwealth to develop the 2020 Pakistan Youth Development Index (PYDI). Two officers from ECP attended the said meeting.

12. Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusion

Article 25 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan guarantees equality for all citizens. During the year 2020, ECP took several key initiatives to bring women, persons with disabilities, minorities and transgender in the mainstream of electoral processes.

As a result of the efforts made by the Election Commission, the gender gap between male and female voters in the Electoral Rolls was reduced by one percent (1%)

Gender	Population Census 2017	Registered Voters (FER-2018) July-2018	Registered Voters Preliminary Electoral Rolls (PER-2019) December-2019	Registered Voters (FER-2020) October-2020	Net Increase after General Elections
Male	106,449,322 51%	59,222,926 56%	62,555,131 56%	64,078,616 55%	4,855,690 49.58%
Female	101,314,780 49%	46,730,570 44%	49,833,318 44%	51,667,599 45%	4,937,029 50.41%
Trans-gender	10,418 0.005%	1,913 0.002%	2,489 0.002%	2,538 0.002%	625 0.01%
Total	207,774,520	105,955,409	112,390,938	115,748,753	9,793,344

Clear reduction of 1% in the gender gap

12.1 Female NIC and Voter Registration Campaign

According to the provisional report of the 6th population census, women constitute 48.76% of the total population in Pakistan and their participation as voters and candidates is essential in electoral processes. An analysis of the Electoral Rolls reflected a gap between male and female registered voters. The main reason behind the gap was low registration of female NIC with NADRA. ECP strategized to mitigate and minimize the gender gap by taking the following initiatives:

- i. **Coordination with NADRA for NIC/ Voter Registration Campaign**
- ii. **Engagement of CSOs as implementing partners**
- iii. **Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) for awareness raising and mobilization campaigns at grass root level**
- iv. **District Voter Education Committees' (DVEC's) coordination with stakeholders and mobilization of local communities specially women, PWDs, transgender and minorities**

ECP launched a countrywide Women's NIC and Voter Registration Campaign in 2017 and completed its third phase in 2020. Approximately 850,000 unregistered women were facilitated, bringing them to NADRA Registration Centers (NRCs) and Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) to register their NICs.

12.2 Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG)

Election Commission of Pakistan has constituted a Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG). Around 100 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are members of the Working Group. CSOs are tasked to map their activities, share information and lessons learnt from the NIC / Voter Registration Campaigns between NADRA, ECP and CSOs for better coordination. The group also works on development and utilization of civic and voter education materials during awareness campaign to increase female voters' registration and voter turnout. Some of the major achievements of ECP through its GDEWG are as follows:

- i. Free of cost NIC for first time registration of female
- ii. Saturdays as additional working day exclusively for women registration during ECP's campaign
- iii. Additional MRVs deployed exclusively for women registration during ECP's NIC / Voter Registration Campaign

- iv. Female staff at NADRA registration centers increased during ECP campaign
- v. Voter registration and awareness raising messages run through electronic media

12.3 Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF)

keeping in view the importance of gender mainstreaming and pillar 10 of ECP's Third Strategic Plan (2019-23), a committee was constituted to evaluate Post Election Review Recommendations of Annual Report 2018 for the purpose of implementation.

12.4 International Women's Day

8th March is celebrated as International Women's Day around the world to acknowledge the contribution of women in different walks of life. ECP has been celebrating the day for the past four years and in the year 2020 it was marked on Thursday 12th March 2020 at ECP Secretariat. The event was graced by Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner, Hon'ble Members, Secretary ECP and all relevant stakeholders.

12.5 International/National Rural Women's Day

To raise awareness among rural women about the electoral process and polling day activities, ECP participated in 13th Annual Conference on Rural Women organized by Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) which is a member of Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) of ECP. The Conference was held on 15th October, 2020 at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, with the theme "Rural Women's Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation, COVID-19 Response, Governance and Disaster Preparedness". ECP conducted the following activities for the event:

- i. Policy Dialogue was held for the purpose of "Participation of Rural Women in LGE" with around 100 women as participants
- ii. A mock poll exercise was arranged for rural women as participants
- iii. Flyers were printed and distributed among the participants containing information regarding electoral process.

Gender Wing with the collaboration of UNDP prepared brochures and standees to create awareness among the rural women regarding local government system and SOPs for voters regarding risk mitigation about COVID-19 Pandemic.

12.6 Constitution of Harassment Committee

The ECP is committed to make efforts for creating an enabling and safe working environment for all staff members. ECP has already constituted inquiry committees at Secretariat level and in four Provincial Election Commissioners' offices. The committees have been assigned the task to conduct inquiry under Harassment Act, 2010 as and when required.

12.7 Pilot Project on NIC-Voter Registration

To reduce 12.7 million gap between male and female registered voters, Gender Wing in collaboration with Electoral Rolls Wing launched the pilot project in constituencies with highest gender gap. To identify the reasons behind the huge gap, project activities were carried out in 230 Census Blocks of 20 Districts in all four provinces. It was found that the reasons for the huge gap between male and female registered voters were because of large distances to the NADRA's registration centers, financial issue faced by females for registration process and lack of interest in getting female NICs.

12.8 Frequently Asked Questions for Tele-Helpline Using Interactive Voice Response (IVR)

ECP has prepared FAQs along with their translations in both English and Urdu languages, regarding women, PWDs, transgender persons, and minority voters. These questions revolve around their rights as voters and candidates. Information is also provided about their quota share in Parliament, Provincial Assemblies and the availability / accessibility of polling stations.

13. Human Resource Management

The process of rationalization of human resource / posts was carried out at the behest and guidance of Hon'ble CEC to enhance the competence, efficiency and productivity of the employees of the Election Commission, in the year 2020. During the process, new posts were created and redundant posts were abolished. Hierarchical composition was devised, Human Resource Management System (HRMS) was launched and Development wing was created. On the directions of Hon'ble CEC, rationalization process for ECP, Secretariat and Punjab province was completed whereas work related to other provinces is under process.

14. Public Relations

Public Relations Wing of ECP in addition to its routine work performed the following tasks during the year 2020:

- Devising, making and distribution of accreditation cards to the National Observers' mission and National media
- Voter's education campaign through electronic media (2 spots per day-public service message) campaign through ATMs of various Banks on women's registration reducing the gender gap in the electoral Rolls
- Streamlining the flow of information to all the media i.e. Electronic and print media.
- Issuance of beat reporters cards to media under the Covid's-19 SOPs



15. Infrastructure Development

Election Commission of Pakistan has 160 field offices across Pakistan which is accommodated in hired buildings. In order to establish field offices in buildings owned by the ECP, following steps have been taken:-

15.1 Infrastructural Development Plan

The Infrastructural Development Plan focusing on the procurement of lands and construction of 160 Field Office Buildings of ECP, Federal Election Academy and CEC house has been prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 22 Billion to be implemented in six years time. The plan has been submitted to Planning Commission for endorsement and earmarking of the requisite funds from PSDP.

15.2 Land Procurement

To start the process of development, ECP intends to procure land for its office in all districts of four provinces of Pakistan. Presently ECP is in possession of 12 plots at Narowal, Khushab, Layyah Mohmand, Chagai, Kharan, Gawadar, Barkhan, Washuk, Lasbella, Lehri and Nushki. These plots of varying sizes have been procured from the Provincial Government. In addition, 08 Plots in Punjab Province have been purchased for DECs offices during the year 2020. PCs-1 for construction of office buildings for DECs Sargodha, Sahiwal, Attock, Okara, Jhelum, Bhakkar, Lodhran, Rajanpur, Khushab and Layyah have been received and put up to the DDWP for approval. Cases for purchase of 07 Plots for DECs office building i.e. Shiekhupura, Vehari, Toba Tek Singh, Mianwali, Rahim Yar Khan, Jhang and Faisalabad of Punjab Province is under process.

15.3 Projects in Pipeline

- PC-I for construction of field offices of DECs at Layyah, Khushab, Mohmand, Lakki Marwat were considered by the DDWP, who advised that ECP may prepare comprehensive development plan regarding construction of its Provincial, Regional, and District field offices for the approval of Planning Commission. The Plan has since been submitted to Planning Commission for endorsement and funding.
- Another revised PC-I of additional block of ECP Secretariat was discussed in DDWP meeting held on 28.04.2020 with the direction that revised PC-I of the original project with full justification of increase in cost and delays will be resubmitted to DDWP alongwith monitoring report from Planning Commission. The revised PC-I alongwith monitoring report of Planning Commission has now been received. The revised PC-I will be placed before the DDWP meeting for approval.

16. Celebration of National Voters Day-2020

Election Commission of Pakistan celebrates National Voters Day each year on 7th December to create awareness among masses about their electoral rights, duties as a citizen of Pakistan and to make electoral process more inclusive. However, due to Covid-19 pandemic the event was organized and celebrated as per SOPs issued by the Government of Pakistan on a limited scale. The main event was celebrated at the secretariat which was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner, while at the Provincial level the events were graced by Hon'ble Members of ECP. Representatives from UNDP and partner organizations participated in the event.



27th January 2020 - Oath Taking Ceremony of the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner



Celebration of International Women's Day, 2020



27th January 2020 - Oath Taking Ceremony of newly Appointed Members of ECP



Honble CEC addressing National Voters' Day, (07.12.2020)



Secretary (ECP) addressing National Voters' Day, (07.12.2020)



Training for the Lead Trainers for the Local Government Elections in Punjab



Training of Master Trainers for the Conduct of Local Government Elections



Training of Delimitation Committees for Local Government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Training of Master Trainers for Local Government Elections in Punjab



Inauguration of Online Complaint Management System



Certificate Distribution Ceremony in Federal Election Academy at ECP



Voters Day Celebrations in the Provincial Election Commissioner's Office, Lahore