



## TACMIL Health Project

### Technical Assistance for Capacity building in Midwifery, Information and Logistics

---

#### Promoting Citizens

TACMIL Health Project is supporting national NGOs for implementing innovative models for strengthening health systems at the grass-root level. Centre of Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), a partner organization, is implementing a program for “Strengthening Civil Society and Local Governance on Need Based Budgeting in Health Sector” in Jhelum district of the Punjab province. In addition to other objectives the program is also promoting citizens’ right to information in the health sector. Since public’s right to information is a prerequisite to transparent governance, public participation and equitable distribution of public resources in health sector needs to be communicated to civil society.

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), CPDI was able to implement a range of awareness, advocacy and capacity building activities in Jhelum district. These activities have played a significant role in increasing the level of awareness and public demand for access to information. In addition, stakeholders were facilitated to interact with the local health authorities in a meaningful and effective manner. This aspect is especially important since the community has concerns about low budgetary allocations for health sector, weak public information systems, lack of public awareness about their rights as beneficiaries of health services and their rights.

In order to develop a need-based budget for health services, public participation and information about their needs and expectations is required. Local government system provides a platform for such inputs from the grass-root level, however reporting of public expenditure is not available for public information, this leaves them unaware of the facts that whether plans developed at the time of budgeting are being adhered to or not .

Accordingly, for good governance and accountability, a system is needed which ensures that required information is accessible to public. CPDI is working with different levels of government for accomplishment of this objective.

As part of the advocacy strategy CPDI in addition to engaging in public awareness activities, was also engaging with political leadership at different levels. These include Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab, Federal Information Ministry and Members of Senate. The CM of Punjab gave the most inspiring response once he directed the Additional Chief Secretary to hold a meeting with the Chief Executive of CPDI to submit a report on the need for enacting a new law for “Freedom of Information” at the provincial level. The meeting was conducted and discussions were carried on various aspects. Thus, the process for accessing the need for a new law has started. This is a great break through which can benefit millions of people.



**USAID** | **PAKISTAN**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## TACMIL Health Project

Technical Assistance for Capacity building in Midwifery, Information and Logistics

---

The issue was also recognized by senator who sought more information to the project and promised to initiate the issue at the senate level.

With the joint efforts of TACMIL Health Project and CPDI, formation of draft for “Information Law” has been initiated at federal as well as provincial levels. The process has taken its first step and has all the chances of reaching the final stage, as it is being supported by cabinet as well as senate.