Annual Review - Summary Sheet

PROGRAMME TITLE: **Consolidating Democracy in Pakistan (CDIP)**		
Country/Region:	Pakistan	
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	**Department for International Development (DFID)**, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	
Total Budget:	ODA: £3.68 million	Non-ODA:
Start Date: April 2016	**End Date:** March 2019	

Outputs	Score
Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) better equipped to deliver in advance of 2018 elections	A+
Selected Provincial Assemblies and members better equipped to hold executive to account and to develop more inclusive practices	A
Political parties across the mainstream political spectrum better equipped to represent, respond to and deliver for their constituents	A
Preparation of future approaches to promote citizen awareness and political debate through direct engagement and social media campaigns	A+
Outcome: Democratic system in which government institutions are more capable, parliament is more accountable and the state as a whole is more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the Pakistani people	

Outcome Score: A	**Risk: Medium**

What support is the UK providing?

The 2016-17 Democracy Programme, funded by the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), provided short-term technical assistance to address a number of time-sensitive issues related to upcoming elections. This support will continue under the long-term Consolidating Democracy in Pakistan (CDIP) programme, currently undergoing procurement. This interim support was considered critical to maintain momentum ahead of the 2018 general election, to contribute directly to improving the credibility, transparency and inclusivity of election management and oversight processes and support Pakistan's ongoing democratic transition.

Summary of progress and lessons learnt/actions taken since last review

Major results include:

- *Electoral reform*: the programme contributed to: raising public awareness of the electoral reform process and mobilising broader civil society and the media in support of electoral reform.

- *Recognition of a voter registration gap and planned declaration of a voter registration emergency*: the programme raised awareness in the ECP of the existence and the impact of a registration gap of over 20 million and a gender gap (between eligible female voters and those registered) of 12.21 million. The programme will offer technical support to the ECP to develop and operationalise a strategy to address this.

- *Evolution of the ECP*: the programme has helped the ECP with existing work to:
    - improve technical capacity, including IT and communications capabilities;
    - respond to issues of inclusion such as gender, youth and persons with disabilities (PWDs);
    - improve its relationship with civil society

- *Provincial Assembly (PA) capacity and improving inter-provincial parliaments' relationships*: the work undertaken with the Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa PAs and the practice of knowledge sharing between provincial assemblies on issues of mutual interest which was initiated by inter-provincial exchanges has improved parliamentary processes and has strengthened the capacity of the PAs as oversight institutions.

- *Strengthening of democratic participation*: pilot social media campaigns and work with civil society groups helped to raise awareness of the importance of elections.

- *Relationships with external stakeholders*: the Democracy Programme team either built or further developed effective working relationships with key external stakeholders (including the ECP, PAs, the Senate and Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Studies (PIPS).

Summary of recommendations for the next year

Findings and key recommendations include:

- **Strategic focus:** The programme's focus - on elections, political parties, parliaments and parliamentarians, and democratic space including human rights - remains appropriate, both in terms of the UK's objectives and as areas key for the continued democratisation of Pakistan. It is recommended that this strategic focus be maintained within CDIP with an immediate focus on elections.

- **Political analysis and engagement:** CDIP will need to be informed and closely guided by the UK's own analysis and its definition of priorities and needs.

- **Aligning programme and policy:** During implementation, the Democracy Programme team should, formally and on a regular basis, ensure that priorities are reviewed and reaffirmed.

- **Flexible and adaptive programming:** Within the programme a number of operational adjustments will be required. Moving forward, given the dynamic political context, the CDIP logframe will need to allow flexibility.

Elections support

- **Technical assistance to the ECP**: the ECP's capacity remains key to the actual conduct of the election. The next critical requirement will be for the training of approximately 700,000 polling staff. The CDIP programme should ensure that an appropriate level of support is provided to the ECP to support them to achieve this.

- **Voter registration and domestic election observation:** The issues of voter registration and election observation will be an important factor in successful elections. It is strongly recommended that the Democracy team and the new CDIP supplier ensure that support for these two issues is prioritised.

Programme transition

- **UNDP to lead support to ECP:** It is recommended that UNDP, whose project will continue, be tasked with ensuring that the ECP continues to receive full support during the procurement period of the long-term CDIP programme.

- **Exploring continuation of work with existing implementing partners**: The Democracy Programme team should ensure that the new supplier works closely with existing implementing partners and that activities are mutually supporting.