A company setup under section 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984.
Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) is an independent, non-partisan and a not-for-profit civil society organization working on issues of peace and development in Pakistan. It is registered UNDER SECTION 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (XLVII of 1984). It was established in September 2003 by a group of concerned citizens who realized that there was a need to approach the issues of peace and development in an integrated manner. The CPDI is a first initiative of its kind in Pakistan. It seeks to inform and influence public policies and civil society initiatives through research-based advocacy and capacity building in order to promote citizenship, build peace and achieve inclusive and sustainable development. Areas of special sectoral focus include promotion of peace and tolerance, rule of law, transparency and access to information, budget watch and Legislative Watch and Development.
Our Vision:

CPDI envisions a world that guarantees rule of law, protects human and civil rights, embraces diversity of views, supports vulnerable people and provides optimum conditions in which each individual can realize his or her full potential.

CPDI aspires to become a national and international leader in advocacy. We resolve to build on its reputation for informing and influencing public policies and initiatives through research based championship of rights based campaigns. We are determined to continue our engagement with the people and the Government of Pakistan, and to promote active citizenship in all its forms.

CPDI specializes in five sectors of development:
1. Promotion of Peace and Tolerance
2. Rule of Law
3. Transparency and Right to Information
4. Budget Watch
5. Legislative Watch and Democratic Development.

Our Mission:
1. Transparency and Right to Information

Aim of this program is to work for maximum transparency and peoples’ right to information and records held by public bodies. Focus areas under this program include:

- Policy research and advocacy for enactment of appropriate laws for peoples’ right to information and their implementation
- Public Awareness about the need and importance of right to information and transparency in governance
- Organization of policy dialogues, seminars and workshops
- Capacity building of all stakeholders
- Information requests initiative

Projects Under This Thematic Area:

1. Strengthening Investigative Journalism through Right to Information:
   - Funded by: USAID
   - Duration: 13 months
   - Geographical Scope: Punjab
   - Target Audience: Media/Journalists

   Under this project, CPDI aims to build the capacity of journalists to use RTI laws for the purpose of investigative reporting. The journalists, both from print and electronic media are getting training to use RTI in investigative reporting. The project team is keeping a strong follow up with trained journalists and encouraging them to use Right To Information (RTI) for investigative reporting.

2. Strengthening Transparency and Accountability Mechanism in KPK
   - Funded by: USAID
   - Duration: 1 year
   - Geographical Scope: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts of Peshawar, Mardan, Abbottabad, Mansehra
   - Target Audience: Political parties, elected representatives, public officials, journalists, civil society organization, youth

   This project aims at strengthening accountability and transparency mechanism in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province and generating awareness at grassroots level about using different tools to combat corruption. Furthermore, this project is critically analyzing the existing anti-corruption mechanisms and advocating for reforms where required. The project is also raising awareness among public regarding corruption in government bodies and strengthening citizens’ voice against corruption.
5. RTI Campaign – Federal Access To Information Network (FATIN)
Funded by: Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)
Duration: 01 Year
Geographical Scope: Federal
Target Audience: Legislatures, government officials, journalists, Academia, Civil Society and Citizenry

The Right to Information (RTI) campaign, supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation, focuses specifically upon sensitizing youth leaders from the Federal Capital, Islamabad on RTI. The campaign aims to select a pool of talented students via an online competition phase on RTI and direct the efforts of these students towards filing information requests in pre-specified sectors. The campaign builds upon the prior year’s endeavors to recognize RTI as an enabling right. All the stages of the campaign are documented via a documentary. The involvement of parents, peers and teachers of the students helped in first hand dissemination of awareness on RTI, while the involvement of media has ensure that the message reaches citizenry across Pakistan.

4. Strengthening RTI Movement by Building National RTI Coalition
Funded by: Foundation Open Society Institute Pakistan (FOSIP)
Duration: 08 Months
Geographical Scope: National
Target Audience: Political parties, elected representatives, public officials, journalists, civil society organizations

This project is aimed at providing common platform to civil society organization to launch efforts to protect and promote right to information in the country. It has been a successful effort as civil society organizations have been able to pool in their resources to further strengthen their advocacy initiatives giving impetus to right to information movement in the country.
2. Budget Watch

Budget making in Pakistan has traditionally been an exclusive domain of the government, as people could not access or analyze the relevant information in a timely manner. CPDI has been working to change this by demanding transparency, building relevant budget tracking capacities in the civil society and articulating and advocating peoples-centered budget making. In specific terms, the aim of the program on budget watch is to:

- Study the budget making processes at various levels of governance
- Analyze budget priorities and allocations in the light of challenges confronted in the related jurisdictions
- Track the use of budget allocations, identify inefficiencies if any, and implement advocacy activities to get the identified problems redressed
- Create public awareness and promote informed policy debates for influencing policy outcomes

Projects Under This Thematic Area:

1. Strengthening Civil Society to Improve Accountability
   Funded by: National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
   Geographical Scope: Punjab
   Target Audience: General Public and District Governments of the Punjab.

   The core objective of this project was to promote democratization by establishing and strengthening mechanisms of enhanced public participation in monitoring and accountability of use of public funds by public authorities in the districts of the Punjab. In 2013-14, CPDI has taken the gargantuan step of widening the scope of the project further to cover all 36 districts of the Punjab.

   The project consists of a comprehensive study of budget process in all districts of Punjab. This study further investigated the budget making process at district level with the lens of accountability, transparency and public participation. As a result of this study, long-term engagement with district governments to improve the process of budget making was made possible.
Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) is an important tool to track the flow of resources to the lowest tier of administration. Likewise in Punjab, the education budget is extremely low which in turn results in low educational outcomes. As observed in previous fiscal years, even the intended allocations do not reach out to the users of that service in the education sector. Leakage in education is rampant. Most of the time education allocations either go to salary or development of infrastructure, very little remains for operational expenses. In most of the schools, non-salary budget is non-existent and in some, well below the requirements. Such situation compels the school administration charging school increments on a monthly basis which exert extra pressure on the already poverty stricken people. This PETS along with government and citizen report card on service delivery helped document the leakage, inefficiencies and procedural disbursement bottlenecks. The production of research outcomes. As observed in previous fiscal years, even the intended allocations do not reach out to the users of

3. Legislative Watch and Development

Aim of this program is to take initiatives whereby citizens’ ability to effectively watch and participate in legislative and democratic process not only increases but also gets institutionalized. One initiative under the program is to observe the performance of legislatures at the provincial and national levels, and establish interfaces whereby citizens and civil society groups could positively influence the work being performed by their legislators. Relevant focus areas include:

- Analysis of legislative performance
- Public awareness about the roles and responsibilities of legislators as well as legislatures
- Advocacy for appropriate reforms
- Capacity building of legislators and civil society groups
- Organization of policy dialogues
Projects Under This Thematic Area:

1. Long Term Election Observation and Oversight in Pakistan, (LTEOOP)
   Funded by: TDEA-FAFEN
   Duration: 12 months
   Geographical Scope: Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Jhang, Sargodah, Chiniot, Khushab, Toba Tek Singh
   Target Audience: Election Stake Holders

TDEA-FAFEN is implementing the European Union (EU)-funded, Long-Term Election Observation and Oversight in Pakistan (LTEOOP) in partnership with its member organizations, covering all the National Assembly constituencies across Pakistan. CPDI in collaboration with TDEA-FAFEN is implementing LTEOOP in National Assembly Constituencies of districts in Punjab.

The overall objective of the TDEA-FAFEN strategy is to strengthen democratic institutions in Pakistan by contributing to transparent and accountable electoral processes. Free and fair elections are a vital element of democratic processes. The freedom and fairness of elections are not confined to Election Day. All aspects of the electoral cycle contribute to the freedom and fairness of elections and the democratic process as a whole. TDEA-FAFEN is implementing a long term observation programme as part of its overall election observation methodology, encompassing the monitoring of both pre and post electoral processes.

2. World Learning Legislative Fellowship
   Funded by: World Learning Organization, US - States Department
   Duration: Yearly
   Geographical Scope: Pakistan
   Target Audience: NGOs, Civil Society Activists

To strengthen the understanding of the U.S. legislative branch and civil society’s role in the political process and foster relationships among Asian and American institutions, World Learning (WL) selects NGO leaders and staff from Pakistan to join the Annual South and Central Asia Region Legislative Fellows Program (LFP). The selected Pakistani participants then join their counterparts from across the region and actively take part in LFP, which is a two-way exchange project for professionals and young leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and U.S.

WL is an American educational and development organization with decades of training, exchange, and youth leadership development experience. The World Learning Organization in collaboration with its partner organization Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives, (CPDI) is implementing Legislative Fellows Program in Pakistan. CPDI is facilitating WL’s selection process of the candidates.

Through this program young emerging leaders from the Asian countries and U.S. are gaining knowledge and leadership skills to become more engaged in their communities, learn about their regional colleagues and discover each group members’ ethnically, religiously, and nationally diverse background.
Establishment of Rule of Law is one of the main challenges confronted by Pakistan. Recognizing this, CPDI is engaged in research, watchdog and advocacy work to promote rule of law and, thereby, create conducive conditions for social harmony, investors’ protection, guaranteed human rights and democratic development. Focus areas under this program include:

- Supremacy of constitution
- Police reforms
- Access to justice
- Promotion of merit and fair and non-discriminatory practices in governance
- Promoting public debates on issues related to rule of law.

3. Content Development and Management for Pakistan Elections Information Web Portal (PEIWP)

Funded by: IFES
Duration: 01 Year
Geographical Scope: National
Target Audience: Voters of Pakistan 2013 elections, political parties and civil society organizations

The project is aimed to sensitize Citizens of Pakistan on the power of their vote and thus serve as a catalyst in increasing the voter turnout. The project activities intend to produce a variety of audio-visual resource material to assist the voters in understanding the voting process extensively and also to motivate them to cast their vote. The project material, which comprises e-booklets, documentary, election jingle, democracy games, monthly newsletter, animations, online election analysis and quizzes on political concepts and facts etc, is all intended to be disseminated via utilization of web-technology as the primary means. It is envisaged that the project is connecting the citizens of Pakistan in the electoral process and empowering them in playing their part towards building a democratic Pakistan.

4. Rule of Law

Establishment of Rule of Law is one of the main challenges confronted by Pakistan. Recognizing this, CPDI is engaged in research, watchdog and advocacy work to promote rule of law and, thereby, create conducive conditions for social harmony, investors’ protection, guaranteed human rights and democratic development. Focus areas under this program include:

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- Police reforms
- Access to justice
- Promotion of merit and fair and non-discriminatory practices in governance
- Promoting public debates on issues related to rule of law.
Projects Under This Thematic Area:

1. Civil Society and Police Reform in South Asia
   - Funded by: European Union (EU)
   - Duration: 03 Year
   - Geographical Scope: National
   - Target Audience: Police and Citizens

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) is implementing the project on “Civil Society and Police Reform in South Asia” lead by FNF and Funded by European Union (EU). The project focuses on police accountability and is being implemented in India, Maldives, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The project includes comprehensive research activities, multimedia campaigns on citizens’ rights, capacity building of CSOs and multi stakeholder forums for discussion and dialogue. The project aims to generate an informed debate on democratic policing through a comprehensive research base, increase public awareness on citizens’ rights, having more informed police reform advocates in the region and constructing a vibrant regional network through multi-stakeholder forums for discussion and dialogue.

2. Supporting Transparency, Accountability and Electoral Process in Pakistan
   - Funded by: DFID - TAF
   - Duration: 07 Months
   - Geographical Scope: 13 Constituencies of Punjab
   - Target Audience: Constituents

The core aim of STAEP was to ensure more effective, transparent and accountable governance by increasing citizen’s participation in ensuring transparency and accountability of elected and public institutions. Further program was to ensure that democratic processes in Pakistan are more open, inclusive, efficient and accountable to citizens through multiple interventions; Improving the responsiveness of elected representatives to their constituents; Enhancing electoral reforms and citizen participation in democratic processes; Improving civic education on democratic rights and responsibilities etc.
5. Promotion of Peace and Tolerance

Aim of the program is to develop and promote research-based understanding of social conflicts and intolerant attitudes, and then implement a wide-range of initiatives to achieve the objectives of social harmony, tolerance, pluralism and peace. Focus areas include:

- Religious and sectarian conflicts
- Inter-provincial conflicts
- Improved understanding across cultures, sects and religions

Projects Under This Thematic Area:

1. Developing Employability Skills among Educated Youth
   - Funded by: The Creative Associates International, USAID
   - Duration: 1 Year
   - Geographical Scope: Multan, Muzaffar Garh, Bahawalpur, Lodhran
   - Target Audience: Students / Youth

   CPDI’s Skills for Peace Initiative was aimed to prevent youth from joining violent groups by imparting employable-skills training so they could have better career prospective and providing them civic education so that they can participate actively in improving governance and propagate the message of peace and harmony in the society by serving as ambassadors of peace. To achieve this objective, CPDI starts training these youth in four skill development and civic education centers set up in district headquarters. Youth benefiting from this activity belongs from 18 tehsils of the four project districts.

   With the support of Creative and USAID, CPDI is inviting graduate and post-graduate degree awarding institutes and universities of all four districts to train graduate and post-graduate students. CPDI liaisons with job sector offering employment opportunities and government institutions to arrange exposure visits on governance for the students.
The Innovations of CPDI

ODK and Android Application Data Gathering Process and SMS Survey:
CPDI initiated the latest technological solution to gather data from distance and conduct field survey through Open Data Kit (ODK), an application helps conducting survey through Android smart phone. ODK survey helps in enhancing human capability, reduce time wastage and above all it reduce the error chances in data gathering process. CPDI took an innovative initiative of Android Smart phone survey through which we collect the data from many remote areas which are not accessible easily. CPDI conducted many surveys in districts of Punjab and KPK including Jhang, Sargodha, and Lahore etc. Other than ODK, CPDI has also run many campaigns through SMS survey which is a very economical way to approach a common person via SMS Campaigns. CPDI conducted SMS survey helps in enhancing human capability, reduce time wastage and survey helps in enhancing human capability, reduce time wastage and above all it reduce the error chances in data gathering process. CPDI took an innovative initiative of Android Smart phone survey through which we collect the data from many remote areas which are not accessible easily. CPDI conducted many surveys in districts of Punjab and KPK including Jhang, Sargodha, and Lahore etc. Other than ODK, CPDI has also run many campaigns through SMS survey which is a very economical way to approach a common person via SMS Campaigns. CPDI conducted SMS surveys in districts of Punjab i.e. Vehari, Sheikhupura, Narowal etc to get instant feedback, answers and deliver any information to the targeted population through SMS Survey method.

RTI Timeline, Helpline and Complain Registration and Tracking Software, Quiz and Audio Video Content on RTI. CRTI Web Portal, Annual RTI Champions Awards:
CPDIs struggle for enactment of RTI laws in country can’t be denied as numbers of events were organized by the institute to sensitize the local community, legislators, policy makers and all major stakeholders in the country. CPDI assists every peer of society from the initial process of writing information request according to respective RTI law to the successful achievement of required information. Moreover to help maximize citizen’s participation and improve the demand side of RTI laws CPDI provide all sort of assistance with commitment and without any discrimination.

Pak Voter Web Portal, Quizzes and Fun Gaming Related to Political Knowledge Assessment:
Voter education and political knowledge enhancement is the need of the hour in a developing country like Pakistan where democracy is in its initial stages. To meet the requirements and to put all the stuff related to politics in one cart including haphazard history of politics in Pakistan, democratic and dictator eras, constituency wise segregations, political parties and their representation in provinces and federal etc, CPDI took the initiative and prepared a web portal named “pakvoter.org” which contains hefty content about political information and education for voters.
Information Cleaning House:
Knowledge is power and to attain knowledge you have to seek information which is essential part in civilized societies, CPDI has started this practice with the aim to clean the informations and sought gaps in reporting and bridging these gaps by lodging the RTI request to solve domestic issues of our society, for the purpose we have formed a monitoring cell in which news analysts are monitoring 18 national and regional English and Urdu language newspapers and bridging the gaps in reporting by sending information request through RTI laws to the relevant public department. The information received from the public departments then shared with journalists to assist them in using RTI laws to produce and dig out a quality news story.

Development and Launch of Websites for Districts Government:
The idea behind development of district government websites is to ensure the proactive disclosure of information by public departments at district level so that any citizen could easily get the required information and complaints could be registered and addressed online instantly. Another important aspect to launching websites of district government was to share the day to day updates and developments of public bodies with citizens. It plays major role towards the transparency in the affairs of public departments at district level. For this purpose CPDI not only developed but also took initiative in launching the websites in Jhelum district and district police of Jhelum, Chakwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Jadohran, Muzafargarh and Sargodha.

Pakistan’s Right to Information Index:
CPDI has initiated the development of a yearly Right to Information (RTI) index. The purpose of this index is to gauge the progress of RTI regime in the country. The index scrutinizes both proactive and on demand disclosure of information at all three tiers of government. The intention is to gather research based evidence to understand the weak areas in the system.

Election Observation and Monitoring:
To promote free and fair elections, in which people can meaningfully participate, CPDI carries out grassroots advocacy campaigns in district of Punjab province. CPDI’s work focuses upon imparting voter education as well as bringing transparency to the electoral process by involving all the stakeholders, with specific emphasis on female population and marginalized segments of the society.

Understanding the Nature of Conflict to Promote a Peaceful and Tolerant Society:
CPDI has produced a diverse set of publications. Utilized in its advocacy campaigns that aimed to built awareness around multifaceted nature of violence in the society. The study cover a wide spectrum of issues ranging from ethnic and provincial conflicts, inaptness of alternate dispute settlement mechanisms, domestic violence and growing extremism and highlight the responsibility of stakeholders in building a peaceful and tolerated society.

Budget Study Centre:
CPDI’s Budget Study Centre (BSC) was established in January, 2011 and operates with the objectives to undertake analyses of the federal, provincial and district budget. It also helps to identify partners in the selected districts and provide them with budget analysis reports and provide guidance for working on the ground and to engage with government and also to impart trainings for civil society groups on budget analysis and advocacy. Another important object of this centre is to provide technical support to other coalition partners.
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Publications of CPDI

CPDI has produced diverse set of publications in all thematic aiming to built awareness around varied nature of issues that are not only a guidance for legislators to address the matters of public interest but also helpful for citizens to understand their issues and recognize their rights.

1. Follow the School Paisa Reports by PETS Survey
3. Budget Analysis from Child Rights Perspective
4. Representation Without Taxation
5. Comparison of Committee System and Best Practices in South Asia
6. Significance of Right to Information-Views from the Capital
7. Status of Implementation of Eighteenth Amendment in KPK in Health, Education and Agriculture
8. Strengthening Gender Legal Framework for Combating Violence against Women
9. Civil Paths to Peace in Pakistan
10. Federalism, Provincial Autonomy, and Conflicts