

DAI in Pakistan: A Long-Term Partnership for Pakistan's Development



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Since 1982, DAI has been assisting the people of Pakistan in their efforts to grow more food, manage natural resources, build small businesses, and govern more responsively.

DAI taps a wealth of professional and personal relationships in Pakistan. In implementing more than 30 short- and long-term assignments in the country, we have helped Pakistani leaders connect with their constituents and budget more wisely, assisted citizens and journalists to participate more effectively in civic affairs, and enabled farmers to produce better crops, among other results. We have executed projects in some of Pakistan's most peaceful cities and villages as well as in its most challenging environments, including the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

DAI's clients in Pakistan have included the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID). Our work history encompasses economic and agricultural development, water and irrigation management, microfinance, narcotics awareness and control, fiscal decentralization, legislative strengthening, and other technical areas.

Building Credibility on the Ground

DAI's commitment to Pakistan was born of the work we undertook there in the 1980s as a smaller, evolving firm. Our first major project came in 1982-1983 to develop specifications for the country's Fruit and Vegetable Board and identify market opportunities for North West Frontier Province products, proposing inputs and technologies to nurture these markets.

We gradually built a portfolio to include short-term projects such as the On-Farm Water Management Project (1982-1983) and larger initiatives such as the **North West Frontier Area Development Project** (1983-1987). In all, DAI led or subcontracted on 15 projects in Pakistan in the 1980s. These projects were

implemented in locations ranging from remote border posts to the bustling streets of Lahore. DAI collaborated with local, provincial, and national offices to help shape irrigation, trade, and transportation.

This work deepened our commitment to Pakistan and South Asia as well as our mission to make real and lasting differences for both people and institutions. Our decade's work culminated in 1990 with a contract to help the USAID bureau overseeing the region measure its expenditures and the effectiveness of its projects.

Fostering Pakistani Ownership

Much of DAI's early work in Pakistan served to improve agriculture and boost agribusiness, but it also strove to enhance planning. For example, DAI helped the Agency for Barani Area Development craft a master plan to develop the barani (rainfed) areas of the Punjab (1986-1988). We knew that sustained success required that Pakistanis own these efforts, and this principle greatly informed our work on two long-term projects that defined our work in Pakistan in the 1990s.



Master Afzal, a progressive farmer, gives a briefing on his jajoba plantation.



We are supporting organizations and individuals working to demand accountability and promote innovation in Pakistan's education sector.



In the **Agricultural Research II Project (1993–1997)**, under a subcontract to Hunting Technical Services, DAI built the capacity of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) to plan, allocate resources for, and monitor and evaluate its projects. We helped prioritize PARC's research.

From 1995 to 2000, we consulted on the **North West Frontier Province Barani Area Development Project**, assisting the Planning and Development Department of the NWFP to implement a community-based approach to manage natural resources at the village level.

Empowering People

Pakistan is rich with untapped potential. But its wealth of natural resources and base of industry are offset by problems with corruption and inadequate rule of law, leaving the country unable to fully utilize the talents of its people. DAI's recent projects have been dedicated to empowering Pakistanis to make positive differences in their country.



The **Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project (2005–2010)** partnered with national and provincial legislatures to improve their abilities to represent constituents, make laws, and oversee and account for budgets, strengthening their infrastructures and management. The project established the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), which provides training to the legislatures, as well as research and information support.



The **FATA Capacity Building Program (FATA CBP, 2008–2010)** targeted government service delivery and social and economic development in this distinct and challenging region. The program trained local leaders in management, financial planning, and project design and reporting, and by instituting information technology infrastructure, systems,

and training. All of this was done with an eye toward improving the ability of FATA institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs), helping them to self-manage, self-finance, and become self-reliant institutions capable of managing their development agenda on a sustainable basis. This two-way dialogue has better equipped CSOs in particular to address pressing issues of social integration, conflict resolution and mitigation, economic development, policy, tribal governance, violence, and extremism.

In 2012, we began working with DFID on the **AAWAZ Voice and Accountability Programme (2012–2017)**. AAWAZ works from the community to the national level to enhance women's safe political participation, strengthen community cohesion and nonviolent dispute resolution, and build citizens' capacity to influence the quality of government service delivery. The program has an investigative component, implemented by the Policy, Advocacy, Research and Results facility. This component synthesizes findings from AAWAZ and similar programs to build a robust evidence base around community voice and empowerment thereby initiating reform within Pakistan.

Another DFID project, the **Education Voice and Accountability Fund (Ilm Ideas 2012–2015)**, supports organizations and individuals working to demand accountability and promote innovation in Pakistan's education sector. These two funds harness the creativity of Pakistan's entrepreneurs and private sector, the energy of citizens and civil society, and the experience and commitment of the governmental sector to benefit of Pakistan's children. In managing these grant funds, our Islamabad-based team manages the finance, results, risks, and relationships of initiatives designed to help improve education in Pakistan.