

# Women Specific Budgeting in Pakistan 2016-17 to 2020-21

## The Women's Voice and Leadership Program - Pakistan

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Budget is the most important document prepared by the government during the year. It is the document that translates government policy into action. Political parties in their election campaigns make commitments for the social uplift of marginalized communities. Governments made commitments on international fora for inclusive development through special protection to the weaker sections. One such commitment that the Pakistani government is making for the last two decades is Gender Equality and women's development. The yardstick to measure these government commitments should be explored in budget documents.

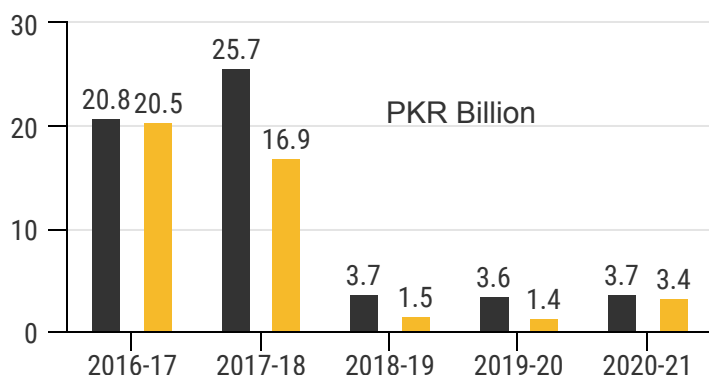
This report investigates the allocations made by federal and provincial governments to Women Specific Development Schemes in the last 5 years (2016-17 to 2020-21). The report compares the allocation made by the governments to WSDS in Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates. It also compares the percentage of the Total Development Budget allocated to WSDS by federal and provincial governments.

Overall, during the five years, the difference between Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates for five years is PKR 33.2 Billion. This implies that federal and provincial governments, collectively allocated 33.2 billion less to WSDS in Revised Estimates than that was committed initially in Budget Estimates. The largest difference in Budget Estimates and Revised estimates was observed in the federal government budgets. The federal government allocated PKR 14.04 billion less to WSDS than was committed in Budget Estimates. The KP government allocated PKR 8.7 billion less to WSDS in Revised Estimates than in Budget Estimates. The next in line are Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan governments.

# Federal Government

# Balochistan

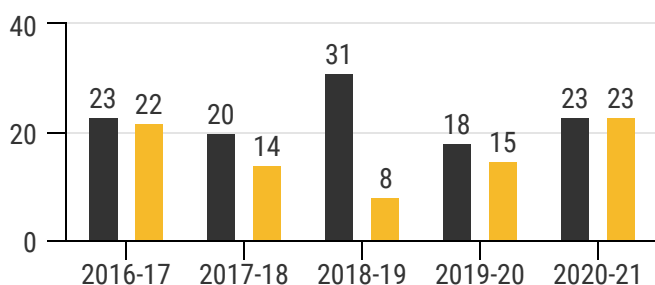
Women Specific Budget Allocations (Federal)



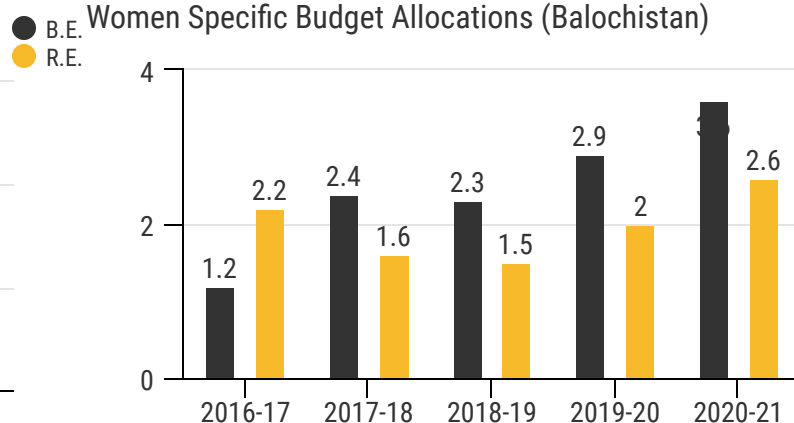
For all the five years, the revised Estimates graph for WSDS allocations remained lower than Budget Estimates. The largest gap in terms of allocation was identified in FY 2017-18 when there was a decrease of PKR 8.8 billion. In 2019-20, the percentage decrease between Budget Estimate and Revised Estimates was 63%. In FY 2018-19, this decrease was 60%.

The Budget Estimates for the FY 2018-19 had 31 schemes that were later reduced to 8 (-74%). This year hold the record both for the maximum number of WSDS in Budget Estimates and minimum WSDS in Revised Estimates. In FY 2016-17, Revised Estimates have only one scheme less than the Budget Estimates. For FY 2020-21, the number of schemes for Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates were equal.

Women Specific Development Projects #

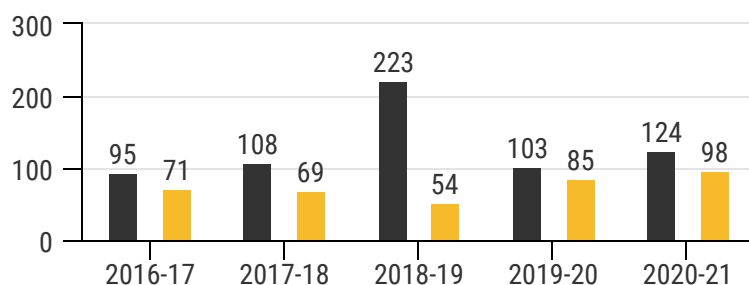


Women Specific Budget Allocations (Balochistan)

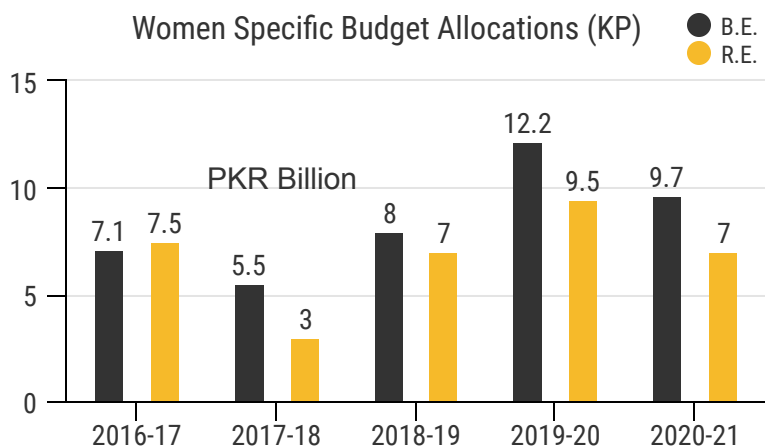


It was only during the FY 2016-17 that Revised Estimates surpassed Budget Estimates for WSDS allocations in Balochistan. For the succeeding four years, the Revised estimates allocations could not get anywhere near to Budget Estimates. The largest gap was in FY 2018-19 when Revised Estimates were 36% less than the Budget Estimates. The maximum allocations for Budget Estimates for WSDS were in FY 2020-21 when PKR billion were allocated. The maximum allocation for Revised Estimates was also identified in the same year (PKR 2.6 billion). The largest gap between the number of WSDS in Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates was also identified in the same year. This gap was as large as 76%. Two hundred and twenty-three WSDS schemes were identified in Budget Estimates which were reduced to 54 in Revised Estimates.

Women Specific Development Schemes #

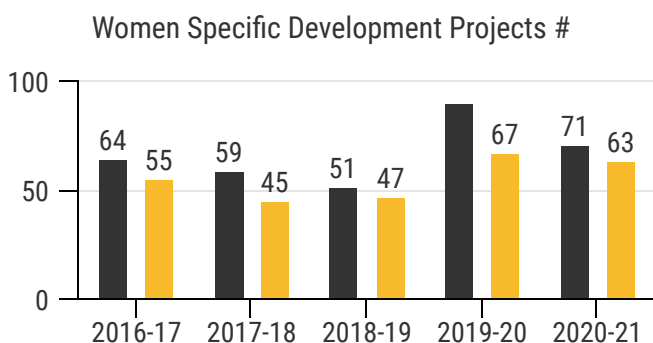


# Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

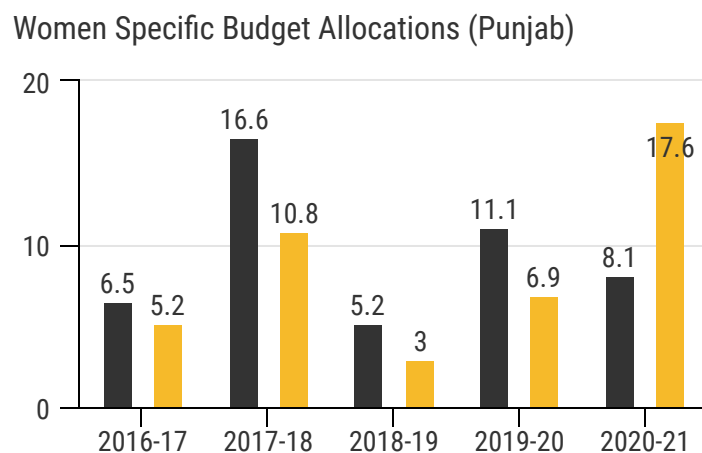


FY 2016-17 was the only year when the Revised Estimates graph is higher than Budget Estimates. In that year, Budget Estimates were PKR 7.1 billion. The Revised Estimates were increased by 5.6% to PKR 7.5 billion. The maximum allocation to WSDS was achieved in 2019-20 when Budget Estimates were PKR 12.2 billion and Revised Estimates were PKR 9.5 billion. The minimum allocations to WSDS, both for Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates, was in FY 2017-18 when allocations were reduced from PKR 5.5 billion to PKR 3 billion.

The maximum number of WSDS was also identified in FY 2019-20. The number was 90 in Budget Estimates and 67 in Revised Estimates. The minimum number of WSDS in Budget Estimates were identified in 2018-19, which were 51. The minimum number of WSDS in Revised Estimates were identified in 2018-19. The number was 47.

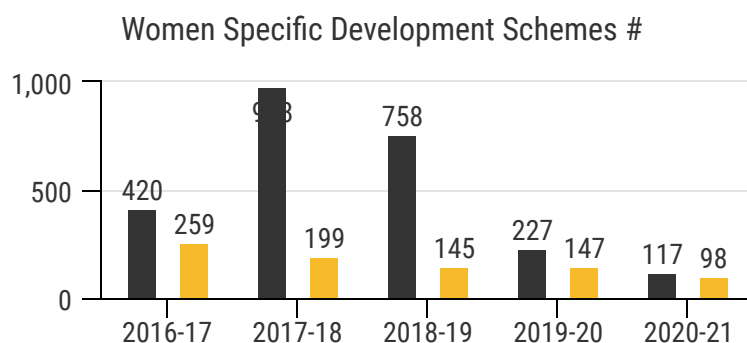


# Punjab



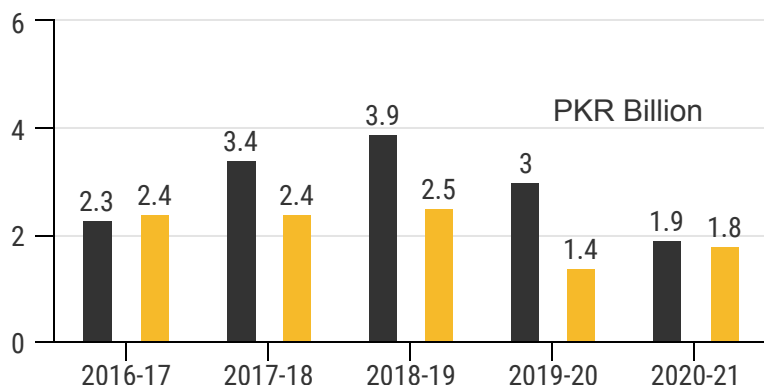
In Punjab, FY 2020-21 was the only year when the Revised Estimates graph for WSDS is higher than Budget Estimates. In that year, Budget Estimates were PKR 8 billion. The Revised Estimates were increased by 119% to PKR 17.6 billion. The maximum allocation in Budget Estimates was achieved in FY 2017-18 when PKR 16.6 billion were allocated to WSDS. The maximum allocation in Revised Estimates was made in FY 2020-21 when PKR 17.6 billion were allocated to WSDS. this increase was mainly due to increase in Health sector budget from PKR 3.2 billion to PKR 14.6 billion.

In Budget Estimates, the maximum number of WSDS were identified in FY 2017-18. The number for the year was 978 but was reduced to 199 in Revised Estimates. In Revised Estimates, the maximum number of WSDS were identified in FY 2016-17. The number was 259.



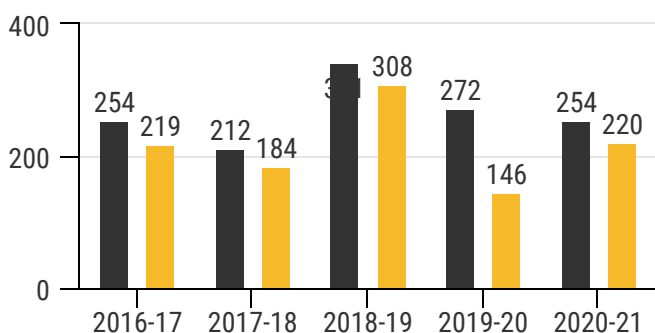
# Sindh

Women Specific Budget Allocations (Sindh)



In Sindh, 2016-17 was the only year when the allocation for WSDS in the Revised Estimates was greater than the Budget Estimates. This increase was only marginal, and allocation was increased from PKR 2.3 billion to PKR 2.4 billion (+5%). For the rest of four years, Revised Estimates remain lower than the Budget Estimates. The maximum allocation in Budget Estimates was made in 2018-19. The largest gap in terms of percentage was identified in 2019-20 when Revised Estimates were decreased by 55%. The largest number of WSDS, both in Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates were identified in 2018-19. The 341 WSDS in Budget Estimates were reduced to 308 in Revised Estimates. The largest gap between the number of WSDS was in 2019-20. The 272 WSDS in Budget Estimates were reduced to 146 schemes (-46%)

Women Specific Development Projects #



# Conclusion

1. The WSDS worth PKR 174.9 billion were identified in Budget Estimates for the last five years in the development budget of federal and provincial governments. The Revised Estimates for WSDS are PKR 141.76 Billion. An amount of PKR 33.2 billion (20%) is lost in the last 5 years.
2. This difference in allocation is also in contravention to the Goal 16, Indicator 16.6.1 of SDGs that measures the strengths of the institutions with the yardstick of government expenditures as a proportion of the original approved budget.

# Recommendations

1. Currently, the executives have unlimited powers to make changes in Budget Estimates. Rules should be reformed to the extent that change in allocations for more than a certain limit should not be permitted without the prior approval of the assembly.
2. The WSDS should be given special protection and prior approval of the assembly should be made compulsory for any change in allocations.
3. Special support should be provided if any department with WSDS allocation lacks the technical capacity to expend the budget.
4. The culture of in-year (monthly or quarterly), mid-year and year-end budget expenditure reports should be encouraged in Pakistan. This is an excellent way that citizens can keep a vigilant eye on the status of the development schemes. This will also allow citizens to initiate a physical audit of the development schemes in their areas.
5. The law should mandate the line ministries and departments to hold consultations after the release of the Budget Call Circular. It is at this stage that proposals from citizens should be invited, thoroughly discussed, and scrutinized.
6. Research should be commissioned to determine the policy goals for women development. Based on these policy goals, the minimum allocations to the women-specific schemes should be calculated.