



Newsletter 59, dated 29th August 2026



Mental Health Legislative Reform in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department has notified a Working Group on legislative reforms. The group comprises representatives of Director General Health Services, Health Sector Reforms Unit, Directorate of Law and Human Rights, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission, mental health and public health experts, and persons with lived experience to review the gap analysis.

A consultative workshop was held in Peshawar on 25th August 2025, where the working group reviewed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mental Health Act. The event was supported by Rupani Development Initiatives (RDI). The [workshop report](#) can be accessed on the MHPSS portal.

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI) has undertaken a "Development and Policy Review of the Mental Health Legislative Framework" to assess whether Pakistan's existing mental health laws provide an adequate institutional, financing, service-delivery and accountability framework, particularly in the post-18th Amendment environment. Despite efforts over the last 25 years, Pakistan's mental health legislation remains outdated and largely unimplemented.

The review is examining constitutional responsibilities, legislative gaps, institutional accountability, financing and implementation analysis, culminating in recommendations for a harmonized national framework that respects provincial legislative autonomy. In this regard, the Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit has been coordinating a consultative review of Mental Health Legislation across all provinces. This process reflects a continued commitment to strengthen mental health legislative reforms in Pakistan, grounded in constitutional clarity, human rights, and provincial ownership.



Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit