



Review of the Gap Analysis of mental health legislation: a pilot workshop

A legislative review of mental health legislations has been initiated by the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives in 2026. Following a comprehensive review of the provincial legislations; documentation of the differences between the provincial legislations; preparation of a detailed rights-based analysis of existing laws where each provision was checked against the WHO; and a detailed consultative process; the review of the gap analysis is now planned at provincial levels.

Since there is no mental health legislation in the federal capital territory, so instead of reviewing a particular legislation, a workshop was conducted in ICT on 5 August 2026 to pilot the digital gap analysis. The workshop was supported by International Organization for Migration (UN-IOM), Pakistan.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Present the provisional gap analysis (rights-based and implementation gaps).
- Conduct a review of the provisional gap analysis.
- Obtain structured feedback to strengthen the provisional gap analysis before finalizing the gap analysis to conduct the provincial workshops.
- Test the feasibility of the digital tool.

The workshop was attended by representatives of Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, MoNHSR&C, Ministry of Human Rights, UN-IOM and a group of reviewers which included experienced mental health professionals, public policy experts, public health specialists, researchers, Legal experts, human rights and child rights experts. A [report](#) of the workshop is shared for further details.



The workshop strengthened stakeholders' understanding of rights-based mental health legislation and reinforced the importance of aligning Pakistan's legislative framework with international human rights standards while addressing implementation challenges at federal and provincial levels.

It successfully engaged stakeholders in reviewing the gap analysis using a structured digital consultation tool.

The workshop also demonstrated the feasibility of the digital tool to register the reviewers, navigate a structured review process, rate the gaps and submit reviewer's comments, within a designated time.

The consultation generated valuable technical feedback and stakeholder perspectives that will contribute to refining the provisional gap analysis and informing future legislative reform.

