Balochistan comprises of 44 percent of the land in Pakistan; however, it is the least populated province. In addition to weak institutions, weak governance and poor law enforcement, Balochistan is also marred by an unsettled security situation, difficult terrain and access, an uncertain water supply, and limited livelihood opportunities. Balochistan has the second highest headcount for multidimensional poverty out of all the provinces; at 71.2 percent. These development challenges need to be addressed to prepare the province reap benefits from the emerging development opportunities. Implemented by UNDP and the Planning & Development Department of the Government of Balochistan, this project seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Enhanced capacities of local governments to effectively plan and deliver services to achieve the SDGs.
2. Accelerating the delivery of SDGs by investing in basic services to address immediate and urgent needs.
3. Developing alternate livelihoods and stimulating the local economy through skills training, business development and trade.

**Project Activities to date**

**Enhanced capacities of the local governments to effectively plan and deliver services to achieve the SDGs**

- Government Innovation Lab set up at University of Balochistan

Developing alternate livelihoods and stimulating the local economy through skills training, business development and trade.

- Vocational training of 5 months duration to 100 youth from Gwadae (75 boys and 25 girls)
- 25 laptops were distributed to female trainees of the Gwadar Institute of Technology
- Entrepreneurship trainings to 100 youth including 50 women
- 40 faculty members from different academic institutions of Balochistan were trained to run such trainings independently

**Upcoming Activities for the year**

**Accelerating the delivery of SDGs by investing in basic services to address immediate and urgent needs**

- A survey for identification of non-functional services, critical infrastructure and missing facility needs (equipment etc.) in the delivery of public services such as health, education, water supply etc.
- Innovation Challenge Cup for youth of Balochistan.
- Public Services Innovation Challenge for organizations, which will allow them to bid to provide innovation service delivery solutions. Approximate size of grant USD 30,000

**Developing alternate livelihoods (for both men and women).**

- 120 youth trained on heavy machinery.
- 100 youth to be trained on hotel management and general hospitality skills

**Partnerships**

- Planning & Development Department, Government of Balochistan
- Education Department, Government of Balochistan
- Gwadar Institute of Technology
- Institute of Business Administration, Karachi
- Hashoo Foundation
- National Logistics Cell
- University of Balochistan