



MEMORANDUM OF ACTIONS Sindh Province

We, The Elected Local Representatives and Officials, National and Provincial Associations of Local Governments, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations are gathered at the Webinar on “Local Government Efforts to Respond COVID-19 Outbreak in Pakistan”.

Recognising the work done by the local governments (elected representatives and officials) in COVID 19 crises and considering that actions need to be undertaken to ensure strong democratic local governance through effective local governments and the associations for emergency response and SDGs implementation in Pakistan; we

1. **CALL ON** provincial government to incorporate explicit clauses for expanded role/ functions as well as the required financial and administrative powers of local governments to play their effective role in humanitarian, disasters and emergencies crises through amendments in local government Acts by keeping in view the experience and need to respond COVID-19 at local level.
2. **URGE** Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and other provincial relevant departments to engage Mayors/Chairmen and Councillors actively in COVID-19 relief and response activities. Sindh Government, PDMA and local government should work closely with the private sector and CSOs for COVID-19 response and relief efforts.
3. **Call ON** the provincial government to eliminate overlaps between local and provincial governments in health sector. The essential health services should be under direct mandate of the local governments. Health specific.



4. **URGE** Local Government and Law Departments to engage with current local government representatives and LCAS to collate their proposals based on their experience and challenges for legal reforms before next elections.
5. **URGE** The law provides for the establishment of Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) under Section 112(1) of the SLGA, 2013 to ensure fiscal transfers to the councils. Government of Sindh should immediately form and activate the PFC for just and fair distribution of resources.
6. **URGE** that the current tenure of Local Government is completing in next two months, the provincial government should announce election schedule immediately before completion of tenure, appoint caretakers instead of administrators set up and ensure the elections to be held. In case, the elections are not possible due to COVID situation, the terms of current local government system may be extended.
7. **CALL ON** the provincial and local governments to engage with local community organizations to articulate the community needs and make it a part of their local planning and development processes.
8. **URGE** Local Government Department of Sindh to arrange regular capacity building plans for the newly elected members.
9. **Call ON** the Government of Sindh to recognize the role of LCAS in the new local government Act. Local Governments and their association should be allowed to receive direct donor funding for health, social protection, and food supply.