



UNITED NATIONS
PAKISTAN

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DECADE
OF
ACTION

ONE UN PAKISTAN

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 Cover photo: 10-year-old Aiman and her maternal uncle, Gulab Nabi, outside their home in Battagram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Despite having a disability, Aiman is thriving thanks to an Accelerated Education Programme centre, set up with UN support. Read her story on page 12.

© UNICEF Pakistan/Alireza Khatri

 Photo on this page: © UNDP Pakistan/Shahzad Ahmad

Written and designed by: Ruya Leghari

GOVERNMENT FOREWORD

In 2023, the Government of Pakistan strengthened its partnership with the United Nations to accelerate sustainable development nationwide. Our shared vision for Pakistan is a country free from poverty, unshackled by inequalities and exclusion, and in which development benefits everyone, particularly the most impoverished, vulnerable and marginalized. This shared vision is articulated in the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027, agreed with the Government of Pakistan. Collaboration across the framework’s five outcomes contributed to progress on quality basic social services – including health, nutrition and food security, water and sanitation, and education – gender equality and empowering women, climate action and environmental sustainability, inclusive economic growth and decent work, and responsive governance. Implementing this framework furthered Pakistan’s national development priorities and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on supporting immediate recovery from the catastrophic floods of 2022, and long-term resilience for the future. The Government of Pakistan is committed to continuing this partnership with the UN to usher in a new era of people-centred development, sustainability, solidarity and inclusion for all the people in Pakistan.

Dr Kazim Niaz
Federal Secretary, Economic Affairs Division
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government of Pakistan

MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

In 2023, Pakistan faced a series of significant challenges, including economic instability, political tensions, and social upheaval, all of which took a toll on the lives and livelihoods of its citizens. But there was another story unfolding as well, one that isn’t often the subject of news headlines: a story of resilience in the face of adversity. It’s a narrative of women and men, communities, local organizations, businesses, public officials, and development partners marshalling their resources to help the country recover from catastrophic floods and forge ahead on the path towards sustainable development for all. This report offers a glimpse into this story.

This report showcases how the United Nations (UN), together with our many partners, supported Pakistan to achieve progress towards its national priorities and the Global Goals, as agreed in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027 (UNSDCF). The UN family worked as one to deliver solutions that leave no one behind.

This year, UN support made **basic social services** more resilient, inclusive and gender-responsive. Better service delivery meant better healthcare, more people benefitting from safe water and sanitation, greater nutrition and food security, more children in quality education, and more people covered by social protection. The UN supported the Government to deliver on Pakistan’s commitments to **gender equality** and empower women, girls and transgender persons to participate in socio-economic life and have more agency without fear of violence. UN efforts helped Pakistan develop systems to **mitigate climate change, reduce environmental degradation** and pollution, and manage natural resources in a sustainable manner, most notably through Pakistan’s Living Indus Initiative. The UN supported job-rich, sustainable and green **economic growth that can create decent jobs**, particularly for women, youth and vulnerable groups. This included fostering an enabling environment, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, while preventing inequalities, violence and all forms of exploitation. Last but not least, the UN helped strengthen **governance** capacities across Pakistan, including accessible and responsive justice systems.

This report is an important reminder that the UN in Pakistan does not work in silos. We approach development solutions the way we would approach a Rubik’s cube: considering all sides in relation to each other. Each side represents a different aspect of development, or a specific challenge in Pakistan. Therefore, our agencies coordinate their work to multiply its positive impact, ensuring that our efforts address multiple facets of development simultaneously. As 2024 starts, the UN is prioritizing **six key transitions** as modular building-blocks to accelerate progress on the Global Goals.



Mohamed Yahya, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan © UN

These are (1) food systems, (2) energy access and affordability, (3) digital connectivity, (4) education, (5) jobs and social protection, and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Examples of leveraging these transitions can already be found in this 2023 report.

This progress cannot be achieved by any one entity alone. That is why, as this report shows, **strong partnerships** are central to the UN’s work. Throughout 2023, the UN family in Pakistan worked with Pakistan’s federal and provincial governments, civil society organizations, donors, the private sector, academia, and communities to move sustainable development forward.

Our work is about achieving the **greatest impact for people in the greatest need**. Aiman, a 10-year-old girl from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with a disability had never been in school until an Accelerated Education Programme centre opened in her village. Nine-month-old Muhammad Usman’s life was threatened by malnutrition until he was brought to an Outpatient Therapeutic Programme centre in Balochistan. Farida’s community in Sindh suffered from poor access to health until she used her Lady Health Worker skills to support them.

When reflecting on the achievements underscored in this report, despite the challenges Pakistan faced, my optimism persists. It is fuelled by the inherent resourcefulness of the Pakistani people and their unwavering commitment to building a better tomorrow for all. I am grateful to all the donors, partners, and staff who made this possible. We remain committed to a prosperous, equitable, sustainable future for Pakistan. Let us work together to achieve it.

Mohamed Yahya
United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan

“
Achieving the greatest impact for people in the greatest need – this is what the UN’s work in Pakistan is all about.”

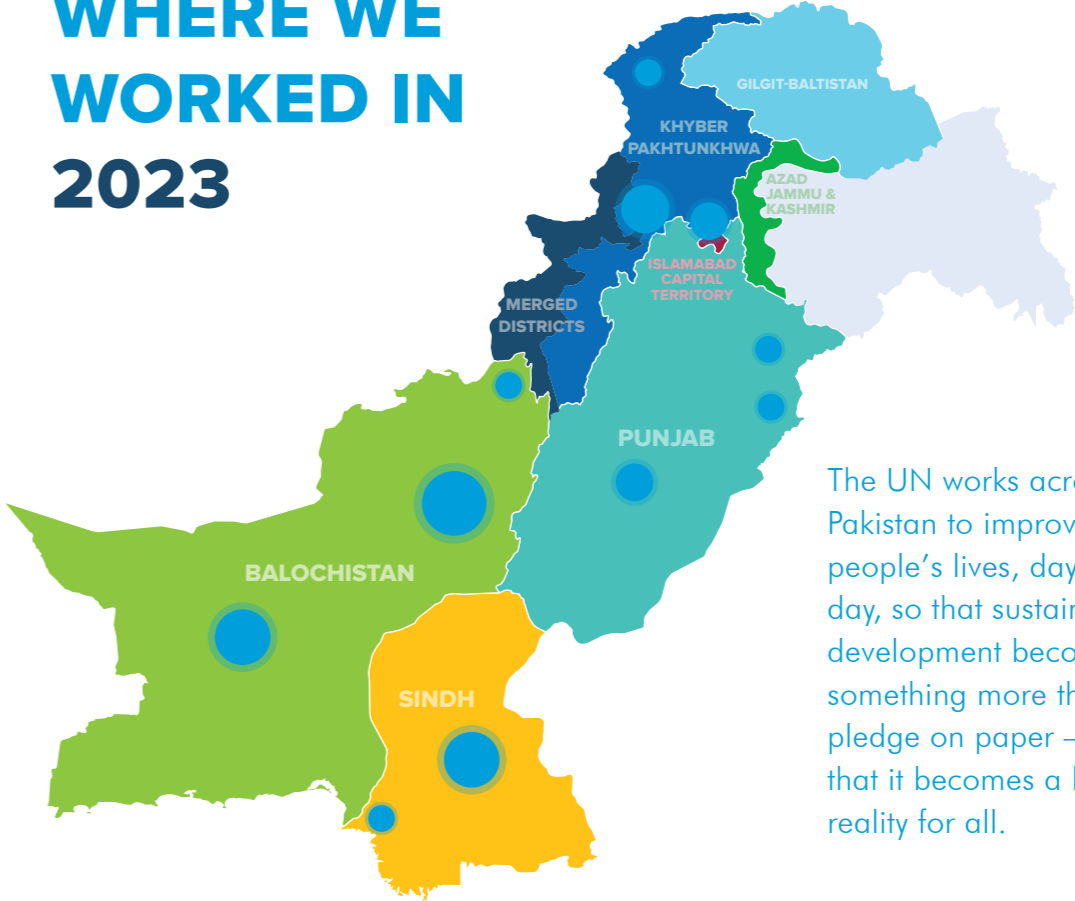
UN COUNTRY TEAM IN PAKISTAN



The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Pakistan is composed of the heads of all the UN agencies, funds and programmes active in the country.¹ The UNCT leads the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027, guided by a Joint UN-National Oversight Committee, chaired by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division and the UN Resident Coordinator. The UN family works as one with the Government and other partners to improve people's lives, reduce inequalities and protect the planet.



WHERE WE WORKED IN 2023



The UN works across Pakistan to improve people's lives, day by day, so that sustainable development becomes something more than a pledge on paper – so that it becomes a lived reality for all.



IN THE UN PAKISTAN 2023 JOINT WORKPLAN (BY SDG)

1. NO POVERTY 15 activities (12%)	2. ZERO HUNGER 12 activities (10%)
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 28 activities (22%)	4. QUALITY EDUCATION 20 activities (16%)
5. GENDER EQUALITY 44 activities (35%)	6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 12 activities (10%)
7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 3 activities (2%)	8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 19 activities (15%)
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 4 activities (3%)	10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES 11 activities (9%)
11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 2 activities (2%)	12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 2 activities (2%)
14. LIFE BELOW WATER 4 activities (3%)	13. CLIMATE ACTION 3 activities (2%)
15. LIFE ON LAND 2 activities (2%)	16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 10 activities (8%)
17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 7 activities (6%)	

¹ All of these are resident UN entities in Pakistan, with the exception of UN Environment and the International Trade Centre.

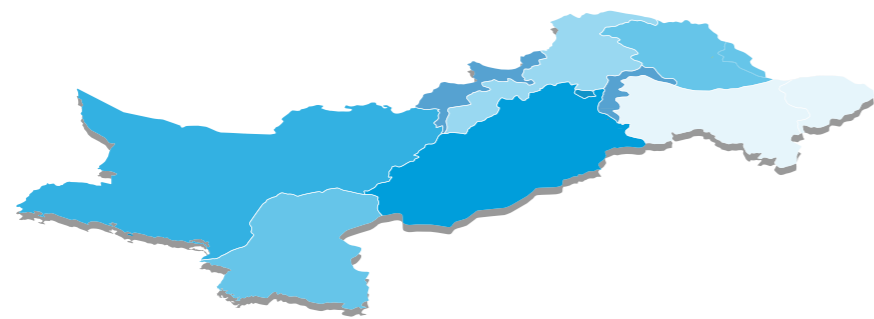
OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The results showcased in this report would not have been possible without the support of the UN system's key development partners in Pakistan, including the Government of Pakistan, international development organizations and financial institutions, donor governments and development agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and, above all, the people of Pakistan.

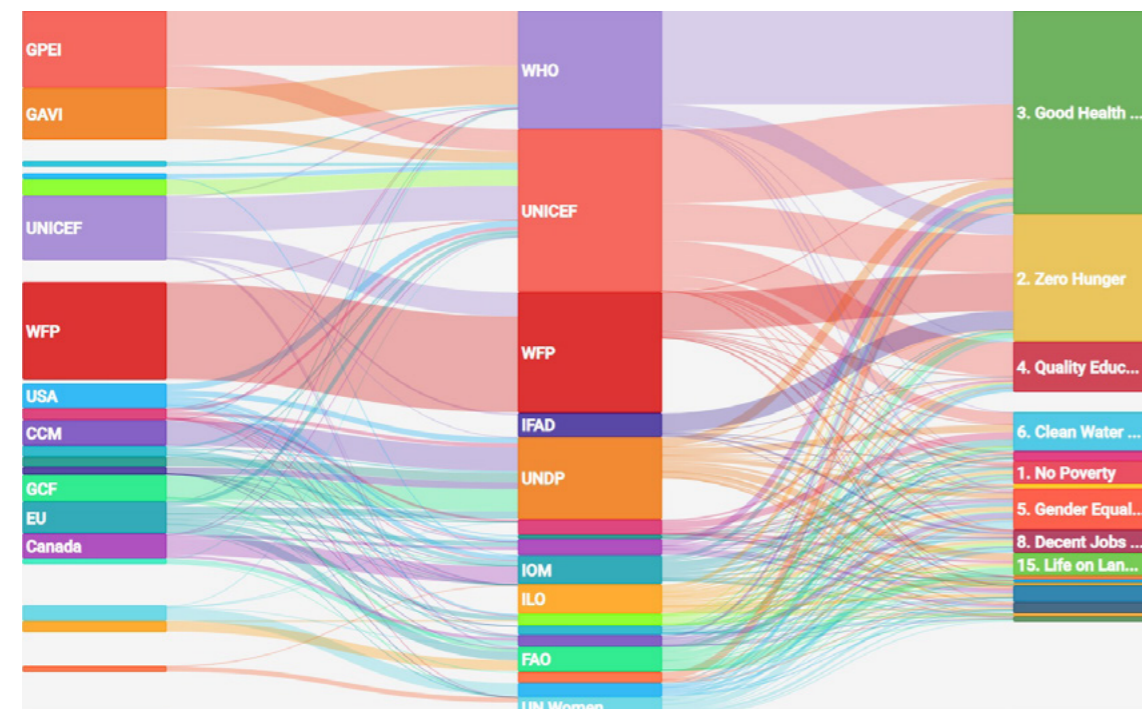
We are grateful to the many generous donors who supported UN actions in 2023, both financially and in-kind, as well as our dedicated implementing partners who tirelessly led field activities nationwide.

Special thanks are due to the Government of Pakistan – particularly the Economic Affairs Division, the Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Division, and the Ministries of Climate Change, Federal Education and Professional Training, Finance, Human Rights, Information Technology and Telecommunication, National Food Security and Research, National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, and Planning, Development and Special Initiatives – the Provincial Governments of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh, the Regional Governments of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan, National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, and National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women, among many others.

To all of you, from all of us at the UN family in Pakistan, thank you.



LINKING INVESTMENTS, PARTNERS AND THE SDGs IN PAKISTAN IN 2023



Note: This figure displays the top 20 contributors. It excludes some partners due to data visualization limitations. For more information, visit [UNInfo Data Explorer](#).

KEY DONORS IN 2023

(in alphabetical order)

DONOR GOVERNMENTS



Australia



Canada



China



Denmark



European Union



France



Germany



Ireland



Italy



Japan



Republic of Korea



Kuwait



Netherlands



Norway



Pakistan



Romania



Saudi Arabia



Sweden



Switzerland



United Kingdom



United States of America

FUNDS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



Note: These donor governments generously provided support for UN actions in Pakistan in 2023 both directly and through their development agencies and specific departments. These include, but are not limited to, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the Department of Home Affairs; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and Global Affairs Canada; the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships; the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Federal Foreign Office; the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea; the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Department for International Development (DFID), and Home Office; and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Labor.

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN 2023

Home to 240.5 million people,² Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous country. It is also among the youngest, as 40% of the population are under 14 years old, and nearly 33% are between the ages of 15 and 34.³ Despite progress in some areas, such as reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, significant development challenges remain – running the gamut from high levels of poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity, to insufficient decent work opportunities and governance challenges. Pakistan is also among the 10 most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change – a vulnerability laid bare by the devastating floods in 2022. These left one-third of the country under water, affecting over 33 million people – one in seven Pakistanis – and causing US\$14.9 billion worth of damage by decimating agricultural land, livestock, homes and infrastructure, particularly in the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.⁴

In 2023, communities across Pakistan continued to grapple with the losses caused by the floods. The negative impact of this climate catastrophe cut across sectors, and across the country. The difficulties of rebuilding lives and livelihoods were exacerbated by significant economic challenges – including high inflation, a weakening rupee, soaring domestic prices, and an ongoing foreign exchange crisis. At the same time, Pakistan's colossal recovery needs added to the economic challenges it faces, dampening economic growth and cutting into dwindling foreign exchange reserves. This all comes in a context of rising world commodity prices, global monetary tightening, geopolitical conflicts, political instability, and policy tightening measures that the Government of Pakistan has committed to since the resumption of a US\$3 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme in June 2023. Political tensions and polarization added to the challenges, although business confidence and economic activity slightly improved in the last quarter of 2023, primarily due to the IMF Stand-By Arrangement for Pakistan.

Austerity measures aimed at fiscal consolidation are likely to reduced public spending and investment in critical development areas like education, healthcare and social safety – areas where investment is needed more than ever. The Government's strategy to address current challenges prioritizes the "five Es" – exports, e-Pakistan through digitalization, the environment, energy and infrastructure, and equity and empowerment. If fully endorsed and implemented, this approach may lessen the impact of multiple crises. The Government's Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) and the Living Indus Initiative – developed with the UN in response to the floods – also pave the way for mitigating climate risks.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2023 SNAPSHOT

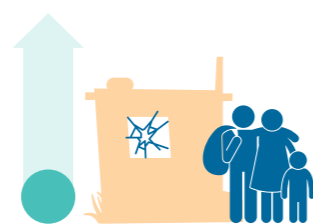
ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

-0.2% real GDP growth in FY23⁵



23% nominal exchange rate depreciation against the United States dollar ⁶	82.3% public debt as a percentage of GDP ⁷
-0.7% current account balance as a percentage of GDP ⁷	-7.8% fiscal balance FY23 as a percentage of GDP ⁷
2.4% development expenditure in FY23 as a percentage of GDP ⁷	2% projected real GDP growth rate for FY24 ⁷

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS



Consumer price index (CPI) inflation soared to:

29.7%

in December 2023 on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, compared to 24.5% in December 2022⁸

² UNFPA, "World Population Dashboard: Pakistan", 2023.
³ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Survey 2020-21*, 2022.
⁴ Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, *Pakistan Floods 2022 Post-Disaster Needs Assessment*, 2022.
⁵ World Bank, "Pakistan Overview", 2023.
⁶ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Monthly Review on Price Indices December 2023*, 2023.
⁷ IMF, *Pakistan: First Review Under the Stand-By Arrangement*, 2024.



POPULATION
240.5 MILLION¹

MULTI DIMENSIONAL POVERTY
38.3%²

HDI RANKING
164/193
COUNTRIES³

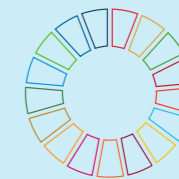
GLOBAL GENDER GAP
142/146
COUNTRIES⁴

LABOUR FORCE
71.76 MILLION⁵

CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION
11.3%⁶

PER CAPITA INCOME
US\$1,798⁷

⁸ World Bank, "GDP per capita (current US\$) – Pakistan", 2022.
⁹ UNDP, *Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023: Pakistan*, 2023.
¹⁰ UNDP, *Human Development Index 2022*, 2022.
¹¹ World Economic Forum, *Global Gender Gap Report 2023*, 2023.



AFTER THE FLOOD

The UN rallied to support Pakistan’s recovery in 2023 – from supporting flood-affected communities to rebuild their homes and livelihoods, to rehabilitating critical infrastructure, providing cash and food assistance, delivering supplies and emergency shelter, and aiding disease surveillance. With UN support, hundreds of thousands of people accessed uninterrupted health, education, nutrition and gender-based violence response services. UN initiatives facilitated access to markets and skills development, while supporting scores of vulnerable women and men to secure Computerized National Identity Cards so that they can obtain vital services. Beyond immediate recovery action, the UN assisted the implementation of the long-term Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework, and climate resilience efforts. Chief among these is the Living Indus Initiative.

REAL LIVES

WAHEED’S STORY: REBUILDING LIVES AFTER THE FLOODS



“When we returned to the village, there was nothing left of our home. Everything we owned was washed away,” recalls Waheed. “We had nothing to fall back on. Our kids went to bed hungry for days.” When floods in 2022 inundated the village of Malook Maachhi, in Sindh’s Dadu district, residents like Waheed found their lives and livelihoods washed away. But the worst was yet to come. In rapid succession, standing stagnant water prevented agricultural activities and triggered outbreaks of waterborne diseases, particularly among women and children. There was no electricity, making residents fear for their safety. Going out in the dark is a serious business when snake bites are a very real risk.

Amidst the despair, a ray of hope emerged through the joint efforts of UNDP, Islamic Relief Pakistan and the Government of Japan. By providing hygiene kits, water filtration systems, solar panels and batteries, the partners helped families like Waheed’s in more ways than one. Basic hygiene and sanitation kept them safe from disease, as did access to clean water. It also meant that Waheed and his wife did not have to walk long distances to fetch clean water. Illuminating their home with solar power gave their children the chance to study after sunset, breaking the cycle of darkness. “In our toughest times, UNDP and Islamic Relief Pakistan were there for us,” says Waheed. “Their help, along with the generosity of the Government of Japan, kept us going.”

SHABIRAN’S STORY: RECOVERING THROUGH LIVELIHOODS



“We never thought we’d survive the floods; it kept raining for three months,” shudders 45-year-old Shabiran Ali, from the village of Ghulam Muhammad Bagrani in Sindh’s Matiari district. The floods washed away her family home, forcing Shabiran, her husband and four children to seek refuge in temporary shelters made of sheets and wooden logs, effectively homeless, and hungry.

WFP’s emergency relief operations in the village were a lifeline, providing families like Shabiran’s with one month’s worth of essential food items, including wheat, oil, pulses, and salt. This UN scheme followed up with five months of cash assistance, which Shabiran’s family used to buy provisions and medicine. Alongside cash assistance, the initiative offered support in the form of livestock, training, disaster risk reduction, and assistance for SMEs. Shabiran eagerly took up embroidery training and decided to start a small business based on her skillset. Between July and August 2023, Shabiran received multipurpose cash assistance of PKR 25,000 from an EU-funded UN project to invest in her business. She used these funds to buy raw materials – fabric, thread and lace – to turn her skills into a viable livelihood. Every day, she spends 2–3 hours embroidering dupattas, which she sells for PKR 2,500 apiece.

SPOTLIGHT

THE LIVING INDUS

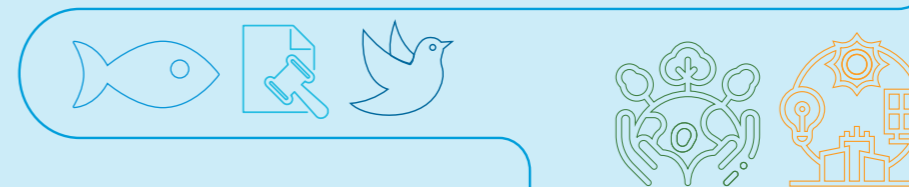
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CATALYSE PROGRESS ACROSS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Living Indus Initiative is at the heart of the UNSDCF’s aim to address climate change and safeguard the environment. The devastating floods of 2022 demonstrate why resilience matters more than ever. Unless we anticipate, mitigate and adapt to climate change by building resilience, the consequences are catastrophic. This is where the Living Indus comes in.



Developed with UN assistance, the Living Indus is an umbrella initiative that consolidates new and existing programmes to spearhead climate adaptation, climate-resilient growth and the environmental restoration of the vitally important Indus Basin. The initiative’s primary goal is to safeguard, preserve, and rehabilitate the diverse natural ecosystems in the Indus Basin, including terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine environments. Consultations led by the Resident Coordinator and his office brought federal and provincial government officials, civil society, the private sector, donors and experts together to mobilize collective action. Together, they devised a “living” menu of 25 preliminary interventions focusing on nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches.

The Living Indus has been named one of seven World Restoration Flagships as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, led by UNEP and FAO. This makes it eligible for additional technical and financial UN support, bolstering its plans to restore 25 million hectares of the river basin by 2030, encompassing more than 30% of Pakistan’s area. In 2023, the UN supported the development of action plans for eight priority Living Indus interventions, including “Climate Resilience within Indus Delta”, “A Living Indus Knowledge Platform” and “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management”.



Pakistan and its people have depended on the Indus Basin for 6,000 years. Today, 95% of the population, virtually all the country’s agriculture and most of its industries depend on it. But the Indus is suffering from both the impact of climate change and man-made environmental degradation. The Living Indus Initiative brings together the government, civil society, the UN, and Member States and donors to protect the Indus’ future.



The UN will support the Government to take the Living Indus forward, matching the scale of the climate challenges that Pakistan faces with equally decisive climate action.

“

This holistic strategy employs community-led, gender-responsive, and transparent nature-based solutions for restoring the entire Indus Basin, safeguarding its resources for the people of Pakistan.”

Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, April 2023



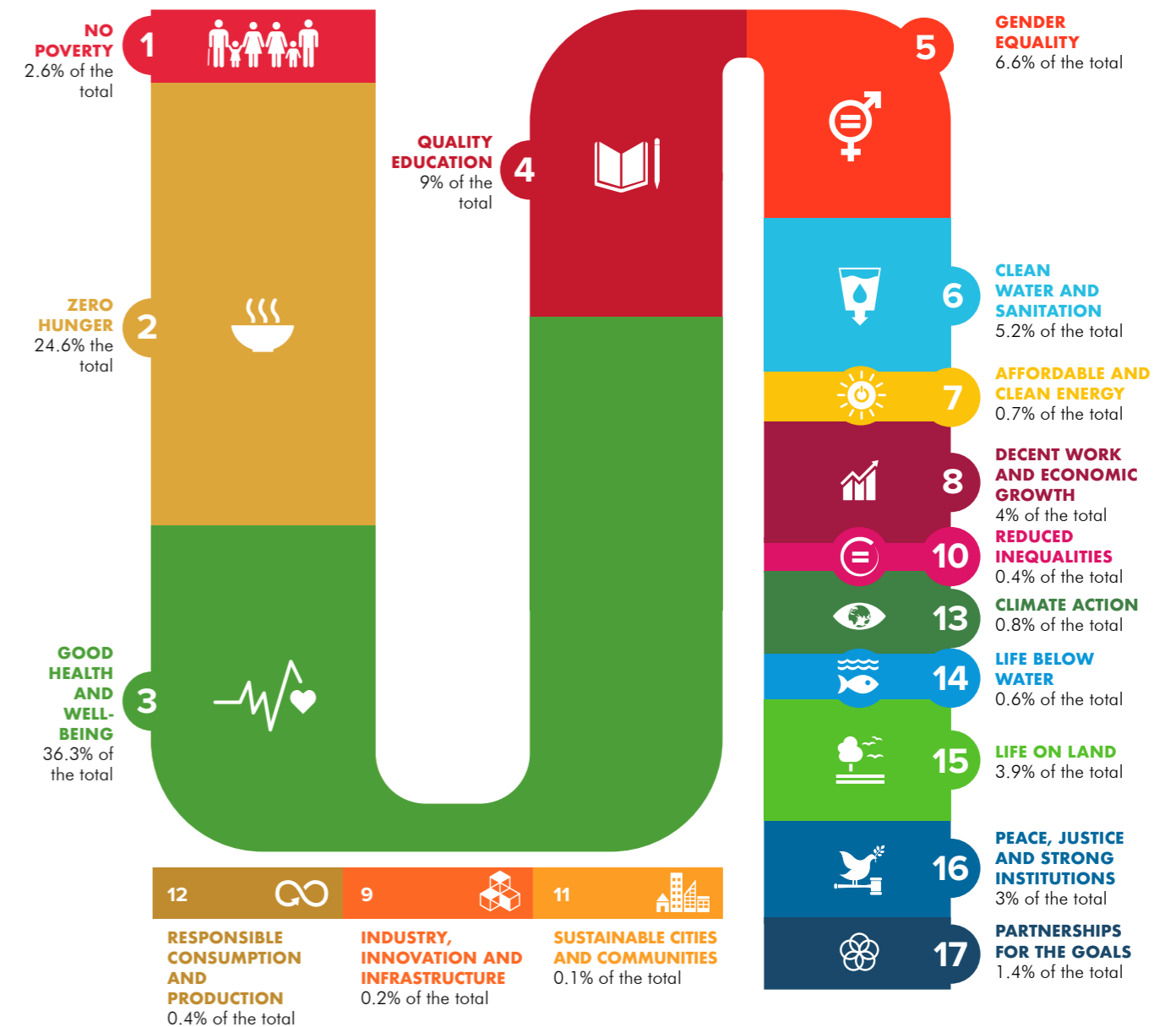
UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027** outlines how the UN system will support Pakistan to achieve the SDGs, uphold fundamental rights, advance gender equality and women's empowerment, build resilience, improve accountability and enhance sustainability. It is a nationally-owned compact between the UN and the Government of Pakistan to work together, and in partnership with others – including non-governmental organizations, academia, the private sector and development partners – towards an increasingly resilient, inclusive and equitable Pakistan. At the core of our commitment is the priority to leave no one behind, and to reach those furthest behind first. This is the common thread that runs across all five UNSDCF outcomes, which are in themselves interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

As the UN's framework for planning and implementing development activities at the country level between 2023 and 2027, the UNSDCF aims to ensure the coherent, integrated and streamlined achievement of development results by UN agencies, working together as one, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team.



WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING? HOW UN FUNDING CONTRIBUTED TO THE SDGs IN PAKISTAN IN 2023



EXPENDITURE IN 2023

TOTAL UN BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE IN 2023

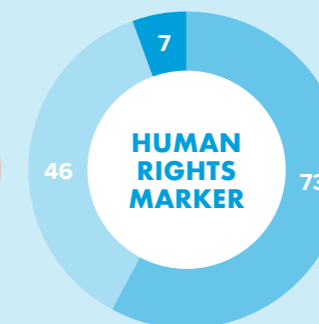
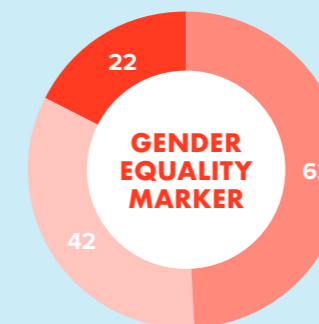
US\$ **682.01** MILLION

OUTCOME 1: \$512.22 (75.1% of total expenditure)
 OUTCOME 2: \$49.82 (7.3%)
 OUTCOME 3: \$40.95 (6.0%)
 OUTCOME 4: \$48.32 (7.1%)
 OUTCOME 5: \$30.68 (4.5%)

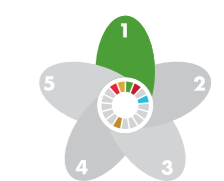


HOW ACTIVITIES IN THE UNSDCF JOINT WORKPLAN SUPPORTED GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2023

- GENDER MARKER 3**: Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective
- GENDER MARKER 2**: Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective
- GENDER MARKER 1**: Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way



- HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER 3**: Principal contribution is to the realization of human rights
- HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER 2**: Significant contribution to the realization of human rights objective
- HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER 1**: Limited contribution to the realization of human rights



BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES



**43.5
MILLION**

children vaccinated
against
polio



**6.37
MILLION**

children vaccinated
against
measles
and
rubella



**0.49
MILLION**

people benefited
from family planning
and SRH services

AGENCIES Outcome 1 is coordinated by **UNICEF**, bringing together the efforts of **IFAD, ILO, IOM, FAO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN HABITAT, UNHCR, UNODC, UN Women, WFP** and **WHO**

©UNICEF Pakistan



REAL LIVES

FARIDA'S STORY: UNsung HEROES OF COMMUNITY HEALTH



"Families approach me with an injured child, and I provide them with initial first aid treatment," says 43-year-old Farida, a Lady Health Worker in Qasimabad township, in Hyderabad, Sindh. "I often accompany pregnant women for their deliveries or arrange vaccination for the children in the area." Today, Farida is attending to 18-month-old Alisha, who is feverish. She pulls out her UNICEF provided health kit, puts on gloves, and checks the toddler's temperature with a digital thermometer. She uses a special measuring tape to check Alisha's mid-upper arm circumference and weighs her using an infant weighing scale to check for malnutrition. Farida makes house calls year-round covering nearly 1,500 households – registering community members, particularly women and children, for services like maternal and child healthcare, immunization, family planning, and health promotion.

Farida says her job would not be possible without the UN-supported Lady Health Worker kit dispatched by the District Health Office – brimming with 25 items, including first aid supplies, medicine for diarrhoea and pneumonia, maternal supplements, an awareness booklet, and birth control items. "Our work is crucial because we spread valuable awareness to those who can't easily access good healthcare," she says proudly.

©UNICEF Pakistan/Husnain Ashfaq

The UN supported **Pakistan's health system to become more resilient, inclusive and gender-responsive** in 2023. With UN assistance, frameworks emerged to advance quality health services for all, including the National Newborn Strategy, national and provincial tuberculosis strategic plans, post-disaster recovery frameworks, and a behaviour change communication strategy for primary healthcare and universal health coverage (UHC). Progress on universal health coverage accelerated, as reflected in Pakistan's UHC Service Coverage Index value rising from 52 in 2021 to 52.7 in 2023 due to improvements in antenatal care, Penta3 vaccine coverage, and health-seeking for pneumonia. Even Balochistan, which lags farthest behind, has improved coverage. Using the UN quality improvement tool, HealthWISE, health facilities in Punjab enhance service delivery through smart, simple, low-cost solutions. The National Health Support Programme with the World Bank bolstered the long-term resilience of the public healthcare system. The UN aided the health system's recovery from 2022's floods through strategic planning and technical assistance for disease surveillance, outbreak response, the continuity of primary healthcare and immunization services, the rehabilitation of health facilities, and the procurement of essential medicine and supplies worth US\$10.24 million. Setting up an emergency disease surveillance system in 17 calamity-hit districts, creating an acute watery diarrhoea/cholera sentinel system, and expanding integrated disease surveillance and response in 37 districts enabled rapid action to address communicable diseases. Emergency health programming ensured access to lifesaving primary health services for disaster-affected communities in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, including 58,005 people (68% women) reached through mobile medical teams. Providing supplies, equipment and capacity building for healthcare providers enabled 144 health facilities in flood-affected districts to deliver uninterrupted basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care services. Mobile teams also provided direct medical assistance to Afghan refugees and host communities for communicable and non-communicable diseases, child health, reproductive health, referrals, and mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS). MHPSS counselling and psychological first aid sessions benefitted another 29,357 people (68% women), following training for 621 health workers (61% women). Access to modern family planning benefitted 119,147 people in flood-affected and refugee-hosting areas, as did 34,000 newborn and clean delivery kits. UN initiatives facilitated access to family planning and sexual and reproductive (SRH) services for 495,435 people, particularly responding to women's needs for antenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth deliveries, caesarean sections, and the management of sexually transmitted infections. These efforts contributed to better maternal and child health, as did the implementation of the integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI) approach in health facilities. UN advocacy contributed to the enactment of SRH Bills in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the Islamabad Declaration 2023 at the "Resilient Pakistan" conference, paving the way for improved family planning and SRH services.

UN support boosted access to life-saving vaccines for every child. Pakistan's Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) increased the coverage of fully immunized children from 66% in 2018 to 77%, and reduced the number of zero-dose children by 29%. UN initiatives contributed to 6.371 million children receiving their third dose of Pentavalent vaccine (Penta 3) – protecting them from diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and infections like meningitis and pneumonia – and 6.373 million children being vaccinated against measles and rubella. Innovative approaches engaging 191 women vaccinators – such as evening and weekend integrated services in urban slums, and setting up vaccination sites for newborns in major hospitals – addressed gender-related barriers to immunization and contributed to Pakistan's newborn vaccination target. In 16 districts of mega-cities, training 122 EPI vaccinators reduced zero dose and defaulter children. Zero vaccine stock-outs were reported following UN support for optimal stock management, maintenance and cold chain strengthening. Dry storage capacity increased with the construction of three warehouses, and targeted coverage improved in the wake of a vaccine forecasting exercise for routine immunization.



58,005
PEOPLE

reached with lifesaving
primary healthcare
via mobile teams



35.9
MILLION

children benefited
from vitamin A
supplementation



9.86
MILLION

children
screened
for malnutrition

Progress towards interrupting wild poliovirus transmission gained pace as the UN supported the Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative and Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026. Six cases were reported in 2023, down from 20 in 2022. Working as one under the umbrella of National Emergency Operating Centre, the UN strengthened surveillance nationwide. Pakistan now has the largest polio surveillance infrastructure in the world, with 1,200 registered surveillance sites and 116 environmental sample collection sites. Three national polio vaccination campaigns reached 43.5 million children (99% of the target), bolstered by UN assistance for the rehabilitation of health facilities in flood-affected areas, and the procurement and distribution of 210.7 million doses of oral polio vaccines. Working with government and law enforcement agencies, the UN facilitated the resumption of polio vaccination campaigns in South Waziristan after a 16-month hiatus. Targeted advocacy, social behaviour change communication, mass media campaigns, social media outreach and community engagement reduced caregiver refusal by 42% in endemic districts, reflecting success in rebuilding community trust. Of the 677 reported community boycotts, only 16 remain unresolved.

UN initiatives addressed communicable and non-communicable diseases – such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases – mental health and substance abuse. Support for national and provincial AIDS Control Programmes, including capacity building, resource mobilization and advocacy, expanded anti-retroviral treatment, boosted prevention services, and introduced HIV self-testing to Pakistan for the first time. Survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) have greater access to mental health, psychosocial support and referral services, as the UN assisted the establishment of 153 Women and Girl Friendly Spaces (WGFS) across all four provinces. GBV in Emergencies information services reached 0.55 million people, including women and girls with disabilities. UN support enhanced the health system’s capacities to address substance abuse, including specialized training for 673 health practitioners (51% women) and 130 master trainers (37% women), national standards for drug treatment services, high-risk drug use surveys and awareness raising on opioid agonist maintenance treatment.

UN support **strengthened nutrition systems, promoting better diets, services and practices across the life course**, especially for women and children. The UN coordinated the nutrition sector’s response to the floods, including the procurement and distribution of nutrition supplies worth US\$19.1 million, and a supplementary feeding programme with the Benazir Income Support Programme for 500,000 people in flood-affected areas. Assistance for mainstreaming nutrition into the health system included unlocking Nutrition Matching Funds worth US \$5.57 million for nutrition commodities in Sindh and Punjab. Nationwide, 9.86 million children (49.9% girls) were screened for malnutrition and 560,859 (54% girls) were treated for severe acute malnutrition at 2,848 Out-patient Therapeutic Programme sites. UN initiatives strengthened 176 Nutrition Stabilization Centres, and facilitated the treatment of 90,000 severely malnourished with complications. With UN assistance, government vitamin A supplementation campaigns reached 35.9 million children (89.9% of the target), protecting them from vitamin A deficiency, the leading cause of child blindness. Iron, folic acid and micronutrient supplementation for 2.54 million women bolstered maternal and child nutrition, as did reaching 4.42 million mothers and caregivers with messages on infant and young child feeding. Over 19,000 adolescent girls were included in a pilot addressing cycles of malnutrition. Initiatives for the prevention, early detection and management of wasting – including simplified protocols for high-prevalence, flood-affected and remote areas – contributed to 35% of primary healthcare facilities nationwide providing nutrition services in 2023, up from 30% in 2022. Support for the Government’s Benazir Nashonuma Programme prevented stunting by providing services to breastfeeding women and infants, with a focus on the critical first 1,000 days of life. As a result, Pakistan is on track to achieve global targets for exclusive breastfeeding and reducing child obesity. Nashonuma Facilitation Centres were set up across districts, and Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) services were integrated within them to provide a one-stop shop for nutrition solutions.

Capacity building made interventions more effective and sustainable, including the phased implementation of CMAM Surge, which enhanced the health system’s resilience to spikes in acute malnutrition. Training equipped 12,829 partners to improve nutrition in emergencies, and 9,081 health workers to implement the baby-friendly hospital initiative. Community training, awareness raising and food banks improved food and nutrition security in rural areas, through by the National Poverty Graduation Project, the Economic Transformation Initiative in Gilgit-Baltistan and the Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project. UN nutrition assessments pinpointed where more action is needed, such as 12 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Surveys in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, an analysis of the cost of affordable healthy diets,



Pictured above: Waqar set up his vegetable cart in Matiari, Sindh, with UN-supported multipurpose cash assistance ©WFP Pakistan/Anam Abbas
Pictured below: Nutrition Assistant, Naheed Israr, checks baby Usman’s nutrition status ©UNICEF Pakistan/Arsalan Butt

REAL LIVES

MUHAMMED USMAN’S STORY: NUTRITION SERVICES SAVING YOUNG LIVES



“I am grateful that my boy is healthy and active now, but he was not always like,” says Khanzadi of her youngest son, 9-month-old Muhammed Usman. “He had digestion problems and would vomit even the breast milk. I was worried for his life.” Khanzadi brought Usman to a UNICEF-supported Outpatient Therapeutic Programme centre in Balochistan’s Nasirabad district. Nutrition Assistant Naheed Israr immediately diagnosed him as suffering from life-threatening severe acute malnutrition, and registered him for treatment. “I provided Usman’s mother, ready-to-use therapeutic food, a life-saving essential supply item that treats severe wasting in children under 5,” explains Naheed. “I also counselled Khanzadi to regularly breastfeed him and take good care of her own food and personal hygiene.”

Usman is one of the 38,000 children screened and 4,000 treated for malnutrition in the first half of 2023 through UN-supported nutrition services in flood-hit districts of Balochistan, with funding from the United Kingdom. *“If Usman’s treatment was not free, we may not have been able to afford it,” says Khanzadi. “Now, he is healthy, crawls and plays around with his siblings. It is a blessing to see him grow.”*



**2.5
MILLION**

**more people gained
access to basic
water supplies**



**1.43
MILLION**

**people sensitized
on improved
hygiene**



**433,652
CHILDREN**

**supported to access
formal and non-formal
primary education**

and an acute food insecurity assessment of 43 districts using the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) methodology. The UN ramped up private sector engagement for the production of nutritious food through the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network, and contributed to the development of the Commercialization Policy Framework for Specialized Nutritious Foods to advance local production and accessibility. The Wheat Flour Fortification programme, recognized with the Innovation Accelerator Award, expanded to another 100 small-scale mills (chakkis). Large-scale fortification improved diets in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and rice fortification efforts gained pace. Financial and technical support for National and Provincial Food Fortification Alliances, paired with capacity development, prevented micronutrient deficiencies across Pakistan.

UN efforts enhanced the **capacities of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems in Pakistan to deliver safe, equitable, climate-resilient services for all**, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized. Integrating WASH services in Nutrition Stabilization Centres, collaborating with the Government on climate risk assessments, and working with development partners on cross-cutting WASH solutions are examples of how the UN leveraged transformative entry points (or key transitions) to have catalytic multiplier effects across outcomes – with actions in one area (WASH) also advancing results in others (food systems, and climate action). For example, UN efforts with Land and Housing Korea fostered an enabling environment for low emission urban development by expanding access to clean water in slums. With UN support, 2.5 million more people gained access to basic water supplies and 375,000 to basic sanitation services. Essential hygiene services, including the installation of handwashing stations, safeguarded the health, nutrition and well-being of 239,458 people. Improved sanitation became a reality for 83,670 people now living in open defecation-free villages, and for 18,469 people provided with temporary latrines. The Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project was part of these efforts, constructing household toilets and community drinking water schemes, with a focus on empowering women and girls. The Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project II built 199 drinking water supply schemes in Balochistan, securing access to water for over 54,000 people. Implemented by local village organizations, the project enhanced community confidence and capacities to manage water resources. Awareness raising sensitized 1.43 million people on better hygiene, as did hygiene messages and kits for 1.63 million people in humanitarian settings. The Menstrual Hygiene Management programme helped 786,709 women and girls maintain hygiene in emergencies, as did the provision of over 75,000 dignity kits. Scores of patients and health workers benefitted from improved WASH services at 163 health facilities, and solarized water filtration plants installed in hospitals with local partners, ensuring 24/7 access to safe water. Rehabilitating water supply systems and capacity building on water quality surveillance enhanced the resilience of healthcare facilities, as did the installation of incinerators and sanitation infrastructure. Strengthening WASH facilities in 349 schools was a boon to 120,304 students. Capacities for waste management services improved thanks to training for 361 sanitation workers (see Outcome 3).

UN support strengthened the **education system's capacities to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive, equitable, quality education and skills development**, especially for girls and disadvantaged children. Strengthening provincial education data systems – including by integrating disparate databases and developing data modules – and collecting gender-responsive empirical evidence improved planning and monitoring, contributing to better education service delivery. The UN supported the development of frameworks to boost the quality and inclusivity of education and skills training, such as the National Skills Framework (see Outcome 4), the Life Skills-Based Education Roadmap for 22.8 million out-of-school adolescents, and provincial standards, assessments and rules. UN studies provided evidence on learning outcomes and capacity constraints in Pakistan's provinces to guide responsive action. Supporting the creation of quality classroom environments advanced quality early childhood education (ECE), benefitting 99,433 early learners (51% girls). This involved providing ECE teaching and learning materials to 1,969 formal schools, and training 3,923 schoolteachers, head teachers and caregivers (67% women) on ECE approaches in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. With UN support, 433,652 children (49% girls) nationwide accessed quality primary education in formal schools and non-formal centres, as did 299,645 out-of-school children (52% girls), including children affected by floods. The UN helped establish 1,696 temporary learning facilities in flood-affected districts, enabling 152,652 children (44% girls) to continue their education. Rehabilitating and de-watering schools in flood-affected areas benefited another 79,991 children (43% girls). Technical assistance strengthened the continuous professional development of primary school teachers and Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) facilitators. Social and behaviour change initiatives supported provincial Education Departments to mobilize communities and get out-of-school children back to school, including after the floods, by engaging



Pictured above: Students benefitting from water facilities set up with UN support in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's district of Tank © UNOPS Pakistan
Pictured below: Rani makes the most of access to clean water in Dadu, Sindh © IOM Pakistan/Muhammad Zeeshan Siddiqui

REAL LIVES

**RANI'S STORY:
TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH CLEAN WATER**



"It was really difficult for me to carry water on my back for such long distances, especially at my age," says 68-year-old Rani. Women in her village, in Sindh's Dadu district, used to walk for 30 minutes each day to fetch water from a canal. The water was rarely clean and often made Rani and her family sick.

Thanks to a water filtration plant installed by IOM in collaboration with Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro (MUET), with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Rani and her community now have access to clean drinking water less than five minutes' walk from their homes.

"Now, with the water filtration plant," says Rani, "I can get clean drinking water in just a few minutes, and it has made a huge difference in my life." This UN initiative paired access to clean water with community hygiene sessions, teaching locals like Rani them how to keep their kitchens clean and prevent the spread of disease. Rani calls these sessions a blessing. Now, she says, "I feel more confident taking care of my family's health."



106,274
GIRLS

accessed
skills development
opportunities



9
MILLION

children benefited
from improved BISP
cash grants



349,571
REFUGEES & HOST

community members
benefitted from Quick
Impact Projects

32,436 school management committee members (44% women) and 1.8 million local community members (68% women). With UN support, 56,398 refugee children (40% girls) accessed formal primary and secondary education at 142 refugee village schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,083 girls benefitted from 50 Alternative Learning Programme centres, enabling over aged out-of-school girls to access non-formal primary and secondary education at their doorstep. Cash assistance helped 2,874 girls to cover education expenses and transport costs, enabling students to pursue secondary education. The DAFI Scholarship programme supported 556 students to pursue tertiary education at higher learning institutions, including 99 students enrolled in 2023 (60% girls). Training 1,253 teachers on the national curriculum content and pedagogy smoothed the transition of all 142 refugee village schools to the national curriculum. UN initiatives ensured a safe, conducive learning environment by rehabilitating 62 refugee village schools as part of the flood response plan.

The Generation Unlimited (GenU) Country Operating Plan enhanced capacities for delivering quality education and skills development to adolescents. Innovative interventions like an accelerated learning model – which integrates accelerated learning, skills training and labour market linkages into a cost-effective, hybrid solution – expanded opportunities for out-of-school youths. Post-primary learning in non-formal centres benefitted 11,629 adolescents (73% girls), while skills development opportunities broadened 106,274 girls’ prospects. Digital solutions strengthened capacities for quality service delivery in middle-level education, including the Sindh Learning Passport. This supported 4,700 girls in grades 7 and 8 to access digital content in schools. Remote teaching on specialized subjects in middle schools benefitted 7,622 adolescents in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A new programme in these provinces enhanced 21st century skills among 1,700 out-of-school adolescent girls. A UN-supported microsite disseminated digital resources on life skills-based education, while piloting the Life Skills-based Education Curriculum paved the way for its implementation. Assistance for South Punjab’s Education Department helped set up two state-of-the-art learning centres for transgender students, empowering them through education and expanding their socio-economic prospects.

UN support **strengthened social protection systems, making them more inclusive and shock-responsive to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in Pakistan.** Frameworks developed with UN assistance set the stage for increased social protection coverage and the adequacy of benefits, such as the National Social Protection Framework, a draft Domestic Workers’ Act in Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Social Protection Policy. Moves towards universal social protection gained pace, as the UN piloted an integrated management information system for coordinated social protection coverage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sustained advocacy and assistance contributed to the Government of Punjab notifying the minimum wage for domestic workers in line with the minimum for industrial workers, a landmark step towards fair labour practices in domestic work. Informed by a UN diagnostic survey of domestic and home-based workers, Punjab’s Government developed a social protection scheme for domestic workers, in consultation with workers’ and employers’ organizations, and tapping into domestic funding mechanisms. Support for the Benazir Income Support Programme improved the targeting, recording and disbursement of cash grants, benefitting 9 million children and adolescents by leveraging technology to streamline and improve the efficiency of financial assistance. Initiatives that integrate digital tools into cash transfer systems, paired with training, will improve targeting accuracy, reduce errors, and strengthen monitoring mechanisms – ultimately benefitting 34 million households living below the poverty line, vulnerable children, adolescents and women nationwide. Tailored training for compliance monitors of the Waseela-e-Taleem programme addressed field-level data errors, such as payment duplications, contributing to efficiency. Linking 20,200 women and 5,000 women home-based workers with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) gave them access to social protection programmes. Interventions like the Displacement Tracking Matrix facilitated the delivery of lifesaving assistance and the restoration of essential services in flood-affected and refugee communities. UN Quick Impact Projects rehabilitated small-scale infrastructure, ensuring access to basic services for 349,571 Afghan refugees and host community members, and contributing to long-term community recovery, resilience and social cohesion. Multi-purpose cash transfers for 7,590 households enabled 56,986 vulnerable Afghans (49% women) to meet their basic food, shelter, WASH, health and education needs, as did support for 27,000 households through the People with Special Needs project. Social protection-nutrition integration programmes made the CMAM programme more sustainable, facilitating the recovery and food security of households by providing cash top-ups to families with malnourished women or young children. This is another example of the UN building on key transitions (food systems, and social protection) to create a multiplier effect across the SDGs.



Pictured above: Muhammad Ali (centre) and his classmates at an informal learning centre for displaced by the floods in Khairpur, Sindh © UNICEF Pakistan
Pictured below: Aiman and her classmates at the AEP Centre in Battagram Colony, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ©UNICEF Pakistan/Alireza Khatri

REAL LIVES

**AIMAN’S STORY:
BREAKING BARRIERS THROUGH EDUCATION**



“I felt very lonely and bored at home,” explains 10-year-old Aiman. “I would cry and wonder if my life would ever be any different.” Born with a physical disability, Aiman’s family had never been able to send her to school in mountainous Battagram Colony, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Her life changed when an Accelerated Education Programme (AEP) Centre was set up in the community by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Elementary and Secondary Education Department, with funding from the Global Partnership for Education and UNICEF’s technical assistance. “When I was approached to help establish the AEP centre in the neighbourhood, Aiman was the first child I thought of enrolling,” recalls her teacher Muhammad Zakir. Within a year, Aiman has blossomed into a confident, sociable girl. Her peers adore her, and she has proven a brilliant student, with a knack for mathematics.

“Unfortunately, disabled children are considered an object of pity in our society and ignored. If God has deprived them of one ability, He compensates by rewarding them with other remarkable abilities. This is the case with Aiman,” says Zakir. Thanks to 550 AEP centres set up across the province, over 18,000 children like Aiman – including children with disabilities – are finally able to learn.

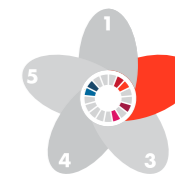


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AGENCIES

Outcome 2 is coordinated by **UN Women**, bringing together the efforts of **FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, WFP** and **WHO**

KEY SDGs



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



3.2 MILLION

people sensitized on ending child marriage



130,000 GIRLS

engaged on child protection and mental health



22,000 WOMEN

and girls secured identity cards needed to access vital services

The UN supported the Government to monitor the **implementation of Pakistan's commitments to gender equality, particularly through the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data**. UN assistance contributed to the preparation of Pakistan's sixth periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and stronger disaggregated data collection capacities among 185 federal and provincial officials (46% women) through training sessions with the Ministry of Human Rights. Support for the National Commission on the Status of Women enhanced the National Gender Data Portal and boosted skills on data collection and reporting across 49 departments. The *National Report on the Status of Women 2023*, drawing on the portal's data, is an important resource to guide evidence-based policies and programmes that advance gender equality. Another key resource is the "Tahaffuz Factsheet" covering 413 indicators aligned with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs. UN research provided evidence to inform gender-responsive decision-making on a range of issues, such as the digital gender divide, gender-based violence, child marriage, gender parity, home-based workers, social protection and poverty. Technical assistance helped mainstream gender perspectives in SDG data production, including Pakistan's SDGs Status Report 2022–2023 prepared with the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, and the availability of sex-disaggregated health data through the District Health Information System. Provincial governments used sex-disaggregated data from Child Labour Surveys – completed with UN support in Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – to inform policies and costed action plans. Strengthening the capacities of provincial Bureaus of Statistics and Labour Departments contributed to increased alignment with labour standards on non-discrimination and equality. Initiatives also strengthened civil society's capacity to generate and use evidence for advocacy, including on the HIV response.

UN efforts advanced the empowerment of women, girls and transgender persons by **supporting gender-responsive policies and programmes, public and private financing, and institutional strengthening**. This includes support for designing key frameworks, such as the National Framework on Ending Child Marriage and provincial action plans, and the Sexual Violence Response Framework. Assistance for the Ministry of Law and Justice accelerated the implementation of the Anti-Rape Act of 2021. Roadmaps developed and rolled out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab bolstered the implementation of domestic violence laws with the development of rules, standard operating procedures and guidelines. Capacity building contributed to the State Bank of Pakistan's Banking on Equality Policy, and an Environment, Social and Governance Dashboard with the Securities and Exchange Commission to boost women's financial inclusion. The UN paired the development of Gender-responsive Budgeting and Planning Guidelines for the justice sector in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with training for 60 officials (33% women) to ensure that plans and budgets are gender-sensitive. UN assistance increased the capacities of the National Commission on the Status of Women to monitor the implementation of laws and policies, supported the establishment of Gilgit-Baltistan's Women's Commission, and honed the skills of 71 provincial officials (35% women) to draft gender-responsive policies and laws aligned with CEDAW.

Ending gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices remained a priority. UN advocacy campaigns raised awareness nationwide, such as the Child Wedding Card campaign against child marriage that engaged 3.2 million people. The #KahaniBadlenGe (Change the Story) campaign – part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence –

REAL LIVES

QAMAR GUL'S STORY: COMBATTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



©UN Women Pakistan/Muhammad Zeeshan Siddiqui

"I am deeply honoured to serve as a COV," says Qamar Gul, among the 40 gender-based violence Community Outreach Volunteers trained by IOM and the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP). "Although I completed my education up to the 12th grade, I couldn't pursue further studies. This work brings purpose to my life, and I take pride in sharing these important messages with women who face restricted mobility and unfortunate confinement within their homes."

Empowered by her UN-supported training, Gul is now empowering others. She leads awareness raising sessions on gender-based violence for women in her community, sensitizing them on the risks associated with early marriages, and educating them on how to access support through IOM referral mechanisms. Community volunteers like Gul are on the frontlines of the fight against gender-based violence in Pakistan. Their work is not easy – Gul has faced eviction notices and mixed reactions from her community – but it is incredibly important in a country where gender-based violence rates are alarmingly high. To date, volunteers like Gul have conducted 530 awareness raising sessions for both men and women in Balochistan, reaching over 9,000 people in the province, particularly Afghans.



72,577
DISPLACED

Afghans accessed GBV response and protection services



11,500
HOME-BASED

workers supported to access services and markets



3,770
POLICE

trained to facilitate women's access to justice

engaged 40,000 people and prompted 389,000 calls from men and women in South Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the negative impacts of child marriage. Targeted education, capacity building and livelihood activities strengthened 4,541 women's and girls' socio-economic resilience and awareness of GBV. Engaging 860 youths (81% young women) in training, dialogues and art exhibitions addressed stereotypes that perpetuate GBV. A social media campaign with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and Telenor sensitized 24.1 million people on sexual abuse and exploitation through technology, while campaigns with other partners raised awareness of child protection risks among 3.94 million people (55% women and girls). With the Pakistan Girl Guides Association, the UN engaged 130,000 girls on child protection, mental health and menstrual hygiene. Training 11,435 parents and caregivers in Balochistan and Sindh on positive parenting skills, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, was a boon for child protection, as was the creation of 760 community-based Child Protection Committees and training for 10,544 members.

Capacity building equipped service providers to better address violence, such as 1,193 partners (38% women) trained on GBV case management, child protection, and preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. UN initiatives honed the capacities of 3,770 police personnel (21% women) to facilitate access to justice for women and marginalized groups, and strengthened 8 police stations in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through gender-responsive infrastructure facilities. GBV response and referral services in flood-affected areas improved with capacity building for healthcare providers, including 350 clinicians and 2,460 community and Lady Health Workers. Enhancing GBV helplines in all four provinces, including their integration with emergency police helplines, helped them serve as vital referral pathways. Six Anti-Rape Crisis Centres – set up with the Ministries of Law and Justice, and Health – provided support to survivors in Islamabad, Punjab and Sindh. Training 160 women human rights defenders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan increased civil society capacities to report on GBV cases. Collaboration with government and civil society partners enhanced pro-women legislation, case management and referral services for 7,271 at-risk children and survivors of violence. Sessions on GBV helped 1,200 women in the housing and construction sector to identify, prevent and address GBV in their workplaces and communities. With UN support, 72,577 displaced Afghans (44% women) accessed legal aid, case management, community-based protection and GBV services. A 17-member (53% women) lawyers' council was formed to offer legal aid to Afghan girls and women, resulting in 191 resolved cases of arrest and detention. Training 2,450 displaced Afghans (61% women) on leadership and resolving conflicts led to the creation of eight Conflict Resolution Committees that addressed 53 GBV cases, while fostering community resilience and access to justice.

The UN supported efforts to **enable women, girls and transgender persons to exercise their rights, and rise to leadership positions**. Institutional reforms promoted gender parity in the justice sector. For instance, UN reviews of police and prosecution services' departmental rules prompted revisions to recruit and retain women. In Balochistan, the number of women recruited as police officers more than doubled, from 305 to 702. Capacity building sensitized 131 officials (25% women) from 38 government departments, including the National Counter Terrorism Authority, on gender mainstreaming. Training 100 federal and provincial parliamentarians (90% women) contributed to the creation of the Anti-Harassment at the Workplace Committee at the National Assembly and the Gender Manifesto 2023 to enhance women's political participation. Seven district executive committees of the She Can Lead Network promoted displaced Afghan women's empowerment and social cohesion with host communities. UN efforts fostered an **enabling, gender-responsive environment for women's economic empowerment**. The Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project helped create 1,503 community organizations (98% of which are women-only) with women in leading positions, and bolstered women's livelihoods through the allocation of 1,227 land plots, 1,179 housing units and 24,362 two-goat packages. Training on marketable skills supported 2,420 Afghan refugees and host community members to pursue small-scale entrepreneurship. In Balochistan, 15 Women's Resource Centres set up with UN support empowered 1,805 households and 12,639 women – including women-led MSMEs – through enterprise development facilities, capacity building on business and leadership skills, and safe spaces for interaction. Supporting the creation of Pakistan's first sanitation workers union benefited over 2,000 women by promoting equal labour rights and access to social protection. With UN assistance, 22,000 women and girls secured Computerized National Identity Cards, and 11,500 were registered in Ministry of Labour's home-based workers' database. This gave them access to basic services, markets and economic opportunities, boosting their incomes by up to 30%. In the private sector, the UN supported the Employers' Federation of Pakistan's Gender Equality Policy, and trained 15 companies to implement the Women's Empowerment Principles' Transparency and Accountability Framework.



Pictured above: A home-based worker in the flood-affected villate of Khoundi in Sindh's Dadu district ©UNDP Pakistan/Shuja Hakim
Pictured below: Field staff using digital solutions to tag crops in Sindh ©FAO Pakistan/Osama Bin Razzak

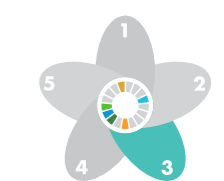
REAL LIVES

**SEHRISH'S STORY:
DIGITAL SOLUTIONS EMPOWER WOMEN**



"Previously, we didn't know about weather updates. Now, I regularly use apps and guide my family," says Sehrish. She is one of the beneficiaries of the pioneering Digital Village Initiative being implemented by FAO and the Government of Punjab to empower rural communities with access to digital resources, education and opportunities. Women like Sehrish in the village of Ahmad Pur Lama, in Punjab's Rahim Yar Khan district, are reaping the benefits of tablets and training provided by the initiative, giving them access to agriculture-related applications. "The tablet provided to me serves as a valuable tool to enhance my knowledge and access crucial information on crop management, market trends, and sustainable farming practices," Sehrish reports. "We get to know what crop to grow, the expected weather conditions, and we are benefiting from them. For example, we used to water our crops excessively, leading to crop ruin and wastage of precarious water. Now, we save water, cut costs, and our crops are thriving."

Empowered by digital tools, and training on using applications and digital agriculture platforms, Sehrish and her neighbours are harnessing technology to boost food security and drive positive change in their community.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



500,000
TREE

saplings planted along rivers connected to the Indus



78,263
PEOPLE

benefitted from slope stabilization and infrastructure creation



30,400
PEOPLE

people sensitized on solid waste management

AGENCIES Outcome 3 is coordinated by **FAO**, bringing together the efforts of **UN HABITAT, ILO, UNESCO, UNOPS, IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIDO** and **WFP**

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REAL LIVES

GUL MUHAMMAD'S STORY: PREPAREDNESS TRANSFORMS LIVES



©UNDP Pakistan/Shahzad Ahmad

"The sea is a magnificent universe offering a wealth of resources," says Gul Muhammad from Mubarak village, Karachi. "[It is] vital to our sustenance and prosperity." Fisherfolk like him are among the beneficiaries of the UNDP project, *Strengthening tsunami and earthquake preparedness in coastal areas of Pakistan*, funded by the Government of Japan. The project is a milestone in mitigating the disasters risks that endanger the livelihoods and lives of millions of people along Pakistan's coastline. By partnering with national and district authorities, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and NED University, the project has contributed to stronger policies, capacities, research, guidelines, awareness and early warning systems. Four new broadband stations monitor earthquakes and tsunamis, while five satellite-based early warning siren systems notify communities. Fourteen new multi-purpose emergency shelters, and 19 retrofitted schools and health facilities, will help locals withstand disasters. Planting 410,000 mangrove seedlings in Gwadar, Balochistan, has created a natural barrier against tsunamis, flooding and erosion, and a carbon sink that provides vital habitats for marine life. The project also helped set up 30 village Disaster Risk Management Committees, youth groups and emergency response teams, and train 1,366 community members (62% women) on hazards and emergency evacuation.

In 2023, UN support strengthened **national and provincial systems for reducing environmental degradation and advancing climate action**. UN technical assistance for the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination aided the landmark *Living Indus Initiative* – including action plans for eight priority interventions, such as "Climate Resilience within Indus Delta" and "A Living Indus Knowledge Platform" – and the development of Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Collaboration with national and provincial governments contributed to the implementation of Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDs) and the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) to recover from 2022's floods and strengthen long-term resilience. Engagement with the ministry and Punjab's Forest Department bolstered provincial and district capacities, and policy and planning frameworks, to implement rangeland management that reduces land degradation. With UN support, provincial governments formulated water policies, including Balochistan's draft Integrated Water Resources Management Policy and Sindh's Water Policy, with the latter launched in 2023. The new Climate Change and Human Mobility Synergy Group coordinated through the ministry is a platform for federal and provincial coordination to address climate change-related migration and displacement. UN initiatives strengthened national, institutional and local capacities for climate change mitigation and adaptation, climate-resilient settlement planning and low-emission development. For example, technical capacity building supported Balochistan's Livestock and Dairy Development Department to formulate insurance policies, manage artificial insemination, and enact an animal identification and traceability system. With UN assistance, Pakistani government officials took an active part in international climate change conferences and the global Hand in Hand Initiative, promoting private investment in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The UN supported youth-led events at the COP28 Pakistan Pavilion – with a focus on gender and climate finance – enabling youths from Pakistan and the broader region to get involved in climate negotiations. "COP in My City" events across Pakistan equipped 1,600 young climate activists (50% young women) with knowledge and skills to advance solutions for gender-responsive climate action. Under the Montreal Protocol project, a national ozone layer protection campaign raised awareness and mobilized academia to support the phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) in Pakistan. UN research provided guidance for informed decision-making on a range of climate change-related issues, from displacement to women's resilience. Through the Generation Unlimited initiative, 16 young researchers received grants to investigate climate change's impact on health, education, agriculture, and livelihoods. Their findings, presented as policy briefs to parliamentarians, helped integrate youth perspectives into policy discussions. UN-supported policy dialogue and roundtables positioned key issues on the national agenda, such as forest landscape restoration, and the intersection between social cohesion, disasters and climate adaptation.

UN assistance contributed to the **protection, management and conservation of natural habitats and ecosystems** (forests, rangelands and watersheds) of the Indus Basin. Two sites – Chitral Bashkar Garam Chashma, and Gallies Biosphere Reserves in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – joined the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, doubling the number of reserves in Pakistan. This is a leap forward, as biospheres promote solutions for reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. The UN supported the Ministry of Climate Change to start reversing the deforestation and degradation of Chilgoza pine forests through sustainable forest management plans and assisted natural regeneration. With Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Forestry Department,



3,050
PEOPLE

benefitted from
early warning systems
in northern Pakistan



125
TANNERY

units in Sialkot
applied environmental
sustainability principles



2
BIOSPHERE

reserves joined the
World Network of
Biosphere Reserves

the UN helped plant 500,000 tree saplings, particularly along rivers connected to the Indus, contributing to regeneration. Capacity development equipped communities to apply responsible harvesting practices and community-based management. Training organized with Sapienza University of Rome, equipped government officials to use geospatial tools for estimating land degradation. In Balochistan, a scoping survey identified 271 potential rangeland areas, paired with workshops on rangeland surveying and mapping techniques. Collaboration with the Government of Punjab resulted in a model for wastewater treatment using floating wetlands, offering a nature-based solution for domestic sewage treatment. Better waste management contributed to cleaner, more environmentally sustainable urban areas following UN capacity building on solid waste management for communities in slums in Rawalpindi and Nowshera, and awareness raising through the Climate Promise Project that engaged 30,400 people nationwide (50% women). The project also delivered green skills training for 1,960 people (59% women) – enhancing the knowledge, abilities and attitudes needed to develop a sustainable, resource-efficient society – and provided training on ecotourism in Gilgit-Baltistan. Training for 15 federal and provincial heritage professionals bolstered the preservation of cultural and natural assets. Progress on **disaster preparedness and risk reduction built community resilience**. For example, the construction of 90 early warning system (EWS) base platforms in Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the assembly of 85 EWS stations and installation of 14 stations benefitted 3,050 people (48% women). These systems notify at-risk communities before disasters, enabling early action to save lives. Collaboration with Forest Departments on the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Reduction (GLOF II) project brought 140 hectares of land under sustainable forest management, enabling slope stabilization to prevent landslides. These efforts, paired with the construction of small-scale infrastructure, boosted the preparedness and resilience of 78,263 people (52% women). Further gains for disaster risk reduction include the installation or restoration of five automated weather stations (AWS), and training for 177 officials (37% women) on AWS data processing and addressing avalanches.

UN support promoted the **efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, including surface and groundwater, supporting the health and economies of Indus Basin communities**. UN initiatives enhanced resilience to water scarcity – a major boon in a country prone to drought and floods. In flood-affected provinces, the UN built and rehabilitated 105 communal water ponds along the Indus, and used recovery efforts as an entry point to advocate for climate action by the Government, partners and communities. With UN assistance, the Ministry of Climate Change began developing its first National Urban Strategy with rainwater harvesting as an integral component. Community-based water harvesting facilities were installed in Nowshera and Rawalpindi, paired with training for 100 officials on the construction, operation and maintenance of similar projects. In collaboration with the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), a feasibility study in Punjab provided guidance on rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge and groundwater quality improvement, while nature-based groundwater recharge facilities in 13 drought-prone sites in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa made communities more resilient. Nationwide, UN initiatives prompted progress on improving water monitoring, water accounting systems, groundwater management, aquifer vulnerability assessments and participatory aquifer management. Collaborative efforts to address industrial effluent treatment in the Indus Basin, especially in Sialkot's and Karachi's leather industries, protected ecosystems and improved water quality management. A new concentrated Tannery Zone in Sialkot – with a common effluent treatment plant, unified waste management system, and 125 tannery units adhering to environmental sustainability principles – is a move towards balancing industrial growth with the health of the Indus Basin. With UN support, 60 textile and garment factories in Sialkot, Faisalabad and Karachi are transitioning to efficient water use and the proper disposal of chemical waste. This will promote environmental stewardship while protecting the health of workers and surrounding communities. A wastewater treatment facility at the National University of Science and Technology was recognized as a UNESCO ecohydrology demonstration site – shining a global spotlight on this good practice for others to follow. UN support contributed to the **protection of marine ecosystems and the Indus Delta** – vital for preserving life in the Indus Basin. Following sustained advocacy, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs promulgated rules in December 2023 that address legal gaps in marine and freshwater aquaculture requirements – benefiting fisherfolk, communities and marine ecosystems. The “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management” action plan, developed with UN support as part of the Living Indus Initiative, is a move towards protecting aquatic life while developing an ecologically balanced fisheries sector. UN advocacy built consensus on combatting illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone, and the installation of a Vessel Monitoring System. Educating stakeholders and communities about the harmful effects of improper ship dismantling on humans, marine life and the environment, led to growing momentum towards Pakistan's ratification of the Hong Kong Ship Recycling Convention.



Pictured above: Participant at the national multi-stakeholder consultation, “Global Shield” on resilience to climate change ©UNDP Pakistan
Pictured below: Birds-eye view of Karachi's Korangi Leather Area ©UNIDO Pakistan

REAL LIVES

**KORANGI'S STORY:
GREENING THE LEATHER INDUSTRY**



“We feel proud coming to this area because it's so clean now,” says Gulzar Firoz, President of the Pakistan Tanners' Association, speaking of Karachi's Korangi Leather Area. “The workers are very happy with their working environment and our foreign buyers are also happy with the improvements.” Just a few years ago, no one would have believed he was speaking about the Korangi Leather Area, with its streets steeped in untreated industrial waste and leather processing debris. Now, the leather producing area has been transformed, thanks to a new solid waste management facilitation centre and systems established by a UNIDO project funded by the Global Environment Facility, in partnership with the Ministry of Climate Change, the Pakistan Tanners Association, the Southern Zone Environmental Society and the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency. The project also equipped waste management teams with personal protective equipment, trained 458 people (21% women) on efficient practices, and contributed to improved provincial policies for hazardous waste management. The area's 120 tanneries have adopted sustainability standards, reducing their CO2 emissions by 10,000 kg and waste by 3,500 tonnes per year. Korangi's streets are now clean, reducing the risk of disease for the 70,000 people who live and work here.



AGENCIES Outcome 4 is coordinated by the ILO, bringing together the efforts of **FAO, IFAD, IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS** and **WFP**

©ILO Pakistan/Human Design Studios



REAL LIVES

AZRA'S STORY: EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS



©UNDP Pakistan/Hamna Umar Hashmi and Shahzad Ahmad

"Initially, I was struggling with my business venture. I was not able to track my expenses or manage my finances properly," recalls 27-year-old **Azra Sakina**, founder of Al-Kousar Resin Art, from Karachi's Korangi district. Her struggles echo the challenges that all too many Pakistani entrepreneurs face, especially women.

Azra's business is now going from strength to strength, thanks to a 20-day business skills and entrepreneurship training course – part of the Youth Education Employment Empowerment Project (YEEEP), a joint initiative between the Government of Sindh and UNDP. Azra and her fellow trainees gained vital knowledge on business management. She learned to use a mobile app to keep records of all her financial transactions, giving her greater control over her finances. Learning about business registration and eco-friendly practices helped Azra transition from plastic bags to sustainable packaging. Guidance on market research was a revelation, prompting Azra to investigate and discover the huge potential reach of resin art. Inspired by her findings, she is expanding her business online through social media and Daraz, Pakistan's largest e-commerce platform, to reach a broader audience. Her profits have already shot up by 25%.

4 OUTCOME



SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK



80% REDUCTION

in CO₂ emissions by brick kilns using zig zag technology



US\$2.9 MILLION

in cash transfers supported flood-affected households' livelihoods



22,000 NEW JOBS

created through the National Poverty Graduation Programme

In 2023, the UN supported the development and implementation of **gender-responsive strategies, employment policies and programmes that advance job-rich, sustainable, green economic growth and decent work**, especially for youth, women and vulnerable groups. The National Youth Employment Framework, drafted with UN support, is a major step towards enhancing young people's skills, resilience and decent work opportunities, and addressing the challenges they face in the job market. Advocacy continued with the Government to include labour provisions aligned with international standards in trade agreements, as did advocacy on equal opportunities, fair wages, and training for those most affected by climate change and digitalization. The EU-funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project contributed to governance improvements in Sindh and Balochistan through training on domestic commerce, e-commerce plans, and public-private dialogues. Collaboration with national and provincial Bureaus of Statistics enhanced data collection instruments to inform decision-making in the cultural and creative sectors. Assistance for Pakistan's leather and brick kiln sectors placed environmental sustainability centre stage. Training 2,000 workers on zig zag technology led to 25 brick kilns adopting the technique and reducing their CO₂ emissions by up to 80%. UN **support for communities affected by 2022's catastrophic floods** transitioned from emergency relief to recovery in 2023. Over 1.8 million people benefitted from UN livelihood and climate resilience projects in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, including the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure. The Food Assistance for Assets Programme developed skills for livelihoods, asset creation, income generation, access to markets and natural resource management. The livelihoods cash-based transfer response, including start-up grants, bolstered livelihoods by providing US\$29.4 million in cash transfers and 4,295 metric tonnes of food to vulnerable households. UN assistance concentrated on women-headed households, and supported women to actively engage in decision-making through Village Development Committees (in which they comprise 28% of members). Training for 75 masons in Sindh and 70 women on resilient housing techniques further honed capacities to "build back better".

The UN assisted stakeholders **create an enabling business environment that promotes sustainable enterprises, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)**. Multifaceted support involved partnering with the Government to strengthen capacities for developing enabling business frameworks, partnerships with the private sector – for example to empower women entrepreneurs through enterprise development bootcamps – and engaging directly with local communities and SMEs. The findings of a mapping study on SMEs' formalization, conducted with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), provide guidance to simplify regulatory procedures and foster an enabling environment to support SMEs to transition from the informal to the formal economy. Capacity building within business associations equipped a national pool of experts with the skills to mentor and guide SMEs through the formalization process. UN clean energy projects empowered SMEs – through coaching, financing facilitation, and a Business Service Organization Development Training Programme – enhancing their access to clean energy financing and income generation. Two grant windows launched in Sindh will alleviate rural poverty through micro-grants, and finance community infrastructure development in flood-affected villages through a public sector window. With UN support, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa developed its first SMEs Access to Finance Strategy to meet SMEs' financial needs, with a focus on women-owned businesses. A partial credit guarantee scheme developed with the Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme will cater to the financing needs of over 50,000 farmers, benefitting agricultural cooperatives and agribusinesses. In Sindh, the UN promoted enterprise development among vulnerable groups through Rural Growth Centres and Urban Economic



35,000
FARMING

households benefitted from agribusiness value chain development



5,127
REFUGEE & HOST

youths supported with skills training



71%
OF YOUNG

entrepreneurship trainees set up their own businesses

Clusters, contributing to the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy. Nationwide, the National Poverty Graduation Programme helped create 24,416 new jobs (88% for women). UN efforts improved entrepreneurs' and SMEs' knowledge and access to financial services, with one financial literacy programme supporting 92% of trainees to open bank accounts. In 22 districts of Balochistan and Sindh, UN initiatives equipped SMEs to adapt to climate change, become more resilient, and compete in the market. Farmer Climate Business Schools honed capacities on climate-smart agriculture, as did training on sustainable horticulture and livestock management for SMEs. Collaboration with banks and matching grant programmes facilitated SMEs' access to finance and business growth, while partnerships with firms and business associations opened up new markets. Institutional strengthening programmes equipped agribusiness service providers to better support MSMEs. Fourteen GRASP-supported SMEs took part in Pakistan's first Food Agriculture Expo, collectively booking orders worth US\$3.5 million. Over 35,000 farming households benefitted from agribusiness value chain development, conducted in partnership with government bodies, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and communities in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. Organizing farmers into Farmers Field Schools improved production, processing and marketing, bolstering rural livelihoods and food security. Workshops with heritage professionals supported conservation and cultural heritage management, as did master plans for cultural assets like the Lahore Museum. UN support for **capacity building, training and vocational education** enhanced competencies, **boosting the employability** of youth, women and vulnerable groups, and fostering entrepreneurship. The livelihoods of 2,720 farmers (55% women) grew more resilient as the Economic Transformation Initiative in Gilgit-Baltistan (ETI-GB) delivered capacity building for cooperatives, improving production skills, value addition and market linkages. Over 3,700 people (84% women) benefitted from livelihood skills training through the Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project, laying the foundation for inclusive rural development. UN livelihood interventions benefitted 3,520 refugees, including by providing 3,000 refugee households with essential assets and training on enterprise development, asset management and financial literacy. This approach supports "ultra-poor" refugees to build their confidence, develop sustainable livelihoods, access financial services, and lift themselves out of poverty. Entrepreneurship training and mentoring empowered 517 young people in Sindh (55% women), 71% of whom successfully set up their own businesses. Entrepreneurship skills training for 129 refugees at prestigious universities, and business development training for 1,765 Afghan refugees and host community members (28% women), enabled them to engage productively in the market. Of these trainees, 370 (51% women) received cash grants to set-up or expand home-based businesses. Internship skills training for 800 Afghan and host community youths, alongside a monthly stipend, helped them secure private sector job placements. This fostered economic resilience and social cohesion, as did technical and vocational skills training – delivered with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and NGO partners – for 5,127 Afghan refugees and host youths. UN efforts with GIZ facilitated the economic reintegration of 80 returning Pakistani migrants through refresher trainings and start-up support. Initiatives in the gem crafts and Hareep music sectors expanded entrepreneurial opportunities for women, while promoting cultural preservation. The National Skills Passport System, developed with the Employers' Federation of Pakistan and key stakeholders, is a milestone for formally recognizing workers' skills and boosting their employability, as is the development of a National Qualifications Framework.

UN assistance **addressed inequalities in the world of work by advancing women's economic empowerment**. The **Better Work Programme**, in partnership with the International Finance Corporation, empowered women workers in the ready-made garment sector through training on leadership skills, enabling women to assume supervisory roles and progress in their careers on par with men. UN initiatives helped women home-based workers in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh access social security by facilitating their registration with Labour Departments. Capacity building for 70 labour officials on laws related to home-based workers contributed to more effective implementation. Campaigns and collaboration with trade unions and employers' organizations advocated for the ratification of the ILO's Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), fostering a culture of zero tolerance towards workplace violence and harassment. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts, awareness raising addressed harmful norms and fostered positive attitudes towards women's economic participation. The UN **promoted fundamental principles and rights at work to prevent all forms of exploitation**. This includes support for addressing child, forced and bonded labour in diverse sectors – agriculture, brick kilns, construction, healthcare, ready-made garments, and mining – by creating community oversight mechanisms, strengthening district vigilance committees, and raising awareness. Wins for occupational safety and health (OSH) include the registration of Pakistan's first association of sanitation workers, and the first OSH guidelines for sanitation work. Efforts continued to organize workers in sectors like agriculture and brick kilns into unions and associations, and to promote bi-bipartite works councils in formal enterprises, to boost workers' representation and protect their rights.



Pictured above: Industrial engineers review a factory's progress as part of the SCORE programme ©ILO Pakistan/Human Design Studios
Pictured below: Apple cultivators Abida and Arifa at their family farm in the district of Pishin, Balochistan ©UNIDO Pakistan

REAL LIVES

**ABIDA AND ARIFA'S STORY:
CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE**



"We had no idea how to protect ourselves against the toxic chemicals during pesticide sprays. Our brothers used to come home coughing, their eyes burning red," say Abida and Arifa from Yousaf Kach, in Balochistan's Pishin district. Now, the sisters are transforming agricultural practices in their village with the support of UNIDO's Project for Agri-Food and Agro-Industry Development Assistance (PAFAID), funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. PAFAID training equipped them with skills on organic climate-smart farming and water management. They now use water-conserving practices on the family farm, like drip irrigation, and mitigate the harmful effects of pesticides and chemical fertilizers with soil enrichment and pest management techniques wearing protective gear.

Word of the sisters' success spread like wildfire, inspiring neighbouring farmers to follow suit. "We have put up posters throughout the village farms to make sure everyone reads and remembers the basic safety protocols," they report. "We also guide women in community circles on how to ensure food safety and incorporate good agriculture practices in their daily farm routine." As their farm and community flourishes, the sisters are venturing into agro-industry with their own small-scale food processing unit.



AGENCIES Outcome 5 is coordinated by **UNDP**, bringing together the efforts of **FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS** and **UN Women**

©UNDP Pakistan



REAL LIVES

BUS BIBI'S STORY: WOMEN SAFEGUARDING CHILD RIGHTS

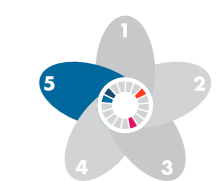


©UNICEF Pakistan/Saiyina Bashir

"I learned that child marriage harms the child's mental and physical health," says Bus Bibi, recalling what she learned when she joined her local Child Protection Committee in the village of Danduna, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in an Afghan refugee settlement called Gandaf.

When she joined the Committee, Bus Bibi's 14-year-old daughter Aqeela was about to be married. Through the counselling and training Bus Bibi received, she quickly understood how harmful that would be. "I realized that Aqeela would have to give up her education if she was married right now, and I didn't want that for her," says Bus Bibi. "I want her to complete high school and be an adult before she is married."

Bus Bibi has become a local role model and proactive member of the local Committee. Whenever she meets friends or relatives, she shares what she has learned and encourages them to send their children to school, just like she does. Bus Bibi's story is a testament to her strength and love for her daughter, and to the power of Child Protection Committees - set up in four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by UNICEF and the Centre of Excellence for Rural Development, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands - to transform lives by empowering communities to protect children.



GOVERNANCE



2.98 MILLION

in the Merged Districts will benefit from 5 new model police stations



70,000 PEOPLE

(91% women) secured identity cards, enabling them to vote



60,000 PEOPLE

sensitized on legal rights, GBV and access to justice

The UN championed transparent, responsive and equitable service delivery by **strengthening democratic governance capacities**, including the creation and improvement of **data governance systems, reporting mechanisms and digital solutions**. With UN support, the first-ever management information system was designed and institutionalized for the Federal Investigation Agency, facilitating reporting on trafficking in persons, child and bonded labour, modern slavery and other forms of forced labour. The system is connected with the agency's helpline, enabling people to report grievances and cases of violence and trafficking. Assistance for the Government's National Action Plan to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling included 15 workshops. Assisting community engagement mechanisms strengthened accountability at the local level. For instance, community outreach facilitated state-citizen dialogue in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts, benefitting 1,430 people. A survey of 10,000 people informed government planning processes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the province's first Climate Resilience Strategy and Electrification Roadmap. To promote the inclusion of community voices in local budget allocation and planning processes, the UN partnered with the Finance and Planning & Development Departments of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Balochistan and Sindh to strategize for long-term capacity building on public finance. Better data governance and digital solutions came to the fore in the Merged Districts with the formation of 235 Public Liaison Councils, technological solutions for district administrations, and capacity building across eight districts. The governance of social protection schemes for formal sector workers improved as the UN supported social security institutions to streamline processes, adopt technologies, and enhance data management systems. As a result, these institutions are better able to identify eligible beneficiaries, deliver benefits promptly, and ensure sustainability. With UN assistance, the Government of Sindh developed a Risk Governance Framework to mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities, economies and ecosystems. Progress on civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) gained pace following UN support for IT infrastructure at union council offices and health facilities in pilot districts of Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan, enabling officials to use the CRVS digital application, and create linkages between notification and registration entities.

UN efforts supported responsive electoral and legislative processes. Collaboration with the Election Commission of Pakistan included assistance for developing a Communication and Public Outreach Strategy to enhance transparent communication and public participation, paired with training for 198 officers on monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and the certification of 18 BRIDGE trainers. Over 2,253 trainers (23%) were capacitated for the 2024 general election, and a gender audit conducted for the Commission led to the implementation of a specialized Gender Helpdesk for the elections. Over 70,000 people (91% women) in flood-affected districts - including 51 persons with disabilities and 377 people from religious minorities - secured Computerized National Identity Cards required for voting following UN engagement with the Election Commission and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). Voter education initiatives engaged 1,281 students, yielding recommendations to improve polling stations. Support for the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, including training for 100 federal and provincial officials, strengthened capacities to conduct census processes. UN research and analysis offered guidance to strengthen democratic governance, including on labour dispute resolution mechanisms, investing in data management, addressing women's burden of unpaid domestic work, social protection, and improving family planning and reproductive health. High-level dialogues with SDG Units in Punjab and Sindh explored sub-national challenges and opportunities for accelerating sustainable development.

Throughout 2023, the UN supported efforts to make **justice systems more accessible, affordable and efficient**. The UN's joint Rule of Law project supported the drafting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's new Rule of Law Roadmap, Prison Act 2023, and Police Communication and Outreach Strategy. Pre-service, basic and specialized trainings for 229 judges, lawyers, court staff and DRC



89,873
REFUGEES

accessed services
through Advice and
Legal Aid Centres



18,031
WOMEN

and girls benefited
from Women Community
Centres' services



10,000
PEOPLE

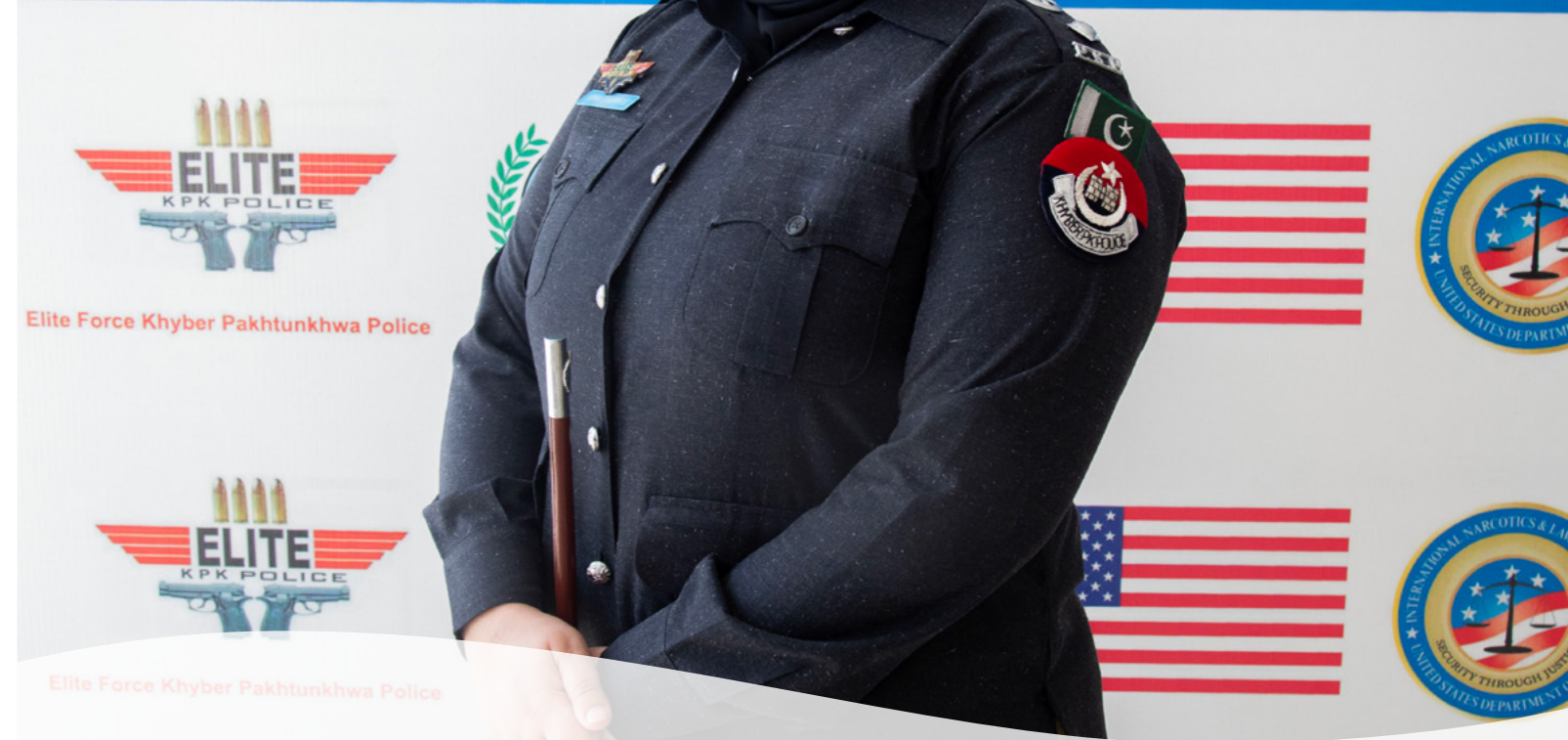
surveyed to inform Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa's planning
on climate resilience

members (35% women) and 989 police personnel (20% women) enhanced service delivery capacities across key institutions, as did training for 3,770 police personnel (21%) on supporting women and marginalized groups to access justice, and training for 1,959 stakeholders on gender-responsive policing and handling gender-based violence cases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Enhancing the Database Management Information System (DBMIS) automated processes and facilitated connectivity between stakeholders in Balochistan – the police, prosecution, judiciary, prison, reclamation and probation services – providing data to enable informed decision-making. This is a significant step towards enhancing the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of criminal justice institutions, making the system a transformative outcome of the Rule of Law project. Institutional strengthening efforts expanded access to justice for 2.98 million people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts by supporting the establishment of five model police stations. A new Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre in Quetta, a Special Investigation Unit, and 10 Gender Facilitation Desks within Smart Police Stations in Balochistan will expand access to services for survivors of gender-based violence. A new Anti-Narcotics Force women's hostel in Islamabad, replete with a childcare centre, will support women's training and career progression, as will new academic and hostel facilities for the police in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, benefitting 4,300 personnel. Anti-Rape Crisis Centres, set up with UN support, will advance the implementation of Anti-Rape Act of 2021, as will capacity building delivered for the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, and training for women lawyers on alternative dispute resolution, free legal aid and victim support. Capacity development equipped over 2,400 law enforcement officials to better protect refugees.

UN initiatives contributed to **strengthening civic space, raising awareness, and supporting people to demand and obtain their rights**. With UN support, over 2,700 survivors of human trafficking and smuggling accessed essential services – shelter, medical care, legal assistance and counselling – contributing to their recovery, while 18,031 women and girls gained access to safe spaces and gender-based violence response services at 90 newly established Women Community Centres (WCCs). Strengthening 12 district networks of civil society organizations facilitated women's access to justice in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Punjab, 2,400 people benefitted from support services delivered through Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centres. UN technical assistance for mental health services, awareness raising and livelihood skills training in Afghan refugee hosting communities in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its Merged Districts contributed to preventing violent extremism among youths. Support for four Agricultural Training Centres in the Merged Districts provided 2,160 poppy farmers with alternative livelihood opportunities to reduce illicit drug-related activities. UN-supported Advice and Legal Aid Centers (ALACs) provided free legal aid, assistance and information to 89,873 refugees and asylum-seekers, including through helplines and counselling services.

With UN support, the Ministry of Human Rights and its partners developed a code of conduct and manual for human rights due diligence (HRDD), promoting the rights of vulnerable groups engaged in Pakistan's textile sector, including women home-based workers, transgender persons, persons with disabilities, minorities and indigenous populations. Engaging with environmental tribunals and protection agencies in Balochistan accelerated the implementation of a comprehensive strategy on access to environmental justice. UN awareness raising empowered communities and vulnerable groups by enabling them to make informed decisions, access available resources, and advocate for change. Sensitization sessions for workers and employers were a boon to awareness of labour rights and social security in the brick kiln, sanitation, domestic work, and agriculture sectors. Over 60,000 women, men and transgender persons gained knowledge of legal rights, gender-based violence and accessing the justice system through community engagement events – including theatre performances and mock courts – conducted with local civil society organizations. Training over 100 journalists and media professionals promoted survivor-centric reporting on human trafficking and migration. UN engagement with civil society contributed to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by creating community awareness forums to raise awareness of safeguarding measures. Women and vulnerable groups gained knowledge of housing, land and property rights at training sessions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and South Punjab, as did 271 emergency and recovery actors, local authorities, architects, engineers and lawyers. UN initiatives strengthened the advocacy capacities of women-led organizations by creating networks connecting women environmental and human rights' defenders across Pakistan and the Asia-Pacific region. The documentary "Kalash Loag" raised awareness of the climate change and population issues that vulnerable communities face. UN events shined a light on important rights issues, such as webinars on women's rights, climate change, population issues, and artificial intelligence ethics organized with the Centre of Excellence on Population and Wellbeing Studies, and a dialogue on inter-faith harmony to mark International Human Rights Day.

TION OF THE JOINT POLICE NOWSHERA, KHYBE



Pictured above: A police officer at the Joint Police Training Centre in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, inaugurated with UN support ©UNDP Pakistan/Shuja Hakim
Pictured below: Kamla Bheel takes her oath as District Vice-Chairperson in the local government of Tharparkar, Sindh ©Satesh Malani/UN Women Pakistan

REAL LIVES

KAMLA'S STORY: TRANSFORMING LOCAL GOVERNANCE



"Being a woman from a minority in politics means breaking barriers with every step," says **Kamla Bheel**. Born into the Bheel community, a scheduled caste, Kamla has been breaking barriers for years – most recently by becoming the first woman ever to become District Vice-Chairperson in the local government of Tharparkar, Sindh. *"Even within my own family, I faced resistance,"* Kamla recalls. Girls are meant to marry, not study – a norm Kamla defied by earning a bachelor's degree and working for 9 years to ensure that every girl in Tharparkar has access to education as part of the Thardeep Rural Development Programme.

UN initiatives are working to empower women in politics like Kamla by enhancing the capacities of influential organizations that support women's political engagement. UN Women's collaboration with Women's Parliamentary Caucuses, the Election Commission of Pakistan, and National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women is facilitating an enabling environment for women's participation in politics and decision-making. Kamla has emerged as an active participant in forums that champion women's voices and entry into the political landscape. With UN support, more women like her will be able to thrive as decision-makers and leaders nationwide.

SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2023, the UN in Pakistan built and deepened broad-based, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships with state and non-state actors – both long-standing and new partners – including to leverage financing for the SDGs. For example, the reformed Resident Coordinator's Office pulled all parts of the UN system together – at the country, regional and global levels – to mobilize international financing for Pakistan's recovery and adaptation efforts in response to the floods at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva, on 9 January 2023. The event marked the launch of the country's Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework and raised US\$9 billion in pledges, including from non-traditional donors. Technical assistance for the Prime Minister's Office bolstered strategic targets on revenue mobilization, energy management and solarization. Support for frameworks like the Pakistan Investment Policy 2023 and the creation of 37 Special Economic Zones facilitated government efforts to increase investment in the country. The UN developed strong relationships with the Federal Board of Investments, and the Boards in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to mobilize financing for sustainable agriculture and fisheries, with a focus on the Indus Basin. Joint UN efforts contributed to the mobilization of domestic resources (PKR 769.869 million for FY2023–2024) and international funding (US\$65 million through the Global Fund) to address HIV/AIDS. This was achieved in close coordination with government partners, including the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, and provincial health authorities, as well as community partners, most notable people living with HIV and organizations representing vulnerable populations affected by HIV.

Strong partnerships with the Pakistan's federal and provincial governments – underpinned by UN technical assistance, capacity building and advocacy – led to the realignment of public expenditures in aid of SDG targets. For example, following UN support for strengthening public financing for nutrition, the Government approved a multi-sectoral nutrition umbrella Planning Commission Proforma Form I (PC-1), committing PKR 8.583 billion for targeted action to improve nutrition. This will benefit 3 million people in flood-affected areas, as well as in 36 districts with a high prevalence of stunting and wasting. In the wake of sustained UN engagement, significant funding in 2023 boosted nutrition activities, leading to the expansion of the Benazir Nashonuma Programme and the establishment of Nashonuma facilitation centres across districts. Policy dialogues and advocacy contributed to an overall increase of 82% in family planning expenditure between 2018 and 2023, with 76% of this spending contributed by the Government of Pakistan through Population and Welfare Departments, and 24% by development partners.

The UN in Pakistan forged partnerships with more diverse stakeholders than ever before in 2023, including the private sector, civil society and academia. For instance, partnerships with educational institutions like the Government College of Women's University Sialkot expanded internship opportunities for women students in the environmental sciences. Creating networks connecting women environmental and human rights' defenders across Pakistan and the Asia-Pacific region bolstered advocacy by civil society organizations, and provided pathways for south-south cooperation. A new partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is poised to support gender-responsive, human rights-based approach to climate-responsive planning and management of the Indus' water resources through the Sustainable Actions for Ecosystems Restoration in Pakistan (SAFER Pakistan) in 2024. Non-financial partnerships were equally crucial. For example, technical assistance for the National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women (CSWs) enabled them to fulfil their mandate of monitoring the implementation of laws, policies and programmes to advance women's empowerment. Collaboration with line departments and stakeholders in targeted districts enabled the successful implementation of a range of initiatives, including the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) project with a focus on helping households recover from the floods. The implementation of the SDG 3 Global Action Plan in Pakistan fostered renewed collaboration with government and development partners, contributing to progress towards good health and well-being for all through more resilient, responsive health systems.

UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY: THE RESULTS OF WORKING BETTER TOGETHER

The UN in Pakistan has been "Delivering as One" since 2007, embodying the spirit of UN reform to enhance efficiency. In 2023, working together as one enabled the UN to streamline interventions, improve joint programming among UN agencies at the country level, reduce transaction costs, foster accountability and coherence, and promote national ownership of initiatives. With an empowered role through UN reform, the Resident Coordinator's (RC) independent, strengthened coordination function enabled an integrated journey from humanitarian response to development recovery from 2022's floods. By pulling in the strengths of the UN system at levels and bringing key players together, the reformed Resident Coordinator system was able to deliver more timely, effective and relevant support for the Government – both immediately after the floods, and as it transitioned from emergency aid to recovery and reconstruction. UN reform gave the Resident Coordinator and his Office (UNRCO) the tools to bring together all relevant parts of the UN – UN agencies in Pakistan, non-resident agencies, headquarters, the General Assembly, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – as well as Members States and international financial institutions. The Resident Coordinator's dual humanitarian and development role enabled the team to rapidly switch to providing humanitarian assistance and support the Government to launch an US\$816 million Flood Response Plan to address both immediate and longer-term recovery needs, mobilizing international financing and solidarity from critical donors.



UN Secretary-General, António Guterres (right), and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif (left), speak to the press at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva on 9 January 2023. ©UN Photo/Jean Marc Ferré

“

We immediately contacted our partners in the UN development system – to make a quick evaluation of the [flood] damage's extent, and to translate that into the emergency appeal – the 911 response. It was a critical early stage response that no other organization was equipped to provide.”

Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, April 2023

“[The RC system was] our go-to place to coordinate the response, streamline our efforts and ensure a smooth exchange of information.”

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister of Foreign Affairs, April 2023

The added value of the UNRCO coordination team, including an economist, enabled close coordination with international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. This was vital, as their financing of humanitarian activity mainly through the Government was as important as all the funds going through the UN and NGOs that make up the Humanitarian Country Team. The fact that the UN Country Team in Pakistan worked as one was especially essential, most notably with UNDP fulfilling the integrator role that UN reform envisages, pulling together the UN family first for the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and then for Pakistan's Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework (4RF). This brought coherence to the UN's work with key partners, including the European Union, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Through the Resident Coordinator's leadership, leveraging the added value of the UN system at the global, regional and country levels – including making the most of the Development Coordination Office/Resident Coordinator System's timely support – Pakistan's path towards long-term resilience planning received a significant boost in January 2023 with the launch of the 4RF. UN development reform made this effective, timely mobilization response possible, positioning the Resident Coordinator's Office as the one-stop shop for all UN support in the country and beyond, bringing together all parts of the UN system seamlessly to deliver tangible results. It also shows how a seemingly small change in the way we work can deliver outside results. A small investment in the Resident Coordinator's Office facilitated the creation and implementation of a US\$816 million Flood Response Plan and a Resilient Recovery Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework worth nearly US\$9 billion.

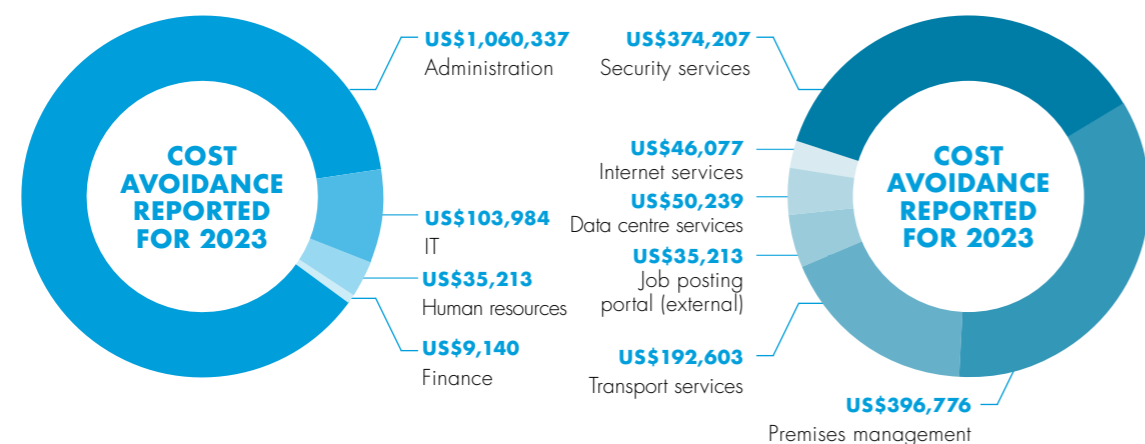
Taking forward the spirit of UN reform, UN agencies in Pakistan expanded joint programming. This proved catalytic in developing transformational policy-driven solutions and leveraging financing opportunities for the SDGs. The Rule of Law Roadmap project is a case in point, with UNDP, UNODC and UN Women pooling their expertise and resources to expand access

to justice, focusing particularly on empowering women. Another of many examples is UN Habitat and UNHCR working together to strengthen the capacities of human rights institutions on housing, land and property rights for women and vulnerable groups. As a result, the Ministry of Human Rights, business and human rights actors developed guidelines for human rights due diligence, with a view to protecting and promoting the rights of home-based workers, transgender persons, persons with disabilities, women, minorities and indigenous populations associated with Pakistan's textiles sector. Collaboration between UNHCR and IOM yielded 12 weekly joint flow monitoring reports on displaced Afghans and refugees in order to inform responsive planning. Working with UN Women, FAO effectively mainstreamed gender in pre-assessments and indicators of projects to empower women in agriculture. Led by the UNRCO, high-level dialogues brought together UN agencies, government and non-government partners, and SDG Units in Punjab and Sindh to explore sub-national challenges and opportunities in often overlooked regions, like South Punjab. Joint UN programming also contributed to tackling the climate crisis through the Living Indus Initiative.

Throughout, joint UN efforts worked beyond siloes – leveraging the six key transitions to have a multiplier effect across the SDGs. For example, supporting the integration of digital tools into the School Scholarships programme and Benazir Nashonuma, monitored through an Android-based application, benefitted over 9 million students across Pakistan. This is just one example of how a single UN initiative can have an impact across the key entry points of social protection, food systems and education – and in turn, have knock on effects for gender equality, women's empowerment, jobs, and good health.

The UN in Pakistan also delivered on the UN's global Efficiency Agenda by successfully implementing the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0. This enables joint business operations that eliminate duplication, harness the UN's bargaining power, and maximize economies of scale. Significant cost savings are evident thanks to high-impact activities like common administration services, information and communication technology (ICT) service lines, a harmonized approach to cash transfers, and harmonized human resource management and procurement. The strategy's third annual reveals savings of US\$4.2 million for the BOS 2.0 cycle, including savings of US\$1.2 million in 2023 alone – a marked year-on-year increase of 50%.

Common administration services are the cornerstone of these savings, particularly the management of shared premises, outsourced transport services, and security provisions. The addition of two new common premises under the shared services umbrella resulted in cost avoidance of US\$1.06 million for administration service lines. The Operations Management Team continued piloting sustainable procurement policies in common long-term agreements, contributing to environmentally sustainable and socially responsible practices. The UN also developed a robust quality assurance work plan to monitor indicators on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Common services are contributing to operational excellence and efficiency at the UN in Pakistan, heeding the call of the Secretary-General – to seek efficiencies in the UN's support for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



LESSONS LEARNED FROM A CHALLENGING YEAR

For the UN in Pakistan, 2023 was another year of learning – of tacking stock of what worked well, and where we need to improve to deliver meaningful results for people in Pakistan. For example, experiences in Gilgit-Baltistan show there is higher demand for green skills than anticipated, requiring existing projects and resources to be scaled up. The complexity of implementing technological solutions, such as the design and assembly of early warning systems, highlights the need for greater coordination between design and installation bodies to ensure the quality and timeliness of interventions. Frequent government staff turnover and the restructuring of departments posed challenges, which the UN mitigated by continually engaging with officials and delivering capacity building for new staff. The benefits of UN reform were evident in 2023 – enabling UN agencies to work as one under the coordinated leadership of the Resident Coordinator, and to rethink and re-adapt our approaches in a flexible manner in response to evolving local contexts. Community-based approaches continued to amplify results, highlighting the benefits of working with implementing partners on the ground to maximize outreach.

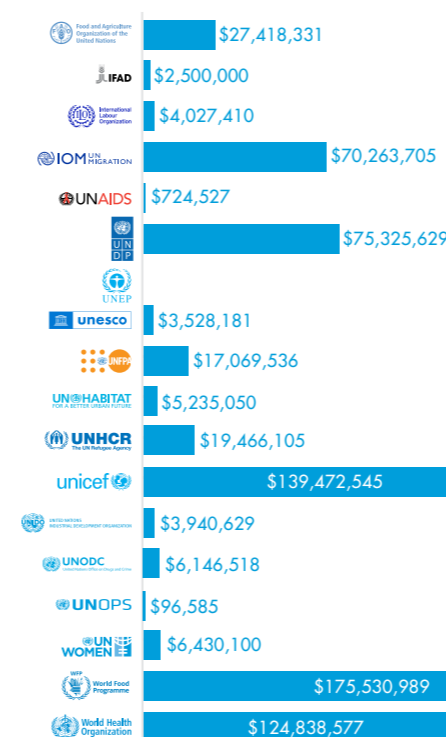
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023



In 2023, the first year of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework's (2023–2027) implementation in Pakistan, the UN's required budget was US\$1.245 billion. Available resources of US\$872.718 million were obtained, and expenditure totalled US\$682.014, reflecting a delivery rate of 78.14% across the framework's five outcomes. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) managed a separate humanitarian budget from different funding streams, whose funds were disbursed to UN agencies and NGOs for humanitarian action in 2023. These humanitarian funds are not included in this section.

UNSDCF outcome	Required resources/budget (US\$)	Available resources (US\$) [a]	Expenditure (US\$) [e]	% delivery [100 * e/a]
1 Basic Social Services	841,161,130	619,711,760	512,221,727	66.84%
2 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	131,146,841	69,788,368	49,820,161	72.18%
3 Climate Change and the Environment	79,864,523	73,425,859	40,955,544	82.99%
4 Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work	100,974,771	64,805,304	48,327,151	46.96%
5 Governance	92,781,780	44,986,984	30,689,834	78.79%
Total	1,245,929,045	872,718,275	682,014,417	74.29%

UNSDCF EXPENDITURE BY AGENCY



UN agency in Pakistan	Required resources (US\$)	Available resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)
FAO	37,190,224	29,781,882	27,418,331
IFAD	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
ILO	23,415,000	4,057,410	4,027,410
IOM	100,491,836	84,237,634	70,263,705
UNAIDS	908,365	903,365	724,527
UNDP	190,327,126	147,723,816	75,325,629
UNEP	-	-	-
UNESCO	4,648,811	3,626,427	3,528,181
UNFPA	34,778,189	17,306,961	17,069,536
UN Habitat	6,954,390	5,352,175	5,235,050
UNHCR	80,049,829	22,946,101	19,466,105
UNICEF	276,954,275	139,472,545	139,472,545
UNIDO	14,867,419	14,452,619	3,940,629
UNODC	21,411,352	16,110,261	6,146,518
UNOPS	4,210,000	4,709,742	96,585
UN Women	13,925,763	6,878,669	6,430,100
WFP	227,897,808	231,043,459	175,530,989
WHO	205,398,658	141,615,209	124,838,577

OVERVIEW BY UNSDCF OUTCOME IN 2023

1 BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES



2 GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



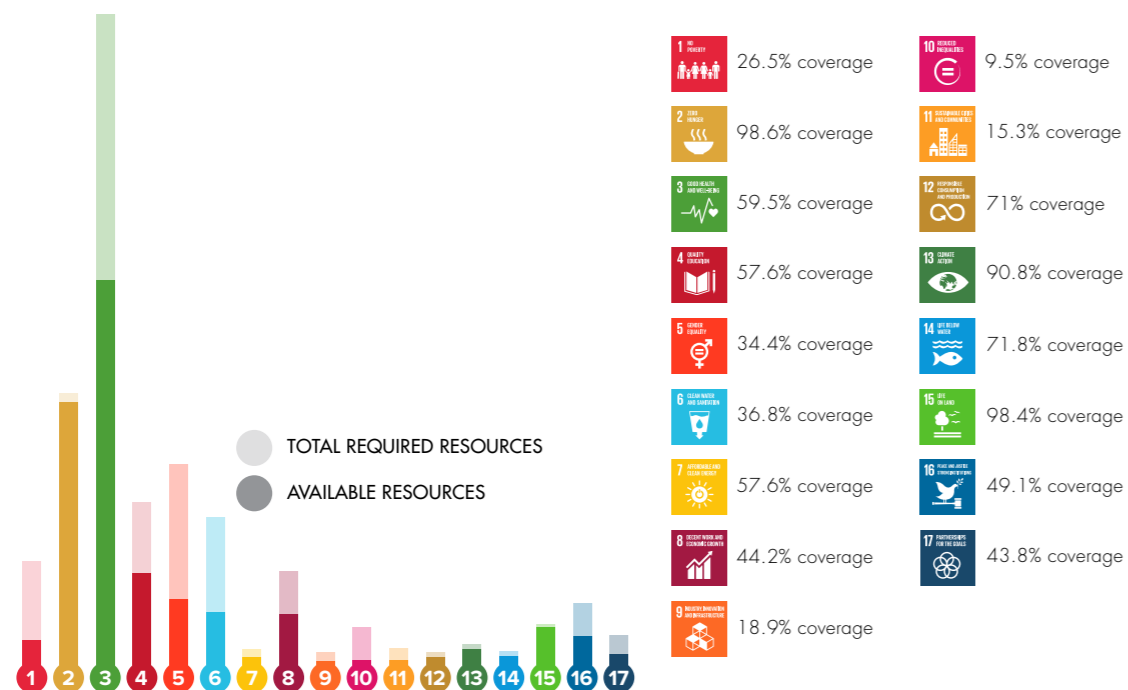
4 SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK



5 GOVERNANCE



UN FUNDING GAP BY SDG: HOW MUCH WE HAVE VS. HOW MUCH WE NEED IN 2023



Note: This figure excludes available resources that are not currently attributed to a particular SDG on UNInfo.

UNCT FOCUS FOR 2024

2023 was the first year of implementing the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Pakistan. In 2024, we will take forward this new chapter in the UN's partnership with the Government and people of Pakistan with renewed resolve. We will continue to apply the highest levels of innovation, technical expertise, people-centred approaches and flexibility to advance Pakistan's development priorities and achievement of the SDGs. Heeding the call of the UN Secretary-General, the UN in Pakistan will focus more on delivery and less on processes, more on people and less on bureaucracy. We will continue to make our approach more streamlined and participatory, more able to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and more firmly focused on the sub-national level, particularly areas at risk of being left behind – from Balochistan to South Punjab and the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Hand in hand with a more concerted focus on climate change, the UN will revitalize efforts on challenges that we have been working on for decades – from poverty to gender-based violence, from gaps in the rule of law to malnutrition.

We know that an integrated policy approach is needed to achieve the SDGs – one that navigates synergies and trade-offs. This is why the UN will prioritize the six transitions in 2024 to have a catalytic effect across SDGs. For example, UN efforts to foster resilient communities will spearhead improved health alongside sustainable livelihoods, green economy and clean energy. To strengthen evidence-based policy making, the UN will continue working with partners to create a National Gender and Child Data Portal, to expand the availability of sex- and age-disaggregated data on children. This is poised to have a multiplier effect across other areas, from nutrition and education, to gender equality.

The UN will support the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into national data collection tools, mechanisms and analysis. UN initiatives will seek to strengthen linkages between the National Commission on the Status of Women and provincial Commissions, including in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, paired with concrete support for gender machineries nationwide to institutionalize policies on gender equality and women's empowerment. To strategically bolster women's financial inclusion, the UN will engage with Pakistan's apex financial institutions and financial regulators – including the State Bank of Pakistan and the Securities and Exchange Commission – alongside commercial banks and other private sector organizations. Support will also be provided to set up Anti-Rape Crisis Centres in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and for awareness and advocacy measures to promote women's active participation in the economy.

Thematic discussions, seminars and surveys are planned to champion climate adaptation and gender equality through community mobilization. Joint efforts will strengthen the integration of climate change, water and agriculture in policy frameworks, to ensure these are evidence-based and respond to the needs of farming communities. In the Astore valley, UN initiatives will promote the in-situ conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants and other non-timber forest products. Partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development will support a gender-responsive, human rights-based approach to safeguarding the Indus' water resources and restoring ecosystems.

Ongoing collaboration and strategic interventions will champion inclusive, socio-economic development and decent work for all. For instance, the UN will support the Federal Government's commitment to become member of the Global Accelerator by developing an integrated national roadmap to accelerate progress on social protection, job creation and human capital development. To expand democratic governance, the UN will continue supporting rule of law programming, access to justice for all, capacity development for law enforcement and justice stakeholders, and civil registration and vital statistics systems.

In 2024, the UN will redouble efforts to deliver better results for all people in Pakistan by pursuing the UNSDCF's five outcomes. Above all, our aim remains unchanged: to **leave no one behind, and reach those furthest behind first**.



ACRONYMS

4RF	Resilient Recovery, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Framework
ALAC	Advice and Legal Aid Centre
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBV	gender-based violence
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
PKR	Pakistani rupee
RC/HC	United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Pakistan 2023–2027
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
US\$	United States dollar
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization





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2023 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

PAKISTAN



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