



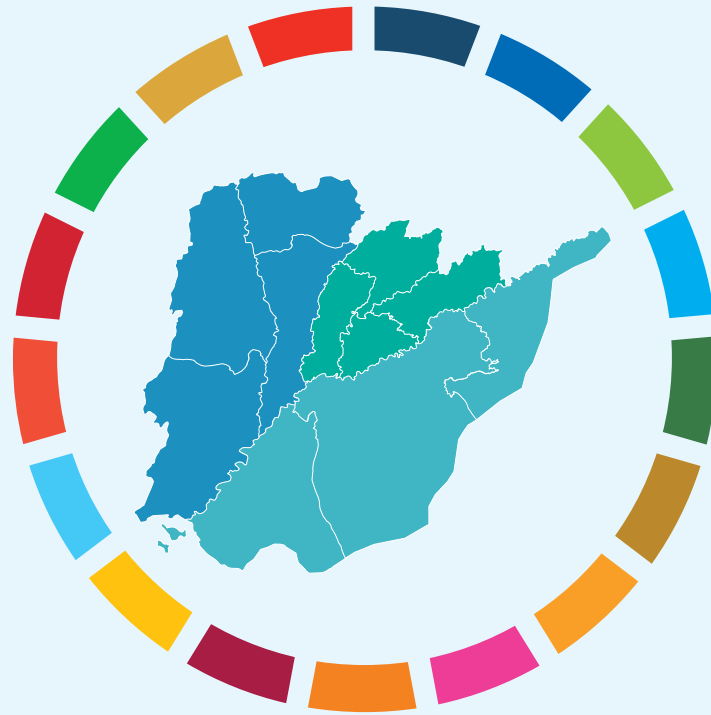
Government of Pakistan



Government of Punjab



UNITED NATIONS
PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان



HIGH-LEVEL DEEP DIVE ON SOUTH PUNJAB

REPORT ON CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

9-10 MARCH 2022

Summary of key takeaways

1. **Immense opportunities exist to accelerate development** in South Punjab, given its strategic location within Pakistan. The transformation of agriculture promises to have knock-on benefits for a range of sectors.
2. Government investments in security and the Asian Development Bank's investments in road infrastructure have created **opportunities for economic transformation**. The time is ripe to ensure that this transformation benefits women and men equally, which is the key to securing social gains. All partners must work **collectively towards economic growth that favours women**, especially by renewing our focus on girls' secondary, technical and vocational education.
3. **Large government and donor financing** exists for South Punjab. However, a lack of coordination makes it unclear who is doing what, what results they are achieving and how this aligns with government priorities.
4. **Shared goals** are the basis for effective coordination between the Government and donors. Every deep dive needs an inception mission to determine these goals, refine objectives and sensitize stakeholders.
5. The **deep dive approach** strengthens our understandings of a specific region. It enables us to see challenges as opportunities for development partners to jointly achieve socio-economic impacts and reach the most vulnerable.

Way forward

1. A **joint UN-government initiative** of the SDGs Unit Punjab and the South Punjab Secretariat should be launched to track projects, monitor results and map these against priorities. This will enable decision makers to take evidence-informed steps to accelerate development.
2. **Quarterly high-level follow-up meetings** will be organized on the South Punjab Deep Dive with key government representatives and development partners. They include the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the Chairman of the Planning and Development (P&D) Board of Punjab, the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of South Punjab, the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), UNSDCF Outcome Group Leads, the World Bank, the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other potential partners. *The proposed date of the first follow-up meeting is June 2022.*
3. UNDP will initiate the development of **South Punjab's Regional Plan for Sustainable Development** as a strategic policy guide for reducing regional disparities while focusing on sectoral strengths. *UNDP will share progress on the plan's development at the quarterly follow-up meeting.*
4. We must pinpoint the **specific socio-economic opportunities** that have been made possible by improved infrastructure, particularly with the support of partners like the Asian Development Bank. This will allow the Government and development partners to collectively decide how to turn these opportunities into real results for the people of South Punjab. *Potential partners – including the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), FCDO and ADB – will develop a concept note by May 2022.*
5. The Additional Chief Secretary committed to developing and implementing a **gender equality policy** for South Punjab. *UN Women, in collaboration with the Provincial Taskforce on Gender Equality and the Inter-Agency Gender and Development Group, will support the policy's development and implementation, and provide updates to be shared at the next quarterly follow-up meeting.*
6. Development partners will explore avenues to deliver technical assistance and **build the capacities** of the South Punjab Secretariat and attached departments. *UNRCO will coordinate with member states, international financial institutions and UN agencies, and present the proposal before the quarterly follow-up meeting.*
7. The focus of **future deep dives** will depend on the key development needs of the province/region in question. This will require developing analytical assessments of socio-economic indicators in the province/region.

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9–10 MARCH 2022

This report was prepared by the South Punjab Secretariat, Planning and Development Department, Government of Punjab, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office.

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South Punjab Deep Dive 2022

South Punjab is a land of opportunity. While the challenges it faces are great, the opportunities for development are greater. Stakeholders need to come together to harness these opportunities and transform South Punjab's immense potential into gains on the ground for all of the region's people. The South Punjab Deep Dive was an important step towards greater collaboration to make sustainable development a reality in this vibrant part of Pakistan.

Introduction to the conference

The [High-level Deep Dive on South Punjab](#) was a watershed moment – the first high-level conference to put sustainable development in South Punjab front and centre. The United Nations in Pakistan, in collaboration with the Government of Punjab and the South Punjab Secretariat, brought together government officials, elected representatives, donors, development partners, civil society and academia for two days of eye-opening discussions and field visits on 9–10 March 2022.

The **aim** of the South Punjab Deep Dive was to explore opportunities and challenges in the region, in order to identify how stakeholders can come together and contribute to accelerating sustainable development in South Punjab.

The first day of the Deep Dive (9 March 2022) was given over to field visits, bringing development practitioners face-to-face with the people of South Punjab. Divided into three groups, the participants visited projects in three divisions of South Punjab – Bahawalpur, Multan and Rahim Yar. Meeting local communities was revelatory; it not only offered insights into the challenges they face, but also showcased their resilience and the rich opportunities for inclusive development across the region. This was the first time that many participants visited projects run by other partners, creating opportunities for collaboration between entities at the forefront of development work in Pakistan.

The second day centred on in-depth discussions around four themes, while linking back to the rich experience of visiting the field the previous day:

- building on improvements in infrastructure, security and administration to accelerate development;
- opportunities for accelerating women’s empowerment;
- bringing change to key socioeconomic areas that lag behind the rest of Pakistan; and
- using decentralized structures to accelerate development outcomes.

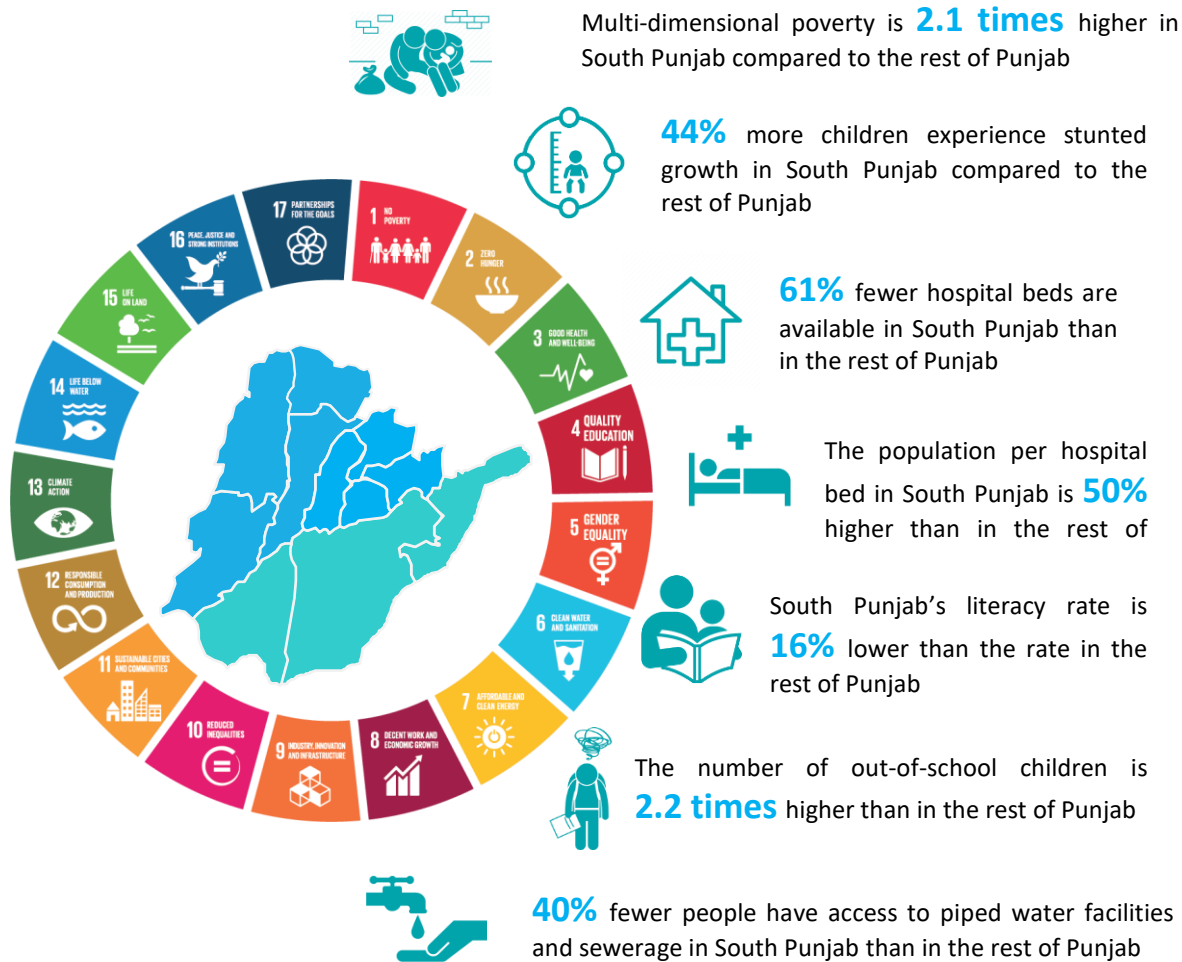
This report synthesizes the discussions on these four themes, highlighting key takeaways in terms of challenges, opportunities and recommendations for ways forward.

South Punjab context

South Punjab consists of the three divisions (Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Multan) encompassing 11 districts in the southern-most reaches of the province of Punjab. It is home to 32% of Punjab’s population (34.7 million people) and covers 45% of province’s land area (roughly 91,998 km²). The vast majority (77%) of its population live in rural areas. Its large land mass and low population density leads to higher costs in terms of delivering public services in the region.

On virtually every development metric, South Punjab fares worse than the rest of the province. The region has much higher rates of poverty, stunting, wasting, out-of-school children, child labour and child marriage than the rest of Punjab. The recently published South Punjab Regional SDGs Indicators Report, prepared by UNDP with the Planning and Development Department of South Punjab, reveals that 31% of the population of South Punjab live below the national poverty line, while 55% live below half of Pakistan’s median per capita income. South Punjab also has the province’s lowest rates of literacy, skilled birth attendance, household use of gas as a cooking fuel, households with internet access, access to clean water and sanitation, and the use of clean energy. Data from the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Survey confirms that South Punjab is the most deprived part of the province in terms of basic services. For instance, only 56.2% of its population use improved sanitation facilities.

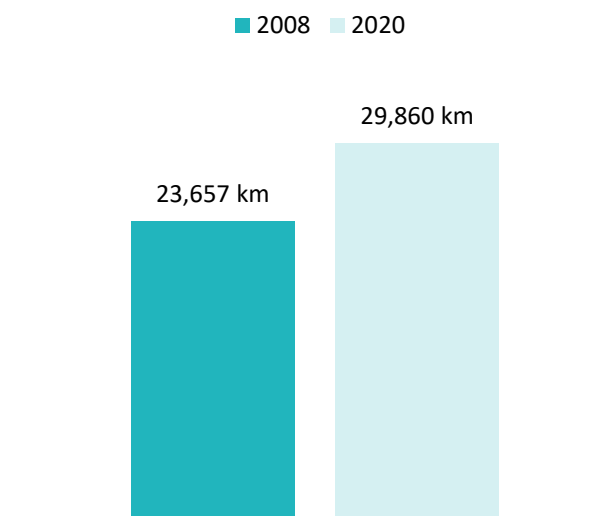
Longstanding regional disparities are at odds with Pakistan’s strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Realizing the 2030 Agenda’s central pledge to **leave no one behind** requires immediate action to accelerate sustainable development in South Punjab.



Despite the challenges, progress is afoot. South Punjab has no shortage of **emerging opportunities for growth and development**, as recent advancements set the stage for greater prosperity. The establishment of the South Punjab Secretariat is a huge step forward, as its financial and administrative autonomy stand to enable effective and responsive local decision-making. Ring-fencing 35% of the development budget for South Punjab allows for realistic, evidence-based, tailored regional policy-making and implementation. Regional connectivity is improving, with an expanding road network, increasing internet connectivity, and the expansion of railways. For instance, Main Line-1 linking Karachi to Peshawar has been upgraded, cutting across the entire length of South Punjab under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This builds on South Punjab's strategic location at the centre of Pakistan, in a prime position to partake in the movement of goods and services to and from Pakistan's three other provinces.

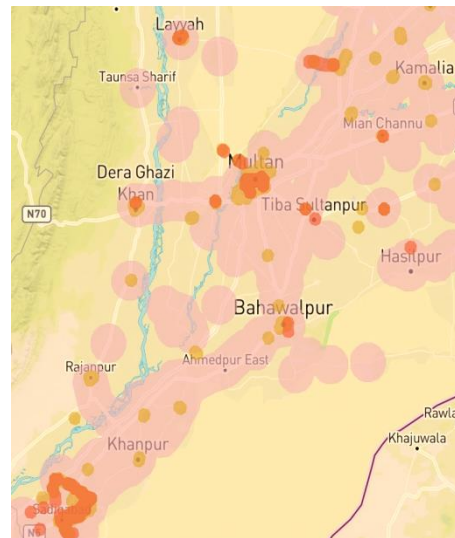
South Punjab is also a promising region for sustainable development interventions as less than 30% of its land area is ecologically-sensitive. It possesses a suitable environment and pressing need for renewable and sustainable energy. Its demographic profile (with 46% of the population between 15 and 49 years old) has rich potential to catalyse development, as does a relatively favourable male-to-female labour force ratio of (60:40). It also has a conducive cultural environment – for instance, people want their daughters to be educated. The improving security situation, rapidly growing cities, and the hugely important agriculture sector in South Punjab offer strong opportunities for advancing sustainable development and improving the lives and livelihoods of the region's people.

Road network length in South Punjab



6,202 km added to South Punjab's existing road infrastructure since 2008

Internet connectivity



An expansive network of **2G**, **3G** and **4G** connectivity spans almost all of South Punjab's populous areas

The journey so far: Notable development initiatives in South Punjab

- The **Punjab Poverty Graduation Initiative** (PPGI), worth PKR 9 billion, has been launched to reduce poverty.
- The **South Punjab Equalization Programme**, at a cost of PKR 4.5 billion, has been launched to advance poverty alleviation and equitable economic development in the region.
- **252 health care schemes**, with a total cost of PKR 138 billion, have been initiated.
- **5 new universities and 37 new colleges** are being established in the South Punjab, to bring the region at par with the rest of Punjab in terms of education and human development.
- **Insaaf Afternoon Schools** that work to ensure retention are skewed favourably (38%) towards South Punjab.
- **6 new mother and child hospitals**, at a cost of more than PKR 35 billion, are being established in the districts of Bahawalnagar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah, Multan, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur.
- **2 new tertiary care hospitals** – Nishtar-II in Multan and Sheikh Zayed-II in Rahim Yar Khan – are being built at a cost of PKR 17 billion.
- PKR 22 billion has been earmarked for the **Universal Health Insurance Scheme** to provide free health care, with a value of up to PKR.1 million, to every family in South Punjab.



Synthesis of the South Punjab Deep Dive

Theme 1: How can we build on improvements in infrastructure, security and administration to accelerate development?

Key takeaways of the session

The challenges that South Punjab faces are daunting, but not insurmountable. Improvements in infrastructure, security and administration, alongside the region's strategic advantages, offer considerable opportunities for advancing sustainable development. These opportunities range from improved connectivity to women's labour force participation, government and donor investments, burgeoning financial autonomy, and a growing body of evidence to inform programming. To move forward, we need to understand what South Punjab's priorities are, use existing data, empower local governments, improve coordination, and synchronize efforts to accelerate progress. Leaving no one behind must remain at the heart of all our efforts.

Challenges

South Punjab is one of the poorest parts of Pakistan, with levels of multi-dimensional poverty that are almost twice as high as in the rest of Punjab. High rates of stunting, widespread malnutrition, limited access to clean water and sanitation, large numbers of out-of-school children, a lack of girls' secondary and vocational education, and the lack of women in decision-making and leadership positions are all pressing concerns. The region lacks a strong industrial and commerce base, leaving the economy heavily dependent on agriculture. As climate change gains pace, South Punjab's agrarian economy is vulnerable to the impacts of the global climate emergency.

All too often, provincial data masks intra-provincial disparities. Where data is only available on Punjab as a whole, the immense differences between the districts of South Punjab and those in the central

and northern parts of the province are rendered invisible. Limited actionable data specifically on South Punjab makes it especially difficult to address development challenges in the region.

Opportunities

A range of opportunities for development exist in South Punjab, and important progress has been made in recent years by harnessing the region's potential. For instance, South Punjab is strategically located and connected to all of Pakistan's provinces, allowing it to absorb and facilitate the movement of goods and services to Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. Its prime location is a major comparative advantage. Infrastructure, especially the road network has improved considerably, promising gains in terms of connectivity. This is significant, as roads are the arteries through which the economy pulses. By linking producers to markets, workers to jobs, patients to hospitals, and students to school, roads are vital for South Punjab's sustainable development.

South Punjab's labour force has a comparative advantage, as women represent a far greater proportion of the workforce in the region (roughly 40%) than in other parts of Punjab. For instance, women account for just 15% of the labour force in Lahore and Gujranwala. With more women in the labour force, economies have the potential to grow faster in response to greater labour inputs, as long as decent work is ensured for all workers and both women and men are equally represented in leadership and decision-making. Development in South Punjab also stands to have knock-on benefits for the country at large. Medium-sized cities in the region have immense economic potential. Urban development in these cities can reduce urban sprawl and over-population in cities across Punjab. The benefits of investing in South Punjab are likely to spill over to areas in other provinces that border the region, creating considerable incentives for advancing its achievement of the SDGs.

Investments in Punjab are gaining pace, as are important mechanisms to enable funds to be spent on regional priorities. For instance, ring-fencing 35% of the budget means that the funds earmarked for South Punjab remain at the region's disposal, as they do not revert back to the centre. In the next financial year, the South Punjab Secretariat will be given financial autonomy. This is significant, as financial autonomy is a decisive factor for strong local governments. It enables local authorities to decide on allocations as their direct responsibility, which promises to enhance the region's capacity to manage local affairs and have greater accountability to its citizens.

Alongside the Government, donors have invested heavily in South Punjab, including international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank, and individual countries and multi-lateral bodies such as Canada, Germany, and the Republic of Korea, among many others. For instance, the Asian Development Bank has committed US\$1.3 billion for socio-economic development in South Punjab, focusing on the areas of energy, road construction and urban development. Other donors also support a range of areas, such as the Korea International Cooperation Agency's (KOICA), support for water quality monitoring, girls' education and vocational training, and Germany's establishment of much-needed blood banks in Multan and Bahawalpur.

Evidence generation in South Punjab is gaining pace with UN support, bridging data gaps and showcasing the specific situation in the region. For instance, UNICEF assisted the Government of the Punjab to carry out Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, providing comparable, statistically rigorous data on the situation of children and women, including in South Punjab.

UNDP and the Planning and Development Department of South Punjab have developed two pioneering reports on human development indicators in the region – the District Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Profiles Report and the South Punjab Regional SDGs Indicators Report – offering vital evidence to inform data-driven policy and decision-making. UNDP has also supported the development of a Socioeconomic Baseline Profile for South Punjab and District SDGs Localization Plans for three districts to effectively implement and localize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region.

Recommendations on ways forward

- Development partners and donors should assist the Government to formulate a master plan for South Punjab, tailored to the region’s needs. To enable them to do so, provincial institutions need communicate the areas and priorities for which they require assistance.
- Since local governments play a vital role in service delivery, local governments in South Punjab require adequate human and financial resources, paired with sustained capacity development, to deliver services effectively.
- There is a need to utilize existing data on South Punjab. For instance, existing data can and should be used to improve children’s well-being. To address issues like the high levels of malnutrition among children, decision makers should prioritize the ‘first 1,000 days’ approach, because adequate nutrition between conception and a child's second birthday is the most critical period of growth and development in a child's life.
- Youth empowerment needs to be taken forward, putting young women and men in the driving seat of South Punjab’s economic transformation.
- It is important to map the socio-economic opportunities made possible by improved infrastructure, approach partners who have been instrumental in these improvements (such as the ADB), and identify how to turn these opportunities into results for the region’s people.
- UN agencies and other stakeholders need to communicate on who is doing what, where, and when. Regular online sessions could be a way forward to maintain dialogue and collaboration, tracking results, monitoring performance and avoiding duplication.





Theme 2: What are the key opportunities for accelerating women's empowerment in South Punjab?

Key takeaways of the session

Women are half of South Punjab's population and, therefore, half of its potential. Opportunities exist for advancing women's empowerment, running the gamut from pro-women policies and laws, affirmative action by the Government and development partners, and women's participation in the labour force. Yet challenges persist, most notably gender-based violence and gender-based discrimination. To leverage existing opportunities and overcome challenges, South Punjab needs to ensure that laws are implemented effectively, normalize women's presence in public life, and change mindsets – among both women and men – to convince everyone of the need for gender equality. The Additional Chief Secretary's commitment to including gender as the fifth priority area for South Punjab is a strong step in the right direction.

Key challenges

The gap between policy-making and policy implementation prevents women from exercising their rights and holds South Punjab back from achieving gender equality. Gender-based violence and gender-based discrimination are prevalent in the province. For example, child marriage is widespread, depriving girls of their fundamental rights. Women are largely absent from public spaces.

This renders them invisible and contributes to their absence from all spheres of public life, including politics, leadership and decision-making. While women are present in the labour force, they are largely engaged in informal work, whose precarious nature exposes them to risks and deprives them of access to social protection. They are also excluded from the digital arena, as research by UNDP and the Planning and Development Department of South Punjab shows. For instance, women are far less likely to own mobile phones or access the internet compared to men.

Opportunities

An enabling environment for gender equality exists in Pakistan's policy arena, as equality between men and women is enshrined in key frameworks. For instance, the Constitution of Pakistan affirms the fundamental human rights of all of citizens, regardless of their race, religion, gender, class, or creed. Developments at the federal Level include a pioneering gender policy framework and the application of a gender lens across all workstreams. Pakistan is also a signatory of several international conventions on women's rights, giving it a strong impetus to cement equality in policy-making and, crucially, to turn policies into practice.

Affirmative action by the Government, including with the support of the UN and development partners, is also promising. Evidence generation, such as a survey to assess public attitudes to harassment and gender-based violence, offers the opportunity to devise evidence-based solutions to these challenges. Initiatives to bridge the gender gap in voter registration and ensure that women possess Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) are especially important for participation in public life, including in politics and the economy. Moreover, government allocations on gender reflect a commitment to gender equality. All of these enabling factors can be harnessed to accelerate progress on women's empowerment.

Recommendations on ways forward

- Women's empowerment must be prioritized as a key area of action. There is also a need for gender mainstreaming across all spheres in South Punjab, as well as for greater budgetary allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Education is the way forward to attaining gender parity in the region. South Punjab needs more secondary education institution for girls, alongside and working infrastructural support to improve education indicators. For instance, safe and affordable transport to and from schools is a major factor in girls dropping out of education, as are a lack of adequate gender-segregated water and sanitation facilities in schools.
- It is vital to change societal attitudes towards women's rights and leadership. To make the most of women's contributions to the economy and society, women's presence in public spaces must be normalized. To this end, men need to be educated and sensitized as partners in behavioural change for advancing gender equality.
- Women should be promoted to decision-making positions. Political parties can do so by changing their electoral policies to provide more tickets for women in general elections.
- Women should be included in policy-making more generally, at all levels. This is especially true for women working in the informal economy and the agriculture sector, as they account for the largest proportion of workers in these sectors.
- Women must also be included in the digital economy so that they can reap the benefits of digitalization.



Theme 3: How can we bring change to the key socioeconomic areas that are behind the rest of Pakistan?

Key takeaways of the session

Change is urgently needed to prevent key socioeconomic sectors in South Punjab from continuing to lag behind the rest of Pakistan. From health to education, agriculture to local governance, development outcomes are consistently worse than in the rest of Punjab. Opportunities for change exist, including harnessing the rich potential of the agriculture and livestock sectors, and building on successful models of community empowerment to mobilize local economic progress. By focusing on six priority areas – out-of-school children, clean water and sanitation, agriculture, livestock, health, and gender equality – partners can support the Government to transform development in the region. Cross-cutting issues must be addressed in all of these areas, including adequate budgets, stronger capacities, focused interventions, and ecological restoration in the face of climate change.

Key challenges

Key socioeconomic sectors in South Punjab lag behind the rest of Pakistan, running the risk of leaving millions of people behind. In terms of health care, the region lacks sufficient specialized health facilities and supplies, such as essential medicines, largely due to funding challenges. Poor maternal,

neonatal and child health outcomes are a major cause for concern, as are poor nutrition outcomes, reflected in high rates of stunting and wasting. Access to safe water and sanitation is limited, and South Punjab lacks waste treatment plants.

Education challenges persist. First and foremost the region has a far higher proportion of out-of-school-children than other parts of Punjab, with an especially large number of out-of-school girls. Educational facilities are missing, and capacity constraints hamper the ability of teachers to deliver quality education. Participation in co-curricular activities is rare among students, limiting their chances for optimal learning and development.

In the vital agriculture sector, the impact of climate change is colossal. Low levels of forest cover, rampant deforestation, the degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity are all drivers of climate change which must be stopped in their tracks to mitigate the worst effects of the climate emergency in South Punjab. Other challenges include costly inputs, limited research and development, a lack of aquaculture, and conventional farming techniques that are not as climate-responsive as they should be. Productivity gaps exist due to low levels of skills and value addition services.

Opportunities

South Punjab's agriculture sector has enormous economic potential given its large size – employing 70% of the region's labour force – and the importance of its outputs for the country. For instance, South Punjab produces 98% of Punjab's mangoes, 94% of its cotton, 75% of its sunflowers, 73% of its onions, 47% of its sugarcane, 42% of its wheat and 41% of its maize. Districts in South Punjab offer the highest yields of many crops, with seven of the 10 top districts in terms of agricultural production located in the region, and nine of its 11 districts have higher output per hectare compared to Punjab's average. The livestock sector also has immense potential. South Punjab contributes more than 28% of Pakistan's milk production and is home to 43% of Punjab's livestock animals.

Successful initiatives are demonstrating how community ownership and empowerment contribute to the SDGs and inclusive growth. For instance, the success stories of the Rural Support Programme are significant, having mobilized communities and local economies across South Punjab.

Recommendations on ways forward

- Six priority areas require focused attention: (1) girls' secondary education and vocational training, as well as out-of-school-children more broadly, (2) clean water and sanitation, (3) agriculture, (4) livestock, (5) health, and (6) gender equality. These are areas in which donors can complement government efforts.
- Conserving wildlife, ecological restoration and reforestation are another vital area for South Punjab, in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change and safeguard the ecosystems and biodiversity which are vital to the region's environmental resilience.
- In the health sector, South Punjab requires new facilities to be built, existing hospitals upgraded, nutritional services expanded, and vaccines to be locally produced. Alongside maternal and child health, family planning services and disaster preparedness are also areas that require more attention.
- To improve education, teachers require capacity building, missing facilities must be provided, infrastructure is needed to keep children in school, and a focus is required on co-curricular and character-building activities for students.

- To transform the agriculture sector, South Punjab needs better water management, more solar tube wells, linkages with industry, the establishment of cold storage chains, research and development, sustainable fisheries, and the introduction of drought- and disease-resistant species of plants.
- South Punjab's livestock sector requires a disease surveillance system, improved diagnostic services, and the local production of vaccines, particularly for foot and mouth disease (FMD).





Theme 4: How can decentralized structures be used to accelerate development outcomes for South Punjab?

Key takeaways of the session

Leveraging and empowering decentralized structures is essential for accelerating development in South Punjab. By taking forward bottom-up planning, the local structures closest to citizens are best place to respond to their needs. This will require data generation, strengthening district councils, ensuring the continuity of local governance institutions and devising area-specific plans tailored to local needs.

Key challenges

Serious challenges exist for local governments due to a lack of human resources, limited digitalization and the need for capacity strengthening. The difficulties that local governments face in revenue generation at the local level are also a concern. These challenges become greater in remote areas, beyond major cities, especially in terms of human resources and service delivery, such as water supplies and sewerage systems.

Opportunities

Empowering the Local Government Department offers an important opportunity for progress, as it is the lynchpin of the constitutional promise to delegate powers to the local level – the level best placed to identify and serve the needs of citizens. For South Punjab, the Office of the Additional Chief Secretary plays a particularly important role. Decentralized structures also have opportunities to promote tourism, a sector in which South Punjab's rich cultural, natural and spiritual heritage offers significant advantages.

The Local Government Ordinance has been tabled at the Punjab Assembly. If it is converted into an Act, 35% of the region’s budget will go to elected local officials, thereby increasing their power and room to respond to local needs. Area-specific plans are being developed, such as in Bahawalpur, creating the conditions for policy-making and programming that is tailored to specific local contexts.

Recommendations on ways forward

- Resources are the key to overcoming the challenges faced by government departments in a range of spheres, from local governance to education. Adequate funds are needed, and must be used effectively, alongside well-trained staff and sustained capacity development for human resources.
- South Punjab needs bottom-up planning and the establishment of local structures that are close to its people. District councils and all tiers of local government should be strengthened, while ensuring continuity within these structures.
- A strategic implementation and monitoring unit is required in South Punjab to successfully complete ongoing schemes, enable course correction, and foster ‘islands of success’.
- A permanent academy should be established to deliver capacity building for local government officials across different departments.
- It is vital to use available resources to achieve the greatest possible social impact.
- Data collection must be expanded, including baseline surveys in line with people’s needs, to inform quality decision-making.
- There is a need to focus on the areas and people who are farthest behind. Therefore, a focus is required on remote areas, and mechanisms like Village Councils should reserve seats for persons with disabilities, transgender persons and other marginalized groups.
- The key takeaways of the South Punjab Deep Dive should be communicated at the district level.



Annexes

Annex 1. Agenda

HIGH LEVEL DEEP-DIVE ON SOUTH PUNJAB, 9–10 MARCH 2022, BAHAWALPUR

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2022

08:00 Field visits begin (day-long)

- Group A: Rahim Yar Khan
- Group B: Bahawalpur and Lodhran
- Group C: Multan, Khanewal and Vehari

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 2022

09:00–09:50 Session 1: Inaugural session

Welcome note, purpose and priorities for the Deep Dive (15 min)

- Mr Mian Asad Hayaud din, Secretary Economic Affairs Department (EAD)
- Mr Julien Harneis, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Pakistan
- Captain Saqib Zafar, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab

The vision of the Government (10 min)

- Mr M. Abdullah Khan Sumbal, Chairman, Planning and Development (P&D) Board

Keynote remarks (10 min)

- Mr Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs

Introductory speech (10 min)

- Mr Makhdoom Khuro Bukhtiar, Federal Minister for Industries and Production

09:50–10:00 Break

10:00–11:00 Theme 1: How can we build on improvements in infrastructure, security and administration to accelerate development?

Snapshot presentation with key opportunities, priorities, flagship initiatives (15 min)

- Mr Hashim Jawan Bakht, Finance Minister Punjab

Plenary discussion with all participants (45 min)

- Moderator: Secretary Planning, Punjab

11:00–12:00 Theme 2: What are the key opportunities for accelerating women's empowerment in South Punjab?

Panel discussion (20 min)

- Moderator: Sharmeela Rassoul, Representative, UN Women Pakistan

Panel members:

- Ms Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan

- Ms Uzma Kardar, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Gender Mainstreaming, Punjab Assembly
- Ms Inamullah Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights
- Mr Malik Zaheer Abbas, Secretary, Board of Revenue

Q&A/comments by all participants (40 min)

12:00–13:30 Theme 3: How can we bring change to the key socioeconomic areas that are behind the rest of Pakistan?

Panel discussion (40 min)

- Moderator: Dr Shabnam Sarfaraz, Member, Planning Commission
- Panel:
- Secretaries South Punjab (Education, Health, Agriculture, Livestock, Forests, Local Government, Planning and Development)
 - Mr Najy Benhassine, Country Director, World Bank
 - Ms Kanwal Shouzab, Parliamentary Secretary, Planning Development and Reforms
 - Ms Shandana Khan, CEO, Rural Support Programme Network

Q&A/comments by all participants (50 min)

13:30–14:30 Lunch break

14:30–15:30 Theme 4: How can the decentralized structures (particularly South Punjab Secretariat, local governments and district level administrative structures) be used to accelerate development outcomes for South Punjab?

Panel discussion

- Moderator: Mr Javed Akhtar Mehmood, Secretary, South Punjab
- Panel:
- Ms Annabel Gerry, Director Pakistan, United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
 - Ms Marion Pfennigs, Head of Cooperation, Germany
 - Ms Ammara Aamer Khattak, Additional Director, Civil Services Academy/former Deputy Commissioner
 - Mr Aamer Aqeeq, Secretary, Local Government

15:30–16:30 Bringing it all together: Transformative levers on which we all can come together and how to work better together to accelerate development

Presentations by the four moderators on each thematic session's key takeaways

- Moderator: Mr Knut Ostby, UNDP Resident Representative

Q&A/comments by all participants

16:40–16:45 Closing and vote of thanks by the Additional Chief Secretary, South Punjab

Annex 2. List of participants

Sr	Department	Name	Designation
Government of Punjab (Lahore-based Departments)			
1	Planning and Development Board, Government of Punjab	Mr Abdullah Khan Sumbal	Chairman
Government of Punjab (South Punjab Secretariat)			
2	Additional Chief Secretary, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Capt. (R) Saqib Zafar	Additional Chief Secretary (South Punjab)
3	Planning & Development Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Shoeb Iqbal Syed	Secretary
4	Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Tanwir Iqbal Tabassum	Secretary
5	Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Nadir Chattah	Secretary
6	Local Government & Community Development Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Aamir Aqiq Khan	Secretary
7	Housing, Urban Development & Public Health Engineering Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Javaid Akhtar Mahmood	Secretary
8	Agriculture Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Saqib Ali Ateel	Secretary
9	Livestock & Dairy Development Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Nasir Jamal Hotiana	Secretary
10	Irrigation Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Amir Khattak	Secretary
11	Education Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Dr Ehtsham Anwer	Secretary
12	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Sarfaraz Hussain Khan	Secretary
13	Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD), South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Ms Nousheen Malik	Secretary
14	Board of Revenue, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Zaheer Abbass	Secretary
15	Finance Department, South Punjab, Government of Punjab	Mr Zahid Ikram	Additional Secretary
District administration			
16	Commissioner Office	Captain (R) Zafar Iqbal	Commissioner, Bahawalpur Division
17	Deputy Commissioner Office	Mr Irfan Ali	Deputy Commissioner, Bahawalpur
18	Assistant Commissioner Office	Mr Muhammad Tayyab	Assistant Commissioner, Bahawalpur
19	Assistant Commissioner Office	Mr Majid Bin Ahmed	Assistant Commissioner, Hasilpur
20	Assistant Commissioner Office	Mr Raja Qasim Janjua	Assistant Commissioner, Ahmed Pur East
21	Public Relations Office	Mr Nasir Hameed	Director (Public Relations), Bahawalpur
Federal government departments			
22	Economic Affairs Division	Mr Mian Asad Hayuddin	Secretary
23	Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives	Dr Shabnum Sarfraz	Member (SS&D)
24	Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives	Mr Ghazanfar Arshad	Director General (Evaluation)
25	Economic Affairs Division	Ms Pirah Aftab	Section Officer
26	Economic Affairs Division	Dr Muhammad Ashraf	Chief (Policy)
27	Economic Affairs Division	Mr Azam Khan	Deputy Secretary
28	Economic Affairs Division	Ms Tahmina Habib	Deputy Secretary
29	Economic Affairs Division	Mr Asif Hussain Shah	Joint Secretary
30	Ministry of Human Rights	Mr Muhammad Arshad	Director General
31	Ministry of Human Rights	Mr Muhammad Ali Mazari	Deputy Director
Parliamentarians			
32	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<i>via recorded video</i>)	Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi	Federal Minister
33	Ministry of Industries & Production (<i>via Zoom</i>)	Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar	Federal Minister
34	Finance Minister Punjab (<i>via Zoom</i>)	Makhdoom Hashim Jawan Bakht	Provincial Minister
35	Provincial Assembly of Punjab	Ms Uzma Kardar	Chairperson, Standing Committee on Gender Mainstreaming
Academia/research and development (R&D) organizations			
36	Civil Services Academy	Ms Ammara Aamer	Additional Director

Sr	Department	Name	Designation
Civil society organizations/non-governmental organizations (NGOs)			
37	Rural Support Programme Network (RNPN)	Ms Shandana Khan	Chief Financial Officer
38	Courage Development Foundation, Dera Ghazi Khan	Ms Neelum Majeed	Chief Executive Officer
39	Lodhran Pilot Project	Dr Abdul Saboor	Chief Executive Officer
40	National Commission on Status of Women	Ms Shaista Bukhari	Chief Executive Officer
41	National Rural Support Programme (NRSP)	Dr Rashid Bajwa	Chief Executive Officer
42	Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Mr Ahmed Jabbar	Senior Vice President
Development partners			
43	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Pakistan	Ms Annabel Gerry	Development Director
44	FCDO Pakistan	Ms Sana Zia	Punjab Development Advisor
45	European Union Pakistan	Ms Androulla Kaminara	Ambassador of European Union
46	Canada	Ms Wendy Gilmour	High Commissioner
47	Republic of Korea	H.E. Mr Suh Sangpyo	Ambassador
48	Republic of Korea	Mr Sungmin Kim	
49	Republic of Korea	Ms Abiha Fnu	Secretary
50	Asian Development Bank	Mr Asad Aleem	Deputy Country Representative
51	World Bank	Mr Najy Benhassine	Country Representative
52	United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Pakistan	Mr Michael Nehrbass	Deputy Country Representative
53	USAID Pakistan	Mr Haroon Raheem	POC Lahore Office
54	USAID Pakistan	Mr Waeem	Development Advisor
55	Germany	Ms Marion Pfennigs	Germany
56	United Nations Pakistan	Mr Julien Harneis	Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator Pakistan
57	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Mr Hubert Boirard	Country Representative
58	BHC	Mr Naveed Ahmad	Security Officer SLO
59	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Mr Inoussa Kabore	Deputy Representative
60	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Dr Faisal	
61	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Mr Knut Ostby	Country Representative
62	UNDP	Ms Maheen Rashid	Economic Policy Analyst, Punjab SDGs Unit
63	UNDP	Mr Umer Malik	Policy Analyst
64	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Ms Florence Role	Country Representative
65	World Food Programme (WFP)	Ms Rathi Palakrishnan	Deputy Country Representative
66	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	Ms Sharmeela Rassool	Country Representative
67	IFAD	Mr Muhammad Saghir	Project Director SPPAP - IFAD
68	UNRCO	Ms Stella Amoateng Asante	
69	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Mr Jeremy Milsom	Country Representative
70	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	Ms Marysia Zapasnik	Country Representative
71	United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)	Dr Muhammad Asif Wazir	Technical Advisor
72	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)	Ms Fatima Iqbal	
73	United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS)	Ms Yuki Takemoto	
74	UNRCO	Mr Shah Nasir Khan	Senior Strategic Planner and Head of UNRCO
75	United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)	Ms Mahvash	Communication Officer
76	UNICEF Punjab	Mr Wilbroad Ngambi	Chief of Field Office, Punjab
77	United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Mr Hammad	SOC
78	World Health Organization (WHO)	Dr Yahyah Gulzar	Technical Officer
79	GIZ	Mr Gouhar Ayub	Governance Advisor
80	UNRCO	Mr Shah Muhammad Azhar	Economist
81	UNRCO	Ms Mariam Iqbal	Executive Secretary
82	UNRCO	Mr Usman Zahoor	
83	UNRCO	Mr Khurram	
84	UNRCO Punjab	Ms Laifa Rubab Jaskani	Provincial Coordination Officer South Punjab

Annex 3. Projects visited during field visits

On the first day of the South Punjab Deep Dive (9 March 2022), participants were divided into three groups to engage in field visits across South Punjab. This annex summarizes the projects they visited.

Group A: District of Rahim Yar Khan

Meeting 1: Community meeting at Basti Kareem Bux Jhullan, visit to low-cost housing, small ruminants project, Community Physical Infrastructure Schemes (household toilets), agriculture equipment provision to Community Service Provider, revolving funds initiative, and food bank visit.

- The **small ruminants'** intervention aims to support the sustainable livelihoods of poor women who fall in the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Poverty Score Card categories of 0–18. Beneficiaries receive productive assets, including a 'package' of two goats. This addresses the facts that women are primarily engaged in livestock management, and most poor households cannot afford to buy livestock, forcing them into exploitative arrangements with landlords. As of July 2021, the project had provided small ruminants to 80,347 women.
- The **small land plots** initiative provides small residential land plots to poor women who fall within the BISP's Poverty Score Card categories 0–11. Community Procurement Committees purchase the plots at competitive rates, with the involvement of beneficiaries, and ownership is then transferred to these women. To date, the project has provided plots to 3,975 women.
- Through the **low-cost housing** initiative, the Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project (SPPAP) provides residential land plots to poor women, preferably widows, in the BISP's Poverty Score Card categories of 0–11. Punjab's Project Management Unit transfers funds to community organizations' joint bank accounts, and communities themselves build low-cost houses with the support of the project's social mobilization partner, the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP). The project has improved poor families' living standards.
- The **enterprise training** initiative expands economic opportunities for women and men - with a focus on youth – by facilitating the establishment and expansion of their micro-enterprises. As of January 2021, 9,081 participants (60% women) engaged in enterprise training sessions, with the support of the Enterprise Training Organization Institute of Rural Management.
- The **Community Physical Infrastructure** (CPI) scheme provides grants for small-scale infrastructure in rural communities. This reduces poverty and improves living standards by expanding access to drinking water, irrigation, sanitation, drainage, transport and markets.

Meeting 2: Visit to an ITA Remedial and Vocational Centre (191/1-R Centre)

- Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi's (ITA) ***Siyani Sahelian: Advancing Action for Adolescent Girls*** initiative, with the support of the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, provides flexible second chance education and skills development for disadvantaged adolescent girls (aged 9–19) in Bahawalpur, Muzaffargarh and Rahim Yar Khan. Between 2018 and 2022, it equipped 35,534 girls who had never been to school with literacy/numeracy skills and mainstreamed them into formal education, while enabling 12,000 girls who had dropped out to complete primary, middle and secondary education. It advanced economic empowerment through certified vocational skills training for 8,500 girls (aged 14–21) on domestic tailoring, fashion design, poultry farming, kitchen gardening, machine embroidery, *gota* work, Adobe Photoshop, Word Press, digital marketing, financial literacy and entrepreneurship with industry linkages.

Meeting 3: Visit to the Liaquat Pur Tehsil Headquarter Hospital, Rahim Yar Khan, and its Stabilization Centre and OTP sites for malnourished children

- The nutrition services delivered at the Liaquat Pur Tehsil Headquarter Hospital include a **District Stabilization Centre** for the in-patient treatment of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), an Out-Patient Therapeutic Unit for SAM treatment, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) services, the provision of micronutrient supplements, and maternal nutrition services. Between 2017 and 2019, programme treated over 90,000 severely acute malnourished children. The centres pair treatment with community engagement, largely driven by Lady Health Workers.

Meeting 4: Visit to the Basic Health Unit of Zamin Shah

- The refurbishment of the **Basic Health Unit of Zamin Shah** in 2021 strengthened its capacities to provide basic health preventive and curative services in Rahim Yar Khan. Outreach sessions and fixed activities of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) are held at the Basic Health Unit, with the World Health Organization (WHO) providing training to staff.

Group B: Districts of Lodhran and Bahawalpur

Meeting 1: Visit to Ballu Wala, Qureshi Wala Union Council, Lodhran

- Participants visited **Kushaal Kissan Farmer Field School for Men (CBFS) and Fatima Farmer Field School for Women (WOS)** which support interventions such as the drill sowing of wheat, kitchen garden for food security, energy-efficient stoves, composting, bio-pesticides, insect traps, seed preservation, a mulch learning model, and value addition.

Meeting 2: Visit to the Citizen Facilitation and Service Centre (e-Khidmat Markaz), Bahawalpur

- The **Citizen Facilitation and Service Centre** at e-Khidmat Markaz has been operational since October 2017, offering locals easy access to 31 types of government services under a single use. It has served 372,543 applications, easing the interface between citizens and the state.

Meeting 3: Visit to the 2.5MWp solar photovoltaic power plant at Islamia University, Bahawalpur

- Completed in August 2021, the **2.5MWp solar photovoltaic power plant** at Islamia University makes use of the area's abundant solar energy. The university has two feeders supplying power to its new campus. Net metring of 1MW (Phase 1) will be introduced on one feeder, while 1 MW of the remaining 1.5 MWp (Phase 2) will be net metred on the second feeder.

Meeting 4: Visit of the 10 Billion Tsunami Tree Programme component at Lal Sohanra National Park

- Approximately 593,000 plants are being planted in Lal Sohanra National Park as part of the **10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme**. More than 2 million plants have been planted at the park in recent years. The park is a natural habitat for several wild animals including blue bull, wolves, jungle cats, desert cats, wild boar, jackals and thousands of species of migratory birds.

Meeting 5: Black Buck Wildlife Centre, Lal Sohanra and Pattisar Lake

- The virtually extinct **black buck** species has been re-introduced in Lal Sohanra within large enclosures, alongside Chinkara gazelle, Nilgai antelope, hog deer, Indian rhinoceros, ducks, common coots and large populations of birds of prey.

Group C: Districts of Khanewal and Vehari

Meeting 1: Meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of Multan and local government officials.

- The meeting highlighted the value of **investing in the capacity building of district/local governments** on budgeting, planning, and improving revenue generation capabilities.

Meeting 2: Visit to the Violence Against Women Centre Headquarters Social Welfare Complex, Matital Road, Multan

- Pakistan's first, most advanced, computerized, women-run **Violence Against Women Centre** in Multan is part of the Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act enacted in 2016.

Meeting 3: Visit to the *Ehsaas Nashonuma* Centre District Headquarters, Khanewal

- The *Ehsaas Nashonuma* programme to combat chronic malnutrition (stunting) is being expanded to all 131 districts in Pakistan, after being successfully piloted in 15 districts. It uses the existing primary health care system to deliver stunting prevention services to pregnant and lactating women enrolled in the national *Ehsaas Kafalat* programme. Integrating *Ehsaas Nashonuma* into the national safety net ensures that the most at-risk mothers and children in the country are systematically identified and supported.

Meeting 4: Visit to the Punjab Seed Corporation's Seed Farm and Processing Plant in Peerowal, Khanewal

- The Punjab Seed Corporation's **Cereal Seed Plant** at Khanewal includes four processing lines with a processing capacity of 20 MT/hour and 70 storage silos each with a capacity of 100 MT. The plant ensures the cleanliness and disinfestation of its seed stores, the analysis of incoming consignments, and the variety- and category-based processing of seeds, among other measures. Once certificates are received from the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department, stocks are dispatched to marketing centres for sale at accessible rates.

Meeting 5: Visit to the Punjab Daanish School, Tibba Sultan Pur Vehari

- **Daanish schools**, located in remote underdeveloped areas, are the largest network of boarding schools for disadvantaged children in Pakistan. Sixteen Daanish Schools (eight each for girls and boys) are fully operational across Punjab, with 9,365 students (49% girls), 526 teachers and 1,693 administrative staff members. Each class is limited to 30–35 students to ensure individualized attention. Each year, 110 students are admitted in each school campus, which have a maximum designated strength of 770 students each. In addition to serving deserving children for free, the schools have a separate provincial quota for each federal unit. In 2021, a special quota was introduced for the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA).