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ONE UN PAKISTAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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FOREWORD

In 2021, the Government of Pakistan continued its highly valued partnership with the United Nations. Together, the Government and the United Nations tackled the multi-faceted challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. Decisive action to contain the spread of the virus, underpinned by a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign, was paired with tireless efforts to protect jobs and economic activity, food security, and maintain the delivery of quality public services. Above all, we worked to shield the poorest and most vulnerable members of society from the health and socio-economic effects of the pandemic, particularly through the pioneering Ehsaas programme.

These collective efforts in 2021 have put Pakistan in a strong position to advance to the next stages of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and towards economic resilience and sustainable development. The Government of Pakistan is committed to continue collaboration with our UN partners to usher in a new era of sustainability, solidarity and inclusion for all the people of Pakistan.



Mian Asad Hayat Din
Federal Secretary, Economic Affairs Division
Government of Pakistan

MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

For the UN in Pakistan, 2021 was about supporting an inclusive, sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic – a recovery that accelerates action on the Sustainable Development Goals for all of Pakistan’s people. This report lays out how we worked with our partners across Pakistan to achieve the greatest impact for people in the greatest need.

Pakistan’s COVID-19 vaccination drive successfully shifted into high gear, providing broad access to vaccines nationwide. Over 200 million COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered, half of them secured with UN support through the COVAX facility. Working as One UN, we mobilized resources, procured supplies and provided personal protective equipment. We assisted infection prevention and control, surveillance and case management, risk communication and community engagement. We dispelled misinformation and increased the reach of accurate, credible information. Above all, we listened. Regular town hall meetings helped us identify people’s real needs and respond to them.

We mainstreamed the UN’s three-pronged health, humanitarian and socio-economic response to COVID-19 across all ten outcomes of the One UN Programme III/United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (OP III/UNSDF) to save lives, protect people and recover better. We did more than ever to strengthen Pakistan’s health system and the delivery of quality essential services. We tackled malnutrition, championed sustainable, climate-smart agriculture, and cemented food security for millions. We laid the groundwork for resilience by strengthening disaster risk management. We enabled children to return to schools safely and to continue learning remotely when the pandemic forced the intermittent closure of institutions around the country. We ensured support and services for survivors of gender-based violence, fostered responsive, people-centred governance, and assisted the expansion of social protection. In aid of Pakistan’s sustainable economic recovery, we spearheaded training, cash-for-work opportunities, skills and entrepreneurship development, with a focus on youth and women-led enterprises.

The pandemic meant rethinking how the UN in Pakistan delivers results and adapting quickly. But it also demonstrated the UN’s remarkable strengths – our unity, our resolve, our technical know-how, our dedicated partners and staff. Terrible as the pandemic has been, it has taught us important lessons.



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It has shown us what is possible when we work beyond silos, come together, and put people front and centre. It has demonstrated just how interlinked people, planet, peace and prosperity are. It has laid bare why we need the SDGs, now more than ever.

We must use these lessons as a wake-up call. That is why in 2021, we redoubled our efforts to advance long-term structural change. The UN ramped up advocacy with the Government on issues ranging from climate change to regional connectivity, gender parity and inclusivity to accountability and resilience. These are areas where Pakistan urgently needs deep, systemic change. Collaborating with the Ministry of Climate Change has already set in motion the wheels of progress – the development of a master plan for the ecological restoration of the critically important Indus River Basin.

The challenges of 2021 have been immense, but the UN’s determination to change lives for the better is stronger than ever. Our framework for cooperation with the Government reflects a joint vision of a prosperous, equitable and inclusive Pakistan, in which no one is left behind. Let us all work together, in partnership, to achieve it.



Julien Harneis
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
United Nations Pakistan

“

2021 was about supporting an inclusive, sustainable recovery from COVID-19 to achieve the greatest impact for people in the greatest need.



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. The UNCT leads the implementation of the One UN Programme III, guided by a Joint UN-National Oversight Committee, which is chaired by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division and the UN Resident Coordinator. The UN family works **as one** with the Government of Pakistan and other partners to improve people's lives, reduce inequalities and protect the planet.



THE UN FAMILY IN PAKISTAN*



* All of these are resident UN entities in Pakistan, with the exception of UN Environment.

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

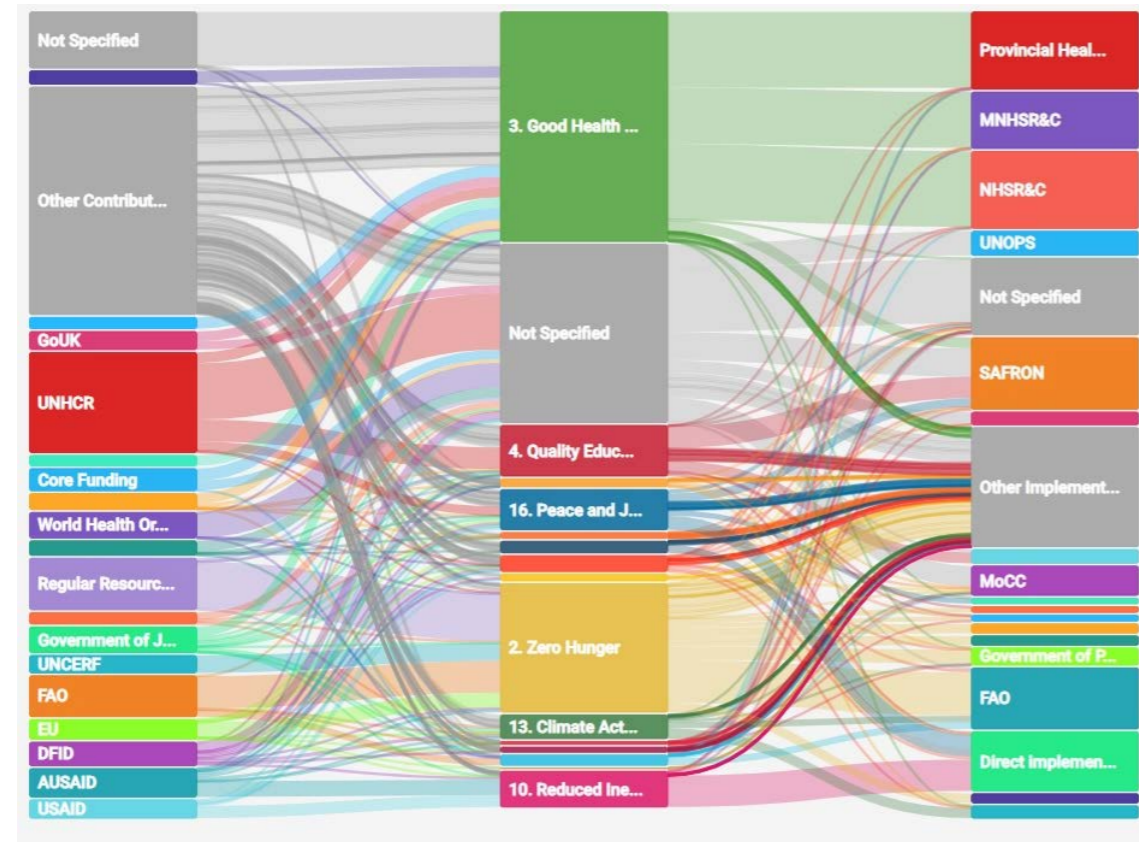
The UN system's key development partners in Pakistan are the Government of Pakistan, international development organizations and financial institutions, donor governments and development agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and the people of Pakistan. Without them, the results presented in this report would not have been possible. To all of you, from all of us at the UN family in Pakistan, thank you.

Special thanks are due to the Federal Government – 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. We are especially grateful to the many generous donors who supported UN initiatives in 2021, both financially and in-kind, as well as our dedicated implementing partners who tirelessly led field activities nationwide.

20 DONORS REGISTERED ON THE COVID-19 PARTNERS PLATFORM



LINKING INVESTMENTS, PARTNERS AND THE SDGS IN PAKISTAN IN 2021



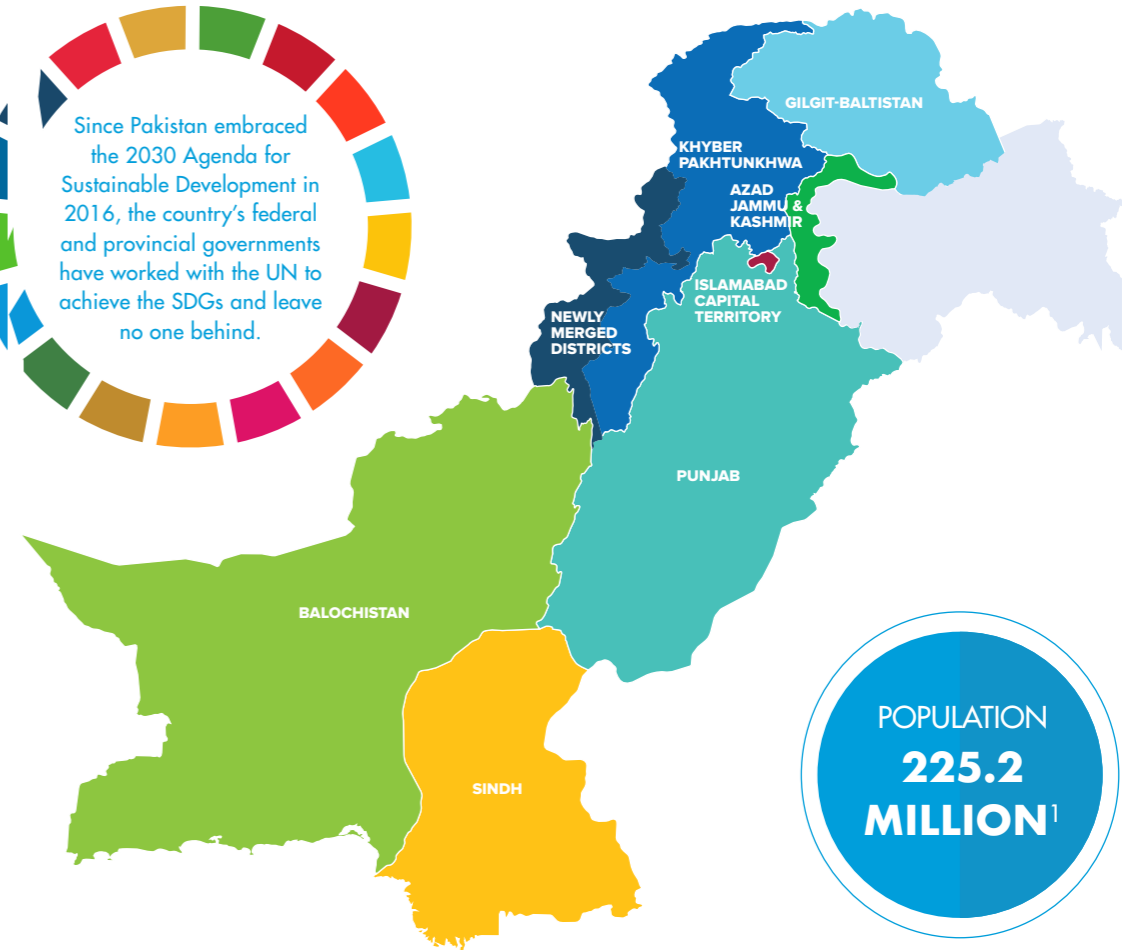
174

ACTIVITIES IN THE UN PAKISTAN JOINT WORKPLAN IN 2021 (BY SDG)



- 1. NO POVERTY**
3 activities (2%)
- 2. ZERO HUNGER**
25 activities (14%)
- 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
36 activities (21%)
- 4. QUALITY EDUCATION**
18 activities (10%)
- 5. GENDER EQUALITY**
17 activities (10%)
- 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
7 activities (4%)
- 7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**
4 activities (2%)
- 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**
19 activities (11%)
- 9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
7 activities (4%)
- 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES**
17 activities (10%)
- 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
11 activities (6%)
- 12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
0 activities (0%)
- 13. CLIMATE ACTION**
8 activities (5%)
- 14. LIFE BELOW WATER**
0 activities (0%)
- 15. LIFE ON LAND**
0 activities (0%)
- 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
35 activities (20%)
- 17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**
5 activities (3%)

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS



POPULATION
225.2 MILLION¹

MULTI DIMENSIONAL POVERTY
38.3%⁵

HDI RANKING
154/189
COUNTRIES

LABOUR FORCE
61.7 MILLION⁴

GINI COEFFICIENT
31.6

GII RANKING
153/156
COUNTRIES

GDP PER CAPITA
US\$1,189¹⁶

OVERALL CONTEXT IN 2021

Home to 225.2 million people¹, Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous country. It is also one of the youngest – 61.4% of Pakistanis are of working age (15–64 years old)² and 34.6% are under 15 years old.³ Pakistan ranked 154th of 189 countries on the *Human Development Index 2021* (HDI), falling four places since 2018. Its HDI value of 0.557 is the second lowest among South Asian countries. One in four Pakistanis lives in poverty – income-based poverty stands at 24.3%⁴ and multidimensional poverty at 38.3%.⁵ Malnutrition (stunting) affects nearly half of Pakistan's children (40.2%).⁶ Women's labour force participation rate (21.5%) is among the lowest in the region,⁷ as are rates of gender parity in education. Its rates of maternal and child mortality are among South Asia's highest. Nearly one-third (32%) of children between 5 and 16 years old are not in school, the second largest number of out-of-school children in the world, 53% of whom are girls.⁸ Inequality is pervasive between provinces and urban-rural locations. Discrimination and violence affect women, girls, transgender people and minorities. As a result, Pakistan ranked 153rd of 156 countries on the World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Index 2021* (GGI).⁹ Germanwatch's *Global Climate Risk Index 2021* considers Pakistan the eighth most vulnerable country to the impact of climate change and natural disasters, including floods, drought and earthquakes.¹⁰ For over 40 years, Pakistan has hosted the largest protracted refugee population in the world, currently numbering 1.435 million registered Afghan refugees.¹¹ The conflict in Afghanistan in 2021 brings with it the potential for an increased influx of refugees into Pakistan.

Pakistan experienced two waves of COVID-19 in 2021, in March and in July. While the pandemic has compounded the challenges facing the country, trends in 2021 give cause for hope. Pakistan's economic growth rebounded in FY2021, with real GDP growth rising to 3.5% after contracting in FY2020 following the onset of the pandemic. Micro-lockdowns largely contained the spread of the coronavirus, while permitting significant economic activity to continue. These measures, coupled with record-high remittance inflows, a supportive monetary policy, the expansion of the *Ehsaas* programme and assistance for businesses contributed to gradual economic recovery in 2021.¹² Although COVID-19 increased the incidence and intensity of multidimensional poverty, especially for the most vulnerable – the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, children, youth and non-nationals¹³ – the Government of Pakistan's COVID-19 response has drawn praise from the global community, including the United Nations. The multi-stakeholder National Command and Operation Centre – which includes members of opposition parties – has overseen the COVID-19 response, coordinated with the provinces, and collaborated with the UN and other development partners. To date, Pakistan has successfully administered over 200 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, half of which were secured with UN support through the COVAX facility, demonstrating a well-coordinated, data-driven response to the pandemic.¹⁴



©UNICEF Pakistan/Adnan Mushtaq



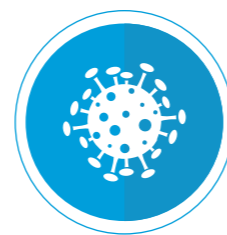
**3.5
PER CENT**

real GDP growth
in FY2021¹²



**200
MILLION**

COVID-19 vaccine
doses administered¹⁴



**1.29
MILLION**

confirmed COVID-19
cases in 2021¹⁵

UN PAKISTAN'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19



In 2021, the UN continued to support the Government of Pakistan through a three-pronged health, humanitarian and socio-economic response to COVID-19, while mainstreaming our response across all areas of the One UN Programme III. We assisted coordination at the federal and provincial levels, leading task forces, working groups and regular meetings across a range of sectors – from health to nutrition, water and sanitation, education, child protection, gender-based violence, disaster risk reduction and many more. We supported policy-making, planning and implementation for the most effective response possible, such as the development of the *National Education Response and Resilience Plan for COVID-19*, safe school re-opening guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). We worked with the Ministry of Climate Change on the *Pakistan COVID-19 Urban Slums Response Programme* (PCUSRP), piloted in two slums of Rawalpindi to respond to the risks of COVID-19 and its social and economic impacts on impoverished, vulnerable residents. We advanced vaccination by delivering half of the doses administered in Pakistan through the COVAX facility. Our infection prevention and control (IPC) measures tackled COVID-19 head-on by providing personal protective equipment (PPE), training frontline workers, rehabilitating and building water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities. At the same time, we supported cold chain procurement, vaccine logistics, training, laboratory capacities, community mobilization and crisis communications.

We paired advocacy at the highest levels with engagement on the ground. The UN reached out to communities, authorities, the media, religious leaders, parents, teachers, students, law enforcement agencies, young people and vulnerable groups across Pakistan to raise awareness of COVID-19 vaccination and protection. We used every platform available to us – from social media, to the mass media, television, radio, helplines, the press, public announcements, SMS messaging, and face-to-face engagement in line with SOPs. For instance, the *Coping with Corona* campaign reached 12,773 adolescents (40% of whom are girls) face-to-face, 20.5 million through digital platforms and 13.8 million people through radio messages. It encouraged young people to adopt healthy behaviours, comply with SOPs and support their peers' mental health. Behaviour change interventions reached over 70 million people with COVID-related messages via social media and engaged 37,000 community influencers. This contributed to reducing vaccine rejections from 26% to 11%, and increasing acceptance from 34% to 75%.

¹ According to the last Population Census, the country's population was 207.8 million in 2017. This estimate of 225.2 million in 2021 reflects the projected population in light of the population growth rate of 1.8% recorded by the *Pakistan Economic Survey 2020–21* and the calculations of UNFPA's *World Population Dashboard*.
² United Nations Development Programme (2017). *National Human Development Report 2017: Unleashing the potential of a young Pakistan*. Islamabad: UNDP.
³ United Nations Population Fund (2022). *World Population Dashboard: Pakistan*. New York: UNFPA.
⁴ Finance Division (2021). *Pakistan Economic Survey 2020–21, Annex IV: Impact of COVID-19 on Socioeconomic Situation*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.
⁵ Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (2021). *Global MPI Country Briefing 2021: Pakistan (South Asia)*. Oxford: OPHI.
⁶ Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, and UNICEF (2019). *National Nutrition Survey 2018*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan and UNICEF.
⁷ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2019). *Labour Force Survey 2018–19*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.
⁸ Finance Division (2021). *Pakistan Economic Survey 2020–21, Education*, Islamabad: Government of Pakistan; United Nations Children's Fund (2021). "Education: Pakistan".
⁹ World Economic Forum (2021). *Global Gender Gap Report 2021*. Cologny: WEF.
¹⁰ GermanWatch (2021). *Global Climate Risk Index 2021*. Bonn: GermanWatch.
¹¹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2022). "Operational Data Portal: Registered Afghan Refugees in Pakistan (31 Aug 2021)".
¹² World Bank (2021). "Strengthening Exports is Critical for Pakistan's Sustained Economic Growth".
¹³ United Nations Development Programme (2020). *Multidimensional Vulnerability Index*. Islamabad: UNDP.
¹⁴ World Health Organization (2022); United Nations Children's Fund (2022). "UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell concludes visit to Pakistan".
¹⁵ As of 31 December 2021, see: Government of Pakistan (2021) "Health Advisory Platform: Pakistan Case Details, 31 December 2021".
¹⁶ World Bank (2020). "GDP per capita (current US\$)".



ONE UN PROGRAMME III

The One UN Programme III (OP III), also known as the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018–2022, is the framework for cooperation between the UN and the Government of Pakistan. The OP III articulates the shared purpose of the UN family in Pakistan: delivering as one to achieve the SDGs.

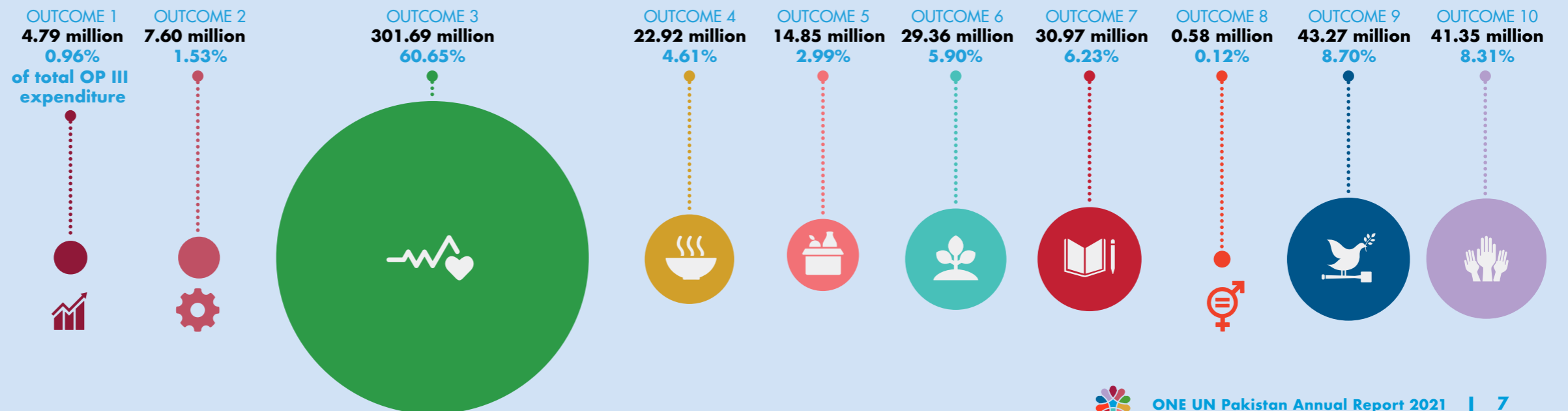
Leaving no one behind, and reaching those farthest behind first, are the common thread that connects all UN efforts in Pakistan, across all 10 outcome areas of the One UN Programme III.



EXPENDITURE IN 2021

TOTAL UN BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE IN 2021

US \$
497.39
MILLION





OUTCOME 1



ECONOMIC GROWTH



50
INDUSTRIES'

manufacturing units implemented the EnMS



400
FARMERS

benefitted from the Renewable Energy Investment Initiative



4
PLANS

developed for sustainable heritage site management

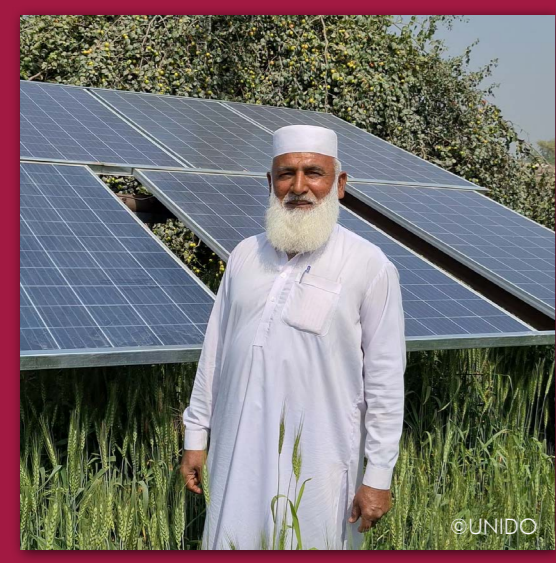
1

Outcome 1 is coordinated by **UNIDO**, bringing together the efforts of **UNV, UN Habitat, FAO, UNESCO**, the **ILO, IOM, UNCTAD, UNOPS** and **UN Women**

KEY RELATED SDGs

- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

QAZI AMEER'S STORY: RENEWABLE ENERGY CHANGING LIVES



"I own 12 acres of fertile land. Access to water was a great problem, due to which our crops yielded less, [well] below average," says Qazi Ameer Hussain, a smallholder farmer in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab.

"Now, UNIDO and the GEF through NRSP have installed solar energy-based tube wells. We are hopeful that productivity will improve as we have access to water now."

He is one of more than 450 farmers and small business owners who are already benefitting from the UN's Renewable Energy Investment Initiative, part of the Global Environment Facility-funded (GEF) Sustainable Energy Initiatives for Industries in Pakistan project implemented with the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP).

The initiative is changing lives by reaching out to small enterprises and smallholders, who are the backbone of Pakistan's economy. Thanks to solar power installation, participants have seen their incomes rise by 25% on average, as it reduces costs and boosts productive time. The initiative is preventing more than 827 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, and beneficiaries are generating 1,825 MWh of clean energy every year.

A year after the COVID-19 pandemic catapulted the global economy into the deepest recession on record, economies began recovering worldwide, including in Pakistan. In 2021, the UN supported the Government of Pakistan to foster the sustainable recovery of economic growth by protecting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and pursuing resilient industrial development. Energy efficiency gained ground as UN initiatives assisted the implementation of the Energy Management System (EnMS) in at least 50 manufacturing units in energy-intensive industries. With UN support, 10 regional consortia groups helped these industries develop energy policies, conduct baseline energy audits, train energy teams and prepare procedures in line with the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) 50001 EnMS standards. Major achievements included energy certifications in the industrial sector, as at least 11 industrial units embarked on successful third party compliance audits after implementing the EnMS. UN support increased the uptake of investments in renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) in industry, making industrial development more environmentally-friendly and competitive, resulting in huge savings while slashing greenhouse gas emissions. We assisted many industrial units to sign contracts with developers for the deployment of a total of 6 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) captive power-generating projects, based on a business-to-business (B2B) model. UN grants also promoted micro-financing for small businesses, women-owned enterprises and micro-enterprises, enabling them to develop and implement clean renewable energy projects with a cumulative capacity of 1.3 MW, surpassing the initial target of 600 KW. A new Energy Desk established with UN support at the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) offers a platform to promote sustainable investments in clean energy. This desk supplies information, disseminates best practices and provides industries with advice on financing opportunities and government support instruments, such as regulations and incentives.

UN initiatives championed agro-industry's enormous potential to contribute to economic development across Pakistan. Advancing efficient agricultural practices and food safety standards is poised to strengthen value chains, livelihoods and economic growth. An e-Learning platform for master trainers will help food business operators in the meat value chain maintain good hygiene practices (GHP), enable farmers and animal transporters to uphold good animal husbandry practices (GAHP), and sensitize apple farmers and packing facilities on good agriculture practice (GAP) guidelines. Two training of trainer sessions honed the skills of master trainers on good agriculture practices for apple value chains, paired with the development of a code of practice for quality and post-harvest procedures. Training on ISO 17025 accreditation for laboratories which perform product testing, sampling and calibration enhanced the capacities of 16 government officials (30% women). In Balochistan, upgrading infrastructure and procuring equipment strengthened the Regional Pesticide Quality Control and Research Laboratory, while an assessment offered recommendations for the Balochistan Agriculture College's food science and technology programme. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, support for food safety laboratories gained pace and UN technical advice contributed to policy frameworks, such as the province's Animal Act, Animal Feed Act and Compound Feed Act 2021, alongside guidance and bylaws on operational conditions at slaughterhouses. As the cultural and creative industries can power inclusive growth, UN initiatives bolstered the management and protection of heritage sites. The development of four site management plans for heritage sites in Punjab – Katas Raj, Bibi Jawindi in Uch Sharif, Mankiala Stupa, and Dharmarajika Stupa and Bhir Mound in Taxila – mark a turning point for sustainable site management and the promotion of responsible tourism, underpinned by enhancing the capacities of site attendants, managers and officials.



©UNDP Pakistan/Shuja Hakim

2

AGENCIES Outcome 2 is coordinated by the **ILO**, bringing together the efforts of **UN Women, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO** and **IOM**

KEY RELATED SDGs

EYE INTERACTION'S STORY: ENTREPRENEURS FINDING SOLUTIONS



©UNICEF Pakistan

"Without GenU Challenge 2.0, Eye Interaction would not exist," Irfan Ahmed declares. Launched by UNICEF and UNDP, and implemented by the NGO, the School of Leadership Foundation, the Youth Challenge 2.0 called on young innovators across Pakistan to design solutions to improve education, employment and civic engagement as part of the multi-sectoral Generation Unlimited partnership. Eye Interaction's three founders – 24-year-olds Irfan, Adeel Ahmed and Hamza Ahmed – were among the finalists. "We joined the Challenge with the idea of developing automated home appliances and gadgets for physically challenged people. We had not realized how difficult it would be," Irfan explains. But GenU experts "provided us with guidance on human-centred design as we led field research and analysed every aspect of our project to find solutions." During the COVID-19 pandemic, the group remained in contact with their GenU mentors online. Once the lockdown eased, they procured the materials they needed to create a prototype of a wheelchair and home automation system.

"Since Eye Interaction installed the system at my home, my life has become much better," reports Osama Waseem, one of the volunteers who tested the system in Karachi. "These innovations are a blessing for physically challenged people."

OUTCOME 2



DECENT WORK



85 PER CENT

increase in awareness of COVID-19 SOPs at SCORE-implementing enterprises



3,870

cotton farmers sensitized on decent work and ending child labour



4,500

young women and men trained on digital skills

As the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted livelihoods in 2021, the UN supported the Government of Pakistan to foster an inclusive recovery with decent work at its core. Policy progress continued, including a draft model law to end forced labour, a roadmap for effective labour inspection, and the development of seven laws in Balochistan in line with International Labour Standards. Building the capacities of women home-based workers, including women with disabilities and 641 home-based garment workers in Sindh, equipped them to become entrepreneurs, and access financial and social protection services. Enterprises reaped the benefits of implementing the *Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)* and *Smart Environmental Management Practices* programmes, yielding a 33.2% increase in compliance with occupational safety and health, and an 85% increase in awareness of COVID-19 SOPs. UN research enriched the evidence-base for advancing decent work, including a study on how gender roles affect child labour in Punjab's agricultural sector, a study of deficits in the fundamental principles and rights at work in the brick kiln supply chain, a socio-economic assessment of cotton-growing communities, and a scoping study on child domestic labour. UN initiatives supported Punjab's cultural and creative industries through studies that mapped areas around heritage sites, events and capacity building for young artists, performers, craft persons, entrepreneurs and tour guides.

Enhancing the digital skills of 4,500 young people (25% women) and ensuring employment for over 60% of these trainees in the digital ecosystem promises to ensure that Pakistani workers reap the benefits of digitalization. An innovative SDG boot camp trained over 800 social entrepreneurs on key business concepts to help them grow and create a substantial social impact nationwide. As the pandemic forced scores of Pakistani migrant workers to return from abroad, the UN supported the Government to reintegrate them, guided by a [rapid assessment of COVID-19's impact on migrant workers](#). Training of trainer sessions for 35 officials at emigration institutions enabled them to provide vital information to 2,000–2,500 migrants every day. Capacity building helped statistical organizations to generate comparable data on labour migration. The UN continued to advocate for the approval of the *National Emigration and Welfare Policy*, the introduction of Skills Passports, and actionable labour migration policy coherence. Advocacy elicited important commitments, such as the Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association's adoption of the *Code of Conduct for the Fair and Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers*.

To ensure that no one is left behind, the UN strengthened capacities to eliminate child labour and forced labour. Assistance for Sindh's Department of Labour enabled it to better monitor compliance with laws on child and bonded labour, including by training 122 labour inspectors and notifying 14 District Vigilance Committees. A training programme sensitized over 600 actors in the ginning and spinning value chains, while more than 500 cotton-pickers were educated on child and forced labour, COVID-19, and occupational safety and health. UN support for the Bunyad Literacy Community Council led to 1,255 children being withdrawn from working in cotton fields and the creation of 32 community-based monitoring and remedial mechanisms. National statistical organizations' capacity for data analysis on child labour improved following training for 70 officials (29% women), and action plans were finalized for the implementation of child labour surveys nationwide. Awareness raising marked *World Day Against Child Labour* and the *International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour 2021*, ranging from a music competition to a [video timeline on Pakistan's journey towards eliminating child labour](#). Respect for fundamental principles and rights at work grew in the cotton supply chain, as the UN supported 18 model collective bargaining agreements between the Pakistan Workers' Federation and cotton farmers, and engaged 3,870 beneficiaries (79% women) through awareness raising and training. Two farmers' associations and two trade unions were created in Sindh, as were two trade unions in South Punjab. With UN assistance, employers' and workers' organizations enhanced bipartite and tripartite relationships at the community level through social dialogue platforms.



©UNICEF Pakistan/Hassan Raza

3

AGENCIES Outcome 3 is coordinated by **WHO** and **UNICEF**, bringing together the efforts of **UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNODC, UN Habitat, UNHCR** and **IOM**

KEY RELATED SDGs

- 3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

TAHIRA'S STORY: ON THE FRONTLINE OF SAVING CHILDREN



©UNICEF Pakistan/Sami Malik

"I have been a health worker for 20 years and have seen people become more and more aware of the need to immunize their children," says Tahira. "The fact that the vaccination is offered at their doorstep has been crucial to help mobilize them."

Megaphone in hand, she calls on parents to bring their children to the vaccination point in Dhok Nizam, an urban informal settlement in Islamabad. Frontline Lady Health Workers like Tahira are at the heart of the lifesaving typhoid conjugate vaccination (TCV) campaign. In 2021, the Government's Expanded Programme on Immunization vaccinated nearly 20 million children against the deadly disease in Islamabad and 12 districts of Punjab, with the support of UNICEF and GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.

Six-year-old Muqaddis is one of these children. "When I heard that a vaccination team would be coming to our neighbourhood, I was excited as I knew it would save me a lot of time and effort," explains Muqaddis' mother, Bushra. "The feeling that comes with knowing that once vaccinated, my children will be safe from disease, is priceless."

OUTCOME 3



HEALTH AND WASH



94 MILLION

children vaccinated by the national measles-rubella campaign



3.16 MILLION

newborns and mothers benefitted from home-based newborn care



PKR 1.7 BILLION

allocated to strengthen Basic Health Units in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The UN supported the Government of Pakistan's COVID-19 response with science, solidarity and solutions. Frameworks developed with the UN guided the health response, including the *Pakistan COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan 2021–2022* and the *National Infection Prevention and Control Strategic Framework*. We aided the Government's COVID-19 vaccination drive through the COVAX facility, setting up 1,800 COVID-19 vaccination centres and using outreach to raise demand for vaccines. Leveraging the Polio Eradication Initiative's network improved COVID-19 surveillance and case detection, as did hiring surveillance officers and data analysts, establishing 242 sentinel sites to detect severe acute respiratory/influenza-like illnesses, and training 2,466 health workers on routine monitoring and reporting. Sentinel sites were also a boon to the surveillance of typhoid, rota virus and rubella. Building the capacities of 412 rapid response team members facilitated COVID-19 sample collection and transportation, while training clinicians enabled health care providers to reduce mortality through better case management. We supported screening, testing and referrals at points of entry. Diagnostic capacities grew stronger as we provided training, supplies and equipment to 34 laboratories. For instance, over 12,000 variants of concern were reported using UN-supplied equipment.

Awareness raising and technical assistance saved lives by advancing immunization, including the vaccination of 94 million children through the national introduction of the measles-rubella vaccine, and typhoid vaccination for 19.8 million children in Punjab. Outreach has increased vaccination coverage by 10% in the past two years. Successes were also tied to the refurbishment of 1,379 health facilities and the use of the *Existing Patient Monitoring Information System* to guide decision-making. Integrated referral mechanisms were scaled up to cover all 40 polio super-high-risk union councils.

Policy progress strengthened the health system, as the UN assisted the development of key frameworks, such as provincial health strategies aligned with the *National Health Vision*, the federal *Universal Health Care Benefit Package* and its provincial localization, the *Adolescent and Youth SRHR Strategy* and an *Integrated National Health and Well-being Action Plan on Adolescent and Youth SRHR*, as well as a *National Quality of Care Strategic Framework*. We aided data collection on service availability and a readiness assessment in 12 districts as a prerequisite to the implementation of universal health coverage (UHC). Initiating an electronic data management system in 16 primary health care facilities, including their catchment areas, provided real-time data. With UN support, poor families accessed the outpatient essential package of health services through the *Sehat Sahulat* programme.

Pakistan maintained reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services throughout the pandemic with UN support. A range of studies and guidance aided these efforts, including guidelines on the management of COVID-19 in children and during pregnancy. Some 3.2 million infants benefitted from newborn survival interventions, such as kangaroo mother care, early essential newborn care and the management of possible serious bacterial infections. Home-based newborn care reached 3.16 million mothers and infants, bolstered by training for 1,900 health care providers and 15,000 Lady Health Workers. Advocacy boosted essential health care, for example, by prompting the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to allocate PKR 1.7 billion to strengthen all of the province's Basic Health Units. Capacity building and 21,000 clean delivery and newborn kits improved antenatal and postnatal care, as did support for Midwifery-led Care Units that provided services to 25,004 women and girls. A PC-1 in Punjab reflected government ownership of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Midwifery, laying the foundation for its sustainability and expansion. Data-driven action is set to improve maternal health based on the results of Pakistan's first *Maternal Mortality Survey* and an *Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care Needs Assessment* of 10 high-burden districts.





4.3
MILLION

more people gained access to clean drinking water



0.8
MILLION

more people gained access to safe sanitation facilities



2.7
MILLION

more people now live in open defecation-free environments

Telemedicine helped keep sexual and reproductive health services (SRH) accessible. UN initiatives paired capacity building for 2,000 telemedicine providers with the establishment of 10 telemedicine centres, enabling 4,441 people to access SRH and gender-based violence (GBV) services. Enhancing institutional capacities facilitated SRH service delivery in humanitarian settings, such as training 194 (47% women) public health professionals and policy makers on the *Minimum Initial Services Package*. With UN support, the Government of Sindh integrated SRH, family planning and GBV services into monsoon contingency plans. Strengthening 34 health facilities enabled skilled birth attendants to ensure 12,317 safe deliveries, access to antenatal care for 22,357 women, postnatal care for 5,050 mothers and newborns, and the treatment of 6,247 cases of sexually transmitted infections in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Some 67,632 beneficiaries accessed the SRH service package, while 13,965 received modern contraceptives and family planning counselling. Mobile camps in Balochistan delivered SRH and GBV services guided by a rapid needs assessment of earthquake-affected areas. Six new mobile health units and six women-friendly health spaces enhanced preparations for the potential influx of Afghan refugees. In refugee villages, 92,807 refugees – most of whom are women and children – accessed quality health services, 10,145 women received four or more antenatal care visits and 6,923 women accessed postnatal care. Five district adolescent and youth-friendly health centres in marginalized districts of Punjab delivered counselling on SRH, contraception and GBV to 2,618 adolescents and youth, while peer education engaged another 6,092. In Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 105 Adolescent-Friendly Spaces were set up through community organizations. Progress on family planning gained pace as the Government integrated family planning service delivery in health reforms and approved the *National Population Narrative, Tawazun*, and a costed *National Population Action Plan*. Following UN advocacy, federal and provincial allocations for the procurement of contraceptives increased, and sub-national governments agreed to pooled procurement. Piloting a *Digital Voucher Management System* enabled 23,000 poor women to access family planning services, increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate from 53% to 59%. Training service providers on human-rights based approaches expanded access to long-acting reversible contraceptives and premarital counselling.

UN assistance for a Global Fund proposal secured US\$47 million for Pakistan’s HIV response. Continued support for the Larkana HIV outbreak response enabled 1,677 people living with HIV to access anti-retroviral treatment, while community mobilization and influencer engagement reduced stigma and discrimination. A fully-equipped HIV testing and counselling centre in District Prison Malir in Sindh ensured regular screening and treatment for prisoners. We expanded outreach to key populations, developed a training manual for peer educators in prisons and devised SOPs on pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention. High-level advocacy and frameworks addressed non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including a *National Policy and Plan of Action on NCDs and Mental Health*, as well as a *National Tobacco Control Strategy*. Virtual training enhanced the capacities of 61 key players on the *Drug Demand Reduction and Quality Assurance Regulatory Framework*.

With UN support for the *Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS)*, over 2.7 million more people now live in open defecation-free environments, 4.3 million more people – including 150,812 persons with disabilities – have access to safe drinking water, and 797,357 more people (50% women and girls) have access to improved sanitation facilities. Social mobilization efforts as part of PATS increased demand for sanitation in 2,548 villages. Through UN initiatives in schools, 289,674 students (57% girls) now utilize gender-responsive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, including 176,453 girls supported on menstrual hygiene management. UN efforts ensured WASH and infection prevention and control services at 274 healthcare facilities, serving a catchment population of 4.69 million. Technical and financial support was instrumental to the Government’s implementation of the *Hand Hygiene for All (HH4A)* initiative, reaching over 4.9 million people with information and capacity building. Advocacy and support also led to WASH policy progress and increased allocations. For instance, over US\$148 million was leveraged for improved WASH services under the *Clean Green Pakistan* programme, while Punjab allocated US\$600,000 for PATS and US\$56 million for safe drinking water in 1,000 villages – a move that will benefit 5 million people. WASH was integrated into national and sub-national planning and implementation by scaling up the *Clean Green Pakistan Index* and the *Clean Green Champions* initiative to 62 cities. Provincial WASH policies and strategies were approved, such as the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Drinking Water Act*. The establishment of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Water and Sanitation Regulatory Authority was another major milestone. *WASH Climate Risk Assessments* contributed to a growing focus on climate-resilient water and sanitation services.



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**SARA’S STORY:
HOW WASH IS PREVENTING COVID-19**



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“When Jannat visited our compound, I was able to learn more about the virus at last. In particular, I learned the measures I could take to protect myself, my family and others,” says 10-year-old Sara, recalling how hygiene promoters like Jannat Bibi visited her village of Chupriyal in Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

As part of an infection prevention and control project supported by UNICEF and implemented by the civil society organization SABAWON, under the FCDO-funded, IOM-led Natural Disaster Consortium, hygiene promoters reached out to communities. Jannat went door-to-door, educating women, adolescent girls and children on COVID-19 preventive behaviours such as handwashing, mask-wearing and physical distancing.

“Now that I know how I can protect myself from the virus and take care of myself and others, I can live with the pandemic,” Sara says with a smile. She is now a leader of peer-to-peer education in her community, eagerly teaching other children how to wash their hands with soap. *“She explains the key behaviours candidly and passionately,”* observes her father. *“People enjoy talking to her, and after they have finished listening, they start practising the behaviours.”*





OUTCOME 4



NUTRITION



**50.5
MILLION**

people reached
by the Breastfeeding
Week media campaign



**14
MILLION**

children and women will
receive safe nutrition services
from trained providers



**7.8
MILLION**

caregivers will receive
counselling from trained
service providers

Policy progress on nutrition gained pace in 2021, as the UN supported the Government of Pakistan to pioneer policy frameworks and integrate nutrition in the health system and social protection. Technical assistance continued for key mechanisms, such as the National and Provincial Fortification Alliances, the National Nutrition Council, Balochistan's new Food Authority, the federal Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat, provincial SUN chapters in Sindh and Balochistan, and members of the Planning Commission Office for Food Security and Research. Provincial fortification strategies for Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were successfully disseminated through the National Fortification Alliance. Policy advancements ranged from the development of a costed *Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan* to a *Global Action Plan on Wasting* endorsed by the federal government, a *Rice Fortification Strategy*, and a draft PC-1 for the National Nutrition Programme. The UN developed guidelines on nutrition, dietary risk factors, and the commercialization of specialized nutritious food, as well as action plans on issues such as wasting and eliminating trans-fatty acids, among many others. Pakistan increasingly prioritized early childhood development (ECD) and UN-supported investment cases informed greater financial allocations for nutrition. High-level advocacy by SUN units yielded results, such as the establishment of water filtration units in 10 districts of Gilgit-Baltistan and the sensitization of 3,000 stakeholders in Punjab. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination initiated a general tax exemption, in addition to the tax exemption on raw materials imported for specialized nutritious foods, to optimize the nutrition response.

Strengthening institutional capacities helped to translate nutrition policies into results on the ground. Thanks to training for 16,022 service providers, 14 million children and caregivers will receive safe nutrition services in the context of COVID-19. Training equipped 10,728 providers to deliver counselling for 7.8 million mothers and caregivers on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN). UN initiatives enhanced the capacities of 4,217 health care providers on breastfeeding and the *Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative*, 400 district staff on multi-sectoral nutrition programmes, and 14,945 service providers on using the *Early Childhood Development Parenting Package* through community sessions. UN awareness raising laid the groundwork for better nutrition practices, from campaigns that reached 23.9 million people through social media and 26.6 million via the mass media, to the creation of 7,735 community-led peer support groups for community-based communication. The *World Breastfeeding Week* media campaign reached 50.5 million people, while engaging key influencers such as religious leaders and public authorities to promote breastfeeding, particularly among marginalized groups. As a result, 18 public institutions – hospitals, airports, train stations, parliament buildings and courts – set up quality breastfeeding rooms/spaces, spearheading family-friendly policies to support working women.

Nationwide, UN initiatives prevented and treated malnutrition. We supported the implementation of *Ehsaas Nashonuma*, the stunting prevention programme integrated within *Ehsaas*, the Government of Pakistan's flagship social protection and poverty alleviation programme. *Ehsaas Nashonuma* covered 87,108 children and pregnant and lactating women in 15 districts, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's *Stunting Prevention and Rehabilitation Integrated Nutrition Gain (SPRING)* initiative reached 21,512 children and pregnant and lactating women with 91 metric tonnes of ready-to-use supplementary food at 15 sites in the districts of Dera Ismail Khan and Tank. The procurement of iron and folic acid tablets, as well as 36,000 deworming tablets, stand to improve nutrition manifold, as do enhanced capacities among 2,500 government line department staff who participated in multi-sectoral training sessions in Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Nowshera and Tank.

4

AGENCIES Outcome 4 is coordinated by **WFP**, bringing together the efforts of **WHO**, **UNICEF** and **FAO**

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TAHIR'S STORY: A WIN-WIN BY FORTIFYING FLAT BREAD



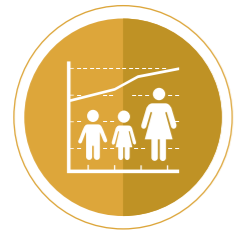
"I was not aware of the great value of adding vitamins and minerals to the flour until I joined the World Food Programme's chakki project earlier this year," Tahir Iqbal explains.

He is the owner of Watan Ata Chakki, a small-scale mill that produces flour for the local community on the outskirts of Islamabad. The UN project, implemented with the National Fortification Alliance and the Food Department, is training and supporting millers like Tahir to add micro-nutrients (iron, zinc, folic acid and vitamin B12) to their flour. These are vital for good nutrition, especially in pregnant and breastfeeding women, children and adolescents.

Tahir's sales have soared since he started selling flour fortified with vitamins and minerals. Now, he is winning over neighbouring businesses, like the Quetta Akbar Café and Hotel. After hearing from Tahir about the benefits, café owner Anwar Khan switched to fortified flour. Tahir and Anwar show us how small businesses can play a pivotal role in better nutrition – a win-win situation, as they attract customers while helping to improve their community's health.

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5.2
MILLION

children's and
women's nutritional
status assessed



315,300
+

malnourished children
treated by OTP
programme sites



2.6
MILLION

children and women
received multiple
micronutrient supplements

The *Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)* programme successfully treated 204,705 malnourished children and women in 2021. Training 6,423 service providers on CMAM protocols in the context of COVID-19 enabled them to assess the nutritional status of 5.2 million children and caregivers. Training on CMAM also bolstered the skills of 959 government health staff, as did capacity building for district and provincial health staff on referral mechanisms under the CMAM Surge project. A one-day orientation on CMAM and the *Social and Behaviour Change Toolkit* increased the knowledge of 168 health care professionals. Sessions with 821 community workers and Lady Health Workers, alongside 362 members of Mother Support Groups (MSGs) and Village Health Management Committees, strengthened referral mechanisms at nutrition sites. An independent evaluation of CMAM Surge identified achievements and ways to further enhance the initiative. The findings of a SMART and *Semi-Quantitative Evaluation of Access and Coverage (SQUEAC)* survey were endorsed by Sindh's Department of Health and disseminated at the federal and provincial levels to provide up-to-date data to inform improvements. *SMART nutrition surveys* allow practitioners to quantify the scale of a problem, while *SQUEAC surveys* evaluate the effectiveness of therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes in terms of needs met, enabling stakeholders to act on identified barriers and seize opportunities.

Across Pakistan, 3,045 UN-supported *Outpatient Treatment Programme (OTP)* sites delivered essential nutrition services and treated 315,302 severely malnourished children (55.8% of whom are girls), including in emergencies and in councils at super-high risk of polio. Nutrition Stabilization Centres treated 5,000 severely malnourished children with medical complications, provided early childhood development interventions, and delivered nutrition counselling to 10,000 mothers and caregivers. To prevent micronutrient deficiencies, nearly 1.37 million children (50.4% girls) and 1.24 million women received multiple micronutrient supplements through the health system, including 0.88 million reached with direct UN support. Iron and folic acid supplementation for 149,609 adolescent girls and 7,000 anaemic pregnant and lactating women combatted Pakistan's high rates of anaemia. UN support for two rounds of vitamin A supplementation protected 65.3 million children against vitamin A deficiency, the leading cause of child blindness.

UN efforts also scaled-up the availability of, and demand for, specialized nutritious foods (SNF). In Balochistan, 48,895 children under 5 years old who are suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, and 90,354 pregnant and lactating women, received 1,000 metric tonnes of specialized nutritious foods. In Sindh, 588 metric tonnes were successfully delivered to 18,351 malnourished children and 25,868 pregnant and lactating women. In 923 villages of Sindh's district of Umerkot, 2,707 community-based sensitization sessions raised awareness of nutrition hygiene, while the Government's *Accelerated Action Plan for the Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition* conducted another 7,736 sessions in the rest of the district. The formation of 47 Mother Support Groups, and 128 cooking demonstration activities conducted with them, promises to have a beneficial effect on the nutritional status of women and children by supporting mothers to improve household health and nutrition practices.

With UN support, the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan took forward large-scale wheat flour fortification, supported by training sessions for 130 representatives of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Food Authority. Fortifying foods with essential vitamins and minerals prevents disease, strengthens immune systems and improves nutrition. An innovative food fortification pilot project supported 10 small-scale mills (*chakkis*) in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, Punjab, to fortify 100% of their flour, a move that stands to improve the nutrition of 520,000 people. The pilot's success sets the stage for scaling up the initiative across five more districts.



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5

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KEY RELATED SDGs

2 ZERO HUNGER

PANJTAN'S STORY: RESTORING LIVELIHOODS IN A PANDEMIC



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"COVID-19 has impacted farming communities and access to quality inputs has become difficult due to the increase in prices," says Panjtan Hassan, a farmer in the district of Kurram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "During the sowing period, I was wondering who would buy the produce if the lockdown continues."

The UN project, *Restoration of Livelihoods in the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*, funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), supported farmers like Panjtan to weather the pandemic by providing quality certified tomato seedlings.

"Not only were the seedlings provided to the vulnerable community, but also through the Farmer Field School sessions, specialized trainings about the pre- and post-harvest management techniques were provided. Awareness about COVID-19 preventive measures were also added to our FFS sessions," reports Panjtan. "With the support, we got connected with the markets. That has created sustainability and shortened the supply chain as well. For the next harvest, it's a lot easier now as I have got contacts in local and national markets to sell my produce."

OUTCOME 5



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

US\$4.4 MILLION

in cash support improved shock-affected households' food security

422,900 +

people benefitted from cash-based relief after heavy monsoon rains

17,500 +

farmers trained on climate-resilient agriculture

Policy progress in 2021 bodes well for food security across Pakistan. UN support strengthened government capacities for formulating and implementing policy frameworks, such as the development of an *Implementation Plan for the Agricultural Water Management Aspects of the National Water Policy*, a draft *National Policy and Action Plan on Fisheries and Aquaculture*, and a federal *Food Control Act*, among many others. UN reviews of fisheries legislation and related proposals led to the incorporation of a deep-sea licensing policy in the federal fisheries' regulation. The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa approved the province's first-ever *Food Security Policy* and 10-year plan, developed with UN support, and devised a *Livestock Action Plan* to operationalize the provincial *Agriculture Policy*, paired with training for 149 officials. Advocacy advanced the harmonization of food standards and a national codex programme, while consultative workshops contributed to designing a prototype portal on water accounting methodologies (ACWA). *National Food Systems Summit Dialogues* identified game-changing solutions for transforming food systems. Evidence-based knowledge products equipped Pakistan to advance food security, ranging from an *Assessment of the National Food Control System*, to a stocktaking report on water management in agriculture, four provincial land cover maps to inform GIS-based crop monitoring, five province-specific *Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analyses*, and more. A *Near Real-Time Crop Water Requirements Tool* is poised to deliver timely irrigation advisories, while the *Food and Agriculture GIS Portal* provided planners with vital spatial data. Support continued for the operationalization of the *Food Security and Nutrition Information System (FSNIS)*, a web-based data platform that includes a *Food Price Dashboard* to track anomalies in supply chains and prices. Analytical FSNIS products included the *Pakistan Food Forecast on Rabi and Kharif Crops*. In aid of the Government's COVID-19 response, the UN continued publishing weekly price bulletins on major food items.

The UN remained the Government's partner of choice for providing life-saving food relief and recovery support for disaster-affected communities. US\$2.8 million in cash assistance helped 21,944 households (142,636 people), who have returned to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts after prolonged displacement, to rebuild their livelihoods. Cash-based relief was a lifeline for 422,949 people affected by heavy monsoon rains in Sindh, as well as by COVID-19 and other shocks in districts of Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. By distributing 4,750 metric tonnes of food and US\$4.4 million in cash support, we helped families to maintain adequate food consumption and avoid negative coping strategies. Initiatives strengthened households' anticipatory, absorptive and long-term adaptive capacities. In Punjab and Sindh, 17,500 families benefitted from agricultural inputs and capacity building on climate-resilient agriculture. Inputs and training enabled 13,095 smallholder farmers (28% women) to resume agricultural livelihoods. Some 947 hectares of land were restored to their productive best by rehabilitating 26 irrigation channels, benefitting 1,460 households. Another 2,486 families became more food secure and resilient thanks to COVID-19 packages that included agricultural inputs. UN efforts improved land governance in Sindh by supporting 1,120 informal tenancy agreements between landlords and *haris* (sharecroppers), and assisting 80 Informal Village Redressal Committees – 46% of whose members are women, enabling them to take part in decision-making. Opportunities for sustainable agri-businesses grew following training for 674 men and 403 women farmers on value addition, marketing and business development. To reverse the degradation of *chilgoza* (native pine) forests, 48 sites – covering 2,153 hectares – were identified for assisted natural regeneration. We championed safe, efficient *chilgoza* nut production by distributing 150 sets of harvesting toolkits, installing two processing units, and working with 14 Community *Chilgoza* Forest Conservation and Protection Committees.



OUTCOME 6



RESILIENCE



18,370
+

people benefitted
from kitchen
gardening inputs



4.2
MILLION

animals vaccinated
against foot and
mouth disease



3,400
+

farmers' resilience
boosted through
Farmer Field Schools

As climate change gains pace, UN initiatives supported the Government of Pakistan to strengthen planning, capacities and policy frameworks to adapt to and mitigate climate risks. Policy progress in 2021 included a review of the *National Climate Change Policy*, the revision of the *Pakistan Clean Air Programme*, and the development of a compliance framework on air quality, a climate change readiness proposal, Balochistan's *Drought Preparedness and Response Plan*, and a *Food Security and Livelihood Assessment* of locust-affected districts. *Integrated Water Resource Management Implementation Guidelines* were launched, as was a *Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)* that cities can use to evaluate and improve municipal solid waste management. A new project began to create an enabling environment for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – in line with Pakistan's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement – by promoting capacities and low-emission urban development. UN research responded to the urgent need for evidence and systems to assess and mitigate disaster and climate risks. *Climate Risk Analyses* covered five livelihood zones in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. A regional study of cities, including Peshawar in Pakistan, shed light on COVID-19's impact on urban food systems, while the recommendations of a *Health Co-Benefit Study* on how climate change contributes to health problems were incorporated in Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contribution. The *Disaster Resilient School Infrastructure Project* in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa began retrofitting and repairing 150 schools, building 15 new buildings, improving sanitation facilities, and enhancing institutional capacities.

With UN support, life-saving disaster risk management (DRM), preparedness and emergency response capacities in Pakistan are stronger than ever. Collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority advanced the DRM agenda by training 110 frontline government managers, advocating for political commitments with 73 parliamentarians and senior officials, and disseminating a *DRM Advocacy Toolkit* to improve understandings of how disasters derail development. Other major achievements in 2021 included the piloting of the *Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index* for Balochistan's Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and selected District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs). A course on climate change and environmental health boosted official capacities, as did seasonal livelihood programming and community-based participatory planning activities in three Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. An online platform for emergency preparedness was launched for school children and teachers, and training for NGOs prepared them to address a potential influx of Afghan refugees. Work began on early warning systems on nutrition in emergencies. A state-of-the-art Humanitarian Response Facility in Muzaffarabad was handed over to the State Disaster Management Authority of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and two Emergency Storage Units were built in drought-prone areas of Balochistan. Balochistan's PDMA and DDMA received IT equipment to aid data management, while the District Disaster Management Unit of Dera Ismail Khan received vital emergency response equipment. A web-based coordination system in Sindh is set to revitalize disaster response coordination between the PDMA and NGOs on the ground.

As transboundary pest outbreaks could be the tipping point for the devastation of rural livelihoods, the UN strengthened institutional and technical capacities for locust surveillance and control. We paired the provision of four ultra-low volume sprayers and 30 eLocust3g devices with technical training for 40 officials, alongside 30 one-day sessions for households, including 540 women farmers. UN support reached farming communities affected by desert locusts, providing 1,000 households with 2,000 kilogrammes of vegetable seeds and 20 tonnes of fertilizer in Balochistan and Sindh. *Integrated Household Food System* support reached 18,370 people with kitchen gardening seeds, fertilizer and poultry packages. Training through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) benefitted 3,400 women, while the training of trainers equipped 170 women activists to conduct FFS sessions. Resilience against transboundary livestock diseases improved as UN initiatives vaccinated 4.2 million animals against foot and mouth disease – benefitting 431,100 households in South Punjab – educated 7,689 farmers (0.8% women), and trained 109 veterinary assistants and officers.

6

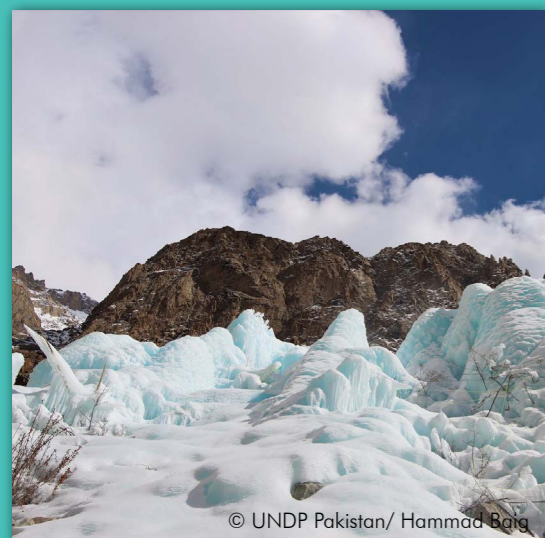
AGENCIES Outcome 6 is coordinated by IOM, bringing together the efforts of UNDP, WFP, UNIDO, UN Habitat, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, UNOPS, UN Environment and UN Women

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KEY RELATED SDGs



ICE STUPAS: LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO THE WATER CRISIS



© UNDP Pakistan/ Hammad Baig

How do you make every drop of water count? The village of Paari in Gilgit-Baltistan is showing Pakistan how – using indigenous adaptation techniques perfectly suited to the local context. In this mountainous part of northern Pakistan, 'ice stupas' are the answer.

With funding from the Green Climate Fund and the support of the Ministry of Climate Change and UNDP, the *Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Project* (GLOF II) is promoting indigenous nature-based solutions to reduce disaster risks and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Receiving less than 50 millimetres of rainfall per year, Paari relies exclusively on water from snow and glacial melt to support the agricultural livelihoods on which local communities depend. To ensure a sustainable water supply, villagers – both women and men – have been creating 'ice stupas'. These are an offshoot of glacier grafting techniques that harness underground water to create artificial glaciers in the form of conical ice heaps. They act as reservoirs; as the seasons change, the melting ice from these stupas feeds Paari's water supply in early spring and summer, when water is scarce but is sorely needed for agriculture.





OUTCOME 7



EDUCATION AND LEARNING



15
MILLION

people reached with messages on safe school reopening



38.5
MILLION

reached with educational content through the radio



251,360
+

out-of-school children accessed education with direct UN support

UN support strengthened the resilience of Pakistan's education system in the wake of COVID-19. Policy progress continued to lay the groundwork for inclusive quality education, including the development of a *Youth Engagement Strategy*, an *Adolescent Investment Strategies* document, the approval of four provincial education sector programme implementation grants, the *Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year Resilience Programme*, and the dissemination of guidelines on life skills-based education. The implementation of provincial youth development policies promises better education outcomes, as does improved sectoral coordination. The Generation Unlimited partnership is set to champion adolescent education, training and empowerment, with the establishment of the GenU Secretariat at the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission and a GenU Pakistan operating model focused on digital learning and skilling. Joint UN initiatives, such as *Youth Innovation Challenges*, provided platforms for youth engagement, as did the design of a Youth Policy Platform at the Planning Commission. The *Adolescent Equality Index*, developed with the *Kamyab Jawan* programme, provided data to inform adolescent-centred planning and decision-making. Pakistan maintained the continuity of learning through remote modalities with UN support, as COVID-19 forced educational institutions to close several times in 2021. The *Radio, My Best Friend* programme reached 38.5 million listeners in 43 districts with educational content, while a radio-based distance learning programme benefitted 35,000 grade 1–3 students in 17 districts. Direct UN support for Pakistan's COVID-19 response enabled 211,112 children (50% girls) to keep learning through home-based offline learning modalities. Targeted UN awareness raising was instrumental in spreading key messages nationwide. Messages on COVID-19 prevention, the continuity of learning, safe school reopening and vaccination reached more than 15 million people through social media and 587,311 parents via SMS. A six-month campaign on life skills-based education reached 600,000 young people. SMS outreach engaged 500,100 young men on women's and girls' reproductive health rights and family planning, as did community sensitization targeting 15,350 girls who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) from religious minorities in Punjab's most marginalized districts.

UN assistance enabled schools across Pakistan to ensure safe learning environments once they reopened. Support ranged from providing IT equipment and personal protective equipment to Departments of Education, rolling out guidelines and SOPs to mobilize communities, building the capacities of 3,356 School Management Committees (SMCs), and training 39,069 education officials and teachers (42% women). Some 201,439 children (53% girls) safely resumed learning in classrooms thanks to COVID-19 prevention supplies provided to 6,538 schools. Reaching the most disadvantaged children in the country remained at the heart of UN initiatives. The *Mainstreaming Out-of-Primary-School Children Project* boosted local demand for education, partnering with local organizations to mobilize communities, train 1,238 SMCs and enrol 28,438 children in 17 districts. Some 251,360 out-of-school children (47% girls) accessed pre-primary, formal and non-formal education through direct UN support, including 78,508 children engaged in early learning opportunities, and 45,285 children and adolescents in Alternative Learning Programmes (ALPs). Education and WASH interventions benefitted learners in 388 girls' schools and ALP centres, including 7,573 girls who received menstrual hygiene management kits. The *Girls' Right to Education Programme* expanded to 18 districts, enrolling 10,367 out-of-school girls, providing WASH facilities, training 607 teachers and supplying 4,200 learning materials. Unconditional cash stipends for 18,500 adolescent girls in 242 public secondary schools in the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, coupled with community sensitization, prevented girls from dropping out of school. Over the past five years, the project has increased enrolment by 14% and enabled 100% of the students to transition from middle to secondary school.

7

Outcome 7 is coordinated by **UNICEF**, bringing together the efforts of **UNESCO, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNV, WFP** and the **ILO**



SHAHNAZ'S STORY: LEARNING IN DISGUISE



"I just wanted to go to school," explains 12-year-old Shahnaz of her incredible journey to get an education. "I overcame my fear of being the only girl sitting in the room and pretended to be a boy so I could study," she says. When Balochistan's Directorate of Education and UNICEF, with funding from Japan's International Cooperation Agency (JICA), opened an Accelerated Learning Programme centre in the village of Hazarganji, the community demanded that only boys attend.

"Shahnaz was only nine years old but her desire to go to school was the strongest," recalls her father, Mira Khan. "So I enrolled her as a boy under a name she had chosen herself – Muhammad Saleem."

For two months, Shahnaz attended classes as Muhammad Saleem. All the while, Mira Khan worked to convince the community that education was equally important for girls. He won them over. As soon as the community agreed, the ALP centre opened a separate section for girls.

Now, Shahnaz and 29 other girls are among the centre's 78 students, making the most of the opportunity to learn and, ultimately, join the formal education system.



8

AGENCIES Outcome 8 is coordinated by **UN Women**, bringing together the efforts of **UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNESCO, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, ILO, UNOPS** and **UNDP**

KEY RELATED SDGs

5 GENDER EQUALITY

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

HASEENA'S STORY: SURVIVING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



"My parents wanted to marry me off as soon as I turned 16. They did not want to keep having a daughter with a disability around them," explains Haseena* from Phandu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Still a child, Haseena was married off to a 50-year-old man. "He started getting frustrated with my disability, and abusing me physically and emotionally." After years of domestic violence, her husband suffered a stroke, leaving Haseena destitute.

When a team from the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) reached out to Haseena, she learned about Women-Friendly Health Spaces. Supported by UNFPA with funding from the Government of Australia, these spaces provide services for survivors of gender-based violence. The support she received at her local Women-Friendly Health Space changed Haseena's life. "I started attending counselling sessions with psychologists. I was diagnosed with post-traumatic disorder and depression. I got motivated, and my eyes were opened to my hidden talent of art and craft," she says. Haseena has since perfected her skills as a seamstress, earning enough to become economically independent and care for her family.

[* Name changed to protect the respondent's privacy.]

OUTCOME 8

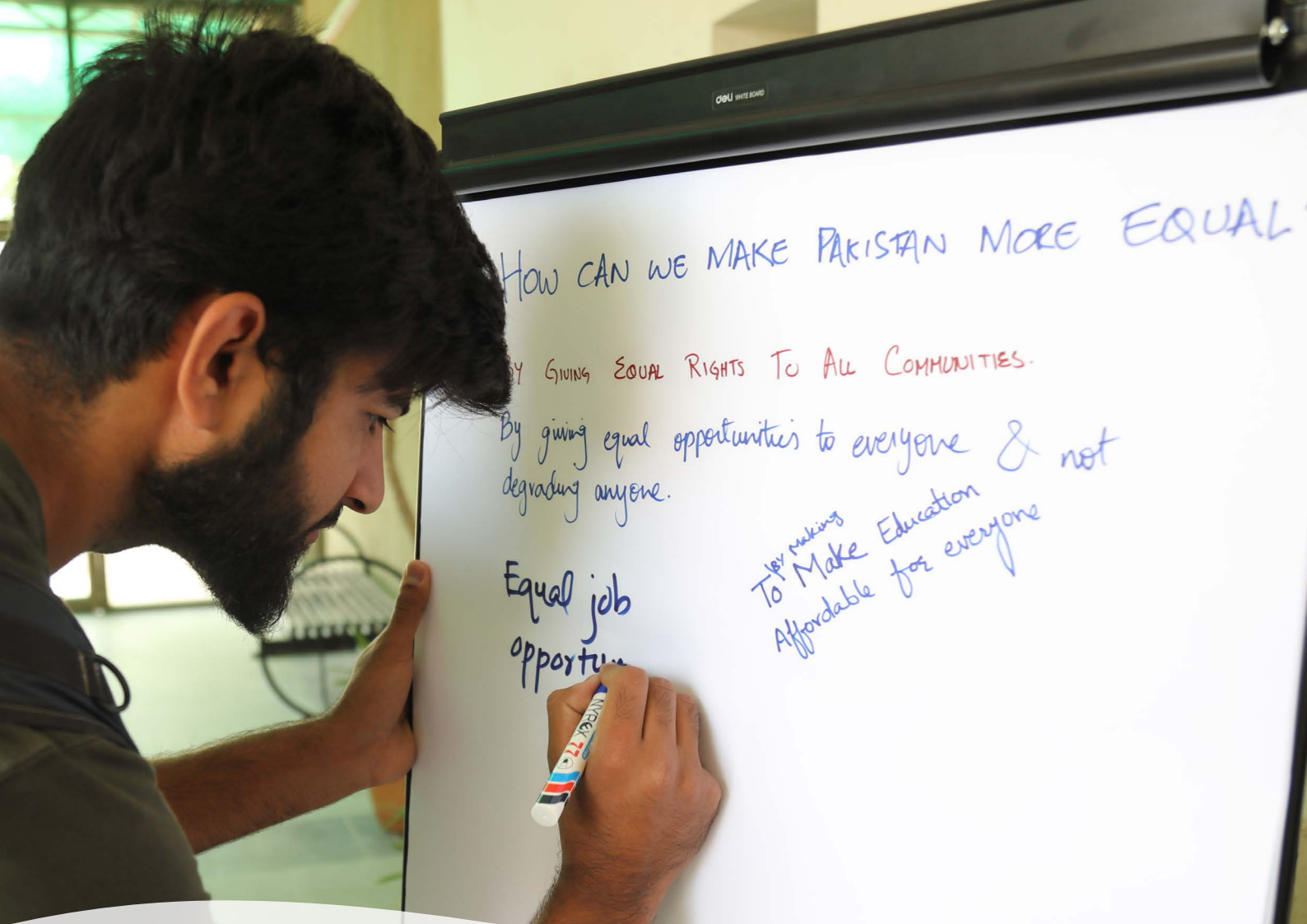


GENDER, EQUALITY AND DIGNITY

		
122,100	27,210	11,550
+	+	+
people engaged on SRHR, GBV and family planning	women and girls benefitted from Women-Friendly Health Spaces	GBV survivors accessed mental health/psychosocial support in humanitarian settings

UN support advanced a more enabling environment for women's rights in 2021, alongside policy progress based on normative frameworks, reporting on international commitments and targeted interventions. We supported the development, passage and implementation of laws, such as the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home-Based Worker Protection and Welfare Act 2021* and *Domestic Violence Law*, which aim to empower marginalized workers, encourage women's labour force participation and end violence against women and girls. UN assistance fostered government capacities to collect and analyse data, while strengthening institutional mechanisms through the formulation of strategic plans at the National Commission on the Status of Women, as well as at the Federal and Provincial Women Parliamentary Caucuses. Research expanded the knowledge base for advancing gender equality, running the gamut from the *Punjab Gender Parity Report 2019-2020* to a Political Economy Analysis on Child Marriage, a *Gap Analysis on the Implementation of the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act*, an assessment of COVID-19's impact on women, and knowledge products on the gendered dynamics of extremism, among many others. Inclusive, intersectional UN initiatives built momentum for social cohesion, such as national consultations with representatives of minority religious and ethnic groups, transgender people, persons with disabilities, the media and civil society. Interventions supported women's participation in community decision-making and built the capacities of 25 diverse women faith leaders in Sindh, as well as the capacities of vulnerable women, civil society and local government officials in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh on peace and resilience. Partnerships with local civil society organizations on preventing violent extremism engaged women and girls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and at the national level, enabling women to take part in community action on social cohesion.

The shadow pandemic of gender-based violence (GBV) loomed large in 2021, as the COVID-19 crisis intensified violence against women and girls worldwide. UN advocacy, assistance and capacity building pushed for legislative reforms to end all forms of gender-based violence, ranging from the passing of the *Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021*, to the promulgation of the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Domestic Violence Act*. In Sindh, advocacy contributed to cross-party consensus on legal reforms to end early marriage and the notification of a Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee to synchronize the response to cases of GBV. Engaging with the Council of Islamic Ideology and religious scholars secured commitments to end early marriage and enact the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Marriage Restraint Act*. Roadmaps developed with UN support scaled up the implementation of *Domestic Violence Acts* in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, as did *Rules of Business* for these Acts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. To aid the implementation of the *Punjab Domestic Violence Act*, UN initiatives scaled up response services, case management, helplines and the social welfare workforce. The UN *Rule of Law Programme* in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa built capacities across the justice and security sector to broaden the provision of multi-sectoral gender-responsive services for GBV survivors. As a result of UN support, 300 women with disabilities accessed mental health and psychosocial support services, as did 11,551 women survivors of gender-based violence in humanitarian settings. At 16 UN-supported Women-Friendly Health Spaces, 27,210 women and girls benefitted from information and services on sexual and reproductive health, family planning and gender-based violence. Another 122,103 people (60% women and 14% girls) engaged in awareness raising sessions on these issues. Effective referral pathways in programme areas provided 4,552 GBV survivors with psychosocial support and legal services, while training 75 civil society organizations in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh honed their capacities to prevent and respond to GBV.



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9

AGENCIES Outcome 9 is coordinated by **UNDP**, bringing together the efforts of **UNFPA, UNODC, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, IOM** and **UNESCO**

KEY RELATED SDGs



MARIA MEHMOOD'S STORY: CHANGING POLICE RESPONSES TO GBV



©UN Women Pakistan

"The biggest challenge we face is that women do not report cases of violence because of victim-blaming attitudes by police officers," explains Superintendent Maria Mahmood, Director of Pakistan's National Police Academy. "It is critical to train all officers of all ranks about the importance of being gender-sensitive and empathetic when dealing with a woman survivor of violence."

Maria Mahmood joined the police force 13 years ago and has been working to change police responses to gender-based violence ever since. The UN is by her side. With funding from the Government of the United States of America, UN Women and Individualland developed a training manual and trained over 500 police personnel to deliver survivor-centred services.

"We see UN Women as a key partner in helping us build the capacity of Pakistani police officers," she says. "I am confident that as we continue to reinforce concepts of gender-sensitive policing and gender-responsive justice, we will be able to create a just society that protects the rights of all its citizens, including women and those who are most marginalized."

OUTCOME 9



GOVERNANCE



69,500
+

voters sensitized on COVID-19 SOPs (49% women)



8,180
+

people's legal awareness strengthened in the Merged Districts



2,450
+

officials trained on countering terrorism

Sustainable development depends on good governance, as does recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the UN ramped up support for Pakistan's federal and provincial governments' pursuit of accountable, inclusive and responsive governance. Electoral administration improved with UN assistance, as local government election rules were drafted in Punjab, and training 657 election and returning officers (8% women) aided local elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Strategic documentation enhanced the sustainability of the Women's National Identity Card and Voter Registration Campaign, with outreach on COVID-19 SOPs engaging 69,500 voters (49% women), paired with 145 video products, 108 videos on COVID-19 awareness and prevention, and 12 television commercials aired on national and regional channels. Eight high-impact pilot projects improved service delivery in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts, as did strategic communications on government-led development initiatives and COVID-19 vaccination. A Citizen Perception Survey of 27,720 households in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab informed the Government about citizens' satisfaction with basic services. Performance agreements established for all ministries/divisions at the federal level stand to improve their performance and accountability for their core functions. An Urban Resilience and Development Project began in Rawalpindi, yielding an Integrated Urban Resilience Roadmap – a pathway to safe, sustainable and resilient cities. Policy guidelines provided direction for greening the building sector, as did Green Building Guidelines for the 5 Million Naya Pakistan Housing Programme. Legal awareness improved thanks to sessions for 8,188 people (23% women and 9% marginalized persons) in the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on laws, rights, gender and the existing legal support system.

Capacity strengthening remained the bedrock of UN assistance for the rule of law, stabilization and rights-based development. For instance, law enforcement's operational capacities grew stronger through training for 72 officers (21% women) on combatting human trafficking and migrant smuggling, 787 government and private sector representatives (10% women) on stopping money laundering and terrorism financing, and 1,172 law enforcement and judiciary officials on humanitarian response. Capacity development in Balochistan honed the skills of 2,454 officials on countering terrorism (12% women), 1,033 on first responder orientation (8% women), and 129 on forensic investigation (28% women). Financial management is primed to improve in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its Merged Districts following training for 1,060 police, judges and court staff. So too is connectivity, as a digitization initiative with the Peshawar High Court set up 35 virtual courts and 75 virtual points in all seven Merged Districts, as well as in 22 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the High Court and its three benches. Digital data collections tools and systems were operationalized across Pakistan's four provinces. Equipment was a boon to police capacities, including 200 first responder and 100 crime scene investigation kits provided in Balochistan. UN efforts helped bridge the gap between law enforcement and prosecutors by bringing officials together for regular capacity building and dialogue, including at the 11th Pakistan Prosecution Forum. A new Prison Staff Training Academy in Hyderabad, Sindh, provided a platform for continuous professional development. Following training for officials on prison management, 74 under-trial prisoners accessed legal aid.

Justice and security sector actors are better prepared to address gender-based violence thanks to the UN's Rule of Law, Community Stabilization and Gender Justice Programme in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Here, new Gender and Social Inclusion Strategies are poised to improve women's access to justice by establishing Gender Desks, enhancing the capacities of government officials, and supporting national human rights institutions and civil society. The Rule of Law Roadmap Project in Balochistan elicited government commitments to deliver evidence-informed reforms that promote peace and stability.





**2.83
MILLION**

**children's births
registered with
UN support**



**33,700
+**

**refugees and asylum
seekers accessed
legal services**



**4,260
+**

**children accessed
child protection
services (42% girls)**

To combat transnational organized crime, a new Victim Reception and Facilitation Centre helped process thousands of deportees, including victims of trafficking. The centre includes a conference room of the Counter-Narcotics Border Liaison Office, paving the way towards domestic and regional cooperation to end drug trafficking. Dialogue set the scene for greater interagency cooperation, such as the first *National Table Talk* on drug and contraband smuggling in Pakistan's maritime domain. Working with government partners bolstered the interface between the Financial Monitoring Unit and law enforcement agencies, while raising awareness through consensus-building discussions on tackling corruption, money laundering and economic crime. UN-supported Advice and Legal Aid Centres provided legal assistance to 33,749 refugees and asylum seekers, including through helplines that sensitized them on COVID-19 prevention. Legal camps and *shura* meetings engaged 5,408 people. The joint *Document Renewal Identification Verification Exercise (DRIVE)* interviewed almost 1.4 million Afghans living in Pakistan ahead of the issuance of new smart Proof of Residence (PoR) Cards by the Government of Pakistan, 706,000 of which were issued in 2021. All registered Afghan refugees over 5 years old will receive PoR smart cards valid until June 2023. Over 130,000 unregistered nuclear family members of PoR cardholders were also recorded by the DRIVE initiative. Once assessed, they will receive Family Information Certificates (FICs), enabling refugee families to preserve family unity.

UN advocacy and capacity development contributed to a functional civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system by addressing gaps in legislation and coordination mechanisms. CRVS regulations and bylaws were approved in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and revised in Sindh, in line with the *National CRVS Policy*. Training 85 local officials and 4,022 members of the CRVS workforce facilitated the registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces. Mutually reinforcing approaches sustained momentum for birth registration, ranging from advocacy to ensure government ownership, to registration camps in remote areas, media campaigns and multiple context-specific registration models. By scaling up social mobilization and service delivery with UN support, birth registration systems registered 2.83 million children nationwide (46% girls). Collectively, provincial governments allocated over PKR 1 billion to expand birth registration and scaled up registration to cover all of the districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Some 200,000 children of registered refugees also applied for registration, and assessments suggest that more than 98% of these applications will be approved. High-level UN advocacy and technical assistance also advanced progress on child protection, such as the validation of the *Child Protection Case Management and Referral System (CP-CMRS)* package in Sindh and Islamabad Capital Territory, and increased financial allocations for child protection in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. Through the system, 4,265 children (42% girls) accessed protection services. The quality of these services improved following training for 1,585 members of the child protection workforce in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Punjab. The nationwide child protection helpline was reactivated, and information management systems enabled tracking in Punjab and Sindh. The MyCare+ training module equipped first responders to provide online counselling services for children. Working with law makers advanced reforms to align laws with the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Major gains included the enactment of the *Sindh Child Protection Authority Amendment Act 2021*, draft child protection bills in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, the publication of rules for the *Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act*, and draft rules on *Child Protection Acts* in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Sindh. The UN's *Community Stabilization Programme* was expanded to Quetta, Balochistan, to combat violent extremism by empowering youth. It sensitized more than 5,000 people in Quetta and Multan, Punjab, to actively promote peace.

UN evidence generation and awareness raising helped Pakistan face and work to overcome development challenges, while harnessing opportunities. Awareness raising spread the messages of the *National Human Development Report 2020 – The Three Ps of Inequality: Power, People, and Policy*, improving understandings of the key drivers of inequality in the country. Studies, such as the *Population Situation Analysis of Sindh*, generated a wealth of data to inform population planning. Official provincial population projections up to 2050 were completed, paired with training that boosted in-house government capacities for demographic analysis. The *22nd Population Research Conference* highlighted the challenges Pakistan is facing, and will face, because of rapid population growth. To turn Pakistan's youth bulge into a demographic dividend, a high-level policy forum explored how to prioritize the youth action agenda. A draft policy paper shed light on the judiciary's role in freedom of expression, while focus group discussions explored digital rights, privacy, data protection, freedom of expression and access to information.



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MUSTAFA'S STORY: HEALING FROM PSYCHOSOCIAL TRAUMA



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When his community went into lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19, Mustafa's salary was put on hold. As the sole breadwinner of his family of six, the pressure on the electrical engineer was immense. His mental health began deteriorating. "At the point when lockdown started, everything felt strange," he recalls. "It got worse as I tested positive for COVID-19."

Mustafa felt like he was drowning until, while watching television one day, he learned about Helpline 1093. An initiative of Sindh's Local Government Department in collaboration with UNDP, the helpline offers a psychosocial support structure and referral mechanism managed by a trained psychologist.

"I am so grateful for this initiative that the local government has taken. I desperately wanted to talk to a mental health expert because I was unable to cope with the current situation," Mustafa says.

Through the helpline, Mustafa received psychosocial support, tailored to his needs, through eight tele-counselling sessions. Thousands more like him have benefitted from UN initiatives with the Government to provide COVID-affected communities with the mental health support they desperately need.





OUTCOME 10



SOCIAL PROTECTION



33,220
+

people benefitted from WASH interventions targeting refugees and host communities



3,000
+

brick kiln workers supported to enhance their functional literacy



2,440
+

households' diets and livelihoods improved thanks to the CMAM Safety Net

10

AGENCIES Outcome 10 is coordinated by the ILO, bringing together the efforts of UNICEF, UNAIDS, WFP, UNHCR, IOM and WHO



QADIR'S STORY: PROTECTING ENTREPRENEURS



"Having an independent source of income is better than any donations and loans," observes Qadir. In 2020, he opened his own mobile phone shop in Sindh's district of Kashmore, thanks to the support of the IFAD-assisted National Poverty Graduation Programme and the Government of Pakistan's Ehsaas Amdan.

"The programme reignited my lost dream of being an entrepreneur. Before I was unemployed, now I am generating employment and transferring skills," he explains. Qadir's shop contributes an average of PKR 800 to his family's daily income. Within six months, he had hired a helper, Shankar, to manage the workload and diversify income streams. "There is no better job than being self-employed. Once Shankar is completely trained, I will help him open his own business," Qadir vows.

Qadir is one of 6,057 beneficiaries in Kashmore who, since 2020, have received productive assets worth PKR 60,000. This livelihood support, paired with mentoring and training, helped young women and men like Qadir to secure decent work, become entrepreneurs and cement sustainable income sources in 2021.

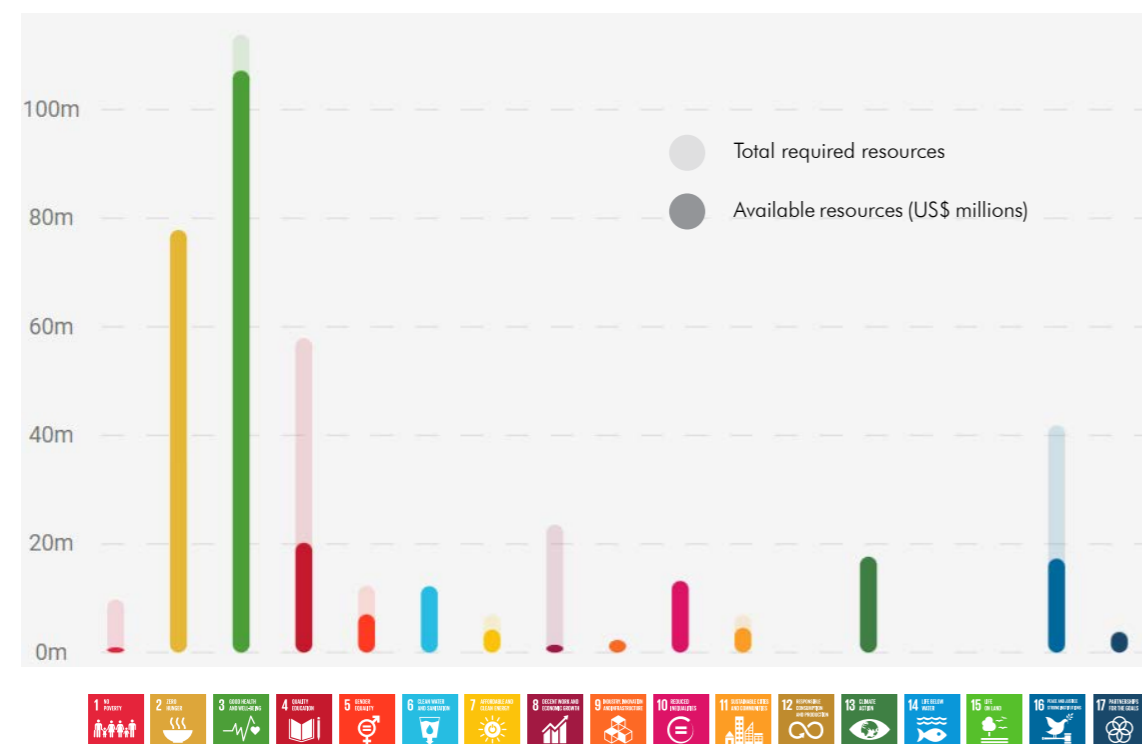
Social protection played a key role in helping the poorest people in Pakistan to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. UN initiatives complemented the Ehsaas programme, Pakistan's flagship initiative to mitigate the pandemic's economic fallout for the most vulnerable. With UN support, the Government developed a dedicated social protection programme for workers, *Mazdoor ka Ehsaas*. Launched in May, the programme focuses on one of the most vulnerable groups in the country: informal economy workers. UN collaboration with Pakistan's largest safety net, the Benazir Income Support Programme, positioned pressing issues like family planning at the heart of poverty alleviation initiatives. The *Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Safety Net* improved nutrition among pregnant and lactating women and their young children, while supporting families to lift themselves out of poverty in Sindh's district of Umerkot. Unconditional cash grants of PKR 15,000 for each beneficiary – totalling PKR 36.6 million – enabled 2,446 households to improve their diets and diversify their livelihoods. WASH interventions focusing on access to potable water in refugee villages benefitted 5,310 refugees and members of host communities, alongside 33,220 people in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

To ensure that no one is left behind, UN interventions in 2021 were not just about transferring resources to keep people above the poverty line. They were also about transforming structures so that people have access to the protection and support they need to live with dignity. With UN assistance, the development of provincial policy frameworks strengthened the social protection system, such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's draft *Social Protection Policy 2021* and Punjab's draft *Employees Social Security Act 2021*. Evidence generation and capacity building provided impetus for further progress. For instance, the *social protection profile of Pakistan* offered recommendations to increase the effectiveness and inclusiveness of social protection in the country, while the *Simplify Social Security trainers' manual* and *pocket book* provided user-friendly guidance for the systematic, harmonized application of social security laws. Research laid the groundwork for action to advance protection for workers, such as a study on national databases and registries of workers and enterprises in the formal and informal sectors, a study on unemployment insurance to protect livelihoods and youth, and a rapid assessment of *COVID-19's impact on labour migration*.

As part of UN efforts to champion social security, 40 workers injured by the Ali Enterprises fire in Baldia Town, Karachi, received employment injury benefits from the Sindh Employees' Social Security Institution (SESSI), alongside an additional top-up benefit as part of the Baldia Arrangement. Social security institutions are better equipped to deliver benefits and digitalize records following online training, sessions with international auditors and the implementation of a dedicated management information system. A social protection database set up within the SDG Unit at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives will enable timely reporting on SDG 1.3.1. Capacity development increased Provincial and District Vigilance Committees' capacities to address child and bonded labour, while UN initiatives enhanced the functional literacy of over 3,000 brick kiln workers. Advocacy with workers' representatives in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh set the stage for increased social security registration, while advocacy with employers sought to increase registration in formal industries. Tripartite forums yielded agreements between social partners on extending social security to domestic workers, including the *Social Security Coordination Forum* and a tripartite consultation in Lahore, Punjab.

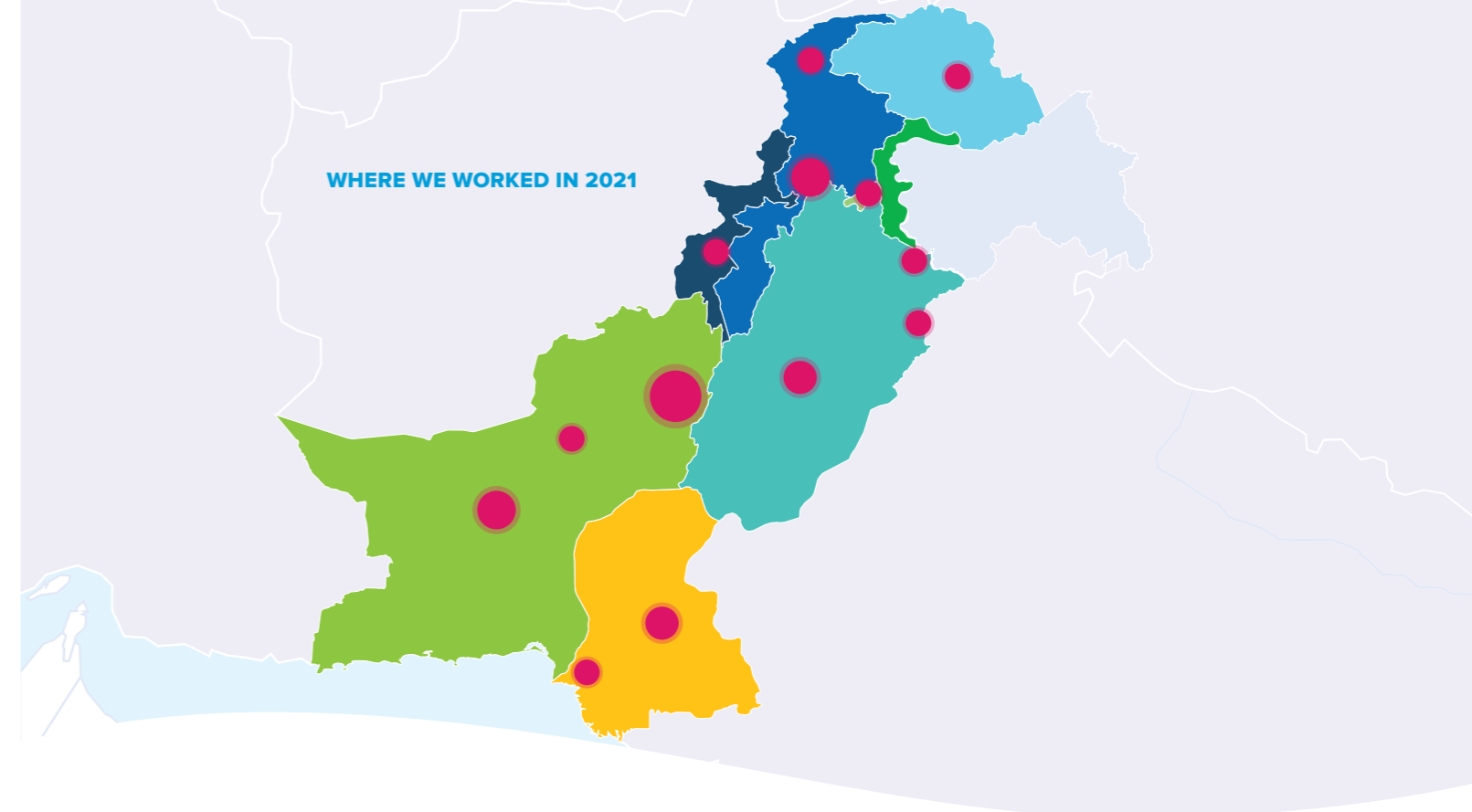
SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

UN FUNDING GAP BY SDG: HOW MUCH WE HAVE VS. HOW MUCH WE NEED IN 2021



Strong partnerships forged by the UN in Pakistan helped to advance the SDGs and leverage financing to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Most notably, partnerships with the Government, donors and other partners, coupled with joint UN advocacy, made a convincing case for accelerating action on the SDGs and ‘recovering better’ from the COVID-19 pandemic. The results in 2021 were significant. For example, sustained advocacy prompted the realignment of government expenditures, with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa allocating an unprecedented PKR 1.7 billion to strengthen all of the province’s Basic Health Units and revamp 200 units to provide 24-hour services. Nationwide, UN advocacy and technical assistance led to over US\$148 million being leveraged for improved WASH services under the *Clean Green Pakistan* programme. The Government of Punjab allocated US\$56 million to safe drinking water. In other areas, UN support advanced the operationalization of global frameworks. For instance, the recommendations of a *Health Co-Benefit Study* on how climate change contributes to health challenges were incorporated into Pakistan’s Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. UN assistance helped the Ministry of Human Rights report on SDG 5.c.1, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Pakistan’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Partnerships also helped to bridge the humanitarian-development nexus and advance south-south collaboration in aid of long-term sustainable development. For instance, in response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the UN immediately mobilized to assist Afghan refugees and the Government of Pakistan’s response to the crisis. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) ensured that humanitarian agencies could access Afghanistan, while providing essential medical supplies and equipment, and enabling people to move between the two countries. With UN support, the Government of Pakistan prepared its *Humanitarian Response Plan 2021*, the *Regional Response Plan 2022* and a *Solutions Strategy for the Afghan Refugees Support Platform* and core groups. The UN also initiated work on various proposals for the Government to increase support to Afghanistan through cross-border programming for humanitarian and development initiatives, such as trade moratoriums, tertiary education and the *Kabul River Initiative*. The *Humanitarian Response Plan 2021* highlights humanitarian needs, identifies the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to handle challenges in collaboration with the UN and other partners, and chalks out a well-coordinated, holistic, multi-sectoral and inclusive plan of action to respond to the needs of 4.3 million people in Pakistan, including refugees. It addresses both the immediate overlapping emergencies they face, such as humanitarian crises, extreme weather events and the COVID-19 pandemic, while laying the groundwork for development action. The life-saving response activities it calls for focus on 81 prioritized districts and US\$332 million in funding for food security and livelihoods, nutrition programmes, primary health care, women’s health, water and sanitation, education support, and shelter for displaced people.



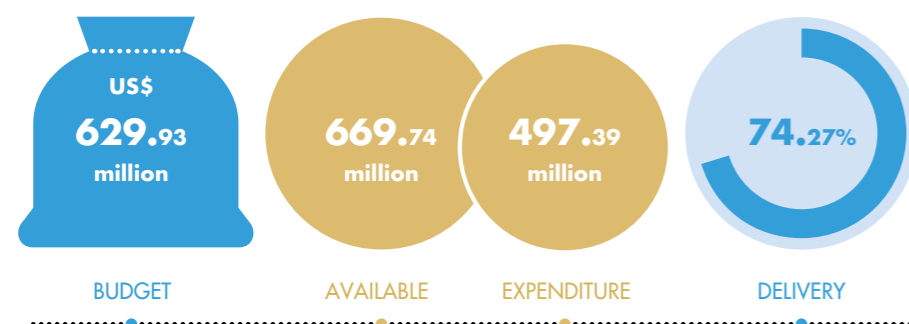
UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY: THE RESULTS OF WORKING BETTER TOGETHER

In 2021, all UN agencies in Pakistan continued working together as ‘one’, in line with the *Delivering as One* approach. This enabled us to streamline interventions, increase national ownership, improve joint programming among agencies at the country level, reduce transaction costs, enhance accountability and foster coherence. For instance, the UN spoke with one clear voice, delivering unified messages. This amplified the collective power of UN advocacy, highlighted synergies and made a strong case for the SDGs’ implementation. Joint work allowed UN agencies to pool their strengths and combine their know-how, resources and partnerships in a common cause throughout 2021. For example, collaboration between UN agencies yielded long-term partnerships with key stakeholders to improve education outcomes and nutritious school meals for all children, without duplicating efforts. The *Adolescent and Youth Engagement Initiative* is another example that demonstrates the benefits of multiple agencies working together, enabling the UN to champion COVID-19 youth awareness campaigns at scale, mobilize young people and engage them as active players in sustainable development through *Youth Innovation Challenges*. As Pakistan’s COVID-19 vaccination drive was rolled out, the UN led by example, with a staff vaccination rate of 96%. UN secretariat entities came together to use one centralized registry record system and a common repository for data-sharing, thereby pooling resources and cementing coherence. The UN Country Team increasingly used common joint long-term agreements (LTAs) under the Operations Management Team for services such as banking, security, travel, event management, financial service providers, audit firms and fuel, which improved operational efficiency.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A CHALLENGING YEAR

In 2021, the UN in Pakistan continued to adapt our approach based on lessons learned since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We strove to be more flexible, plan for contingencies and adapt to rapidly changing situations on the ground. We provided handholding support to government partners to overcome the difficulties of working remotely and digitalizing information management systems, such as in the sphere of social security. While intermittent lockdowns and limited internet access among different groups posed challenges, we capitalized on our outreach and partnerships to advance progress on the SDGs. For instance, since social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) is a relatively new area for provincial governments, UN expertise was instrumental in reaching huge numbers of education stakeholders with key messages. The participation of communities and government departments remained central to all levels of programme implementation. So too did context specificity. For example, all of the UN’s food security activities followed nature-based approaches adapted to local contexts. This enabled our efforts to successfully strengthen household and community assets that reduce the risk of disasters, bolster livelihoods and build resilience. Participatory social mobilization and engaging young people increased the impact of our interventions, as did investments in capacity development in every outcome area of the One UN Programme III. For instance, mainstreaming guidelines on COVID-19 into training on the *Community Management of Acute Malnutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding* ensured that no nutrition site experienced a breakdown in services due to COVID-19. Dialogue and collaboration enabled the UN to pinpoint where support was most needed, and what technical assistance we are best placed to provide.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2021

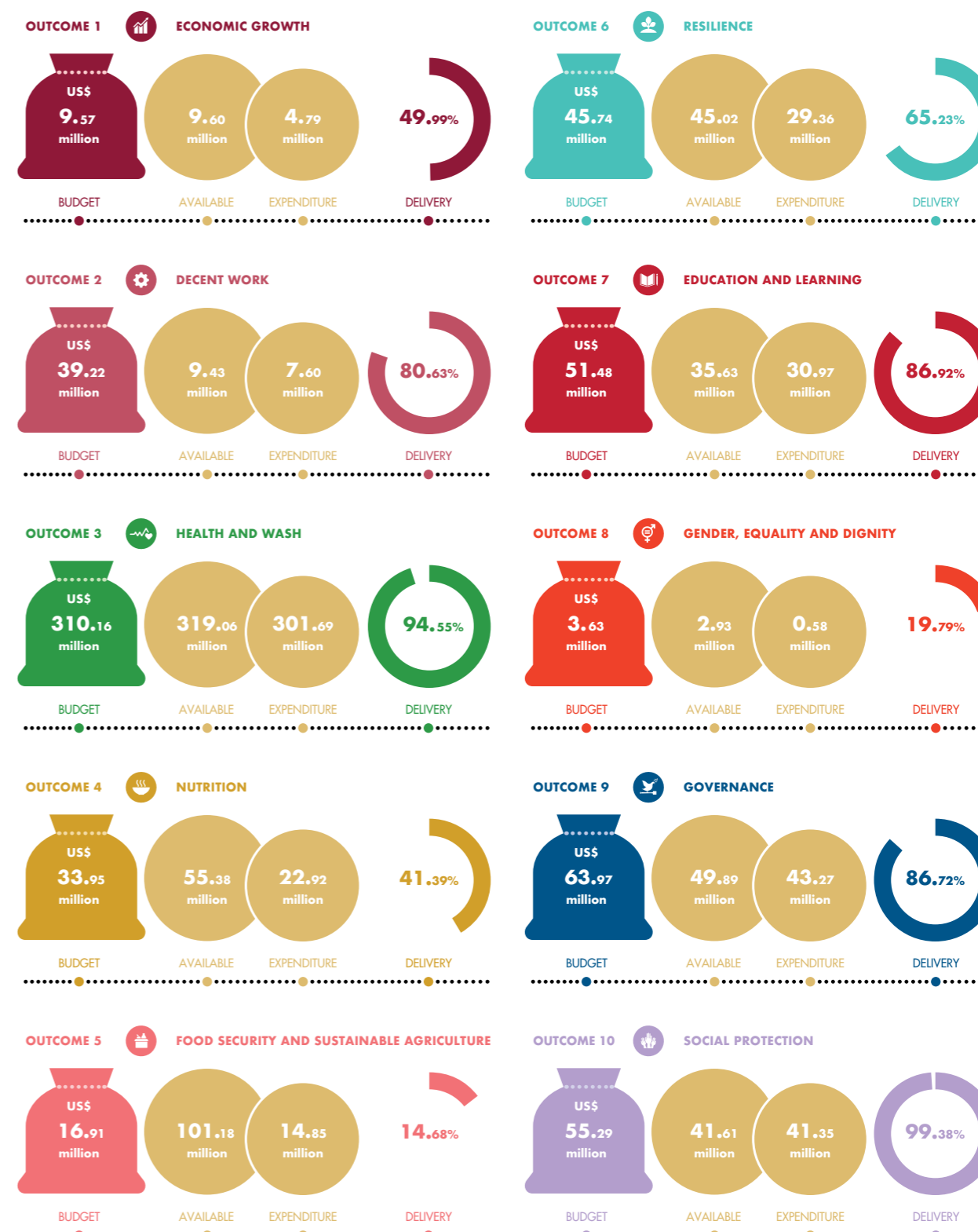


One UN Programme III outcome	Required resources (US\$)	Available resources (US\$) [a]	Expenditure (US\$) [e]	% delivery [100* e/a]
1. Economic Growth	9,572,000	9,600,548	4,799,256	49.99%
2. Decent Work	39,219,973	9,431,976	7,605,038	80.63%
3. Health and WASH	310,161,694	319,062,918	301,688,034	94.55%
4. Nutrition	33,947,599	55,380,456	22,922,053	41.39%
5. Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture	16,907,116	101,179,041	14,850,355	14.68%
6. Resilience	45,741,234	45,017,899	29,364,413	65.23%
7. Education and Learning	51,479,041	35,628,288	30,968,997	86.92%
8. Gender, Equality and Dignity	3,635,666	2,933,452	580,391	19.79%
9. Governance	63,966,880	49,890,061	43,266,605	86.72%
10. Social Protection	55,298,046	41,611,746	41,352,734	99.38%
Total	\$629,929,249	\$669,736,385	\$497,397,876	74.27%

UN agency in Pakistan	Required resources (US\$)	Available resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)
FAO	18,505,586	106,341,970	18,433,943
ILO	4,650,000	4,650,000	2,940,000
IOM	17,140,000	17,140,000	13,757,953
UN Habitat	500,000	488,303	488,303
UNAIDS	173,200	160,200	154,884
UNDP	46,206,333	45,900,519	31,735,799
UNESCO	8,086,721	8,157,054	2,970,228
UNFPA	9,300,000	13,232,261	9,908,425
UNHCR	116,219,796	79,562,900	79,562,900
UNICEF	137,213,946	137,213,946	137,084,410
UNIDO	6,523,000	6,523,000	1,953,396
UNODC	12,537,000	6,710,850	5,104,338
UNOPS	38,069,720	7,500,000	7,500,000
UN Women	2,289,061	2,297,061	2,158,334
WFP	57,323,857	78,667,293	28,453,934
WHO	155,191,027	155,191,027	155,191,027

In 2021, the fourth and penultimate year of the One UN Programme III's implementation in Pakistan, the UN's required budget was US\$629.93 million. Available resources of US\$669.74 million were obtained. Total expenditure was US\$497.39 million, reflecting a delivery rate of 74.27% across the OP III's 10 outcome areas. In addition, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) managed a separate humanitarian budget from different funding streams, with funds disbursed to UN agencies and NGOs for humanitarian projects in 2021.

OP III FINANCIAL OVERVIEW BY OUTCOME IN 2021



UNCT FOCUS FOR 2022



CONTINUING THE ONE UN PROGRAMME III'S IMPLEMENTATION

2022 will mark the final year of the One UN Programme III's implementation. The UN in Pakistan will continue offering more and better technical support for evidence-based policy-making, implementation and service delivery. We will prioritize capacity development across the board, alongside building synergies, strengthening longstanding partnerships and building new ones, mobilizing resources, assisting digitalization and ramping up advocacy. We will continue to mainstream support for Pakistan's recovery from COVID-19 across all areas of action, with a focus on leaving no one behind and reaching those farthest behind first.

As we look to 2022 and beyond, the UN family will remain a steadfast partner of the people and Government of Pakistan. Our pledge next year, as ever, is to pursue sustainable, inclusive, gender-sensitive, integrated, effective and efficient development pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda for everyone in Pakistan.

In 2022, the UN will continue delivering as one to achieve the SDGs across the One UN Programme III's 10 outcome areas



DEVISING OUR NEW COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

Most of all, we will take the lessons we learned in 2021 and act on them. This year, we began planning for our new five-year country cooperation framework with the Government of Pakistan for 2023–2027. In order to make this framework more effective and inclusive, we held a series of consultations with provincial and regional government officials, parliamentarians, civil society, academics and groups of youth, women, persons with disabilities and communities across Pakistan. These consultations convinced us of the need to hold 'deep dives' in each region.

Deep dives will act as common platforms that bring stakeholders together – the Government, development partners, donors, civil society, the private sector and communities – to identify priority issues and help us formulate area-specific strategies. We will hold our first deep dive in March 2022 in South Punjab, a region in particular need of sustainable development solutions.

The new *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027* will be aligned with Pakistan's priorities vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and focus on supporting the achievement of the SDGs nationwide. The framework will narrow our focus to five key strategic areas that cut across sectors, agreed at a high-level national strategic prioritization dialogue, which we organized in 2021 with the Government of Pakistan. These areas are: (1) basic social services, (2) gender equality and women's empowerment, (3) climate change and the environment, (4) inclusive economic growth and decent work, and (5) governance.

As part of the roadmap for the new framework's development, we will devise a *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan*, an *SDG Financing Strategy*, the *UNSDCF Funding Framework* and its *Communication Plan* in 2022.

Our new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2023–2027 will focus on five strategic areas



OTHER UN PRIORITIES FOR 2022

In line with the Government's requests, the UN in Pakistan will support the ecological restoration of the Indus River Basin, beginning with the development of a master plan in 2022. We will focus more on areas that are at risk of being left behind. With all of our partners, we will prioritize the acceleration of sustainable development in South Punjab, leveraging the opportunities afforded by the region's decentralized structure, improvements in infrastructure and the growing stability of its security situation. We will work with stakeholders to develop a vision for Balochistan characterized by inclusive and sustainable economic growth, greater equity and zero hunger.

With the Government of Pakistan, we will explore opportunities for potential cross-border cooperation with Afghanistan. We will focus on ways to connect people, facilitate transit trade, expand the use and the reach of information and communication technology (ICT), support industries, strengthen human capital, and promote regional integration and connectivity.

Internally, the UN will strengthen the Human Rights Task Force to ensure that all persons at risk of being left behind are integrated into UN programming, and that legal frameworks are enhanced to meet their needs. UN agencies, funds and programmes will work to ensure that our working conditions – including our security and recruitment approaches – make the UN the most attractive employer possible for women in Pakistan. Our aim is to reach gender parity in all staff categories by 2025. We will also revamp the implementation of our *Business Operations Strategy (BOS)*, with a special focus on environmental considerations, gender-responsive procurement and accessible premises for people with disabilities.



ACRONYMS

ALP	Alternative Learning Programme
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access
CRVS	Civil registration and vital statistics
DDMA	District Disaster Management Authority
DRR/DRM	Disaster risk reduction/disaster risk management
EnMS	Energy Management System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSNIS	Food Security and Nutrition Information System
GenU	Generation Unlimited
GBV	Gender-based violence
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Infection prevention and control
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OP III	One United Nations Programme III 2018–2022 (also known as the UNSDF)
OTP	Outpatient Treatment Programme
PATS	Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PKR	Pakistani Rupee
PoR Card	Proof of Residence Card
RCCE	Risk communication and community engagement
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMC	School Management Committee
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
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
UNSDF	United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan 2018–2022 (also known as the OP III)
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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UNITED NATIONS
PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان
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2021 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

PAKISTAN

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