



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2023–2027 PAKISTAN

Final

25 October 2022



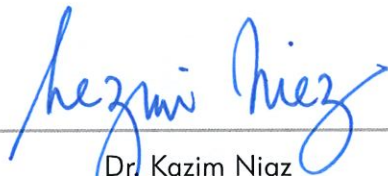
JOINT STATEMENT AND SIGNATURES

This **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework** (UNSDCF) 2023–2027 between the United Nations (UN) and the Government of Pakistan articulates the collective framework of UN support for Pakistan’s achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development priorities. This is the UN’s framework for planning and implementing development activities at the country level.

The UNSDCF is a compact between the UN and the Government of Pakistan to work together, and in partnership with others – including non-governmental organizations, academia, the private sector and development partners – towards an increasingly resilient Pakistan. A Pakistan where all people, particularly those most disadvantaged, enjoy rights, opportunities and well-being. At the core of our commitment is the priority to **leave no one behind**, and to reach the furthest behind first, by responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people in Pakistan.

By signing hereunder, the members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of Pakistan endorse the UNSDCF 2023–2027 and reaffirm their joint commitment to achieving the framework’s strategic priorities and outcomes.

**On behalf of the
Government of Pakistan**



Dr. Kazim Niaz
Secretary, Economic Affairs Division

**On behalf of the
United Nations in Pakistan**



Julien Harneis
United Nations Resident &
Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan



Florence Rolle
FAO Representative in Pakistan



Hubert Boirard
IFAD Country Programme Director



Peter Buwembo
ILO Officer-in-Charge



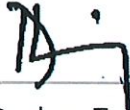
Mio Sato
IOM Chief of Mission



Jawed Ali Khan
UN Habitat Programme Manager



Yuki Takemoto
UNAIDS Country Director for
Pakistan and Afghanistan



Dechen Tsering
UNEP Regional Director and
Representative for Asia and the Pacific

DocuSigned by:
Bakhtior Kadirov
0E2EDB27AEF7402...

Dr Bakhtior Kadirov
UNFPA Representative a.i



Abdullah Fadil
UNICEF Representative



Jeremy Milsom
UNODC Representative



Waseem Ashraf
UNV Country Coordinator



Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala
WHO Representative



Sharmeela Rassool
UN Women Country Representative



Knut Ostby
UNDP Resident Representative



Youssef Filali Meknassi
UNESCO Officer-in-Charge



Noriko Yoshida
UNHCR Representative in Pakistan



Nadia Aftab
UNIDO Country Representative



Shahzad Hassan
UNOPS Officer-in-Charge



Chris Kaye
WFP Country Director



Ashish Shah
ITC Director, Division of Country Programmes

CONTENTS

Joint statement and signature page	2
Abbreviations and acronyms	6
Executive summary.....	9
Chapter 1. Country progress towards the 2030 Agenda	12
1.1. National context.....	12
1.2. Those at risk of being left behind	14
Chapter 2. UN development system support for the 2030 Agenda.....	16
2.1. From the CCA to the cooperation framework’s priorities.....	16
2.2. Theory of change for the cooperation framework’s priorities	18
2.3. UNSDCF outcomes and partnerships	21
Outcome 1. Basic Social Services	21
Outcome 2. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	28
Outcome 3. Climate Change and the Environment	34
Outcome 4. Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work	39
Outcome 5. Governance.....	45
2.4. UNCT configuration.....	49
Chapter 3. UNSDCF implementation plan	50
3.1. Cooperation framework governance	50
3.1.1. Cooperation joint management structure.....	50
3.1.2. UN inter-agency management and coordination arrangements.....	50
3.2. Resourcing the UNSDCF	52
3.3. Derivation of UN agency country programming instruments from the UNSDCF	53
3.4. Joint Work Plans.....	53
3.5. Business Operations Strategy in support of the UNSDCF.....	54

3.6. Fund management, including the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT)	54
Chapter 4. CCA updates, monitoring, evaluation and learning plan	56
4.1. Updating the UN Common Country Analysis	56
4.2. Monitoring the implementation of Joint Work Plans	56
4.3. Cooperation framework annual performance review and country results reporting	57
4.4. Evaluation plan	58
Annexes	59
Annex 1. Legal annex.....	59
Annex 2. Harmonized approach to cash transfers	63
Annex 3. Pakistan UNSCDF Results Framework 2023–2027	66
Outcome 1. Basic and Social Services	66
Outcome 2. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	71
Outcome 3. Climate Change and the Environment	75
Outcome 4. Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work	79
Outcome 5. Governance.....	86
Annex 4. Detailed outcome level theories of change.....	90
Outcome 1. Basic Social Services	90
Outcome 2. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	92
Outcome 3. Climate Change and the Environment	95
Outcome 4. Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work	97
Outcome 5. Governance.....	100

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACC	Afghan Citizen Card
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
BSS	Basic social services
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CCI	Chambers of Commerce and Industry
COMSAT	Commission of Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CSO	Civil society organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
EAD	Economic Affairs Division
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom
GAVI	The Vaccine Alliance
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCISC	Global Change Impact Study Centre
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEWE	Gender equality and women’s empowerment
GF	Global Fund
GFF	Global Financing Facility
GTG	Gender Theme Group
HACT	Harmonized approach to cash transfers
HBW	Home-based worker
HQ	Headquarters
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMR	Infant mortality rate
IT	Information technology
ITC	International Trade Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JSC	Joint Steering Committee

JWP	Joint Work Plan
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LUMS	Lahore University of Management Sciences
MEL	Monitoring, evaluation and learning
MMR	Maternal mortality ratio
MNCAH	Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health
MNHSR&C	Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination
NCD	Non-communicable disease
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NCSW	National Commission on the Status of Women
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
NHCR	National Commission for Human Rights
NHSP	National Health Support Programme
NMR	Neonatal mortality rate
NTD	Neglected tropical disease
OMT	Operations Management Team
OOSC	Out-of-school children
PHED	Public Health Engineering Department
PHC	Primary health care
PME	Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
PMT	Programme Management Team
POR Card	Proof of Registration Card
PPT	Provincial Programme Team
PSC	Provincial Steering Committee
P&DD	Planning and Development Department
SAFRON	Ministry of States and Frontier Regions
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
U5MR	Under-five mortality rate
UHC	Universal health coverage
UN	United Nations
UNCG	United Nations Communication Group
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
YEP	Youth Empowerment Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Pakistan](#) (UNSDCF) outlines how the United Nations (UN) system will support Pakistan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leave no one behind, uphold fundamental rights, advance gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE), build resilience, improve accountability and enhance sustainability.

UN global reform positions Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks as “*the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of UN development activities.*” This is the case for the UNSDCF in Pakistan.

The UNSDCF is a compact between the UN and the Government of Pakistan that is nationally owned and reflects national development priorities. It represents a collective framework of UN support for sustainable development in Pakistan through a set of outcomes to be achieved jointly between 2023 and 2027. This overarching framework aims to ensure the coherent, integrated and streamlined achievement of development results by UN agencies, working together as one, under the leadership of the empowered United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team.

The priorities of the UNSDCF are based on a strong theory of change, drawing on a Common Country Analysis (CCA). The UN conducted this analysis to assess needs, challenges and opportunities in Pakistan. The framework’s priorities are aligned with Pakistan’s National Sustainable Development Strategy, sectoral strategies and national planning instruments.

The process of developing the UNSDCF benefitted from consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, as well as cross-sectoral prioritization and sector-specific, results-based planning. These stakeholders include resident and non-resident UN entities, the Government of Pakistan at the federal and provincial levels, technical ministries and national partners, civil society organizations, international financial institutions, development partners, the private sector, academia, organizations for persons with disabilities and international non-governmental organizations.

With this framework, the UN in Pakistan has prioritized five development outcomes to improve people’s lives in Pakistan, especially the lives of those at the greatest risk of being left behind. The UN will support Pakistan to move forward on its pathway towards sustainable development, on the understanding that:

- ✓ If basic social services – including health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and social protection – are strengthened, there will be increased equal access to sustainable quality services for all.
- ✓ If women, girls and transgender persons are empowered to reach their fullest potential, their human, social, economic and cultural rights will be fully protected and upheld, and they will have decision-making power over all aspects of their lives.

- ✓ If the health of the Indus River Basin is restored and protected, and resources are equitably and efficiently used, the Indus will sustain a thriving civilization from its sources to the sea, and Pakistan will be much better equipped to adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact.
- ✓ If there is sustainable and inclusive green economic growth and decent work, there will be equitable employment opportunities, enhanced productivity, a sustainable business environment and the realization of workers’ rights.
- ✓ If inclusive, accountable and efficient governance systems are in place, they will provide equitable service delivery, affordable and accessible justice systems, and enable people to be aware of – and obtain – their rights.

Figure A. UNSDCF outcomes

<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>Basic Social Services</p> <p>(SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12)</p>	<p>Outcome 2</p> <p>Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment</p> <p>(SDG 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17)</p>	<p>Outcome 3</p> <p>Climate Change and the Environment</p> <p>(SDG 2, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15)</p>	<p>Outcome 4</p> <p>Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work</p> <p>(SDG 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17)</p>	<p>Outcome 5</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>(SDG 5, 10, 16, 17)</p>
<p>By 2027, the people in Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and deprived, have increased equitable access to and utilization of quality, sustainable basic social services (BSS).</p>	<p>By 2027, women, girls and transgender persons in Pakistan, especially those at greatest risk of being left behind, benefit from an enabling environment where they are empowered and reach their fullest potential; and their human, social, economic, cultural and political rights are fully protected and upheld.</p>	<p>By 2027, people living in the Indus River Basin, particularly the most vulnerable, including women, girls, boys, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, have their lives positively impacted by the restored and protected health of the Indus Basin, and by being better equipped to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its impact.</p>	<p>By 2027, people in Pakistan, especially those at risk of being left behind and becoming further marginalized – including youth, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups – benefit from a broad-based, job-rich and gender-responsive recovery with decent work opportunities for all. This will be achieved through: integrated employment policy responses; the private and public sector and the social and solidarity economy as generators of employment, providers of skills training and education; harnessing the potential of job-rich economic sectors like agriculture, the creative economy and the care economy; upholding fundamental principles and rights at work, social dialogue and tripartite cooperation; diversifying livelihoods to reduce dependency on one form of livelihood (particularly agriculture or livestock rearing/management); and enabling longer-term resilience-building and rural economic development of the most vulnerable communities prone to various shocks and stressors.</p>	<p>By 2027, the people in Pakistan, especially women, children, the most vulnerable and marginalized, have increased access to fundamental rights, gender equality and fundamental freedoms through inclusive, accountable, effective and evidence-driven governance systems and rule of law institutions at all levels of government, that contribute to good governance and stability.</p>

The UN will maintain its commitment to mobilizing UN agencies in Pakistan, as well as from regional and global offices, to strengthen coherence and forge strong, diverse partnerships for achieving the SDGs. Collaboration with government counterparts will be further strengthened, informed by current analysis of capacities and needs.

The UNSDCF's implementation will begin in the midst of the unnatural climate catastrophe leading to massive floods that affected one third of the country and towards the end of the global COVID-19 pandemic. These carry with it the risks of negative socio-economic developments, health impacts and potential social upheaval. These risks are factored into the risk profiles of the UNSDCF's theory of change.

The UN will continue to apply the highest levels of innovation, technical expertise, people-centred approaches and flexibility to respond to Pakistan's development and humanitarian priorities. Above all, our aim is to leave no one behind, and to reach those furthest behind first.

CHAPTER 1. COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

1.1. National context

Pakistan is the world’s fifth most populous country. Its population of 225.2 million¹ – more than half of whom live in rural areas – is growing at an annual rate of 2.4 per cent.² Men and boys account for 51 per cent of the population, women and girls for 48.7 per cent, and transgender persons for 0.004 per cent.³ The country has a population density of 265 people per square kilometre. Its labour force of 65.5 million⁴ is the ninth largest globally. For the last four decades, Pakistan has hosted the largest protracted refugee population in the world.

In terms of its governance structure, Pakistan consists of four provinces (Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan),⁵ two federally administered areas (Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir) and a federal capital (Islamabad Capital Territory).

Pakistan is consistently ranked as amongst the ten most vulnerable countries to the effects of global climate change, mostly of the impacts on the Indus system. Having already seen an average temperature increase of 1 degree Celsius over the last century⁶ and witnessing highly erratic and extreme weather events over the last decade, Pakistan's vulnerability to the climate challenge is expected to become more severe in the future both in absolute and globally comparative terms. Climate warming is also expected to increase heat stress and water demand across Pakistan.

Pakistan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Pakistan embraced the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2016 through a unanimous parliamentary resolution that adopted the SDGs as Pakistan’s own ‘national development goals. The SDGs are aligned with the country’s national development framework, Vision 2025. Pakistan has achieved progress on several SDG targets, most notably on ‘No Poverty’ (SDG 1) and ‘Climate Action’ (SDG 13).

While analysis suggests that Pakistan may achieve some SDG targets by 2030, overall progress on the SDGs is likely to be limited due to social, economic and environmental challenges, including the impact of the

¹ United Nations (2021) ‘UN Data: Pakistan.’ Available at <http://data.un.org/en/iso/pk.html>

² Finance Division, Ministry of Finance (2020). *Pakistan Economic Survey 2019–20*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapter_20/Executive_Summary.pdf

³ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, ‘Compendium on gender statistics of Pakistan 2019’, Available at https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/social_statistics/publications/Compendium_of_Gender_Statistics_2019.pdf

⁴ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2018). *Labour Force Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

⁵ In this document, Pakistan’s provinces are consistently referred to in this order based on their share of the country’s population, from the largest (Punjab) to the smallest (Balochistan).

⁶ Current Climate, Pakistan. (n.d.). Retrieved from Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Available at <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/pakistan/climate-data-historical>

recent climate change event (unprecedented floods) leading to health emergency and COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, there is a need to:

- strengthen Pakistan’s governance and institutional mechanisms as essential building blocks for effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda;
- improve the availability of disaggregated data for evidence-based policy-making, SDG monitoring and accountability;
- integrate innovative responses embedded in multisectoral partnerships between civil society (including community volunteers), academia, the private sector, trade unions and all levels of government; and
- build upon a common vision and shared goals, with people and the planet at their core.

All of these efforts will support the faster, more pragmatic advancement of the social and economic change needed to achieve the SDGs, while ensuring that policy choices leave no one behind.

Climate catastrophe - Floods 2022 and Pakistan’s socio-economic development

Pakistan has been enduring severe monsoon weather since June 2022, which saw area weighted rainfall 67 per cent above normal levels in that month alone. As of 27 August 2022, rainfall in the country is equivalent to 2.9 times the national 30-year average. This has caused widespread flooding and landslides, with severe repercussions for human lives, property and infrastructure. As of 26th September 2022, across Pakistan, 84 out of 160 districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the Government. With 33 million people affected by the flooding and around 2 million damaged houses, there are increased risks of waterborne diseases and disrupted access to health care and other basic social services. There has been largest housing loss in any disaster this century with over 2 million homes damaged or destroyed. The floods have increased the risk of health crisis in the affected areas living in open in temporary shelters.

The UN launched a “Flash Appeal” for US\$ 160 million for the life-saving relief efforts in the floods affected areas targeting 6.4 million most vulnerable people with support of UN Secretary General (UNSG) on 30 August 2022. The UNSG visited Pakistan (9th -11th September 2022) to show solidarity with the Government of Pakistan in the flood response and with the affected people. The UNSG has stressed the linkage of such disasters with the impacts of climate change and warned the international community about the existential threat to our planet in case climate change is not addressed in a timely and effective manner. On 4th October 2022 UN revised to Flash Appeal to \$860 million considering the vast and cascading impact of the disaster.

The World Bank, ADB, UN and EU – key development partners - are undertaking a Post-Disaster Damage and Needs Assessment which will further highlight the damages suffered by Pakistan and the resources required for socio-economic recovery, reconstruction of infrastructure and rehabilitation of the affected people. The floods have a substantial negative impact on Pakistan’s economy. Livelihoods have been severely impacted, with poverty expected to increase significantly. Prior to the floods, Pakistan’s economy was already facing difficult economic conditions and undergoing adjustment measures to regain macroeconomic stability in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. In line with the preliminary estimated

damages⁷, the agriculture sector is projected to contract for the first time in more than two decades. The damages from the agricultural sector will have spill over effects on the industry and services sectors. Textiles constitute around a quarter of total industry output and account for more than half of the country's goods exports and are highly dependent on local cotton production. Similarly, the local food processing and slaughtering industries will also be negatively impacted due to the sharp reduction in food harvests and livestock. Lower agricultural and industrial activity is likely to weigh in on wholesale and transportation services activity that makes up 50 percent of the services sector.

COVID-19 and Pakistan's socio-economic development

The global COVID-19 pandemic pushed back hard-won progress on Pakistan's socio-economic indicators. COVID-19 has influenced all dimensions of multidimensional poverty, intensifying its incidence and intensity, especially for the most vulnerable – especially the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, children, youth, non-nationals and the working poor.

Despite the pandemic's impact, Pakistan maintained a relatively positive economic and social development profile.⁸ It now requires a trajectory that moves the country from stability towards growth in the next five years. The UN in Pakistan, through the UNSDCF 2023–2027, focuses on Pakistan's priorities as the building blocks for accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda. These priorities include economic recovery, investing in people, strengthening peace, enhancing digital connectivity and turning the potential of the country's large young population into a demographic dividend. Priorities for the future also include progress on the rule of law, gender equality, human development and urban resilience.

1.2. Those at risk of being left behind

Leaving no one behind is the central pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving the SDGs for everyone, everywhere, and reaching the furthest behind first, are the ultimate objectives of the SDGs. The poor, the most vulnerable and those who are often hardest to reach are the goals' chief priority. Pakistan's commitment to leave no one behind is reflected in forward-looking initiatives that adopt a universal approach to social protection, particularly universal health coverage, using data analytics for social protection through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)/*Ehsaas* emergency cash transfers, and promoting IT-based social development solutions.

The UN Pakistan has identified the following groups as the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the country: women; adolescents; children; women exposed to gender-based violence; climate affected population (flood and drought); the working poor; food-insecure households headed by women; out-of-school children; transgender persons; persons with disabilities; the elderly; refugees, including Afghan

⁷ Preliminary estimates indicate that agriculture sector is the most affected by the floods accounting for around half of total direct damages. Infrastructure and non-residential structures constitute around 30 percent of damages, while residential housing constitutes around 20 percent of direct damages.

⁸ UNDP (2021). *Pakistan, Economic and Social Development Profile* (internal document).

refugees; stateless persons; migrants; internally displaced persons; people living in crisis-affected areas; residents of urban slums; women home-based and domestic workers; agricultural workers; and religious minorities.

To achieve the SDGs in Pakistan, it is vital to ensure that no one is left behind. Therefore, the **UNSDCF's focus on leaving no one behind** involves four priorities: (1) closing data gaps, (2) adopting integrated, gender-responsive, cross-sectoral and inclusive planning processes for *specific* people facing *specific* problems in *specific* places, particularly to ensure participation and ownership, (3) turning political commitments into development action, and (4) minimizing the development-humanitarian divide.

CHAPTER 2. UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

2.1. From the CCA to the cooperation framework's priorities

In 2021, the UN conducted a Common Country Analysis (CCA). This independent assessment of Pakistan's national context examined the socio-economic, demographic, political, cultural, climatic and environmental situation, the country's development position and its implications for sustainable development. The CCA's conclusions informed the UN's theory of change for 2023–2027. Its key conclusions are presented below.

Economic transformation

Challenges to economic growth in Pakistan include the need for immediate development in the areas of infrastructure, governance, regulation, institutional performance, human resources adequacy, research and development, policy implementation, expanding the tax net, and access to finance. The challenges that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large-scale industries face are linked to the need for product diversification, value addition, innovation and compliance with international standards.

The high cost of capital affects industrial competitiveness, while energy crises and high circular debt directly and indirectly impact all economic sectors. Growing land fragmentation and locust swarms are taking a toll on the agriculture sector. The fallout of the floods 2022 and COVID-19 pandemic poses an additional risk to growth, as it hampered consumer demand, exports, businesses and industries. Preliminary estimates by the World Bank suggest that as a direct consequence of the floods, the national poverty rate could potentially increase by 4.5 to 7.0 percentage points, pushing between 9.9 and 15.4 million people into poverty and intensifying the depth and severity of poverty for already poor households.

Pakistan is doing its full effort to manage the floods disaster however, it is beyond the capacity of Government to respond efficiently to such disaster of a massive scale. The disaster has brought in multi-dimensional losses and long-term challenges for sustainable development in Pakistan. National government has organised its support for affected population through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), PKR 70 billion (ca. US\$291 million) in immediate cash relief for the most vulnerable households in calamity-hit districts. However, Pakistan has managed the Covid-19 crisis reasonably well, drawing praise from the UN and the global community for its response to the pandemic.⁹

The UN considers that **ways forward** for economic transformation include skills development, particularly in manufacturing, underpinned by policies that empower people, especially women, to understand and claim their rights. The diversification of the manufacturing sector is another priority. Industrial policies need to increase the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions to respect, protect and fulfil people's

⁹ Junaidi, Ikram (2020). 'WHO praises Pakistan's handling of Covid-19 pandemic.' *Dawn*, 11 September 2020. Available at <https://www.dawn.com/news/1578971>; Iqbal, Anwar (2022). 'Pakistan dealt well with Covid: UN.' *Dawn*, 29 March 2022. Available at <https://www.dawn.com/news/1682326/pakistan-dealt-well-with-covid-un>

rights. A diversified approach is required to shift from low-tech to medium and high-tech industries. There is potential to build on government policies related to green growth, the blue economy and digital transformation. Supportive strategies also include developing a statistical system to measure and monitor the economy, including labour statistics.

The environment and climate change

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change affects all aspects of sustainable development. Vulnerability is inextricably linked to arid and semi-arid climatic conditions, rapid population growth, environmental degradation, increased water scarcity, severe temperature and rainfall variations in a country that relies heavily on monsoon rains and the glacier-fed Indus River Basin. The mega floods of 2010 – considered a direct result of climate change – decimated infrastructure, access to food and basic services, leaving 90 million people food-insecure.¹⁰ Droughts compromised the nutrition and food security of an estimated 2 million people in 2013–2015,¹¹ and 5 million people in 2018–2019.¹² Rates of deforestation have reached 27,000 hectares per year, leaving natural forests understocked.¹³ Climate change is devastating water supplies, including water flows across national boundaries.¹⁴

The country needs an enabling environment that can mitigate the catastrophic effects of climate change on water, land, ecosystems, biodiversity and other natural resources, as well as on vulnerable populations, especially women. Global warming and the related rise in sea levels threaten the livelihoods of people living in coastal cities, as well as the sustainability of coastal ecosystems. Over the last two centuries, the Indus Delta has shrunk by an alarming 92 per cent.¹⁵ It is estimated that, by 2050, a further 2.73 per cent of the Delta will be lost to sea water intrusion, affecting 1 per cent of the population.¹⁶

In terms of **ways forward**, the UN recognizes that Pakistan will benefit from coordinated investments and consistent policies to mitigate climate risks and environmental degradation, grounded in the evidence-based diagnosis and understanding of sectoral connections. It will also benefit from exploring the link between energy, irrigation water and agriculture as a priority for environmental sustainability, paired with improved data collection and policy action. This is particularly relevant for the Indus Basin whose irrigation systems depend on river inflows and rainfall.

¹⁰ International Center for Tropical Agriculture and World Bank (2017). *Climate Smart agriculture in Pakistan. CSA Country Profiles for Asia Series*. Washington, DC: CIAT and World Bank. Available at <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/CSA-in-Pakistan.pdf>

¹¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2015). *Pakistan Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue 32, December 2014–January 2015*. Islamabad: UNOCHA.

¹² National Development Management Authority and United Nations (2019). *Drought Response Plan (Jan–Dec 2019)*. Islamabad: NDMA and UN Pakistan. Available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/drought_rp_draft_20190305.pdf

¹³ Jabeen, Rahat (2019). 'The green emergency: deforestation in Pakistan.' *World Bank Blogs*, 22 May 2019. Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/green-emergency-deforestation-pakistan>

¹⁴ Shah Meer Baloch, and Shah Meer (2018). 'Water Crisis, why Pakistan is running dry.' *Deutsche Welle*, 7 June 2018. Available at <https://www.dw.com/en/water-crisis-why-is-pakistan-running-dry/a-44110280>

¹⁵ Sijal, Altaf Ali (2018). *Climate change: Assessing impact of seawater intrusion on soil, water and environment in the Indus Delta using GIS & remote sensing tools*. US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W). Jamshoro: MUET. Available at <https://water.mueta.edu.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Report-on-Indus-Delta.pdf>

¹⁶ Asian Development Bank. (2017). *Climate Change Profile of Pakistan*. Manila: ADB. Available at <https://www.adb.org/publications/climate-change-profile-pakistan>

Adapting to climate change must involve mitigating climate risks, implementing nature-based solutions, leveraging renewable technologies, improving water quality and climate-responsive planning. Strengthening the resilience of local production systems is vital. It is equally essential to analyse the short and long-term impacts of climate change on women and men, as well as introducing tactical, systemic and transformational mitigation practices. Above all, Pakistan needs to preserve and restore ecosystems, in the Indus Basin and beyond.

Governance, legal frameworks and institutional capacity

The UN recognizes that disasters one after another included recent floods in 2022 and COVID-19 has destabilized government plans. Institutional development needs to be at the heart of each province’s mandate. In terms of **ways forward**, achieving Pakistan’s goals by 2030 requires strategies, systems and processes to monitor and improve socio-economic indicators, pursuing more inclusive avenues for civic participation, and more effective planning and coordination between national and provincial institutions.

Gender equality and women’s empowerment

The government is putting a lot of efforts towards gender equality and women empowerment and has passed number of pro-women legislations at the federal and provincial levels. For instance, recently enacted frameworks – including National Gender Policy Framework 2022, the Sindh Home-based Workers Act of 2018, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home-Based Workers Protection and Welfare Act of 2021, and the Punjab Domestic Workers Act of 2019 – will guide efforts to meet the needs of women working in the informal economy. There are also opportunities to work with the National Gender Data Portal established by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the Punjab Gender Management Information System to strengthen digitization and the management of gender-related data.

In terms of **ways forward**, the UN recognizes and seeks to build on government efforts to accelerate progress on SDG 5 (Gender Equality), including the collection and reporting of gender-disaggregated data, paired with quotas for women’s employment in the public sector. Working as one, the UN will support provincial governments to finalize policies and laws on home-based workers, domestic workers, violence and harassment, and maternity protection. The UN will partner with governments and other stakeholders to implement and monitor gender equality and women’s empowerment policies endorsed in all four provinces.

2.2. Theory of change for the cooperation framework’s priorities

The sustainable development pathway for Pakistan – as analysed and captured in the UNSDCF’s theory of change (see below), as well as in Pakistan’s National Sustainable Development Strategy and other related plans – builds on common priorities and commitments to building more effective public institutions, and strengthening people’s capabilities and potential. This is underpinned by a foundation of environmentally sustainable production and consumption, most notably in the Indus River Basin, as well as a commitment

to rights-based approaches to support and empower all people, particularly women and the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in the country.

The outcomes of the UNSDCF are designed to support Pakistan to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda. They aim to do so by building capacities at the national and sub-national levels, while responding to differences across Pakistan’s provinces and regions, with a focus on both immediate and longer-term development goals.

At the end of the programming cycle in 2027, Pakistan should experience positive economic, social and environmental change, which will be demonstrated through verifiable results. The UN will introduce innovative financing mechanisms and ways of working, while forming stronger partnerships to scale up and position the UN’s contribution to sustainable development within Pakistan’s national plans and programmes for broader impact and sustainability.

It is expected that, at the end of the programme cycle, the impacts identified within the theory of change will be achieved. These include the UN’s specific contributions articulated at the output level, as well as the overarching commitment to leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first.

CHANGE PATHWAY OVERVIEW – THEORY OF CHANGE

By 2027, people in Pakistan, particularly those most disadvantaged, will be educated and healthy, with their well-being promoted and protected, in a country where women and girls are safe and able to exercise their rights, with all people provided a climate-resilient future, economic opportunities and jobs, while able to trust in and benefit from improved governance.

SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12	SDG 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17	SDG 2, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15	SDG 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17	SDG 5, 10, 16, 17
Impact: People are healthy, educated, have access to safe water and are protected from shocks.	Impact: Women and girls are safe, exercise their rights and benefit from economic opportunities.	Impact: People have a climate-resilient future ensured by the ecological restoration of the Indus River Basin.	Impact: People, especially those most marginalized and at risk of being left behind, benefit from sustained, inclusive and green economic growth.	Impact: People trust in and benefit from open, agile, accountable, future-ready and effective governance and justice systems, which are able to deliver solutions for achieving the SDGs.
Outcome 1 Basic Social Services	Outcome 2 Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	Outcome 3 Climate Change and the Environment	Outcome 4 Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work	Outcome 5 Governance
Outputs 1.1. Quality health systems 1.2. Nutrition systems’ strengthening 1.3. Improved WASH system 1.4. Education system delivery 1.5. Social protection system strengthening	Outputs 2.1. Normative frameworks and data 2.2. Inclusive gender financing 2.3. Protection from harmful practices 2.4. Women’s awareness, voice, agency and leadership 2.5. Women’s economic empowerment	Outputs 3.1. Enabling environment supports climate action 3.2. Protection of the source of the Indus Basin 3.3. Equitable use of the water and resources of the Indus Basin 3.4. Protection of the marine ecosystem of the Indus Basin	Outputs 1.1. Sustainable green economic growth and decent work 1.2. Decent employment opportunities 1.3. Enabling sustainable business environment and financing for development 1.4. Enhanced productivity and employability 1.5. Women’s economic empowerment in the world of work 1.6. Decent work and worker’s rights	Outputs 5.1. Legal policy frameworks support inclusive systems and institutions for equitable service delivery 5.2. Accessible, efficient and affordable justice systems 5.3. Awareness and attainment of rights

Guiding principles: Leave no one behind; human rights-based approaches; gender equality and women’s empowerment; resilience, accountability; sustainability

Cross-cutting issues: The environment; climate change adaptation and mitigation; Human rights-based approaches; gender equality;; humanitarian and pandemic response; innovation; digital transformation; good governance; youth development; inclusion; data; the promotion of volunteerism

Leave no one behind target groups: women; children; youth; minorities; persons with disabilities; women with disabilities, minority women; transgender community; refugees; internally displaced persons (IDPs); asylum seekers; stateless and marginalized communities in border areas; senior citizens; urban slum dwellers; rural isolated communities; farmers; farm labourers; landless people; migrants; religious minorities; people living in the Indus Basin; youth (15–24 years old) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET); women exposed to gender-based violence; drug users and drug dependent persons; people living in crisis-affected areas; women working in the informal economy; home-based women workers and domestic workers; food-insecure households headed by women; refugee women

2.3. UNSDCF outcomes and partnerships

The sustainable development pathway captured in the UNSDCF’s theory of change centres has five outcomes:

1. Basic Social Services;
2. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment;
3. Climate Change and the Environment;
4. Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work; and
5. Governance.

These outcomes are designed to support Pakistan’s trajectory towards 2030 by building capacities at the national and sub-national levels, while responding to key development priorities and gaps. By the end of the programming cycle in 2027, it is anticipated that Pakistan will be better protected against external and climatic shocks as a result of improved systems and social service delivery in terms of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and social protection. Women and girls will be better able to benefit from economic opportunities. All people will benefit from a climate-resilient future, with the Indus River Basin protected and its ecological restoration underway. Everyone in Pakistan will be able to benefit from economic opportunities and jobs, and able to trust in and benefit from governance and justice systems.

In addition, the UN will work to increase digitization, strengthen the generation and use of disaggregated data, foster integrated cross-sectoral approaches, and focus on capacity development for the long-term sustainability of skills development, institution building, service delivery and the promotion of volunteerism.

When the programming cycle is complete, it is expected that the UN will be able to support Pakistan towards the 2030 Agenda’s end date, building on the results of this UNSDCF.

OUTCOME 1. BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Impact: People are healthy, educated, have access to safe water and are protected from shocks.				
Outcome: By 2027, the people in Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and deprived, have increased equitable access to and utilization of quality, sustainable basic social services (BSS).				
Outputs:				
1.1. The health system in Pakistan becomes inclusive, resilient, equitable, gender-responsive and accountable for quality health services	1.2. Nutrition-related national systems (health, food, WASH and education) in Pakistan are strengthened to protect and promote	1.3. WASH systems in Pakistan have improved capacities to deliver safely managed, equitable and climate-resilient water, sanitation and	1.4. The education system in Pakistan has improved capacities to deliver more inclusive, equitable, gender-responsive, quality education and skills	1.5. Social protection systems and measures are strengthened to provide well-coordinated responses, in an

for all people, especially the most vulnerable groups, within the framework of universal health coverage, and in line with international health regulations and standards.	diets, services and practices for optimal growth and development across the life course for all children adolescents and women, focusing on the four key stages of life: early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence and motherhood, with special attention to the most vulnerable and deprived.	hygiene services, including liquid and solid waste management services, for all the people in Pakistan, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, including refugees.	development, including lifelong learning opportunities and transferable skills, to children and youth, particularly girls and those residing in disadvantaged areas, including during humanitarian and emergency situations.	inclusive and shock-responsive manner, to the most deprived and vulnerable populations.
--	---	---	--	---

Context

Health:

In 2018, Pakistan’s neonatal mortality rate (NMR) was 42 deaths for every 1,000 live births, the infant mortality rate (IMR) was 62 per 1,000 live births, and the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) was 74 per 1,000 live births.¹⁷ It is estimated that one in every 14 Pakistani child does not survive to his or her fifth birthday.¹⁸ Inequity across geographic (urban/rural) locations and wealth quintiles, coupled with the poor quality of care in the perinatal period, contribute to high rates of stillbirth, and neonatal and maternal deaths. Strategic plans to improve newborn and infant health – including Newborn Strategies and Action Plans in all provinces, Standards of Quality of Care, the Kangaroo Mother Care Protocol and the Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) Strategy – seek to contribute to better outcomes.

Immunization rates in Pakistan have improved. By 2018, two-thirds of children between 12 and 23 months old received all eight of their basic vaccinations. This still leaves one-third of children in this age group either under-immunized or not immunized.¹⁹ Therefore, supply and demand side issues urgently need to be addressed. Similarly, despite progress on combatting polio, Pakistan remains one of only two countries in the world with new reported cases of wild poliovirus.²⁰ The COVID-19 pandemic claimed at least 30,379²¹ lives in Pakistan as of June 2022, and put immense pressure on the health system.²² In recent floods in

¹⁷ National Institute of Population Studies (2019). *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr354-dhs-final-reports.cfm>

¹⁸ Yousaf, Afsheen, and Abbas Khan (2020). ‘New programme helps women and newborns survive and thrive in Pakistan’s North Eastern province.’ *UNICEF*, 15 December 2020. Available at <https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/stories/new-programme-helps-women-and-newborns-survive-and-thrive-pakistans-north-eastern-province#:~:text=Across%20Pakistan%2C%20many%20communities%20continue,survive%20past%20their%20fifth%20birthday>; UNICEF (2021) ‘UNICEF data: Pakistan.’ Available at <https://data.unicef.org/country/pak>

¹⁹ National Institute of Population Studies (2019). *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

²⁰ WHO (2021) *Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026: Delivering on a promise*. Geneva: WHO. Available at <https://polioeradication.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/9789240031937-eng.pdf>

²¹ The Government of Pakistan had recorded 30,379 deaths caused by COVID-19 as of 4 June 2022. See: <https://covid.gov.pk>

²² Rasheed, Rizwan, Asfra Rizwan, Hajra Javed, Faiza Sharif, and Asghar Zaidi (2021). ‘Socio-economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan – An integrated analysis. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research International*, 28(16): 19926–19943. Available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33410007>

2022, widespread standing floodwaters, damaged water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and large-scale displacements are aggravating ongoing disease outbreaks in Pakistan and heightening the risk of new outbreaks of water- and vector-borne diseases and respiratory illnesses.

Registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan can access health services on par with nationals. Despite health care-related challenges, Pakistan is on track to align its health care system with the goal of universal health coverage by 2030. The Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) is being implemented in a phased manner. Implementation has begun in 12 priority districts and will be expanded to 28 more districts in the next five years. The National Health Support Programme (NHSP) aims to enhance the implementation of the EPHS.

Nutrition: Pakistan ranked 88th of 107 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2020, reflecting the challenges it faces to achieving SDG 2's food security and nutrition targets by 2030.²³ The National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 2018 revealed a triple burden of malnutrition among children, adolescents and mothers in Pakistan. It found that 40.2 per cent of children were stunted, 17.7 per cent suffered from wasting, and 14.4 per cent of women of reproductive age are undernourished.²⁴

Overweight/obesity trends are increasing, with the prevalence of overweight children under-five years old nearly doubling from 5 per cent in 2011 to 9.5 per cent in 2018.²⁵ Obesity has become a public health concern in Pakistan, especially among adolescents, affecting 7.7 per cent of adolescent boys and 5.5 per cent of adolescent girls in 2018. In the same year, more adolescent girls (11.4 per cent) than boys (10.2 per cent) were overweight, irrespective of their urban/rural location.²⁶

As in other countries in South Asia, poor diets underlie all forms of malnutrition in Pakistan. A lack of dietary diversity is a key contributor to poor nutrition across life stages. In 2018, just 14.2 per cent of children between six and 23 months old received meals with minimum dietary diversity, 18.2 per cent received the minimum number of meals a day, and 3.6 per cent received complementary foods that meet the requirements of a minimum acceptable diet.²⁷ Progress on nutrition beyond the health sector has been varied, and interventions on universal salt iodization and large-scale food fortification continue to require strong technical and strategic partnerships. Most provinces are making slow but steady progress on the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, although enforcement challenges remain due to the powerful influence of the baby milk formula industry.²⁸

²³ von Grebmer, Klaus, et al. (2020). *Global Hunger Index*. Dublin/Bonn: Deutsche Welt Hunger Life and Concern Worldwide. Available at <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/pdf/en/2020.pdf>

²⁴ Government of Pakistan and UNICEF (2018). *National Nutrition Survey 2018*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at <https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/media/1951/file/Final%20Key%20Findings%20Report%202019.pdf>

²⁵ Government of Pakistan and UNICEF (2018). *National Nutrition Survey 2018*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at <https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/media/1951/file/Final%20Key%20Findings%20Report%202019.pdf>

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Government of Pakistan and UNICEF (2018). *National Nutrition Survey 2018*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at <https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/media/1951/file/Final%20Key%20Findings%20Report%202019.pdf>

²⁸ Ibid.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): Pakistan still lacks universal equitable access to safe drinking water, especially in rural areas, where improper water treatment practices are rife. Nevertheless, progress is evident on WASH indicators, including the greater availability and accessibility of drinking water, as well as the growing use of improved sanitation facilities. According to the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation’s (JMP) 2020/2021 report, the vast majority (90 per cent) of households have access to basic drinking water services. However, safely managed water supply services accessible in premises and free from contamination is only 36 per cent.²⁹

Education: Article 25-A of Pakistan’s Constitution commits the state to “provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen.” The country’s primary gross enrolment rate was 84 per cent in 2019–2020.³⁰ At the national level, enrolment in pre-primary education rose by 6.1 per cent (13.5 million) in 2019–20 compared to 2018–19 (12.7 million).³¹ The number of out-of-school children (OOSC) between 5 and 16 years old decreased to 21.8 million in 2019–2020,³² down from 26 million in 2012–2013.

COVID-related school closures disrupted learning for more than 40 million students from the pre-primary to the secondary levels.³³ It is estimated that approximately 1 million additional children may have dropped out due to the pandemic, and that school closures have led to a loss of between 0.3 and 0.8 years of learning-adjusted schooling for the average student.³⁴ Government spending on education as a percentage of total government expenditure was 11.6 per cent in 2019, against a global benchmark of 20 per cent.³⁵ In 2021, the Government of Pakistan signed a global pledge on school meals to ensure that every child has access to healthy and nutritious food by 2030.

Skills training and employment opportunities for young people: About 3 million young women and men in Pakistan enter the job market each year. However, the technical and vocational education sector can accommodate fewer than 0.5 million trainees annually in its 3,500 institutes nationwide. The unemployment rate for young people between 15–24 years old was 11.56 per cent in 2017–2018, almost twice the national unemployment rate of 5.8 per cent.³⁶ To address such challenges, the Government launched a national youth development programme, *Kamyab Jawan*, that seeks to provide quality education, gainful employment and meaningful engagement opportunities through integrated, sustainable pro-youth legislation, programmes and institutions. It involves six initiatives: the Youth Entrepreneurship

²⁹ WHO and UNICEF (2021). *Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2020: Five years into the SDGs*. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene. Geneva and New York: WHO and UNICEF. Available at <https://www.unwater.org/publications/who-unicef-joint-monitoring-program-for-water-supply-sanitation-and-hygiene-jmp-progress-on-household-drinking-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-2000-2020>

³⁰ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2020). *PSLM 2019–20: Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey District Level*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/pslm/publications/pslm_district_2019-20/PSLM_2019_20_District_Level.pdf

³¹ According to the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training’s Academy of Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM).

³² Using the PSLM 2019–2020 percentage of 30 per cent, extrapolated for 2021 based on the estimated population aged 5 to 16 from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics’ population projections from the 2017 Census.

³³ According to the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in 2020.

³⁴ Geven, Koen, and Amer Hasan (2020). *Learning Losses in Pakistan due to COVID-19 School Closures: A Technical Note on Simulation Results*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34659>

³⁵ UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021). ‘Pakistan.’ Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/country/PK>

³⁶ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2018). *Labour Force Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Quoted in: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance (2020). *Pakistan Economic Survey 2019–20*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

Scheme (YES), the Skills for All Programme, the Green Youth Movement, the National Internship Programme, Startup Pakistan and the Youth Engagement Platform.

Social protection: Pakistan has a broad range of social protection programmes covering vulnerable people, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, women, and widows, among others. However, social protection is not available to non-nationals, such as refugees or stateless persons. Under the *Ehsaas* programme, 134 social protection programmes exist under a single umbrella. However, challenges remain, such as fragmentation and a lack of integrated, effective programme management. Launched in 2019, *Ehsaas* builds on the framework developed under the Benazir Income Support Programme, one of South Asia’s largest cash transfer programmes and Pakistan’s flagship social protection initiative. The BISP covers 5.7 million ultra-poor families, providing women with unconditional cash transfers.³⁷ Other initiatives are also being operationalized, such as *Panahgah* (shelter homes) and expanded health insurance coverage through *Sehat Insaf* Cards and *Khidmat* Cards for vulnerable people.

To achieve SDG 1 (No Poverty), Pakistan requires significant policy support and higher, sustained and more inclusive growth. There is a clear need for balanced development across provinces and regions, as well as greater access to credit to support livelihoods. Achieving Pakistan’s target of social protection for at least 70 per cent of the population is imperative. The routine measurement of child poverty should be integrated into existing national and provincial surveys to capture specific evidence needed to address child poverty in national and provincial development strategies.

Government efforts to redistribute wealth are also important. Major interventions in Pakistan include increasing expenditure on the provision of social services and expanding social protection coverage through the Benazir Income Support Programme/*Ehsaas*, the *Kamyab Jawan* Programme, the health-focused *Sehat Sahulat* Programme and the *Waseela-e-Taleem* Programme that supports primary education. The National Socio-economic Registry (NSER) is also being updated to target the poorest people in the country more effectively, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Theory of change and UN development support

Based on the context overview above, there is a need to focus on **five key areas** that would improve the delivery of equitable, quality, gender-responsive and sustainable basic social services in Pakistan:

- (i) **Health systems** need to provide quality health services for all people, especially the most vulnerable within the framework of universal health coverage, to be in line with international health standards and regulations.
- (ii) **Nutrition systems** need to protect and promote diets, services and practices for optimal growth and development across the life course, paying special attention to the most vulnerable and deprived.

³⁷ This figure is based on the data provided on the BISP’s website: <https://bisp.gov.pk/Detail/OTkxODUxMGEtOWZkZS00YjI3LWFjNDktMWU3MzA4NmMwMWM4>

- (iii) **WASH systems** must deliver safely-managed, climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services, especially to the marginalized, including refugees.
- (iv) **Education services** need to deliver quality education and skills development (including lifelong learning) to children, youth and those residing in disadvantaged areas, including during humanitarian and emergency situations.
- (v) **Social protection systems** must provide inclusive and shock-responsive responses to the most deprived and vulnerable populations.

(i) The UN will support **quality health service provision** through:

- Health systems strengthening across all health system pillars of governance (health financing, the health workforce, medicines and supplies, health information, and service delivery).
- Prioritizing essential immunization, particularly full immunization targets for children and other target populations, as well as the roll out of polio eradication efforts.
- Assisting the strengthening of the national HIV/AIDS response.
- Prioritizing people-centred approaches to vector-borne diseases (VBDs) and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), integrated patient-centred tuberculosis care and prevention, quality essential sexual and reproductive health services, and maternal new born and adolescent health (MNCAH) through partnerships at the federal and provincial level.
- Facilitating improved access to, and the utilization of, services for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
- Contributing to the development of core capacities for the early detection of, and response to, health emergencies.

(ii) The UN will support **nutrition systems' strengthening** through:

- Prioritizing strengthened quality nutrition services, including support for policy and legal frameworks.
- Partnering with governmental and non-government entities to strengthen capacity and assist efforts to take quality nutrition services to scale.
- Contributing to the empowerment of civil society and communities to raise demand for nutrition services.
- Building emergency preparedness and response capacities by enhancing skill levels in the preparation and response to humanitarian situations.

(iii) The UN will support **improved WASH system** through:

- Policy, governance, coordination and legal frameworks' strengthening, including increased investment/financing to promote equitable, sustainable and gender-responsive quality services, while prioritizing to the most deprived and vulnerable population groups.

- Strengthening implementation capacity and partnerships at all levels by assisting low-cost, safe, climate-resilient and sustainable WASH service delivery.
- Contributing to empowering civil society and facilitating awareness raising.
- Assisting the enhancement of emergency preparedness and response capacity to prepare service providers to respond adequately to humanitarian situations, natural disasters and the potential influx of refugees.

(iv) The UN will support **education system delivery** by:

- Assisting the strengthening of policy and legal frameworks to promote equitable, sustainable, and quality education and skills training, including improving quality education assessments.
- Improving the capacities of governmental and non-government institutions at the federal and provincial levels to deliver equitable, sustainable and quality education and skills training at scale.
- Contributing to the empowerment of civil society and communities to enable them to demand and utilize quality, equitable and sustainable education and skills training, including education for children in humanitarian and other emergencies.

(v) The UN will support **strengthened social protection systems and measures** by:

- Increasing the capacities of federal and provincial governments to develop and implement evidence-based social protection policy, governance and legal frameworks, as well as to further strengthen existing schemes such as the Benazir Income Support Programme/*Ehsaas* and Pakistan *Bait-ul-Mal* through the application of innovative solutions.
- Focusing on integrating strategies for socio-economic development into UN support for the labour market, poverty reduction, health, nutrition, education, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change.
- Targeting the most vulnerable and marginalized people in food-insecure areas to ensure the provision of food assistance.
- Supporting subsistence level farmers to restore and enhance food production and consumption, as well as livestock protection.
- Facilitating community-based volunteerism and livelihood opportunities to enhance local community engagement and sustainable social protection systems.

To make sure that no one is left behind, the highest priority **target groups** for this outcome include women; children; youth (15–24 years old) including those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET); minorities; persons with disabilities; asylum seekers; stateless and marginalized communities in border areas; urban slum dwellers; rural isolated communities; drug users and drug dependent persons; and refugee women.

The **risks** that could potentially impact this outcome include: changes in policy priorities or changes of government; new emerging high-threat pathogens or emergencies; a lack of, or inadequate, funding; shifts

in donor priorities; a lack of ownership by provincial leaders, managers and duty bearers on health sector reform or universal health coverage; the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; community resistance to immunization; a lack of political support for disease elimination; and re-emerging or emerging infectious diseases.

This outcome is based on several **assumptions**. It assumes that an enabling environment for basic social services exists, and includes strong political commitment to strengthening the health system and the prioritization of universal health care. It relies on ownership and buy-in towards strengthening and reforming the health sector, COVID-19 being brought under control, and the Government being sensitized to the benefits of investing in social services..

Partnerships for this outcome include engagement with: the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination; provincial and district Departments of Health; academia; civil society organizations; the private sector; federal and provincial Ministries/Departments of Education; the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PASS) Division/*Ehsaas*; provincial social protection authorities; national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs); Global Fund sub-recipient organizations; environmental protection agencies; development partners and funds; the World Bank; COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX); the Global Financing Fund (GFF), GAVI – the Vaccine Alliance; the Global Fund (GF); the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF); the Asian Development Bank (ADB); the European Union (EU); Germany; the Green Climate Fund (GCF); the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); the Republic of Korea; KSR International; the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom; and the United States of America.

OUTCOME 2. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

Impact: Women and girls are safe, exercise their rights and benefit from economic opportunities.				
Outcome: By 2027, women, girls and transgender persons in Pakistan, especially those at greatest risk of being left behind, benefit from an enabling environment where they are empowered and reach their fullest potential; and their human, social, economic, cultural and political rights are fully protected and upheld.				
Outputs:				
2.1. National and international commitments to gender equality and rights-based approaches that inform policy-making are realized	2.2. The empowerment of women, girls and transgender persons is promoted through gender-responsive policies,	2.3. Vulnerable and marginalized women, girls and transgender persons actively contribute to resilient and empowered	2.4. Those in positions of power take action to support vulnerable and marginalized women, girls and transgender persons to be aware of and	2.5. Women and girls, especially those most vulnerable and marginalized, benefit from a rights-based, gender-responsive

through support to government institutions for monitoring the implementation of commitments, the production, analysis and use of sex/gender-disaggregated statistics, SDG data, and knowledge advocacy and accountability.	programmes, strategies and instruments, through the provision of public and private financing, and institutional development and strengthening.	communities, and are able to operate in safe spaces and harassment-free environments, protected from gender-based violence, violence against women and other harmful practices, and have equitable access to services and information.	exercise their rights, so as to actively and meaningfully participate in communities, receive support, and rise to leadership positions in both the public and private sectors.	enabling environment that ensures their active participation in, and ability to benefit from, the economy.
--	---	--	---	--

Context

Pakistan ranks 136th of 162 countries on the Gender Inequality Index 2020³⁸ and 153rd of 156 countries on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2021,³⁹ as noted above. Gender equality-related advancements include improvements in the literacy rate among women in Pakistan – which rose from 12.2 per cent in 1951 to 51.8 per cent in 2018.⁴⁰ There is also a less pronounced gender gap in higher education, as 19 per cent of men had a higher education degree in 2017–2018, compared to 13 per cent of women.⁴¹ The average age of marriage rose for Pakistani women from 16 years old in 1961 to 26.1 years old in 2010. The fertility rate in Pakistan declined from 6.6 children in 1960 to 3.6 children in 2018.⁴² Women taking civil service exams rose from 10 per cent in 1984 to 40 per cent in 2017.⁴³

Women's labour force participation in Pakistan doubled from 13.3 per cent in 1992 to 22.5 per cent in 2018⁴⁴, but it remains among the lowest female labour force participation rates in South Asia and the world.⁴⁵ Most women workers are concentrated in the informal economy. Women's key role in agriculture is undervalued and, often, either unpaid or underpaid. Supportive services and legal frameworks to protect women in the workplace are lacking.

³⁸ UNDP (2020). 'Statistical Annex, Table 5', *Gender Inequality Index 2020*. New York: UNDP. Available at <https://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii>

³⁹ World Economic Forum (2021). *Global Gender Gap Report 2021*. Cologne/Geneva: WEF. Available at <https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2021>

⁴⁰ Literacy rates among the population aged 10 and above as of 2017–2018. Based on data from: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2018). *Labour Force Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

⁴¹ National Institute of Population Studies (2019). *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

⁴² Population Reference Bureau (2020). *2020 World Population Data Sheet*. Washington, DC: PRB. Available at <https://interactives.prb.org/2020-wpds/download>

⁴³ Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (2022). *National Gender Policy Framework, March 2022*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at <https://www.pc.gov.pk/web/gender>

⁴⁴ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2018). 'Table 6', *Labour Force Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/Labour%20Force/publications/lfs2017_18/TABLE-6_perc_R.pdf

⁴⁵ World Bank Group (2019). *Pakistan@100: From Poverty to Equity Policy Note*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/868741552632296526/pdf/135319-WP-P163618-14-3-2019-20-44-35-PakPNFromPovertytoEquityFinal.pdf>

Theory of change and UN development support

The overview above highlights the need to focus on **five key areas** that affect women’s and girls’ abilities to exercise their rights and decision-making power, in order to live lives free from discrimination, violence and harmful practices:

- (i) Capacities to **operationalize policies, laws and programmes** which uphold international human rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment commitments, as well as the enhancement of related accountability mechanisms and strengthening of relevant institutions.
- (ii) Inclusive and **gender-responsive planning, budgeting, and institutional mechanisms and tools**, including innovative SDG financing, need to be promoted and facilitated within the public and private sectors.
- (iii) Federal, provincial and local capacities need to be enhanced to support the delivery of quality, inclusive and gender-responsive health, nutritional, **GBV prevention and response**, and humanitarian services, in line with international standards, as well as combat discriminatory and harmful practices.
- (iv) The **leadership, agency and equitable representation** of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups needs to be promoted, as do transparent and participatory governance and decision-making processes in public and private sector institutions.
- (v) Women and girls, especially those most vulnerable and marginalized, must benefit from a **rights-based, gender-responsive enabling environment** that ensures their active participation in, and their ability to benefit from, the economy.

(i) The UN will address needs related to **normative frameworks and data** by:

- Facilitating the development of national and regional policy on gender equality aligned with the SDGs, while supporting stakeholders to report on, monitor and put into action key treaties and international commitments.⁴⁶
- Contributing to strengthening institutions and advocating with governments to enhance pro-women and gender-related legislative frameworks with effective enforcement and accountability mechanisms.
- Assisting the Government and public and private sector entities to develop national and provincial gender and human rights institutions and frameworks that are aligned with the SDGs.
- Supporting the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in SDG data production, analysis and utilization, including sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics at all levels (federal, provincial,

⁴⁶ Pakistan’s Voluntary National Reviews, SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDGs 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Universal Periodic Reviews and the Beijing Platform for Action.

local) in terms of civil registration and vital statistics, as well as in the Health Information Management System.

- Promoting governance and accountability frameworks in the public and private sectors to enhance women’s participation in the labour force.
- Strengthening inclusive human resources, financial capacity and coordination within and between oversight institutions – the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), provincial Commissions on the Status of Women (CSW), the ombudsperson (OMB) and the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) – and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations.
- Supporting linkages between oversight institutions such as the NCHR, NCSW, the CSO consortium and watchdog entities at the local level.
- Improving food security and nutrition-sensitive analysis with a focus on gender equality outcomes.

(ii) The UN will support **inclusive gender-financing** by:

- Assisting the identification of priority areas with low financial allocations to support the most marginalized and excluded people in the country.
- Introducing a new evidence-based policy action framework to bridge gender gaps and translate existing policies into action.
- Supporting the establishment of gender-responsive programming, finance, planning systems and budgetary frameworks at the federal and provincial levels to track gender equality outcomes, as well as fostering regional collaboration for knowledge exchange on gender-responsive national budgets.
- Engaging the private sector and promoting gender-responsive procurement in the sector, while fostering regional collaboration for knowledge exchange on gender-related national budget formulation and procurement.
- Assisting the introduction and use of innovative gender-responsive financial tools, while promoting gender equal access to finances and resources, including microfinance products, plans and frameworks.
- Facilitating women’s, girls and transgender persons’ access to technological solutions and creative industries.
- Supporting the application of a gender lens in all public and private sector climate financing and SDG investment solutions.

(iii) The UN will support **protection against harmful practices and gender-based violence** by:

- Assisting reforms aligned with international standards and commitments.
- Supporting the full implementation of pro-women laws, including laws on sexual violence, sexual harassment, workplace harassment, domestic violence, early marriage, rape, inheritance and property rights, and family laws.

- Contributing to building the capacities and accessibility of the justice sector, as well as of gender-responsive justice service providers, to bridge the gap between laws and their effective implementation.
- Facilitating stronger coordination between justice sector institutions to enhance service provision, including in emergencies.
- Strengthening the capacities of service providers and academic institutes for the provision of multi-sectoral essential services for survivors of gender-based violence (including helplines, shelters, health care, social services, rehabilitation, legal services, and the integration of mental health and psychosocial support), including in humanitarian crises.
- Increasing evidence-based advocacy that addresses harmful social norms, practices and behaviours in workplaces, public spaces and transportation, including the engagement of men and boys, and supporting the implementation of social and behaviour change strategies, including engagement with the formal education sector.
- Supporting women’s access to safe public spaces and transport systems to increase their mobility.
- Helping to mainstream the concerns of people with disabilities into social development programmes, and contributing to strengthening service delivery mechanisms and institutionalizing the prevention of and response to gender-based violence.
- Promoting awareness of gender equality-related concerns, including breastfeeding, family-friendly workplace policies, and better adolescent nutrition and dietary practices.

(iv) The UN will support **women’s awareness, voice, agency and leadership** by:

- Raising awareness of pro-women and gender equality-related legislation, policies and services.
- Contributing to strengthening women’s machineries and parliamentary caucuses, as well as supporting women-led organizations, women volunteers and women’s leadership, especially in economic and financial sectors.
- Assisting the advancement of women’s political participation at all levels, as well as efforts to improve gender inclusion and gender parity in public and private entities.
- Contributing to awareness raising and the capacity building of youth who use the arts and culture as a means of changing social attitudes, and advancing social cohesion by engaging women and girls, and increasing their roles for peace and security.
- Facilitating access to civil registration for women in all their diversity, with a focus on hard-to-reach areas.
- Supporting the participation of transgender-led organizations in policy dialogue, legal dialogue and policy-making, while promoting resilience and equality among communities.
- Contributing to improved care practices for children throughout the life course, including nutrition for girls and boys, shifting prevalent beliefs and expectations around harsh or violent parenting practices, and working towards gender equal caregiving roles.

- Advocating for the inclusion of gender equality and women’s empowerment priorities in the development and humanitarian nexus.
- Assisting efforts to build new and strengthen existing networks with civil society organizations and volunteer organizations that work to advance gender equality.

(v) The UN will support **women’s economic empowerment** by:

- Enhancing awareness of unpaid care work, especially in rural communities, and advocating for the more equitable distribution of unpaid care work and public child care facilities.
- Assisting women-owned businesses’ transition from the informal to the formal economy, especially of micro-enterprises and cottage industries that currently operate as unregistered informal entities.
- Supporting women in agriculture through the provision of skills, resources and rural finance, while advocating an increased role for women in agriculture support services and departments.
- Assisting the implementation of rules and regulation, and the enforcement of relevant laws, including, but not limited, to laws on home-based workers, domestic workers and harassment in the workplace.
- Contributing to catalysing the growth of women-owned businesses in urban and rural areas through access to finance, skills and entrepreneurship training, as well as by facilitating linkages with local and regional supply chains.
- Aiding efforts to leverage information technology to provide women with non-traditional sources of income, and combatting stereotypes with a view to increasing women’s representation in science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM)-related fields.

The highest priority **leave no one behind target groups** for this outcome are: women with disabilities (different abilities); refugees and internally displaced persons; minority women; transgender persons; the rural and urban poor; isolated rural communities; young women and men who are not in education, employment or training (aged 15–24); women working in the informal economy; and key populations, including women and transgender persons living with HIV/AIDS and sex workers.

Potential **risks** specific to this outcome include: shifts in government priorities, budgeting/planning and gender-focused activities; a lack of accountability for the implementation of policies; a lack of women’s and girls’ awareness of existing laws, redressal mechanisms and social safety nets; a lack of understanding of gender equality and women’s empowerment among government officials, parliamentarians and other duty bearers; funds earmarked for gender equality being diverted or re-appropriated to address humanitarian crises; the continuation of deep-rooted stereotypes and discrimination that result in exclusion and marginalization; a lack of sex- and age-disaggregated data, leading to a lack of evidence-based, gender-responsive policy-making and planning; and a lack of intersectoral and multi-sectoral collaboration.

This outcome is based on a number of **assumptions**. It assumes that gender mainstreaming and gender equality-related interventions will remain a key focus area for the Government, and that political stability exists after the 2023 elections. It supposes that the security situation will remain stable and that insecurity will not hamper the agenda on gender equality and women’s empowerment. It also assumes that religious leaders will not hinder a progressive approach towards gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Partnerships for this outcome include engagement with: women’s machineries, departments and human rights’ ministries; parliamentarians’ political parties (so that all parties include gender mainstreaming in their political manifestos); religious leaders and philanthropists; the National Commission for Human Rights; the media; academia; volunteer networks and organizations that engage volunteers; the civil society organization consortium; the National Commission on the Status of Women and provincial commissions; and the private sector.

OUTCOME 3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Impact: People have a climate-resilient future ensured by the ecological restoration of the Indus River Basin.			
Outcome: By 2027, people living in the Indus River Basin, particularly the most vulnerable, including women, girls, boys, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, have their lives positively impacted by the restored and protected health of the Indus Basin, and by being better equipped to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its impact.			
Outputs:			
3.1. National and sub-national systems are strengthened for the reduction of environmental degradation and improved climate action.	3.2. Natural habitats and ecosystems (forests, rangelands and watersheds) are protected, managed and conserved for the protection of the Indus Basin’s sources.	3.3. The clean, efficient and sustainable use of surface and groundwater, as well as other resources of the Indus Basin, increases the health and economies of the communities and cities within the Basin	3.4. Life in the Indus Basin is preserved, and marine ecosystems and the Indus Delta are protected.

Context

The Indus is a transboundary river that flows down from the Himalayas, through Indian and Pakistan Administered Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, flowing south-by-southwest through the length of Pakistan, before emptying into the Arabian Sea near the city of Karachi. Millions of lives and livelihoods in these regions, as well as in Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh, depend on the Indus River. The Indus River Basin has sustained life in the region for over 5,000 years, from the civilizations of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, to the present day. The Indus River Basin covers around 520,000 km² of Pakistan’s territory (65 per cent), including all of the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as most of Sindh

and eastern Balochistan.⁴⁷ Overall, Pakistan’s population and economy remain heavily dependent on an annual influx of water into the Indus River system.⁴⁸

The Indus Basin is facing devastating challenges due to unsustainable population growth, rapid urbanization and industrialization, environmental degradation, the unregulated utilization of resources, inefficient water use and poverty, all of which are aggravated by climate change. Demands on the river mean that Pakistan has met the international definition of ‘water stress’, as water availability has plummeted over the decades – from 5,000 cubic metres per capita in the early 1950s to less than 1,100 cubic metres per capita in 2011.⁴⁹

The Indus Basin is considered increasingly susceptible to the negative impacts of climate change due to both natural and human-induced factors, including rising average annual temperatures and the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) estimates that extreme climate events between 1994 and 2013 caused annual economic losses of over US\$4 billion on average, with floods between 2010 and 2014 resulting in monetary losses of over US\$18 million, affecting 38.12 million people and damaging 3.45 million houses.⁵⁰ The Government of Pakistan and international development partners (World Bank, EU, ADB and UN) were finalising the Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) and estimated that Pakistan had suffered \$32 billion losses in the recent floods within 17 sectors.⁵¹ The sectors under PDNA are well aligned with SDGs, government’s vision on living Indus and recovery emphasizing economic stability and participatory initiative. Food insecurity is likely to worsen as the impacts of climate change increasingly disrupt crop yields in the Indus Basin, reducing

Without immediate and concerted action, the Indus Basin, which has sustained life for millennia, will falter. Ageing water infrastructure and inadequate water storage facilities in the Indus Basin are already exacerbating water stress, which is expected to increase substantially as climate change gains pace. Access to sanitation remains uneven; while 88 per cent of people in urban areas have access to sanitation facilities, this is true for just 58 per cent of households in rural areas.⁵²

Theory of change and UN development support

The overview above highlights the need to focus on **four key areas** that affect the lives of those living in the Indus River Basin and their ability to live climate-resilient lives:

⁴⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2011). *AQUASTAT Transboundary River Basin Overview – Indus*. Rome: FAO. Available at <https://www.fao.org/3/CA2136EN/ca2136en.pdf>

⁴⁸ Yu, Winston et al. (2013). *The Indus Basin of Pakistan: The Impacts of Climate Risks on Water and Agriculture*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/650851468288636753/pdf/Indus-basin-of-Pakistan-impacts-of-climate-risks-on-water-and-agriculture.pdf>

⁴⁹ Ahmad, Masroor, and Sana Ikram Sharif (2012). ‘Women in Water in Pakistan Shows the Way.’ *World Bank Blogs*, 27 November 2012. Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/water/women-in-water-in-pakistan-shows-the-way>

⁵⁰ World Bank Group (2019). *Pakistan@100 Environmental Sustainability: Policy Note*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/31415/PakistanPN_Environmental_Sustainability.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁵¹ Minister Planning and Development, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal - <https://www.thenews.com.pk/amp/1000949-pakistan-suffered-32b-flood-losses-na-informed>

⁵² National Institute of Population Studies (2019). *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr354-dhs-final-reports.cfm>

- (i) **National and subnational systems** need to be strengthened to reduce environmental degradation, improve climate change mitigation and accelerate climate action.
 - (ii) **Natural habitats and ecosystems** need to be conserved through the protection of the source of the Indus Basin.
 - (iii) The **clean, efficient and sustainable use of surface water, groundwater and other natural resources** of the Indus Basin, are needed to increase the health and economic opportunities of communities and cities in the area.
 - (iv) **Life in the Indus Basin** needs to be preserved through the protection of marine ecosystems and the Indus Delta.
- (i) The UN will support an **enabling environment that drives climate action** in Pakistan by:
- Assisting the development of implementation frameworks and action plans of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), provincial climate change policies and regulatory frameworks, establishing research the public-private partnerships for climate change adaptation.
 - Supporting the Government to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and develop of a climate and disaster risk financing framework.
 - Contribute to strengthening health surveillance systems, early warning systems and forecast-based financing.
 - Raising awareness among communities about climate change, mitigation and adaptation.
 - Assisting the effective implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, including by strengthening community resilience.
 - Promoting research and efforts to inventory communities’ indigenous knowledge, traditional techniques and practices that contribute to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, while ensuring the active participation of formal and informal volunteer groups and networks.
 - Facilitating the collection and availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics to support socio-culturally appropriate programming results.
 - Conducting research to understand gender dynamics related to climate change, including specific gender-based inequities that contribute to women’s and girls’ vulnerability.
- (ii) The UN will assist the **protection of the source of the Indus Basin** by:
- Supporting the sustainable development of new and existing protected areas (including zero-carbon carbons), the conservation of mountain ecosystems, the ending of deforestation and the restoration of degraded forests.
 - Facilitating nature-based interventions for resilience against glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in valleys that are not covered under the GLOF II initiative, and supporting financing and incentives for sustainable water, land and forest management.

- Advocating for the protection of biodiversity and natural habitats, as well as eco-tourism by promoting national parks and cultural heritage sites across the Indus Basin, while ensuring the active participation of indigenous communities and local volunteers.
- Supporting the conservation and restoration of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, and promoting the sustainable management of natural and cultural heritage and landscapes, including efforts to protect and improve the quality of water at the basin's source.

(iii) The UN will support the **equitable and efficient use of water and other resources** of the Indus Basin by:

- Assisting initiatives to boost the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers.
- Promoting sustainable food production, resilient agricultural and livestock practices, and the sustainable use of groundwater resources for multiple needs.
- Supporting the Government for green infrastructure development for flood control and groundwater recharge.
- Strengthening the Government's institutional capacity to ensure regulated and controlled urbanization, as well as supporting the planning, development and management of regulated and controlled urbanization.
- Facilitating access to financial resources to conserve and sustainably use ecosystems and biodiversity, and support integrated water resource management and addressing water scarcity, promoting watershed management, water harvesting and conservation infrastructure and technology. The UN will support development of climate-resilient water safety plans, and support the strengthening of adaptive capacity to climate related disasters and strengthening of emergency response infrastructure to enhance local government and communities' ability for rapid response to sudden onset of disasters. The UN will support the inclusion of excluded communities most affected by climatic events facilitated by volunteer engagement in climate resilience. The UN will advocate for climate financing and promote climate-resilient livelihoods. The UN will explore the feminine principle in relation to nature and determine gender divisions in natural resource management in view of the woman's role.

(iv) The UN will support the **protection of the Indus Basin's marine ecosystems** by:

- Advocating for reduced marine pollution and supporting the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine areas.
- Facilitating the generation of economic benefits through the sustainable use of marine resources.
- Promoting increased scientific knowledge, research and technology to improve ocean health.
- Supporting initiatives on small-scale fishers, the protection, rehabilitation and management of mangrove ecosystems, and increasing the resilience of communities in the Indus Basin.

The **leave no one behind target groups** for this outcome are: women; children; youth; climate displaced and affected population; people with disabilities; senior citizens; transgender persons; urban slum dwellers;

farmers; farm labourers; landless people; migrants; and religious minorities living in the areas comprising the Indus Basin.

Potential **risks** specific to this outcome include: the highly sensitive political issue of water, which may create problems in gaining provincial support; the recurrent disasters such as floods and droughts in the Indus basin deviating the attention and efforts of all the stakeholders; the Indus Basin approach may not be the priority for future governments as a way to address climate change; coordination challenges between federal, provincial and local stakeholders, coupled with capacity gaps; donors' and UN Member States' funding not being aligned with the Indus Basin approach; UN agencies and stakeholders deviating from long-term/main goals towards short-term/temporary targets; unforeseen large-scale disasters that damage communities' coping capacities; women being potentially excluded due to gender stereotypes, preventing the equitable sharing of the benefits of sustainably managed natural resources.

This outcome is based on several **assumptions**. It assumes that federal and provincial governments will support the Indus Basin initiative as it is well-aligned with existing national priorities. It is based on the understanding that the Government will remain committed to mainstreaming the Indus Basin approach for climate change adaptation, and willing to invest in adaptation and transformation to address the effects of climate change and natural hazards, in both rural and urban areas. It assumes that the initiative has a strong, well-framed communications campaign/strategy, and that the Indus Basin approach involves working on priority areas identified in Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy and Nationally Determined Contributions.

Partnerships for this outcome need to involve a broad coalition of stakeholders from, including:

- The Ministry of Climate Change as a ministerial champion (to co-chair meetings or act as a patron).
- The Federal Government, including the Ministry of Water Resources, the National Disaster Management Authority, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the Ministry of Industries and Production, the Ministry of Maritimes Affairs, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training; and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.
- Provincial and administrative area governments, including Departments of Planning and Development (P&DD), Public Health Engineering (PHED), Agriculture, Irrigation, the Environment, Industry, Livestock and Fisheries, Health, Forests and Wildlife, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) and the Civil Services Academy at the provincial level.
- Parliamentarians, Women Parliamentary Caucuses, SDG Taskforces, Speakers/Deputy Speakers of Provincial Assemblies, the Senate and National Assembly Committees on Climate Change.
- International financial institutions (IFIs) and UN Member States, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

- Civil society, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamic Relief, Muslim Hands, Save the Children, the Pakistan Environment Trust, the Lahore Conservation Society, Fridays for the Future Pakistan, the British Council, Green Box, the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the Snow Leopard Trust, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.
- Academia, including the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), the Global Change Impact Study Centre (GCISC), the COMSATS Centre for Climate Research and Development (CCRD), the NUST US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Energy, the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) Centre for Water Informatics and Technology, the Climate Change, Alternate Energy and Water Resources Institute, the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), the University of Punjab, the University of Karachi, the University of Agriculture of Faisalabad, the Advance Centre on Water at Mehran University Sindh, Karakoram International University, the Pakistan Forest Institute, the Agriculture University Peshawar, and the Sustainable Development Study Centre at Government College (GC) University Lahore.

OUTCOME 4. SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK

Impact: People, especially those most marginalized and at risk of being left behind, benefit from sustained, inclusive and green economic growth.					
Outcome: By 2027, people in Pakistan, especially those at risk of being left behind and becoming further marginalized – including youth, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups – benefit from a broad-based, job-rich and gender-responsive recovery with decent work opportunities for all. This will be achieved through: integrated employment policy responses; the private and public sector and the social and solidarity economy as generators of employment, providers of skills training and education; harnessing the potential of job-rich economic sectors like agriculture, the creative economy and the care economy; upholding fundamental principles and rights at work, social dialogue and tripartite cooperation; diversifying livelihoods to reduce dependency on one form of livelihood (particularly agriculture or livestock rearing/management); and enabling longer-term resilience-building and rural economic development of the most vulnerable communities prone to various shocks and stressors.					
Outputs:					
4.1. Gender-responsive strategies are adopted and programmes implemented in close collaboration	4.2. National and provincial stakeholders are supported to adopt employment policies and implement	4.3. Stakeholders are supported to create an enabling business environment (including a technical and	4.4. The capacities and competencies of human resources are built through the provision of technical education, skills	4.5. Inequalities and disparities in the world of work are reduced by promoting and facilitating women’s	4.6 Fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW) are applied to prevent all forms of

with the Government, the private sector, trade unions/producers' organizations, women and youth to support job-rich, sustainable and green economic growth and decent work, including the promotion of regional connectivity initiatives.	programmes to create adequate decent employment, income generation and empowerment opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups, including food-insecure communities, to enhance their resilience and livelihoods, as well as to facilitate effective labour market transitions.	financial ecosystem) for job-rich economic sectors (e.g. industry, agri-business/food production, the creative economy, and the care economy) for the promotion of sustainable enterprises, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).	and entrepreneurship development, including for MSMEs, and the productivity and employability of youth, girls, women and other vulnerable groups is enhanced.	economic empowerment, by strengthening the capacities of national and provincial institutions, employers' and workers' organizations, and by preventing violence and harassment at work.	exploitation of workers and others in the world of work, including small-holder farmers, fishers and self-employed workers.
---	--	--	---	--	---

Context

Economic growth in Pakistan has been uneven. Recent floods in 2022 are expected to have a substantial negative impact on Pakistan's economy. Livelihoods have been severely impacted, with poverty expected to increase significantly. With high food & fuel prices and highest ever inflation, Pakistan will be relying on the external funding/support (aid & debts from IFIs) for immediate and lifesaving needs such as food, drinking water, medicines, and shelters in the flood affected districts. The development budgets already curtailed due to financial crisis post COVID-19 will be further reduced and shifted to cover emergency needs.

Agriculture is Pakistan's largest sector in terms of employment, directly employing 36 per cent of the labour force in 2019,⁵³ approximately 65 per cent of whom are women. The damages from the floods will have spill over effects on the industry and services sectors. Textiles constitute around a quarter of total industry output and account for more than half of the country's goods exports and are highly dependent on local cotton production.

Similarly, the local food processing and slaughtering industries will also be negatively impacted due to the sharp reduction in food harvests and livestock. Lower agricultural and industrial activity is likely to weigh

⁵³ World Bank (2020). *World Development Indicators*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

on wholesale and transportation services activity that makes up 50 percent of the services sector. The floods will exacerbate external pressures. Around 50 percent of the required cotton input for the local textile industry is sourced domestically. With reduced supplies of domestic cotton, raw cotton imports are expected to increase to mitigate the shortage. At the same time, imports of food products, wheat, pulses, construction machinery, and medicines are also expected to increase based on increased needs and domestic shortages. Meanwhile, reduced exports of textiles, rice, fruits and vegetables, leather products, cement, and sugar are expected to further widen the trade deficit.

Theory of change and UN development support

Based on the analysis above, there is a need to prioritize **six key areas** to advance sustainable, inclusive, innovative and green economic growth and decent work:

- (i) **Gender-responsive strategies and programmes** are limitedly adopted and implemented to support post disaster recovery and re-settlement, job-rich, sustainable and green economic growth and decent work.
 - (ii) Supporting national stakeholders need to adopt and implement employment policies and programmes to create adequate **decent employment opportunities** for youth, women and other vulnerable groups, including food-insecure communities, as well as to facilitate effective labour market transitions.
 - (iii) Assisting national stakeholders to create an **enabling business environments and financing for development** – including in sectors such as industry, agribusiness/food production, the care economy, the blue and creative economy, including tourism, as well sectors relevant for regional interconnectivity and cross-border development – to promote sustainable enterprises, including MSMEs.
 - (iv) Enhancing **human resource capacities, technical skills and entrepreneurship opportunities**, including for MSMEs, as well as strengthening the productivity and employability of vulnerable groups, youth and women.
 - (v) Empowering local communities to find their own way out of hunger, supporting local economic empowerment, and providing vulnerable communities opportunities to diversify their livelihoods and build long-term resilience. This means meeting the immediate food needs of food-insecure people, building assets, helping them to strengthen their livelihoods, mitigating disaster risks, and enabling communities to become more resilient to shocks.
- (i) The UN will **support job-rich, sustainable and green economic growth and decent work** by:
- Assisting the review of economic policies, providing technical advice and supporting inclusive strategies for economic growth in disadvantaged geographic areas.
 - Promoting a just transition towards environmentally-sustainable economies, including by promoting green works and green jobs.

- Exploring potential opportunities for economic growth through regional connectivity and south-south cooperation.
- Facilitating effective institutional coordination mechanisms to ensure an integrated approach to gender-responsive economic growth, and effective sectoral partnerships between the private sector and service providers for gender-responsive economic growth.
- Contributing to the integration of poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups into market systems through a targeted approach, as well as supporting the food production sector to improve and ensure food security, while stimulating employment, livelihood opportunities and decent work.
- Promoting accelerated investment in rural infrastructure, and fostering economic growth and employment through environmental rehabilitation involving nature-based solutions, including afforestation.

(ii) The UN will support national stakeholders to adopt **employment policies and programmes that create adequate decent employment opportunities** by:

- Identifying disparities in employment, with a focus on gender-based disparities and marginalized groups, including food-insecure households.
- Supporting strengthened gender-responsive labour market programmes and employment services, with a focus on young workers, and building capacities to design and implement strategies that promote youth employment.
- Assisting tripartite coordination mechanisms to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment, including by supporting the provinces to develop employment strategies with targeted approaches for women, youth and other marginalized groups.
- Building the capacities of service providers and the private sector to implement employment strategies.
- Promoting fair labour migration, as well as the design and implementation of programmes to promote job creation for excluded groups and gender parity.
- Facilitating income generation activities that contribute to self-reliance through livelihood diversification and off-farm incomes.

(iii) The UN will support an **enabling business environment for the promotion of sustainable enterprises, including MSMEs**, by:

- Assisting the development of sectoral, pro-poor economic growth strategies, as well as strategies for the economic inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups.
- Supporting efforts to pilot and scale up alternate livelihoods in water-scarce areas.
- Engaging with the private sector to expand investments in new and diverse sectors.
- Promoting MSMEs, including enterprises in underdeveloped areas and those headed by women and other marginalized groups.

- Promoting a circular economy for community development, clean and green productivity solutions for small business, the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and eco-industrial parks, cluster development initiatives, value chain enhancement, sustainable livelihoods, resource efficiency and productivity enhancements for SMEs and MSMEs.
- Facilitating a fair ecosystem in the market for financing and an innovative financing window, to contribute to affordable financing for livelihoods and economic activities that address food insecurity.
- Introducing special financial technology (Fintech) solutions for MSMEs and startups to promote access to finance, facilitating the formation of rural economic clusters, including in the rural economy and food production sector, and incentivizing rural business development sectors in both traditional business and new value chains in marginalized areas.
- Promoting employment and livelihoods that stimulate eco-tourism, cultural and religious tourism, and the sustainable management of heritage sites and intangible heritage.

(iv) The UN will support **capacity building for enhanced productivity and employability** by:

- Promoting a ‘skills needs anticipation system’ to enhance industry-institute linkages.
- Facilitating gender-responsive planning tools to deliver skills training and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) training, as well as improving the quality of TVET and facilitating access to TVET for women, youth and others in underdeveloped areas.
- Building the capacity of vulnerable communities through local skills development programmes, including access to vocational skills development and entrepreneurial skills.
- Supporting the mainstreaming of entrepreneurship/business education in TVET and in the cultural and creative industries.
- Helping to link TVET with the labour market and enhance the job market readiness/employability of youth and women.

(v) The UN will support **reduced inequalities and disparities in the world of work** in order to facilitate women’s economic empowerment, and prevent violence and harassment at work, by:

- Developing strategies and undertaking analytical studies on inequalities and disparities in different economic sectors.
- Stimulating women’s economic empowerment with a focus on women in rural areas, urban slums and other marginalized areas.
- Supporting accountability frameworks in the public and private sector to increase women’s participation and empowerment in the labour force.
- Supporting the full implementation of laws on home-based workers (HBWs), opportunities for women in the informal economy, and linkages with supply chains, including microenterprises.

- Promoting enhanced capacity and coordination among governments, employers, workers, civil society, women, youth and academia on women’s empowerment and reducing disparities and inequalities.
- Promoting the implementation of anti-harassment laws and their enforcement mechanisms in all public and private entities.
- Fostering a culture of prevention in terms of violence and harassment in the world of work.

(vi) The UN will promote decent work and fundamental principles and rights at work to **prevent all forms of exploitation** of workers and others in the world of work, including small holder farmers and fishers, and the self-employed, by:

- Strengthening data, normative and analytical work on supporting women, youth, the working poor and other marginalized groups.
- Promoting an end to exploitative forms of work, including the worst forms of child labour and forced labour, including to end human trafficking.
- Supporting the application of International Labour Standards (ILS) and national labour laws in all economic sectors, as well as the reduction of other forms of exploitative work and exclusions from labour laws.
- Promoting the formalization of the informal economy, alongside improved labour market governance and administration for all economic sectors.
- Advocating for the adoption of women-friendly policies for safer work spaces, and assisting the implementation of laws on home-based workers, efforts to improve conditions for women in the informal economy and the creation of linkages with supply chains.

Potential **risks** to this outcome include: the growing concern about climate change in Pakistan, the impact of natural disasters associated with climate change on economic activities. The recent floods affected 33 million people in Pakistan which not only has direct consequences, such as loss of human lives and physical damage to assets owned by firms and households and to public infrastructure, but also changes in economic activities, mainly disruptions to production activities and declines in households’ income; the adverse impacts of recent floods negatively affecting resource allocation; additional natural disasters which could further harm output and worsen fiscal and external imbalances; political instability which may undermine a coherent and timely policy response; worsening external conditions, including unforeseen increases in global commodity prices and interest rates; and risks associated with large domestic and external financing needs, especially in the context banking sector liquidity constraints; and macroeconomic risks associated with increases in global food and fuel prices which affect job creation and livelihood development.

This outcome is based on several **assumptions**. It assumes that the Government will welcome reforms in economic policy and employment strategy, and that national stakeholders have the capacity to advance

sustainable and inclusive economic growth. It supposes that communities will accept new initiatives and participate in economic and employment programmes, as well as the assumption that women and youth can be reached. It also assumes that the Government will be willing to work with other stakeholders to scale up economic growth, entrepreneurship and employment models, and women and youth can be reached.

The **leave no one behind target groups** for this outcome are: sectors that have the potential to create decent employment opportunities and/or livelihoods for disadvantaged groups in excluded economic sectors, such as agriculture, the rural economy, brick kilns, mines, businesses in urban slum; informal economy workers; domestic workers; rural economy workers, including adolescent girls and women.

Partnerships for this outcome include engagement with: the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development; the Ministry of Food Security and Agricultural Research; the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives; the Ministry of Commerce; the Ministry of Industries and Production; the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics; the Employers’ Federation of Pakistan; the Pakistan Workers’ Federation; provincial Departments of Labour; private sector companies; Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCIs); Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities (TEVTAs); the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC); the National History and Cultural Division; provincial Departments of Culture, Archaeology and Tourism; and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

OUTCOME 5. GOVERNANCE

Impact: People trust in and benefit from open, agile, accountable, future-ready and effective governance and justice systems, which are able to deliver solutions for achieving the SDGs.		
Outcome: By 2027, the people in Pakistan, especially women, children, the most vulnerable and marginalized, have increased access to fundamental rights, gender equality and fundamental freedoms through inclusive, accountable, effective and evidence-driven governance systems and rule of law institutions at all levels of government, that contribute to good governance and stability.		
Outputs:		
5.1. Democratic governance institutions and systems – including, legislative bodies, local governments and electoral management bodies – are strengthened, effective and responsive to people’s needs, for transparent and equitable service delivery, with a focus on data governance systems and digital solutions.	5.2. Justice systems are more accessible, efficient and affordable.	5.3. People are aware of, and increasingly able to demand and obtain their rights.

Context

More than a decade after the passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment (2010), devolved development is picking up pace at the grassroots level in Pakistan. Pakistan’s performance on the World Bank’s Worldwide Governance Indicators offers insights on how its governance landscape has changed over time.⁵⁴ The indicators consider six dimensions of governance: voice and accountability, political stability and the absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, the rule of law, and efforts to control corruption. Women’s political participation is significantly low, despite the aspirations of the Election Act of 2017 and the Constitution. According to National Assembly data from 2015, women held between 60 and 61 reserved seats in the 12th, 13th and 14th National Assemblies. However, the number of women in general seats declined from 13 to 12 over time.

Theory of change and UN development support

The analysis above highlights the need to focus on three key areas that affect the delivery of inclusive, accountable and efficient governance systems, especially for women, children and the most vulnerable, where the rule of law, fundamental freedoms, rights and gender equality are protected and realized:

- **Democratic governance institutions and systems** – including legislative bodies, local governments and electoral management bodies – need to be made more effective and responsive to people’s needs. This is vital to ensure access to transparent and equitable service delivery for all, with a focus on data governance systems and digital solutions.
- **Justice systems** need to become more accessible, efficient and affordable.
- **People need to be aware and able** to demand that their rights are upheld.

(i) The UN will support effective and responsive **democratic governance institutions and systems**, by:

- Assisting service institutions to develop and deliver inclusive, rights-based and gender-responsive policies and services.
- Supporting policy makers to increasingly use evidence and technologies to inform their decisions, in line with population changes and mega trends.
- Supporting legislators, parliamentary committees, commissions, law departments and other relevant stakeholders to draft and vet legislation to advance legislative reform, ensure oversight for policy implementation and the protection of fundamental freedoms.
- Promoting increased coordination and cooperation by working with government departments at the federal and provincial levels, criminal justice institutions, the judiciary, civil society – including informal and formal volunteer networks – and the media for improved service delivery.
- Supporting improved public financing, financial management and budget tracking – including of gender indicators – and, in doing so, enhance the taxation system.

⁵⁴ World Bank (2020). ‘Worldwide Governance Indicators.’ Available at <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Document>

- Contributing to strengthening local governance systems to improve service standards.

(ii) The UN will support the increased **accessibility, efficiency and affordability of justice systems** by:

- Promoting women’s increased capacity and representation in the justice system, as well as increased access to justice for all, especially women, children and other marginalized groups.
- Building the capacities of criminal justice institutions and law enforcement agencies to apply gender-responsive approaches, particularly for victims/survivors of gender-based violence, trafficking and child protection violations, particularly women, girls and boys.
- Supporting improved access to the justice system, including greater access to legal representation, for women, children and other marginalized groups, including refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.
- Assisting the review and revision of legal frameworks to ensure their alignment with gender-responsive, rights-based international norms and practices.

(iii) The UN will support **people’s awareness and ability to demand and obtain their rights** by:

- Developing baselines and stock-taking to measure progress in order to enable government institutions to be more rights-based and inclusive.
- Assisting the establishment of stronger government protection mechanisms, justice chains, civil society – including informal and formal volunteer networks – and the media to advance people’s empowerment and their ability to secure their fundamental rights, especially vulnerable groups, women, children, those deprived of liberty and those at risk of threats and violence.
- Supporting the implementation of social and behaviour change communication to increase public awareness, especially among vulnerable populations, women and children, in terms of protection and access to essential services.
- Promoting participation in public space and access to economic opportunities, especially for women and youth.

The **leave no one behind target groups** for this outcome are: women; children; youth; minorities; persons with disabilities; the transgender community; refugees; internally displaced persons; asylum-seekers; stateless persons; and marginalized communities in border areas.

Potential **risks** to this outcome include: emerging security and stabilization challenges .

This outcome is based on various **assumptions**. It assumes that there will be political stability and continuity in the development of legislation, policy and frameworks, as well as an enabling environment for democratic space and access to justice. It also assumes that the Government, donors and development partners will maintain their commitments to democratic governance, and that up-to-date data will be available on mega trends and population changes.

Partnerships will be forged with a range of external partners for this outcome, including:

- Partners relevant for improved coordination, service delivery and governance mechanisms: the Economic Affairs Division; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives; federal and provincial Bureaux of Statistics; the Ministry of Human Rights; provincial line departments; the Election Commission of Pakistan; the National and Provincial Assemblies; Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses; and the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON).
- Partners relevant for strengthened justice systems: provincial criminal justice institutions; law enforcement agencies; the Supreme Court of Pakistan; provincial High Courts; legal aid authorities; Bar Councils across Pakistan; and informal and formal volunteer groups and networks.
- Partners relevant for supporting institutions and enabling people to claim their rights: the Ministry of Human Rights; the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination; the Election Commission of Pakistan; the National and Provincial Assemblies; Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses; national human rights institutions (NHRIs) including Commissions on the Status of Women; law enforcement agencies; the Supreme Court of Pakistan; provincial High Courts; legal aid authorities; and Bar Councils nationwide,
- Partners relevant for resource mobilization and advocacy: key bilateral and multilateral agencies; civil society organizations; and academia.

2.4. UNCT configuration

The United Nations Country Team in Pakistan recognizes the importance of applying the principles of tailored, needs-based approaches to defining and implementing the UN’s support for Pakistan’s national development priorities. The UNCT configuration exercise – undertaken by all resident and non-resident UN entities that have signed the UNSDCF and will deliver on its commitments – confirms that the UNCT has the technical, operational and functional capacities and resources to deliver on these commitments.

UN entities will support the UNSDCF’s outcomes based their comparative advantages, including the unique technical capacities, financial and human resources, and partnerships they are able to contribute.

Table 1. UN entities that will contribute to the UNSDCF’s outcomes

Outcome 1. Basic Social Services	Outcome 2. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	Outcome 3. Climate Change and the Environment	Outcome 4. Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work	Outcome 5. Governance
FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, WHO	FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, UN Women, WFP, WHO, UNIDO	FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNV, WFP, WHO, UNIDO	FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP	FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women

UN entities will mobilize national and international human resources to implement the UNSDCF. Overall, 94 per cent of national professionals and 89 per cent of international professionals have already been engaged.

The UN’s technical expertise spans the priority areas of policy advocacy, international norms and standards, political and social economic analysis, data monitoring and evaluation, communication and advocacy, humanitarian action and disaster risk management. The UN in Pakistan will draw on technical expertise available across the UN system through a range of different business modalities. UN entities in Pakistan with either work solely through country-based representative offices, or through a combination of representative offices, separate liaison or project offices, regional, sub-regional or multi-country offices, headquarter-based expertise, and short-term technical support missions.

CHAPTER 3. UNSDCF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1. Cooperation framework governance

The UNSDCF’s governance and management structures will support the framework’s effective implementation. They will promote coherence and ensure that the UN maximizes the use of national systems and the promotion of national leadership. They will also ensure that the UN’s core integrated programming principles are fully applied under the overarching principle of **leaving no one behind**.

3.1.1. Cooperation joint management structure

The **Joint UN-Government Steering Committee (JSC) mechanism** will ensure national ownership of all initiatives supported by the UN. This function is exercised by the Oversight Committee and Provincial Steering Committees. As per policy directions issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs all projects designed and approved under the framework agreement will be shared with via project document and resource details with Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Office of the Resident Coordinator. The mapping exercise of projects aligned with UNSDCF outcomes will form part of responsibility of Steering Committee.

The **Oversight Committee (OC)** will provide national level oversight for the UN’s work under the UNSDCF. It will be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) – or by the Additional Secretary or Joint Secretary if the Secretary is absent – and the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC). Civil society and donor participation in an advisory role will be coordinated on an ad hoc basis, if required. The committee’s core functions include reviewing the strategic direction of the UNSDCF, Joint Work Plans and Joint Annual Reports, as well as discussing and resolving specific policy issues that arise due to implementation challenges. Other core functions include providing oversight for the UNSDCF’s independent evaluation, overseeing the progress of Provincial Steering Committees and undertaking joint resource mobilization. The committee will meet at least twice a year.

Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs) will provide provincial oversight and increase sub-national ownership of the UN’s work. These committees are geographically representative bodies that include both senior government and UN representatives. They will each be co-chaired by the Chairman of Pakistan’s Planning and Development Board/Additional Chief Secretary for Planning and Development, and the head of the UN entity ‘lead’ for the province. PSCs’ members will include UN entities active in the province, provincial line departments and the Economic Affairs Division. The committees’ core functions include providing strategic oversight and guidance for UN engagement in the province/administrative area, and reviewing the UN’s work in the province/administrative area, including planning and progress on reporting. Other core functions include ensuring that UN efforts are aligned with each province’s/administrative area’s needs, priorities, development plans and government Annual Work Plans, as well as facilitating dialogue between provincial governments and the UN. The committees will meet at least twice a year.

3.1.2. UN inter-agency management and coordination arrangements

The **United Nations Country Team** – comprised of the heads of all UN agencies working in Pakistan, including non-resident agencies – will guide the UNSDCF’s implementation. The UNCT, led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, is the body responsible for inter-agency coordination and joint decision-making around all aspects of the UN system in Pakistan. It is supported by the Programme Management Team, the Operations Management Team and the United Nations Communications Group.

The **Programme Management Team (PMT)** – comprised of the deputy heads of UN agencies in Pakistan – is responsible for UN programmatic coherence in the country. It is the key advisory body to the United Nations Country Team, providing advice on harmonized results management and supporting joint initiatives by UN entities. The team’s key roles include joint resource mobilization, integrated policy support, aligning UN programming with normative programming principles, maximizing programmatic synergies, and capitalizing on emerging best practices across Pakistan’s provinces. The team meets once a month.

The **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PME)** supports the Programme Management Team by providing guidance and advice on monitoring frameworks and the development of Joint Work Plans, as well as relevant, accurate and timely data to support the United Nations Country Team’s decision-making processes. The group is comprised of senior planning, monitoring and evaluation specialists. It will lead the UNSDCF’s annual monitoring and independent evaluation.

Outcome Groups (OGs) will support inter-agency engagement around the joint programming priorities of each of the UNSDCF’s outcomes. One UN agency will ‘lead’ each Outcome Group, acting as the convening agency. As internal UN coordination mechanisms, the groups will focus on strengthening UN coherence, and will be accountable to the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team for outcome level coordination. They may, on an ad hoc or needs basis, include government counterparts and civil society representatives in an advisory capacity. Outcome Groups will prepare Joint Work Plans that include output level priorities and key interventions that are both national and provincial in scope. The Oversight Committee and Provincial Steering Committees will use Joint Work Plans to review progress, identify resource gaps and foster stronger partnerships to achieve results through the UNSDCF.

Provincial Programme Teams (PPTs) – comprised of UN programme staff based in Pakistan’s provinces and administrative areas – report to the Programme Management Team. They will support the UN lead agency in each province/administrative area to engage with sub-national governments. Their functions also include facilitating meetings of the relevant Provincial Steering Committee, strengthening inter-agency integration and coordination at the sub-national level, and overseeing the implementation of the UNSDCF’s Joint Work Plans at the sub-national level.

The **Gender Theme Group** ensures the UN system is unified and coordinated in providing support to the Government and other partners on issues related to gender equality. The group will provide guidance to UNSDCF Outcome Groups to strengthen their capacity to mainstream gender equality.

The **United Nations Communications Group (UNCG)** – comprised of communication focal points from all resident UN agencies in Pakistan – will support the United Nations Country Team to develop and implement the UNSDCF Communication Strategy. This strategy will seek to ensure that the UN system in Pakistan speaks with ‘One Voice’ through common messages on priority issues.

The **Operations Management Team (OMT)** will implement the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0. In doing so, it will build on existing efficiencies and find new ways of improving organizational effectiveness through common business operations in the country, in order to support the UNSDCF’s implementation. The team will coordinate all relevant UN entities in the implementation and monitoring of the BOS 2.0.

The **United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office (UNRCO)** will support the establishment and functioning of the UNSDCF’s governance structure, providing tools and guidance drawn from the UN system. It will assist the development of joint programmes and strategic partnerships to enable the UN system in Pakistan to contribute to the country’s development and maximize its impact, efficiency and effectiveness.

3.2. Resourcing the UNSDCF

The UNSDCF’s implementation will rely on available funding and the ability to mobilize resources at the country level, as well as through other funds.

The **UNSDCF Funding Framework** will be developed immediately after the UNSDCF is signed. It will be used as a financial management and planning tool, presenting the agreed, costed results of the UNSDCF, including operations and communications, for the full duration of the programme cycle. The Funding Framework will be shared with development partners and the Government as a platform for resource mobilization. In line with current guidance,⁵⁵ the multi-year Funding Framework will cover the duration of the UNSDCF (2023–2027), alongside Annual Funding Frameworks that are monitored on an ongoing basis as part of Joint Work Plans.

A **resource mobilization approach**, will be developed and agreed upon by the UNCT, informed by the funding framework and necessary landscape analysis. This approach will support periodic UN-Government dialogues with a range of partners and stakeholders on the UNSDCF’s funding. These dialogues, in turn, will aim to attract finances to fill funding gaps and encourage joint programming.

The United Nations Country Team will use the UNSDCF to leverage joint UN funds that promote SDG integration and sustainable investment in the ‘Decade of Action’ – accelerating sustainable solutions to the biggest challenges. It will also support the Government’s development and implementation of an **Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)**. This will define broader financing mechanisms to achieve the SDGs in Pakistan based on an analysis of current financing frameworks, flows and gaps.

As a country hosting one of the world’s largest refugee populations, Pakistan is part of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the **Afghan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)**. These

⁵⁵ United Nations Sustainable Development Group (2020). *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Companion Package*. New York: UNSDG.

coexist alongside the UNSDCF. While the framework and the UNSDCF are aligned to the extent possible, emergency (humanitarian) activities are only reflected in the RRP. Longer-term development-oriented work is included in both planning frameworks, to ensure that humanitarian investments contribute to longer-term development efforts.

3.3. Derivation of UN agency country programming instruments from the UNSDCF

UN agencies' country programming instruments have been developed in line with the strategic approach of the UNSDCF. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNSDCF was built on extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders to ensure cross-referencing with national priorities. Therefore, UN agency-specific country programming instruments are aligned with and directly derived from the UNSDCF's results.

3.4. Joint Work Plans

The UNSDCF will be implemented in Pakistan under the overall coordination of the Ministry of the Economic Affairs, the Government's coordinating authority for specific UN programmes. UN system entities and their implementing partners will carry out programme activities.

The UNSDCF will be made operational through the development of Joint Work Plans (JWPs)⁵⁶ and/or agency-specific work plans, as needed. These plans will describe the specific results to be achieved. They will involve an agreement between the relevant UN agency and each implementing partner on the use of resources, as needed. As far as possible, the UN agencies and their partners will use the signed UNSDCF and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents will be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the UNSDCF and joint or agency-specific work plans.⁵⁷

The UNSDCF will be implemented across Pakistan through country programme instruments brought together in **Joint Work Plans** (JWPs). These plans will present programme interventions under each UNSDCF output, and the resource contributions of each UN entity to the UNSDCF's outcomes. Joint Work Plans aim to reduce fragmentation and increase collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness, in order to ensure the coherence of the collective programming of UN entities in Pakistan. Resident and non-resident UN agencies will contribute to the development of Joint Work Plans. This will ensure that interventions and resources channelled to the UNSDCF are clearly aligned with the framework's theory of change.

Joint Work Plans will be prepared online through UNInfo. They will link to the UN Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP), with progress tracked through the UNInfo platform. The plans will capture the

⁵⁶ As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) for countries adopting the 'Delivering as One' approach.

⁵⁷ In the case of UNDP, the Government coordinating authority will nominate the Government cooperating agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to implementing partner(s) shall mean 'executing agency(ies)' as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a principal implementing partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the implementing partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided, and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

UNSDCF’s outcomes, outputs, Funding Framework and resources, SDG targets and indicators. They will also mainstream gender equality, human rights-based approaches, the principles of leaving no one behind, disaster risk reduction, disability, and any other system-wide markers.

Joint Work Plans will be endorsed by the United Nations Country Team and the Joint UN-Government Steering Committee as the basis of annual performance monitoring. This will take account of any changes in the country context and results achieved, directly supporting the preparation of annual UN country results reports.

3.5. Business Operations Strategy in support of the UNSDCF

The UN in Pakistan is implementing the UN’s Global **Business Operations Strategy (BOS)** to improve the cost-efficiency and quality of the UN’s operational support for programming. The Pakistan Business Operations Strategy 2.0 represents a medium-term strategic plan and results-based framework. It focuses on joint business operations, with the purpose of eliminating duplication, leveraging the common bargaining power of the UN and maximizing economies of scale. The UN in Pakistan uses the strategy to maintain the principles of mutual recognition and implement six common service lines, structured around:

- common finance, including harmonized approaches to cash transfers;
- common human resource management;
- common procurement;
- common administration, including the management of facilities; and
- common information, communication and technology, including common business continuity planning.

Activities identified in the BOS 2.0’s results framework will be implemented to support the quality, cost-effectiveness and timeliness of UN support to programme delivery and business operations.

3.6. Fund management, including the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT)

The UN system entities that implement the harmonized approach to cash transfers (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) will support the development and implementation of activities included in the UNSDCF. This may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities, equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of their support may be provided to non-governmental organizations, as agreed within the framework of individual work plans and project documents.

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in Pakistan, but not higher than those applicable to the UN system (as stated in the International Civil Service Commission’s (ICSC) circulars).

Additional global information systems, the network of UN agencies' country offices and specialized support may include access to UN agency-managed information systems. These include rosters of consultants and providers of development services, as well as access to support provided by the network of UN entities. UN agencies will appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the UNSDCF, the UN agency funds will be distributed by the calendar year and in accordance with the UNSDCF. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in Joint Work Plans. By mutual consent between the Government and UN agencies, funds that are not earmarked by donors to UN agencies for specific interventions may be re-allocated to other activities what are considered equally worthwhile in programmatic terms.

The Government will support UN fundraising efforts to meet the needs of the UNSDCF. Government cooperation with the UN in this regard will include:

- Encouraging potential donor governments to make funds available to UN agencies to implement unfunded components of the UNSDCF.
- Endorsing UN agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector, both internationally and in Pakistan.
- Permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Pakistan to support the UNSDCF. These contributions will be tax exempt for these donors, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable laws.

CHAPTER 4. CCA UPDATES, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING PLAN

4.1. Updating the UN Common Country Analysis

The [UN Common Country Analysis](#) (CCA) will be updated on an annual basis, or more regularly if required in the event of major challenges in the external programming environment. The United Nations Country Team will instigate additional reviews if required – either general reviews, or targeted ones between annual CCA updates – drawing on available data and evidence. The Common Country Analysis will be housed on a digital platform established by the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) as part of an online repository of automated country analytics, data sources and datasets. The Programme Management Team will lead the Common Country Analysis process and all periodic updates.

4.2. Monitoring the implementation of Joint Work Plans

Monitoring the UNSDCF will be an annual evidence-based process of determining the UN’s efficiency and effectiveness while programmes are implemented. To uphold these commitments, the United Nations Country Team has adopted [UNInfo](#), an online platform which will allow the digitization of the UNSDCF and its Joint Work Plans. UNInfo tracks changes in monitoring indicators at the outcome and output levels. It will use the UN’s gender equality and rights-based approach markers, as well as beneficiary tags, to track activity targets and the impact of the UNSDCF on those at risk of being left behind. All UN agencies will report on their contributions to the UNSDCF directly in UNInfo against planned activities and resources, as part of their direct support for the monitoring cycle.

The United Nations Country Team will develop a costed multi-year [Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan](#) (MEL) to help monitor Joint Work Plans. UN agency-specific monitoring plans will be derived from and support the UNSDCF’s MEL Plan. The Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Group will implement the plan in collaboration with Outcome Groups. This will involve tracking progress towards planned results, monitoring risks and assumptions, identifying challenges, opportunities and learning to inform decisions. It will provide advice on any course correction required in Pakistan’s evolving country context.

The UNSDCF’s progress will be monitored through the [Joint UN-Government Steering Committee](#) mechanism once a year or as requested by the Government. Independent portfolio reviews will be conducted by the Economic Affairs Division to review progress, discuss challenges and assist in any way required within the defined role of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The committee can consider any national circumstances that may impact the continuity of the planned approach to national development priorities. This will inform any amendments to the UNSDCF and Joint Work Plans in UNInfo, so as to accurately reflect the national context.

The UN recognizes the importance of data generated through government monitoring activities. This data will be used as evidence for monitoring UN contributions to development results, as will the collection of sex-disaggregated data, gender statistics and related analysis that support gender-related actions within Joint Work Plans.

Regional outlook

This UNSDCF seeks to contribute to joint programming at the regional level. It will involve connecting with other parts of the UN system and regional organizations to achieve a sustainable, integrated joint programming response.

Adaptive programming approaches will be applied to adjust UNSDCF initiatives if any external shocks impact on the implementation of the UNSDCF’s planned theory of change or results framework. Joint reviews will be undertaken, as needed, to assess any situation and determine any adjustments required. These reviews will be undertaken in conjunction with the annual Common Country Analysis and in collaboration with the Government. The United Nations Country Team will draw on the support of the UN system at the regional and global levels, where required.

Monitoring the harmonized approach to cash transfers

With regard to the harmonized approach to cash transfers (also see Annex 2), implementing partners must agree to cooperate with UN agencies to monitor all activities supported by cash transfers. They will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by UN agencies. To this effect, implementing partners must agree to:

- (i) Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by UN agencies, or their representatives, as appropriate and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with UN agencies.
- (ii) The programmatic monitoring of activities following UN agency standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring.
- (iii) Special or scheduled audits. Each UN agency, in collaboration with sister agencies – if desired, and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry – will establish an annual audit plan. Priority will be given to audits of implementing partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by UN agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

4.3. Cooperation framework annual performance review and country results reporting

Under the overall leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, each Outcome Group will conduct an annual performance review with its stakeholders to discuss achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned. These reviews will take place in the last quarter of each year of the UNSDCF’s implementation. UNInfo reports will be used for this purpose. Outcome Groups will consider the results of

these review, and the changing country context, in order to propose any amendments to the UNSDCF and/or the following year's Joint Work Plan to the United Nations Country Team. This process will be used to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of UN support for Pakistan.

Annual UN Country Result Reports will be prepared, drawing on UNInfo reports, annual performance reviews and Common Country Analysis' updates. These annual reports will capture the full footprint of UN support for the Government of Pakistan's 2030 Agenda. They will inform the Joint Government-UN Steering Committee's annual performance reviews. The reports will focus on the United Nations Country Team's achievements, challenges, opportunities, learning and adaptations in the implementation of the UNSDCF based on Pakistan's evolving country context.

4.4. Evaluation plan

A final independent evaluation of the UNSDCF will be carried out in 2026, the penultimate year of the framework's implementation. This will constitute the first step in the strategic planning process leading to the new programming cycle. The evaluation will be conducted by an independent consultant, or team of consultants, commissioned by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office. The Terms of Reference of the independent evaluation will outline an independent and impartial evaluation process, aligned with the norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). Multiple data collection methods will be employed to ensure inclusivity. These may include focus group discussions, online surveys, facilitated participatory workshops and in-depth interviews.

The UNSDCF's final independent evaluation will be informed by a leaving no one behind (LNOB) analysis. This will help to determine how UNSDCF programming has addressed the drivers of marginalization and disadvantage, and will inform programming adjustments for the next programming cycle.

To the extent possible, the independent evaluation will cross-reference information with country programme evaluations by individual UN agencies, in order to reduce transaction costs for stakeholders.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Legal annex

This Legal Annex refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Pakistan and each UN organization supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023–2027).

1. Whereas the Government of Pakistan (the “Government”) has entered into the agreements listed below with the United Nations, including its Funds, Programmes and other subsidiary organs, and other organizations of the United Nations system (“UN System Organizations”), which are applicable to their programme activities in [country] (the “UN Agreements”) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the “Cooperation Framework”);

2. Whereas the UN Agreements, together with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (the “General Convention”) and/or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 (the “Specialized Agencies Convention”) as applicable, form the primary existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government and each UN System Organization for supporting the country to deliver on the Cooperation Framework, and are non-exhaustive and without prejudice to any other legal instruments the Government may enter into, including additional agreements with UN System Organizations for the purpose of their activities in the country:

a) **With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country, which was signed by the Government and UNDP (the “Special Fund Agreement” or “SFA”) on 25 February 1960. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a “project document” as referred to in the SFA. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.

b) **With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**, a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 24 May 1995.

c) **With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, a Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the Government and UNHCR on 18 September 1993.

d) **With the World Food Programme (WFP)**, a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Programme, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on 25 July 1968, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding for Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations Pakistan (PPRO200867) signed on 30 December 2015.

e) **With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, Letters of Exchange which note that UNFPA is governed by the UNDP SFA.

f) **With the International Labour Organization (ILO)**, the Revised Standard Agreement concerning technical assistance concluded between the Government and ILO on 2 July 1956, the exchange of letters constituting an agreement amending the aforementioned Agreement on 9 January 1965.

g) **With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**, in conformity with General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.40, adopted on 12 December 1985, and Director-General's bulletin UNIDO/DG/B.18/REV.1, dated 15 May 1992, pending the conclusion of a Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement between the Government and UNIDO, the Government shall apply, mutatis mutandis, the provisions of the Revised Standard Agreement concluded between the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations and Specialized Agencies on 2 July 1956, at Karachi, as amended by the Exchange of Letters dated 9 January 1965.

h) **With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, an Agreement for the establishment of the FAO Representation in Pakistan concluded between the Government and FAO on 30 May 1978.

i) **With the World Health Organization (WHO)**, a Basic Agreement for the Provision of Technical Advisory Assistance signed by the Government and WHO on 20 January 1960.

j) **With the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, the "Cooperation Agreement" concluded between the Government and IOM on 9 October 2000.

k) **With the United Nations Environment Programme**, through the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UNEA's approval of UN Environment's Medium Term Strategy of 2018-2021 and 2022-2025 and related programmes of work.

l) **With the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, the United Nations Special Fund Agreement with the Government of Pakistan and the UNDP SFA of 25 February 1960.

m) **With the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, the Letter of Agreement signed between UNESCO and the Government of Pakistan on 25 May 1967 and the Letter of Understanding between both parties signed on 8 November 1992.

3. **With respect to all UN System Organizations:** Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions, decisions, rules and procedures of each UN System Organization.

4. Without prejudice to the above, the Government shall:

- (i) apply to each UN System Organization and its property, funds, assets, officials and experts on mission the provisions of the General Convention and/or the Specialized Agencies Convention; and
- (ii) accord to each UN System Organization, its officials and other persons performing services on behalf of that UN System Organization, the privileges, immunities and facilities set out in the UN Agreement applicable to such UN System Organization.

5. United Nations Volunteers performing services on behalf of a UN System Organization shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to officials of such UN System Organization.

6. Any privileges, immunities and facilities granted to a UN System Organization under the Cooperation Framework shall be no less favourable than those granted by the Government to any other UN System Organization signatory of the Cooperation Framework.

7. Without prejudice to the UN Agreements, the Government shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against any of the UN System Organizations and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf, and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the Cooperation Framework, except where it is mutually agreed by the Government and the relevant UN System Organization(s) that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that UN System Organization, or its officials, or persons performing services.

8. Nothing in or relating to this Cooperation Framework shall be deemed:

- (i) a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of any UN System Organization; or
- (ii) the acceptance by any UN System Organization of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from this Cooperation Framework, whether under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention, the UN Agreements, or otherwise, and no provisions of this Cooperation Framework shall be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, that is inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

Annex 2. Harmonized approach to cash transfers

All UN cash transfers to an implementing partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs) agreed between the implementing partner and the UN agency.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in Joint Work Plans can be made by UN agencies using the following modalities:

- (i) Cash transferred directly to the implementing partner:
 - (a) before activities begin (direct cash transfer); or
 - (b) after activities have been completed (reimbursement).
- (ii) Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner.
- (iii) Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing partners.

Where cash transfers are made to a national institution, the institution shall transfer the amount promptly to the implementing partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months, with exceptions of up to six months consistent with each UN agency's guidelines. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. UN agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure by the implementing partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the implementing partner and the UN agency.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a government implementing partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN¹² implementing partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN agency may conduct such an assessment, in which the implementing partner shall participate. The implementing partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfers or reimbursements, the UN agency shall notify the implementing partner of the amount approved by the agency, and shall disburse funds to the implementing partner in the number of days specified in the UN agency's schedule.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partner on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner – or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN agency in support of activities agreed with the implementing partners – the UN agency shall proceed with the payment within 15 days.

The UN agency shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the implementing partner and a third party vendor.

Where the UN agency and another UN agency provide cash to the same implementing partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or in coordination between these UN agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the Work Plan, will be used by implementing partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that the UN agency will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The implementing partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The implementing partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the implementing partner.

Cash transferred to implementing partners should only be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe agreed in the Work Plans.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO implementing partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the Work Plans, and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the UN agency within six months of the receipt of the funds. Where any national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN agency's financial and other related rules, regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGOs (INGOs), organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with Government's rules and regulations, INGO implementing partners' cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the Work Plans, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the agency within six months of the receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each implementing partner receiving cash from the UN agency will provide the agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by the UN; and
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the implementing partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the implementing partner and the UN agency. Each implementing partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the UN agency that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, to the SAI), so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the UN agency.
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.
- Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN agency (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, to the SAI), on a quarterly basis, or as locally agreed.

Where no assessment of public financial management capacity has been conducted, or such an assessment identified weaknesses in the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution, the audits will be commissioned by the UN agency and undertaken by private audit services.

Implementing partners also agree to:

- (i) Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN agency or its representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the UN agency.
- (ii) Programmatic monitoring of activities following UN agency standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
- (iii) Special or scheduled audits. Each UN agency, in collaboration with other UN agencies – where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry – will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of implementing partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by UN agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

Annex 3. Pakistan UNSCDF Results Framework 2023–2027

OUTCOME 1. BASIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Impact: People are healthy, educated, have access to safe water and are protected from shocks.

SDGs: 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 4 (Quality Education), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production)

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
<p>Outcome 1. By 2027, the people in Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and deprived, have increased equitable access to and utilization of quality, sustainable basic social services (BSS).</p> <p>UN agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, UN Habitat, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, WHO</p>	1.1. Universal health coverage index (SDG 3.8.1)	49.9 (2020)	61	UHC monitoring report	Pakistan's economy progresses with no major shocks from external factors (e.g. pandemics, natural disasters, geopolitical instability).
	1.2 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviations from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years old (SDG 2.2.1)	40.2% (NNS 2018)	32.2%	Pakistan National Nutrition Survey	
	1.3. Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services	36% (PSLM 2020)	70%	Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM)	
	1.4. Proportion of the population using basic sanitation services	68.4% (JMP 2020)	80%	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP)	
	1.5. Net enrolment rate (NER) in education (primary, lower secondary, secondary), disaggregated by province	NER primary (6–10 years old): 64% (2019/2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balochistan: 83% • Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 71% • Punjab: 59% • Sindh: 62% NER middle (11–13 years old): 37% (2019/2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balochistan: 26% • Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 40% 	NER primary (6–10 years old): 70 % <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balochistan: 86% • Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 74% • Punjab: 63% • Sindh: 65% NER middle (11–13 years old): 40% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balochistan: 28% • Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 43% 	Pakistan Education Statistics, National Educational Management Information System (NEMIS)	

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab: 41% Sindh: 32% NER secondary matric (14–15 years old): 27% (2019/2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balochistan: 14% Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 27% Punjab: 30% Sindh: 22% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab: 44% Sindh: 34% NER secondary matric (14–15 years old): 30% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balochistan: 16% Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 29% Punjab: 32% Sindh: 24% 		
	1.6. Proportion of total government spending on essential social services	Education: 0.29% (2021) Health: 0.15% (2021) Social protection: 0.59% (2021)	Education: 0.5% Health: 0.5% Social protection: 0.8%		
Output 1.1. The health system in Pakistan becomes inclusive, resilient, equitable, gender-responsive and accountable for quality health services for all people, especially the most vulnerable groups, within the framework of universal health coverage, and in line with international health regulations and standards. UN agencies: UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO, UNODC	1.1.1. Existence of national and sub-national laws, policies, regulations and strategies that guarantee full and equal access to women and men to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education as a part of national universal health coverage package	2 SRH Bills, National Population Narrative, Guidelines on Pre-marital Counselling (2021)	5 SRH Bills, Costed Action Plans and 1 Midwifery Strategy	Government notifications and reports	There is commitment to strengthening the health system and the prioritization of universal health coverage. There is ownership of transformation and reforms in the health sector. There is alignment and coordination among health partners to ensure access to health services in hard-to-reach areas and areas with security challenges. Communities trust, participate in and utilize health services.
	1.1.2. Proportion of children aged 12–23 months old who have received all nationally recommended vaccines	75.4% (2021)	90%	UHC monitoring report Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Management Information System (MIS)	There is support, collaboration and buy-in by donors and partners, paired with adequate resources. The COVID-19 pandemic comes under control.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
	1.1.3. Number of districts implementing maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) interventions as per the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS)	0 (2021)	12	Annual district progress reports	
	1.1.4. Percentage of adults and children receiving anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy	12% (2019)	≥ 90%	Global AIDS Monitoring Report	
	1.1.5. Tuberculosis (TB) treatment coverage (notified/estimated incidence)	48% (2020)	73%	Pakistan profile WHO Global TB report / End TB Strategy monitoring indicator framework	
	1.1.6. Percentage of the population at risk in malaria-endemic regions with access to quality care services	52 (2020)	80 %	UHC monitoring report	
	1.1.7. Existence of national guidelines for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (hypertension, diabetes and tobacco use)	0 (2021)	3	Government notifications and final copies of guidelines	
	1.1.8. Existence of an up-to-date joint external evaluation for the implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR)	1 (2021; expiring in 2022)	1	Government notifications Final copy of the joint external evaluation	
Output 1.2. Nutrition-related national systems (health, food, WASH and education) in Pakistan are strengthened to protect and promote diets, services and practices for optimal growth and development across the life course for all children adolescents and	1.2.1. Number of provinces and regions that have introduced a 'nutrition tracker' under the Public Finances for Nutrition (PF4N) initiative	4	7	Progress reports	There is political stability and sustained commitment to nutrition.
	1.2.2. Number of provinces that have a costed nutrition plan with a road map for the implementation of a multi-sectoral nutrition programme	0	7	Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	There is improved nutrition-responsiveness of the health, food, education and WASH systems, and willingness to adopt positive nutrition behaviours and practices.
	1.2.3. Number of priority districts supported to implement the Benazir Income Support Programme/ <i>Ehsaas</i> programmes	15	131	Government notification	Risks: The release of public sector funds is delayed.
	1.2.4. Coverage of treatment services for children with acute malnutrition	7.8%	>50%	Implementation frameworks	

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
women, focusing on the four key stages of life: early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence and motherhood, with special attention to the most vulnerable and deprived. UN agencies: FAO, IFAD, UNHCR, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, UNICEF	1.2.5. Number of districts that fully roll out key family care practices (KFCEPs)	13	28	Roll out plans	There are competing priorities for funding. Inequality and multi-dimensional deprivations increase.
Output 1.3. WASH systems in Pakistan have improved capacities to deliver safely managed, equitable and climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services, including liquid and solid waste management services, for all the people in Pakistan, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, including refugees. UN agencies: UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNOPS, UNICEF, WHO	1.3.1. Number of people reached with at least basic WASH services through UN support	3,878,000 (2022)	10 million	Annual joint sector review documents Progress reports by UN agencies	Federal and Provincial Governments demonstrate ownership of and commitment to the UNSDCF's programme targets and results.
	1.3.2. Number of institutions reached with basic WASH services through UN support	500 (2022)	2,000	Annual joint sector review documents Progress reports by UN agencies	Coordination between federal and provincial governments and governance structures for the WASH sector continues to improve. Based on evidence and fundamental rights, provincial governments make budgetary allocations based on considerations of equity.
	1.3.3. Number of provinces with clear established institutional structures implementing an inclusive and equity -based WASH resource allocation strategy	0	4	WASH sector annual status reports Joint sector reviews	Donors remain committed to supporting the WASH sector's enabling environment and UN agencies.
	1.3.4. Number of people in humanitarian contexts provided with appropriate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services	95,000	1.7 million	Humanitarian reports UNSDCF progress report	Community participation and ownership is ensured for sustainable, safely managed services or facilities. The UN continues its role as a convening partner in the WASH sector.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
					Communities will be receptive to behavioural change interventions and adopt sustained positive health-seeking behaviours.
Output 1.4. The education system in Pakistan has improved capacities to deliver more inclusive, equitable, gender-responsive, quality education and skills development, including lifelong learning opportunities and transferable skills, to children and youth, particularly girls and those residing in disadvantaged areas, including during humanitarian and emergency situations. UN agencies: ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNOPS, WFP	1.4.1. Number of Joint Education Sector Reviews (JESRs) undertaken proposing adjustments in provincial Education Sector Plans (ESPs)	Provinces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balochistan: 0 • Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 0 • Punjab: 0 • Sindh: 0 	Provinces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balochistan: 4 • Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 4 • Punjab: 4 • Sindh: 4 	JESR reports Updated ESPs Training reports	The Government is willing to allocate resources and approach education planning, budgeting and implementation from a learning perspective, with flexible and equitable child-centred learning pathways, including through different modalities. The Government is willing to collaborate with other stakeholders, especially the private sector, to scale up successful education models, including distance/digital education and skilling models.
	1.4.2. Number of teachers, education staff and administrators trained to provide education services and life skills education to marginalized children	865 (562 men and 303 women)	4,000 (2,600 men and 1,400 women)	Monitoring reports Training reports	The Government, donors and development partners prioritize early childhood education (ECE) and early learning, focusing on foundational literacy and numeracy in poor learning environments, including multi-grade situations.
	1.4.3 Number of in school and out of school adolescents and youth provided education and skills training.	1,200	15,000	Monitoring reports	Communities' and parental engagement are successful in providing learning support to students in and outside of schools. The Government, donors and development partners are willing to work on the mitigation of COVID-19's impacts on education and skills development. The Government is willing and able to invest in the expansion of its national education systems and commit to the greater inclusion of refugees.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
					Major development partners will continue to support system reforms, the expansion of the education supply, and improved quality with the aim of including refugees.
Output 1.5. Social protection systems and measures are strengthened to provide well-coordinated responses, in an inclusive and shock-responsive manner, to the most deprived and vulnerable populations. UN agencies: FAO, ILO, IFAD, UN Habitat, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP	1.5.1. Proportion of the population covered by at least one social protection benefit, by sex (%) (SDG 1.3)	9.2% (2020)	19 %	Economic Survey, Ministry of Finance Social Security Inquiry ILOSTAT or UNStats (link)	The Government will welcome social protection reforms. National stakeholders have the capacity to implement a sustainable social protection system. Communities will accept new initiatives and register themselves for continued support.
	1.5.2. Number of governments supported to adopt inclusive and sustainable social protection and/or food security-related policies, strategies and legal frameworks	2	8 (social protection and/or food security)	Government documents/websites	The Government is willing to work together with other stakeholders to scale up successful social safety net models, especially during shock responses in emergencies.
	1.5.3. Number of governments provided with technical assistance to reduce protection concerns (e.g. child protection, child rights) as a result of conditional cash transfers (CCTs)	3	6	UN programme reports	
	1.5.4. Number of people who receive food security and livelihood-related assistance in vulnerable/disaster-affected or most food-insecure areas	0	2,268,500	UN reporting	

OUTCOME 2. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Impact: Women and girls are safe, exercise their rights and benefit from economic opportunities.

National development priorities: National Gender Policy Framework 2022

International frameworks: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Beijing Platform for Action, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs: 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 2. By 2027, women, girls and transgender persons in Pakistan, especially those at greatest risk of being left behind, benefit from an enabling environment where they are empowered and reach their fullest potential; and their human, social, economic, cultural and political rights are fully protected and upheld. UN agencies: UNESCO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNOPS, WFP, ILO, FAO, UNIDO	2.1. Legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public life (area 1) violence against women (area 2) employment and economic benefits (area 3) Marriage and family (area 4) (SDG indicator 5.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 1: 50% Area 2: 75% Area 3: 10% Area 4: 54.6% (2018) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 1: 60% Area 2: 85% Area 3: 20% Area 4: 65% 	Ministry of Law and Justice UN SDG indicator data (link)	The objective measurement of women’s empowerment and gender equality is prioritized by organizations providing humanitarian aid. Risks/recommendations: While there have been some efforts to assess gender equality and women’s empowerment in conflict-affected and other humanitarian settings, measurement has largely focused on violence and security issues. A more comprehensive framework for assessing gender equality and women’s empowerment in these settings is needed.
	2.2. Active accounts held by women as a percentage of the adult female population	18% (2020)	33%	State Bank of Pakistan	
	2.3. Proportion of women and girls (aged 15 years and older) subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence (SDG indicator 5.2.1)	39% (2020)	30%	Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey	
	2.4. Proportion of women in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> national parliaments deliberative bodies of local government managerial positions (SDG indicators 5.5.1 and 5.5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20.2% (2019) 16.9% (2018) 4.9% (2018) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22% 20% 10% 	World Bank Gender Data Portal (link)	
	2.5. Labour force participation rate, female (% of the female population aged 15+)	20.6% (2020)	30%	World Bank country data	
Output 2.1. National and international commitments to gender equality and rights-based approaches that inform policy-making are realized through support to government institutions for monitoring the implementation of	2.1.1. Number of gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data collection initiatives, including in emerging areas, conducted or analysed	Pakistan’s reporting on SDG indicators: 50% (122 of 244 total indicators) Availability of SDG data by goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 5: 78.6% SDG 8: 82.4% SDG 10: 40% SDG 16: 27% (2018)	Pakistan’s reporting on SDG indicators: 75% (183 of 244 indicators) Availability of SDG data by goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 5: 80% SDG 8: 85% SDG 10: 50% SDG 16: 40% 	Pakistan Voluntary National Review (VNR) Planning Commission	Stakeholders are committed to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls, including women’s full enjoyment of their fundamental rights. More national and local plans and budgets are gender-responsive. More and better quality data and statistics are available to promote and track the

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
commitments, the production, analysis and use of sex/gender-disaggregated statistics, SDG data, and knowledge advocacy and accountability. UN agencies: UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, UNAIDS, WHO, UNOPS, UNAIDS, WFP	2.1.2. Number of institutions that have increased capacities to design and implement institutional reforms/strategies/policies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment	CPIA Gender Equality Rating ⁵⁸ for Pakistan: 2.5/6 (2019)	3.0/6	World Bank	progress of gender equality and women's empowerment.
	2.1.3. Existence of laws, regulations and policy frameworks aligned with international human rights standards that support the realization of the rights of women, girls and other vulnerable groups, and ensure protection from gender-based violence, violence against women and other harmful practices	Pro-women laws and policies exist, with limited implementation	At least four new laws and implementation frameworks of existing laws	CEDAW Concluding Observations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) National Assembly statistics	
Output 2.2. The empowerment of women, girls and transgender persons is promoted through gender-responsive policies, programmes, strategies and instruments, through the provision of public and private financing, and institutional development and strengthening. UN agencies: UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA	2.2.1. Existence of gender-responsive policies and strategies that facilitate the provision of public and private financing for women's empowerment	Banking on Equality Policy (State Bank of Pakistan) and Gender Bond Guidelines (Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan)	National policy for gender-responsive budgeting, planning and procurement that covers key sectors (i.e. multinationals, SMEs, the public sector and banking)	Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Ministry of Finance Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) State Bank of Pakistan	Specific mechanisms and institutional arrangements are established to promote the empowerment of women, with appropriate funding (public and private) to bring about sustainable solutions to crises. Stakeholders explore key challenges to achieving the established goals and commitments in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment.
	2.2.2. Number of initiatives supported to operationalize and implement existing gender-responsive policies through roadmaps and work plans	0	4 (national policy for gender-responsive budgeting, planning and procurement for multinationals, SMEs, public sector and banking)	Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Ministry of Finance SMEDA State Bank of Pakistan	
Output 2.3. Vulnerable and marginalized women, girls and	2.3.1. Percentage of women receiving services and information from institutions responsible for safety, protection and	Data being sought from relevant departments	Data being sought from relevant departments	Police Shelters	More opportunities are available for women's leadership and active participation in different fields and roles.

⁵⁸ The Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) of Gender Equality assesses the extent to which the country has installed institutions and programs to enforce laws and policies that promote equal access for men and women in education, health, the economy, and protection under law.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
transgender persons actively contribute to resilient and empowered communities, and are able to operate in safe spaces and harassment-free environments, protected from gender-based violence, violence against women and other harmful practices, and have equitable access to services and information. UN agencies: UNODC, WHO, UNOPS, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNAIDS	redressal against harassment and violence against women (VAW) ⁵⁹ within the stipulated procedures and timeframe			Ombudspersons' offices	Equal employment opportunities are promoted.
	2.3.2. Percentage of programmes supporting the achievements of societal enablers, including to reduce/eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, engaging in advocacy to promote enabling legal environment and to reduce/eliminate gender-based violence, to be delivered by community-led organizations	Global AIDS Monitoring Report data for Pakistan: 10% (2020)	50%	Programmatic data by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Global AIDS Monitoring Report	Investments in trade and economic sectors have a zero-tolerance approach to any form of harassment and violence against women and girls.
Output 2.4. Those in positions of power take action to support vulnerable and marginalized women, girls and transgender persons to be aware of and exercise their rights, so as to actively and meaningfully participate in communities, receive support, and rise to leadership positions in both the public and private sectors.	2.4.1. Number of strategies designed and implemented to increase gender parity and women's participation in decision-making and leadership positions	2 (quota system for parliament and quota system for the police)	4 (strategies for private sector and civil servants, in addition to the two identified in the baseline)	Establishment Division Securities and Exchange Commission SECP SMEDA	Individuals and stakeholders in power contribute to changing norms that perpetuate gender-based violence and the exploitation of women and girls. The Government and civil society are actively engaged in strengthening laws, legal systems and other response mechanisms to increase access to justice and improve service delivery.

⁵⁹ This will fit into the outcome indicator and the proposed indicator is a composite indicator which will derive its data from a collection of sources.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
UN agencies: UNFPA, UN Women, WFP					
Output 2.5. Women and girls, especially those most vulnerable and marginalized, benefit from a rights-based, gender-responsive enabling environment that ensures their active participation in, and ability to benefit from, the economy. UN agencies: FAO, UN Women, ILO, UNOPS, UNESCO, UNIDO	2.5.1. Percentage increase in the income of women working in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture • manufacturing • activities of household activities as employers; undifferentiated goods and service-producing activities 	Average monthly wages for women working in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture: PKR 7,556 • manufacturing: PKR 7,839 • education: PKR 23,281 • activities of households as employers; and undifferentiated goods and service-producing activities: PKR 7,373 	Increase in monthly baseline wages: 20%	Labour Force Survey (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics)	Given investments in women’s skill building – especially in the areas of entrepreneurship and high-income professions – women and girls benefit from an environment where they are economically empowered. A normal economic environment exists and there is no significant economic downturn or recession – global or local.
	2.5.2. Proportion of women employed in high-income professions	Proportion of women working in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transportation and storage: 0.19% • information and communication technologies: 0.30% • professional, scientific and technical activities: 0.14% 	Proportion of women working in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transportation and storage: 0.25% • information and communication technologies: 0.40% • professional, scientific and technical activities: 0.20% 	Labour Force Survey	

OUTCOME 3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Impact: People have a climate-resilient future ensured by the ecological restoration of the Indus River Basin.

National development priorities: National Climate Change Policy, National Water Policy

International frameworks: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), SDGs, Paris Agreement

SDGs: 2 (Zero Hunger), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water), 15 (Life on Land)

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
<p>Outcome 3. By 2027, people living in the Indus River Basin, particularly the most vulnerable, including women, girls, boys, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, have their lives positively impacted by the restored and protected health of the Indus Basin, and by being better equipped to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its impact.</p> <p>UN agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNESCO, UNOPS, UNIDO, WHO,</p>	3.1. Existence of Nationally Determined Contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (SDG indicator 13.2.1)	National Climate Change Policy and Implementation Framework for the policy exist	Ecological restoration of the Indus Basin included in all of the policies at the national and provincial levels, and in the Climate Change Act	Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) records	The Government continues its commitment to mainstreaming the Indus Basin approach for climate change adaptation, as well as its willingness to invest in adaptation and transformation to address the effects of climate change and natural hazards, in both rural and urban areas.
	3.2. Degree of integrated water resource management implementation (SDG indicator 6.5.1)	56% (2020)	Up to 70%	https://www.sdg6data.org/country-or-area/Pakistan	Communication campaigns/strategy are strong and well-framed.
	3.3. Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (SDG indicator 6.3.2)	0 (2021)	10%	Ministry of Environment, National Standards for Drinking Water Quality (NSDWQ) (link)	The Indus Basin approach includes working on priority areas identified in Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy and Nationally Determined Contribution.
	3.4. Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time (water basins in Pakistan experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface waters) (SDG indicator 6.6.1)	33% (2020)	45%		
<p>Output 3.1. National and sub-national systems are strengthened for the reduction of environmental degradation and improved climate action.</p>	3.1.1. Number of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies (inclusive policies, plans, frameworks and guidelines developed) in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (SDGs indicator 13.1.3)	0 (2021)	4 provinces and 2 administrative regions (Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir)	Provincial and local government records	Government departments ensure inclusive engagement and an overarching approach towards the development of the Indus Basin.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
UN agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO, UN Habitat, UNEP, ILO, UNESCO, UNOPS, FAO,	3.1.2. Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment (SDGs indicator 13.3.1)	02 (2021) Education South Punjab MOCC 0% mainstreamed (2021)	2 provinces 100% mainstreamed	Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training's records	The Government of Pakistan's continues its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Output 3.2. Natural habitats and ecosystems (forests, rangelands and watersheds) are protected, managed and conserved for the protection of the Indus Basin's sources. UN agencies: UNEP, UN Habitat, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, WFP,	3.2.1. Proportionate decrease in the deforestation rate	1,100 hectares/year (2022)	10%	Forestry Reference Emission level endorsed by the UNFCCC	Strong coordination exists between federal, provincial and local stakeholders.
	3.2.2. Number of towns/tourist sites supported to become free of pollution (solid waste and plastic) (SDG indicator 11.6.1)	19	25	Ministry of Climate Change's Clean and Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM) records	Donors and member states continue funding for conserving, protecting and restoring natural habitats and ecosystems.
	3.2.3. Progress towards sustainable forest management (SDG indicator 15.2.1)	0.5 million ha (2022)	50,000ha	National Afforestation & Eco Development Board (NAEB) Division	Natural habitats and ecosystem conservation will remain high priority of UN agencies and stakeholders'
	3.2.4. Proportion of land that is degraded over the total land area (SDG indicator 15.3.1)	200,000 ha (2020)	180,000 ha	Government statistics	
	3.2.5. Number of sites protected/level of protection improved at a number of protected sites	398 Protected areas, 2 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) sites	01 site	Management plans, reports, Government notifications	
Output 3.3. The clean, efficient and sustainable use of surface and groundwater, as well as other resources of the Indus Basin, increases	3.3.1. Number of sites supported on domestic and industrial water treatment (SDG indicator 6.3.1)	0 sites	10 sites	Pakistan council of Research in water resources	Water, as a politically sensitive subject, gains the provinces' support.
	3.3.2. Land under agricultural area under production and sustainable agriculture (SDG indicator 2.4.1)	0 (2020)	50,000 hectares	Agriculture Census Report	The Indus Basin will encourage the interest of other prioritized areas' custodian

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumptions
the health and economies of the communities and cities within the Basin. UN agencies: UNIDO, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, UN Women, UNOPS, UNEP, UNOPS	3.3.3. Proportion of the population using safely-managed drinking water services (SDG indicator 6.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% safe sanitation 68% basic sanitation 80% basic hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24% safe sanitation 80% basic sanitation 90% basic hygiene 	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) Ministry of Finance Pakistan Economic Survey (PES)	government departments, such as forestry, land and housing departments, etc.
	3.3.4. Proportion of the urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (SDG indicator 11.1.1)	40.1% (2018)	35.5%	Asian Development Bank database (link)	
	3.3.5. Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure for civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically (SDG indicator 11.3.2)	0 cities	10 cities	State of Pakistani Cities Report	
Output 3.4. Life in the Indus Basin is preserved, and marine ecosystems and the Indus Delta are protected. UN agencies: UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, WFP, UNIDO	3.4.1. Ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas are used (SDG indicator 14.2.1)	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) established	Implementation framework and good practices shared	Ministry of Maritime Affairs' records	The Government is willing to allocate resources for the protection of marine ecosystems and the Indus Delta.
	3.4.2. Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (SDG Indicator 14.5.1)	1 (Astola Island)(2021)	1 protected area (PA) supported	Government statistics	
	3.4.3. Existence and implementation of a legal/regulatory/policy /institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries (SDG indicator 14.b.1)	National Policy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Pakistan (2020), National Maritime Policy (draft), Deep Sea Fishing Policy	Marine environment management included in the National Climate Change Policy Implementation framework developed and good practices shared	Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR)	

OUTCOME 4. SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK

Impact: People, especially those most marginalized and at risk of being left behind, benefit from sustained, inclusive and green economic growth.

National development priorities: Vision 2025 Pillar II (Achieving Sustained, Indigenous and Inclusive Growth) and Pillar V (Private Sector and Entrepreneurship-Led Growth), *Kamyab Jawan*, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC); Digital Pakistan Policy; Industrial Policy; SME Policy 2021: National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis, and others

Regional frameworks: UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (2021–2025)

SDGs: 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
Outcome 4. By 2027, people in Pakistan, especially those at risk of being left behind and becoming further marginalized – including youth, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups – benefit from a broad-based, job-rich and gender-responsive recovery with decent work opportunities for all. This will be achieved through: integrated employment policy responses; the private and public sector and the social and solidarity economy as generators of employment, providers of skills training and education; harnessing the potential	4.1. Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (SDG indicator 8.1.1)	5.37% (2020–2021)	6%	Asian Development Bank data (link)	Political stability allows economic growth.
	4.2. Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex (SDG indicator 8.3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total: 72.4% Male: 72.7% Female: 70.5% (Labour Force Survey 2018–2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total: 60% Male: 60% Female: 60% 	Pakistan Economic Survey (link) Labour Force Survey (link)	Relevant initiatives are undertaken to build institutional capacity for sustainable and inclusive economic growth in all sectors.
	4.3. Labour force participation, unemployment by rural/urban and by age/sex, gender wage gap, and informal economy	Labour force participation rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall: 52.7% Male: 80.9% Female: 24.6% Unemployment rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall: 6.7% Male: 5.7% Female: 10.3% Urban: 7.6% Rural: 6.3% Gender wage gap: 13.9 (Labour Force Survey 2018–2019)	Labour force participation rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall: 62.7% Male: 80.9% Female: 29.1% Unemployment rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall: 4% Male: 4% Female: 6% Rural: 4% Urban: 4% 	National reports by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (provincial and national) Agricultural Census (whenever conducted) State Bank of Pakistan (link) Agricultural Department of Punjab (link)	The law and order situation and political stability in the country allow continued local and foreign direct investment for the growth of business and for enhancing employment opportunities.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
of job-rich economic sectors like agriculture, the creative economy and the care economy; upholding fundamental principles and rights at work, social dialogue and tripartite cooperation; diversifying livelihoods to reduce dependency on one form of livelihood (particularly agriculture or livestock rearing/management); and enabling longer-term resilience-building and rural economic development of the most vulnerable communities prone to various shocks and stressors. UN agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP	4.4. Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita (SDG indicator 9.2.1)	12.79 % (2020–2021)	18%	World Bank data, female labour force participation rate (link) PSLM Survey: https://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/pakistan-social-and-living-standards-measurement	
	4.5. Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit (SDG indicator 9.3.1)	15.6 % (2020–2021)	12%		
	4.6. Prevalence of undernourishment (SDG indicator 2.1.1)	20.3%	10%		
	4.7. Proportion of agricultural area used for productive and sustainable agriculture (cropped) (SDG indicator 2.4.1)	41.1%	50%		
	4.8. Perception of households about the economic situation	Much worse: 12% (2019–2020) Worse: 26% Same: 46% Better: 13% Much better: 2% Don't know: 1%	Much worse: 10% (2027–2028) Worse: 20% Same: 50% Better: 14% Much better: 5% Don't know: 1%		
Output 4.1. Gender-responsive strategies are adopted and programmes implemented in close collaboration with the Government, the private sector, trade unions/producers'	4.1.1. Number of provincial governments supported to collect and analyse data on macroeconomics and economic growth, with a view to exploring further growth and employment opportunities	3	15	Government data/administration reports Department of Labour reports Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human	The Government of Pakistan remains committed to the policy framework and pledges made with development partners on advancing the national gender development agenda.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
organizations, women and youth to support job-rich, sustainable and green economic growth and decent work, including the promotion of regional connectivity initiatives. UN agencies: UN Women, UNIDO, UNOPS				Resource Development (MoOP&HRD) reports	
	4.1.2. Number of governments supported to transform economic growth into strategic gender-responsive employment and decent work opportunities	0	2	Government data/administrative reports Department of Labour reports MoOP&HRD reports Medium-term budget frameworks Ministry of Finance	
	4.1.3. Number of analytical works that explore economic growth potential for regional connectivity, trade, knowledge sharing and south-south cooperation	0	2	Government data/administrative reports Department of Labour reports MoOP&HRD reports Board of Investment (federal and provincial)	
	4.1.4. Number of government/public sector institutions and/or social partners supported to use gender-responsive planning tools	0	4	Government data/administrative reports Department of Labour reports MoOP&HRD reports Ministry of Planning, Development and Special	

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
				Initiatives/provincial Planning and Development Departments	
Output 4.2. National and provincial stakeholders are supported to adopt employment policies and implement programmes to create adequate decent employment, income generation and empowerment opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups, including food-insecure communities, to enhance their resilience and livelihoods, as well as to facilitate effective labour market transitions. UN agencies: IFAD, UN Women, WFP, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNESCO, ILO	4.2.1 Number of governments supported to adopt and implement gender-responsive employment policies and/or strategies, that focuses on stimulating employment opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups	0	5	Government data based on the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and other departments Ministry of Labour and Human Resources Department	The political and security situation remains stable. Labour market policies and programmes are prioritized for the creation of income generation, employment and decent work opportunities for youth and women.
	4.2.2. Number of initiatives that addresses youth employment and reduces the proportion of NEET among youth, in particular young women	0	9	Government data/administrative reports Department of Labour reports MoOP&HRD reports IFAD project reports	
	4.2.3. Number of gender-responsive programmes and strategies/interventions supported that aim to enhance the livelihoods (including alternative livelihoods and food-producing livelihoods) of poor and marginalized communities	3	12	UN agencies based on the Planning Commission and/or Ministry of Human Rights Ministry of Youth Affairs Medium-term Budgetary Frameworks, (MTBFs) Ministry of Finance Asian Development Bank (ADB) IFAD project reports	
	4.2.4. Number of governments and social partners supported to design and implement programmes and strategies that address climate change adaptation, resilience-building through green work and climate-resilient infrastructure, and that also support employment and decent work	10	26	Strategic Results 3 Working Group Ministry of Environment and Climate Change IFAD project reports	

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
	4.2.5. Number of governments supported to adopt and implement strategies to enhance food production and generate decent employment opportunities and livelihoods	5	7	FAO and IFAD project report	
	4.2.6. Number of government institutions and social partners supported to adopt and implement gender-responsive labour migration policies, strategies and/or interventions that promote fair recruitment, safe and orderly migration and that reintegrate migrant workers upon their return	0	1	Government data/administrative reports Department of Labour reports MoOP&HRD reports	
Output 4.3. Stakeholders are supported to create an enabling business environment (including a technical and financial ecosystem) for job-rich economic sectors (e.g. industry, agri-business/food production, the creative economy, and the care economy) for the promotion of sustainable enterprises, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). UN agencies: IFAD, UN Women, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, WFP, UNESCO, FAO, UNHCR	4.3.1 Number of sectoral, pro-poor economic growth strategies supported for development and adoption;	0	2	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	The government is committed to the development of basic infrastructure for the promotion of business opportunities, human resource development, supporting innovation and technological development;
	4.3.2. Number of initiative by governments, social partners and/or civil society organizations supported to promote the establishment or improvement of MSMEs	1	2	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports Board of Investments (national and provincial)/SMEDA	There is a strong interest by the Government and other partners to continue strengthening the (M)SME sector, particularly in areas where the sector is not developed. The rule of law and freedom of expression are promoted for an enabling environment.
	4.3.3. Number of initiatives for alternative livelihoods supported, with a particular focus on water-scarce areas	More than 1,000 <i>karez</i> es in Balochistan surveyed and local communities identified	One <i>karez</i> and its local community supported	Government Reports; Project progress report	There is a strong commitment by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to develop eco-tourism and they continue to invest resources.
	4.3.4. Number of governments and/or social partners supported to introduce or enhance businesses on green economies, circular economies, resource-efficient technologies, tourism and heritage safeguarding, skills for green jobs and other environmentally-sustainable business models	5	17	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports Punjab Tourism for Economic Growth	

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
				(PTEG) Project/Communication and Works Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Project progress reports	
	4.3.5. Number of business service providers supported to deliver new or enhanced services to MSMEs	120	305	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	
	4.3.6. Number of initiatives supported to stimulate environmentally-sustainable food production	20	30	FAO and IFAD project reports	
Output 4.4. The capacities and competencies of human resources are built through the provision of technical education, skills and entrepreneurship development, including for MSMEs, and the productivity and employability of youth, girls, women and other vulnerable groups is enhanced. UN agencies: IFAD, UN Women, UNDP, UNIDO, UNHCR, UNESCO, ILO	4.4.1. Number of governments supported to establish or enhance a system for skills needs' anticipation in consultation with social partners	8	15	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	Inclusive and equitable policies protect and promote the participation of vulnerable groups in MSMEs and socio-economic development. The Government is willing to work with the UN, social partners and the private sector to enhance demand-based skills needs systems. The public and private sectors are motivated to strengthen relationships and contribute to the sustainability of efforts. The security situation in intervention areas remains stable. Resources/funds continue to be available.
	4.4.2. Number of initiatives supported to enhance the quality and quantity of technical and vocational educational and training (TVET) systems (improved curriculum, teacher training, competency standards, regular assessment, inclusion of business training)	2	12	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	
	4.4.3. Number of initiatives supported to enhance the employability of youth, women and other vulnerable groups	3	10	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports TEVTAS' data/UN agencies' data/reports	

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
Output 4.5. Inequalities and disparities in the world of work are reduced by promoting and facilitating women’s economic empowerment, by strengthening the capacities of national and provincial institutions, employers’ and workers’ organizations, and by preventing violence and harassment at work. UN agencies: IFAD, UN Women	4.5.1. Number of analytical studies on inequalities and disparities in different economic sectors/world of work	0	5	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	Policies to reduce inequalities and all forms of discrimination are made available and acted upon.
	4.5.2. Number of interventions by governments, social partners and/or civil society organizations supported to enhance women’s economic empowerment (formal, informal and rural economies)	0	10	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	
Output 4.6. Fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW) are applied to prevent all forms of exploitation of workers and others in the world of work, including small-holder farmers, fishers and self-employed workers. UN agencies: ILO	4.6.1. Number of government entities that are supported to develop evidence-based policies, strategies and legal frameworks (based on data and analytical work)	0	7	Government data/administrative reports DOL and MoOP&HRD reports Poverty Alleviation and Social Security (PASS) Division (poverty graduation strategy) Government of Balochistan (community-led development) Government of Gilgit-Baltistan (land, water and road master plans/policies)	Better quality data and statistics are available to promote and track progress on the fundamental principles and rights at work.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
				Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (farm services centre, farmers' markets and cooperative laws reformed)	
	4.6.2. Number of governments and/or social partners supported to eradicate forced labour and human trafficking, and to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour	0	3	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	
	4.6.3. Number of cases for which ILO supervisory bodies or other international bodies notice progress in the implementation of fundamental principles and rights at work	0	5	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	
	4.6.4. Number of initiatives taken by governments and/or social partners to promote decent work in the rural economy or the informal economy	0	2	Government data/administrative reports Departments of Labour and MoOP&HRD reports	

OUTCOME 5. GOVERNANCE

Impact: People trust in and benefit from open, agile, accountable, future-ready and effective governance and justice systems, which are able to deliver solutions for achieving the SDGs.

National development priorities: Vision 2025 Pillar 3 (Governance, Institutional Reform and Modernization of the Public Sector)

SDGs and targets: 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
Outcome 5.	5.1. Government effectiveness, the rule of law, political stability and accountability, as		World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators'		There are no significant political upheavals or shifts in key government positions that

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
<p>By 2027, the people in Pakistan, especially women, children, the most vulnerable and marginalized, have increased access to fundamental rights, gender equality and fundamental freedoms through inclusive, accountable, effective and evidence-driven governance systems and rule of law institutions at all levels of government, that contribute to good governance and stability.</p> <p>UN agencies: UNFPA, ILO, UNODC, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, IOM, UNOPS, UNESCO</p>	measured by the World Bank’s Worldwide Governance Indicators	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators’ estimates for Pakistan (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government effectiveness: -0.5 Political stability: -1.85 Rule of law: - 0.7 Voice and accountability: -0.88 	estimates for Pakistan (2027) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government effectiveness: -0.3 Political stability: - 1.00 Rule of law: -0.5 Voice and accountability: -0.5 	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (link) The Global Economy – Pakistan: Voice and accountability (link)	impact policy and the continuity of programming at the strategic level. Political leadership remains willing and able to work on improving policy, systems and structures to improve governance mechanisms. There is a consistent donor appetite to fund electoral reforms, the strengthening and capacity building of key government agencies, and digital solutions during the programme cycle.
	5.2. Proportion of total government spending on essential services, including health and education	1.1% of GDP on health 2.3% of GDP on education (2021)	Increase by 4%	Economic Survey of Pakistan Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Annual Poverty Reduction Strategies Paper (PRSP) Expenditure reports by the Ministry of Finance to indicate resource allocations and spending	The security situation remains largely predictable, and key rule of law agencies willingly engage with the UN system to improve the rule of law. There are no significant policy roadblocks for work around expanding civic space, citizens’ engagement and fundamental rights, which would also impact donor funding.
<p>Output 5.1. Democratic governance institutions and systems – including, legislative bodies, local governments and electoral management bodies – are strengthened, effective and responsive to people’s needs, for transparent and equitable service delivery, with a focus on data governance</p>	5.1.1. Extent to which national institutions are strengthened through support for data governance systems and core government functions, leading to improved service delivery and capacity to be gender-responsive	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators estimates for Pakistan (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited capacity and functionality of government institutions to adapt technological solutions, data governance systems and implement core processes for improved service delivery 	World Bank worldwide Governance Indicators estimates for Pakistan (2027) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced capacity and functionality of government institutions to adapt technological solutions, data governance systems and implement core processes for improved service delivery 	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (link)	There are no significant political upheavals or shifts in key government positions that impact policy and the continuity of programming at the strategic level. Political leadership remains willing and able to work on improving policy, systems (including data governance systems) and structures (including digital solutions) to improve governance mechanisms. The security situation remains largely predictable, and key rule of law agencies willingly engage with the UN system to improve the rule of law.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
systems and digital solutions. UN agencies: UNFPA, UNDP, UNOPS, UN Women, UNODC, UN Habitat, IOM	5.1. Extent to which the capacity of targeted systems is strengthened to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • address discrimination • expand civic space • be gender-responsive 	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators' estimates for Pakistan (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited capacity of government systems to address discrimination, expand civic space and/or be gender-responsive 	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators' estimates for Pakistan (2027) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced capacity of government systems to address discrimination, expand civic space and/or be gender-responsive 	The Global Economy – Pakistan: Voice and accountability (link)	There are no significant political upheavals or shocks to derail democratic processes. There is a consistent donor appetite to fund electoral reforms, the strengthening and capacity building of key government agencies, and digital solutions during the programme cycle.
Output 5.2. Justice systems are more accessible, efficient and affordable. UN agencies: UNDP, UNOPS, UNODC, IOM, UNHCR, UN Women, ILO, UNICEF	5.2.1. Number and proportion of people supported, who have improved, easy and low-cost access to justice, disaggregated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female • Male • Persons with disabilities • Displaced populations • Ethnic minorities 	World Justice Project (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to and affordability of justice: 0.39 	World Justice Project (2027) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to and affordability of justice: 0.6 	World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (link) Pakistan's SDG tracking dashboard (link)	There is a consistent donor appetite to fund justice sector reforms, the capacity building of key justice sector and law enforcement agencies, and digital solutions during the programme cycle. The security situation remains largely predictable, and key rule of law agencies willingly engage with the UN system to improve the rule of law.
	5.2.2. Institutions and systems are strengthened to support the fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rule of law and justice • human rights 	Human Rights and Rule of Law Index (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan index ranking: 7.30 	Human Rights and Rule of Law Index (2027) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan index ranking: 5.8 	The Global Economy – Pakistan: Human Rights and Rule of Law Index (link)	
Output 5.3. People are aware of, and increasingly able to demand and obtain their rights. UN agencies: UNESCO, UNDP, UN Women, UNODC, UNOPS, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM	5.3.1. Initiatives supported for increased awareness of fundamental rights, especially of vulnerable populations, including women and children, to promote social protection and access to essential services	World Justice Project: Fundamental Rights for Pakistan (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited mechanisms for awareness of fundamental rights are in place, and people have limited access to information and redressal mechanisms 	World Justice Project: Fundamental Rights for Pakistan (2027) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased initiatives are supported to enhance awareness of fundamental rights and people have greater access to information and redressal mechanisms 	World Justice Project: Fundamental Rights for Pakistan (link)	There are no significant political upheavals or shifts in key government positions that impact policy and the continuity of programming at the strategic level. There are no significant policy roadblocks for work around expanding civic space, citizens' engagement and fundamental rights, which would also impact donor funding.

Results	Performance indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target 2027	Data sources/method of verification	Assumption statements
	5.3.2. Extent to which oversight and redressal mechanisms have the capacity for the protection and promotion of women’s, youth’s and marginalized groups’ rights	World Justice Project: Fundamental Rights for Pakistan (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due process of the law and rights of the accused: 0.31 	World Justice Project: Fundamental Rights for Pakistan (2027) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due process of the law and rights of the accused: 0.4 	World Justice Project: Fundamental Rights for Pakistan (link)	
	5.3.3. Extent to which electoral management bodies have strengthened capacity to conduct inclusive, peaceful and credible elections, and parliament and legislative bodies have improved capacities to undertake inclusive, effective and accountable law-making, oversight and representation	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan score: 4.49 	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index (2027) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan score: 6 	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index (link)	

Annex 4. Detailed outcome level theories of change

OUTCOME 1. BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Impact	Outcome	Output areas	Main intervention strategies
People are healthy, educated, have access to safe water and are protected from shocks.	By 2027, the people in Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and deprived, have increased equitable access to and utilization of quality, sustainable basic social services (BSS).	1.1. The health system in Pakistan becomes inclusive, resilient, equitable, gender-responsive and accountable for quality health services for all people, especially the most vulnerable groups, within the framework of universal health coverage, and in line with international health regulations and standards.	<p>Strengthening health systems</p> <p>Facilitating improved essential immunization</p> <p>Supporting polio eradication</p> <p>Strengthening the HIV/AIDS response</p> <p>Facilitating the prevention of vectorborne diseases (VBD) and neglected tropical diseases (NTD)</p> <p>Supporting integrated patient care and the prevention of tuberculosis</p> <p>Strengthening sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services</p> <p>Facilitating equitable and quality maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (MNCAH) services</p> <p>Preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases (NCDs)</p> <p>Building capacities for the early detection of, and response to, health emergencies</p>
		1.2. Nutrition-related national systems (health, food, WASH and education) in Pakistan are strengthened to protect and promote diets, services and practices for optimal growth and development across the life course for all children adolescents and women, focusing on the four key stages of life: early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence and motherhood, with special attention to the most vulnerable and deprived.	<p>Strengthening quality nutrition services, including policy and legal frameworks</p> <p>Strengthening governmental and non-governmental capacity to take quality nutrition services to scale</p> <p>Driving demand for nutrition services by empowering civil society and communities</p> <p>Enhancing capacities for emergency preparedness and response</p>
		1.3. WASH systems in Pakistan have improved capacities to deliver safely managed, equitable and climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services, including liquid and solid waste management services, for all the people in Pakistan, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, including refugees.	<p>Strengthening policy, governance, coordination and legal frameworks, and increasing investments and financing for WASH</p> <p>Strengthening implementation capacities and partnerships for WASH delivery (water treatment solutions, public-private partnerships for water supply systems, climate-resilient WASH facilities, and gender-responsive services)</p> <p>Supporting the WASH pillars of the Clean Green Pakistan programme</p> <p>Empowering civil society and awareness raising of social and behaviour change (SBC)</p> <p>Facilitating stronger emergency preparedness and response for humanitarian disasters, natural disasters and the potential influx of refugees</p>

Impact	Outcome	Output areas	Main intervention strategies
		<p>1.4. The education system in Pakistan has improved capacities to deliver more inclusive, equitable, gender-responsive, quality education and skills development, including lifelong learning opportunities and transferable skills, to children and youth, particularly girls and those residing in disadvantaged areas, including during humanitarian and emergency situations.</p>	<p>Strengthening policy and legal frameworks</p> <p>Promoting equitable, sustainable and quality education and skills training, including flexible pathways for basic education, national meal policies and assessments on SDG 4 (Quality Education)</p> <p>Building the capacity of the Government and non-governmental entities at the federal and provincial levels to deliver education and skills training at scale</p> <p>Building the capacity of civil society and communities to demand education and skills training</p> <p>Supporting education for children in emergencies, including humanitarian emergencies</p>
		<p>1.5. Social protection systems and measures are strengthened to provide well-coordinated responses, in an inclusive and shock-responsive manner, to the most deprived and vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>Supporting the development of evidence-based social protection policy, governance and legal frameworks</p> <p>Supporting the analysis of social protection policies and programmes</p> <p>Promoting universal health care, insurance schemes, birth registration, Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) and cash transfers</p> <p>Fostering innovative solutions for the delivery of existing social protection schemes</p> <p>Promoting integrated approaches, including social protection floors, health insurance, social security and protection against violence</p> <p>Providing food assistance and cash support to vulnerable and marginalized people</p> <p>Facilitating livestock protection and management interventions</p>

OUTCOME 2. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

Impact	Outcome	Outputs	Main intervention strategies
Women and girls are safe, exercise their rights and benefit from economic opportunities.	By 2027, women, girls and transgender persons in Pakistan, especially those at greatest risk of being left behind, benefit from an enabling environment where they are empowered and reach their fullest potential; and their human, social, economic, cultural and political rights are fully protected and upheld	2.1. National and international commitments to gender equality and rights-based approaches that inform policy-making are realized through support to government institutions for monitoring the implementation of commitments, the production, analysis and use of sex/gender-disaggregated statistics, SDG data, and knowledge advocacy and accountability.	<p>Facilitating the development of national and sub-national policies on gender equality that are aligned with the SDGs</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders to monitor and report on Pakistan’s progress on implementing key treaties and international commitments⁶⁰</p> <p>Strengthening institutions and advocating for strengthened pro-women and gender equality-related legislation</p> <p>Supporting the Government of Pakistan, and the public and private sectors, to develop national and provincial gender and human rights frameworks that are aligned with the SDGs</p> <p>Supporting the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in SDG-related data production, analysis and utilization, including sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics at all levels (federal, provincial, local), as well as in civil registration and vital statistics, and Health Management Information Systems (HMIS)</p> <p>Promoting governance and accountability frameworks in the public and private sectors to enhance women’s participation in the labour force</p> <p>Strengthening inclusive human resources, financial capacity and coordination within and between oversight institutions (the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), provincial Commissions on the Status of Women (CSWs), ombudspersons (OMB), and the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs)</p> <p>Linking oversight institutions such as the NCSW with the CSO consortium</p> <p>Supporting watchdog entities at the local level</p> <p>Improving food security and nutrition-sensitive analysis that focuses on gender equality outcomes</p>
		2.2. The empowerment of women, girls and transgender persons is promoted through gender-responsive policies, programmes, strategies and instruments, through the provision of public and private financing, and institutional development and strengthening.	<p>Identifying priority areas with low financial allocations to support the most marginalized and excluded groups</p> <p>Introducing a new evidence-based policy action framework to bridge existing gender gaps and to translate existing policies into action</p> <p>Establishing gender-responsive programming, finance, planning systems and budgetary frameworks at the federal and provincial levels to track gender equality-related results</p> <p>Engaging the private sector and promoting gender-responsive procurement in the private sector</p> <p>Building regional collaboration for knowledge exchange on national gender-responsive budget formulation</p> <p>Supporting the introduction and use of innovative gender-responsive financial tools</p>

⁶⁰ Including Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDGs 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Universal Period Reviews (UPRs) and the Beijing Platform for Action, among others.

Impact	Outcome	Outputs	Main intervention strategies
			<p>Promoting access to finance and resources for women and marginalized groups, including microfinance products/plans/frameworks</p> <p>Facilitating women’s, girls and transgender people’s access to technological solutions and the creative industries</p> <p>Applying a gender lens to all public and private sector climate financing and SDG investment solutions</p>
		<p>2.3. Vulnerable and marginalized women, girls and transgender persons actively contribute to resilient and empowered communities, and are able to operate in safe spaces and harassment-free environments, protected from gender-based violence, violence against women and other harmful practices, and have equitable access to services and information.</p>	<p>Supporting reforms to align with international standards and commitments, and the full implementation of laws on sexual violence, sexual harassment, workplace harassment, domestic violence, early marriage, rape, inheritance and the family</p> <p>Building the capacity of the justice sector and service providers for gender-responsive justice and services to bridge the gap between laws and implementation</p> <p>Supporting women’s and marginalized groups’ access to justice</p> <p>Strengthening coordination between justice sector institutions for the provision of services and the consolidation of efforts, including in the context of emergency helpline services</p> <p>Supporting psychosocial support and the integration of mental health in service delivery</p> <p>Strengthening gender-responsive multi-sectoral partnerships, programming and the capacities of service providers for essential services and systems to address gender-based violence – including health care, education, social services, law, justice, and rehabilitation – including in humanitarian crises</p> <p>Supporting services for survivors of gender-based violence, including access to shelters and essential services</p> <p>Strengthening evidence-based advocacy that addresses harmful social norms and attitudes in workplaces, public spaces and transportation, including through engagement with men and boys</p> <p>Implementing social and behaviour change strategies to address harmful social norms related to child marriage</p> <p>Engaging the formal education sector, men and boys to change social norms and attitudes</p> <p>Supporting women’s access to safe public spaces and transport systems to increase their mobility</p> <p>Bridging the gap between existing laws and their implementation</p> <p>Advocating for the inclusion and mainstreaming of disability issues into social development programmes</p> <p>Strengthening service delivery mechanisms</p> <p>Supporting case management and the institutionalization of the prevention of, and response to, gender-based violence</p> <p>Promoting gender-related awareness, including on breastfeeding, family-friendly workplace policies and better adolescent nutrition and dietary practices</p>
		<p>2.4. Those in positions of power take action to support vulnerable and marginalized women, girls and</p>	<p>Promoting awareness of existing pro-women and gender equality-related legislation, policies and services</p> <p>Strengthening women’s parliamentary caucuses</p>

Impact	Outcome	Outputs	Main intervention strategies
		<p>transgender persons to be aware of and exercise their rights, so as to actively and meaningfully participate in communities, receive support, and rise to leadership positions in both the public and private sectors.</p>	<p>Supporting women-led organizations and women’s leadership, especially in economic and financial sectors</p> <p>Advancing women’s political participation at all levels</p> <p>Improving gender inclusion and gender parity in public and private entities</p> <p>Facilitating awareness raising and capacity building for youth using the arts and culture as a means of changing social attitudes</p> <p>Facilitating access to civil registration, including the provision of Computerized National Identity Cards for women in all their diversity, with a special focus on hard-to-reach areas</p> <p>Advancing social cohesion by engaging women and girls, and increasing their roles in peace and security</p> <p>Supporting the participation of trans-led organizations’ participation in legal dialogues and policy-making</p> <p>Promoting resilience and equality among communities</p> <p>Promoting improved care practices for children throughout the life course, including nutrition for girls and boys, shifting prevalent beliefs and expectations around harsh or violent parenting practices, and working towards gender-equal caregiving roles</p> <p>Advocating for the inclusion of gender equality and empowerment priorities in the development and humanitarian nexus</p> <p>Building new and strengthening existing networks with civil society partners</p>
		<p>2.5. Women and girls, especially those most vulnerable and marginalized, benefit from a rights-based, gender-responsive enabling environment that ensures their active participation in, and ability to benefit from, the economy.</p>	<p>Addressing the issue of women’s disproportionate burden of unpaid care work through enhanced awareness, especially in rural communities, and advocacy for the recognition of unpaid care work</p> <p>Facilitating the formalization of women-owned business, especially micro-enterprises and cottage industries, that currently operate as unregistered, informal entities</p> <p>Supporting women in agriculture through the provision of skills, resources and rural finance</p> <p>Supporting women’s increased role in and coordination with agriculture support services and departments</p> <p>Advancing the implementation of relevant laws, including, but not limited, laws on home-based workers and harassment in the workplace</p> <p>Catalysing the growth of women-owned businesses through access to finance, skills and entrepreneurship trainings, as well as by facilitating linkages with local and regional supply chains</p> <p>Leveraging information technology to provide women with non-traditional sources of income, such as freelancing and web development, which provide women with flexibility in terms of time and office space</p> <p>Addressing stereotypes to increase women’s and girls’ representation in science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM)-related fields</p>

OUTCOME 3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Impact	Outcome	Outputs	Main interventions
<p>People have a climate-resilient future ensured by the ecological restoration of the Indus River Basin.</p>	<p>By 2027, people living in the Indus River Basin, particularly the most vulnerable, including women, girls, boys, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, have their lives positively impacted by the restored and protected health of the Indus Basin, and by being better equipped to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its impact.</p>	<p>3.1. National and sub-national systems are strengthened for the reduction of environmental degradation and improved climate action.</p>	<p>Supporting the development of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), provincial policies and regulatory frameworks</p> <p>Establishing public-private partnerships for climate change adaptation</p> <p>Supporting the achievement of Pakistan’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)</p> <p>Supporting the development of the climate and disaster risk financing frameworks</p> <p>Strengthening health surveillance early warning systems and forecast-based financing</p> <p>Facilitating awareness among communities about climate change, mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>Strengthening the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, including by strengthening community resilience</p> <p>Promoting research and efforts to inventory the indigenous knowledge of communities, traditional techniques and practices that contribute to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation</p> <p>Facilitating the availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics to support socio-culturally appropriate programming results</p> <p>Conducting research, including to understand gender dynamics related to climate change, such as specific gender-based inequities that contribute to women’s and girls’ vulnerability</p>
		<p>3.2. Natural habitats and ecosystems (forests, rangelands and watersheds) are protected, managed and conserved for the protection of the Indus Basin’s sources.</p>	<p>Promoting the sustainable development of new and existing protected areas (including zero-carbon areas)</p> <p>Promoting the conservation of mountain ecosystems</p> <p>Facilitating the end of deforestation and the restoration of degraded forests</p> <p>Supporting nature-based interventions for resilience against glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in valleys that are not covered by the GLOF II initiative</p> <p>Supporting financing and incentivizing sustainable water, land and forest management</p> <p>Advocating for the protection of biodiversity and natural habitats</p> <p>Advancing eco-tourism by promoting national parks and cultural heritage sites across the Indus Basin</p> <p>Supporting the conservation and restoration of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems</p> <p>Promoting the sustainable management of natural and cultural heritage and landscapes</p> <p>Protecting and improving the quality of water at the source of the Indus Basin</p> <p>Enhancing the management of solid waste, particularly plastic waste management, in urban areas and protected areas</p>

		<p>3.3. The clean, efficient and sustainable use of surface and groundwater, as well as other resources of the Indus Basin, increases the health and economies of the communities and cities within the Basin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to strengthening the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers Promoting sustainable food production, and resilient agricultural and livestock practices Promoting the sustainable use of groundwater resources for multiple needs Facilitating institutional planning and management of regulated and controlled urbanization, and enhancing government capacity to deliver such urbanization Helping to secure financial resources to conserve ecosystems and biodiversity, and to sustainably use natural resources Supporting integrated water resource management and addressing water scarcity Promoting watershed management, water harvesting, and conservation infrastructure and technology Developing sustainable and equitable groundwater-based natural infrastructure solutions for areas with critically notified groundwater levels Developing climate-resilient water safety plans Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters Strengthening emergency response infrastructure to enhance local governments’ and communities’ rapid response abilities in the event of sudden disasters Developing urban forests in cities along the Indus River Basin Advocating for climate risk financing, including rural financing and micro-insurance support Promoting climate-resilient livelihoods Exploring the feminine principle in relation to nature, and determining gender divisions in natural resource management with regard to roles traditionally played by women Promoting ecohydrology for wastewater management and reuse
		<p>3.4. Life in the Indus Basin is preserved, and marine ecosystems and the Indus Delta are protected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the reduction of marine pollution, including zero-plastic cities, and effluent treatment for industries and municipalities before they dump waste in Indus waters Supporting the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine areas Facilitating the increased economic benefits of the sustainable use of marine resources Promoting increased scientific knowledge, research and technology to improve ocean health Supporting small scale fishers Supporting the protection, rehabilitation and management of mangrove ecosystems and the increased resilience of communities in the Indus Delta

OUTCOME 4. SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK

Impact	Outcome	Outputs	Main intervention strategies
People, especially those most marginalized and at risk of being left behind, benefit from sustained, inclusive and green economic growth.	By 2027, people in Pakistan, especially those at risk of being left behind and becoming further marginalized – including youth, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups – benefit from a broad-based, job-rich and gender-responsive recovery with decent work opportunities for all. This will be achieved through: integrated employment	4.1. Gender-responsive strategies are adopted and programmes implemented in close collaboration with the Government, the private sector, trade unions/producers’ organizations, women and youth to support job-rich, sustainable and green economic growth and decent work, including the promotion of regional connectivity initiatives.	Supporting a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies, including the promotion green works and green jobs Supporting economic policy review and technical advice combining demand and supply side dimensions Supporting inclusive strategies for economic growth in disadvantaged geographic areas Exploring economic growth potential in terms of regional connectivity, trade, knowledge-sharing and south-south cooperation Supporting institutional coordination mechanisms to ensure an integrated approach for gender-responsive economic growth Facilitating effective sectoral partnership between the private sector and service providers for gender-responsive economic growth Integrating poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments into market systems through a targeted approach Supporting the food production sector to improve food security, while stimulating employment/livelihood opportunities and decent work Facilitating and accelerating investment in rural infrastructure, both public and private Promoting economic growth and employment through environmental rehabilitation involving nature-based solutions, including afforestation Supporting rainwater harvesting and conservation Promoting climate-smart food production
		4.2. National and provincial stakeholders are supported to adopt employment policies and implement programmes to create adequate decent employment, income generation and empowerment opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups, including food-insecure communities, to enhance their resilience and livelihoods, as well as to facilitate effective labour market transitions.	Identifying disparities in employment with a focus on marginalized groups, such as food-insecure communities, including by integrating sex-disaggregated data collection systems to identify gender disparities Strengthening gender-responsive labour market programmes and employment services for transitions to decent work over the life course, with a focus on young women workers, both women and men Increasing capacities to design and implement strategies, measures and provisions to promote youth employment Supporting tripartite coordination mechanisms to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment, including enhanced coordination with the private sector for promoting employment for marginalized groups Supporting the development of provincial employment strategies that adopt targeted approach for marginalized groups. including women and youth Building the capacity of service providers and the private sector to implement employment strategies for all marginalized groups, including women and youth

	<p>policy responses; the private and public sector and the social and solidarity economy as generators of employment, providers of skills training and education; harnessing the potential of job-rich economic sectors like agriculture, the creative economy and the care economy; upholding fundamental principles and rights at work, social dialogue and tripartite cooperation; diversifying livelihoods to reduce dependency on one form of livelihood (particularly agriculture or</p>		<p>Supporting fair labour migration, including fair recruitment and a gender-responsive, ethical migration system</p> <p>Supporting the design and implementation of programmes and strategies to promote job creation for excluded groups in order to move towards gender parity</p> <p>Supporting the design and implementation of programmes and strategies to enhance livelihoods by promoting income and employment generation</p> <p>Supporting income generation activities that enable self-reliance through livelihood diversification and off-farm income</p> <p>Providing training to improve post-harvest handling practices, food processing and conservation</p> <p>Supporting local communities’ resilience against climate change in protected areas through green work and climate-resilient infrastructure</p>
		<p>4.3. Stakeholders are supported to create an enabling business environment (including a technical and financial ecosystem) for job-rich economic sectors (e.g. industry, agri-business/food production, the creative economy, and the care economy) for the promotion of sustainable enterprises, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).</p>	<p>Developing sectoral, pro-poor economic growth strategies in close consultation with sector leads</p> <p>Facilitating streamlined strategies and interventions for the economic inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups, as well as integrating and strengthening women’s economic empowerment initiatives at all levels</p> <p>Supporting the development, piloting and scaling up of alternative livelihoods in water-scarce areas</p> <p>Engaging and incentivizing the private sector to expand investments in new and diversified sectors, including the rural economy and food production sector, other marginalized sectors, and the textile export sector and agri-businesses to substitute imports and explore export potential</p> <p>Promoting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including in marginalized areas and those headed by women and other disadvantaged groups, through technical assistance and capacity building on alternative livelihoods, new technologies (clean, green and resource-efficient technology) and approaches (digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR))</p> <p>Supporting the circular economy to advance community development, and clean, green productivity solutions for small businesses, as well as the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), eco-industrial parks, cluster development initiatives, value chain enhancement, sustainable livelihoods, resource efficiency, and enhanced productivity among SMEs and MSMEs</p> <p>Building the capacity of service providers and the private sector to promote responsible entrepreneurship</p> <p>Facilitating fair ecosystems in the market in terms of financing and innovative financing windows</p> <p>Strengthening women’s, youths’ (adults) and marginalized groups access to affordable financing for livelihoods and economic activities, including to address food insecurity</p> <p>Introducing special financial technology (fintech) solutions to promote MSMEs’ and start-ups’ access to finance</p> <p>Facilitating the formation of rural economic clusters in the rural economy and food production sector, and incentivizing rural business development sectors in marginalized areas in terms of both traditional businesses and new value chains, using a circular economy methodology</p> <p>Promoting employment and livelihoods that stimulate eco-tourism, cultural and religious tourism, and the sustainable management of heritage sites and intangible heritage</p> <p>Supporting government institutions and local communities to safeguarding the karez water system in Balochistan to advance sustainable livelihoods</p>

livestock rearing/management); and enabling longer-term resilience-building and rural economic development of the most vulnerable communities prone to various shocks and stressors.	4.4. The capacities and competencies of human resources are built through the provision of technical education, skills and entrepreneurship development, including for MSMEs, and the productivity and employability of youth, girls, women and other vulnerable groups is enhanced.	<p>Promoting a 'skills needs anticipation system' to enhance industry-institute linkages</p> <p>Facilitating gender-responsive planning tools to bridge gender gaps in the delivery of skills training and technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as well as to address stereotypes in skill building and training initiatives</p> <p>Improving the quality of TVET – in terms of curricula, teacher training, competency standards and regular assessment – and facilitating access to TVET for women, youth and people from marginalized areas</p> <p>Mainstreaming entrepreneurship/business education in TVET, as well as in the cultural and creative industries</p> <p>Supporting efforts to link TVET with the labour market – through career counselling, vocational guidance and job placements – and enhance women's and youths' job market readiness and employability</p>
	4.5. Inequalities and disparities in the world of work are reduced by promoting and facilitating women's economic empowerment, by strengthening the capacities of national and provincial institutions, employers' and workers' organizations, and by preventing violence and harassment at work.	<p>Undertaking analytical studies on inequalities and disparities in different economic sectors</p> <p>Facilitating women's economic empowerment by promoting access to training, business and entrepreneurship, finance and markets, as well as membership in business groups and networking, with a focus on women in rural areas, urban slums and other marginalized areas</p> <p>Promoting women's economic empowerment to advance social cohesion and resilience-building</p> <p>Advancing accountability frameworks in the public and private sectors to increase women's participation and empowerment in the labour force – including the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), and Business and Human Rights (BHR) principles, among other frameworks</p> <p>Supporting the full implementation of laws on home-based workers, strengthening the capacities of women in the informal economy, and creating linkages with supply chains, including for microenterprises</p> <p>Developing and piloting strategies to reduce disparities and inequalities in economic sectors, and supporting service providers to implement these strategies</p> <p>Enhancing the of capacities of, and promoting effective coordination between stakeholders – governments, employers, workers and their representative organizations, civil society, women, youth and academia – on women's empowerment and reducing inequality</p> <p>Promoting the implementation of anti-harassment laws and enforcement mechanisms in all public and private entities</p> <p>Stimulating a culture of prevention in terms of violence and harassment in the world of work</p>
	4.6 Fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW) are applied to prevent all forms of exploitation of workers and others in the world of work, including small-holder farmers, fishers and self-employed workers.	<p>Strengthening data and analysis to support evidence-based policies, strategies and interventions on decent work and fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW), with a focus on women, youth, the working poor and other marginalized groups</p> <p>Reducing exploitative forms of work, including forced labour and human trafficking, as well as the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and, by 2025, ending child labour in all its forms</p> <p>Supporting the implementation of International Labour Standards and national laws on child labour, forced labour, non-discrimination, freedom of association and collective bargaining, minimum wages, occupational safety and health for workers and others engaged in all economic sectors, in line with the recommendations of the ILO's supervisory bodies</p> <p>Supporting the ratification of additional International Labour Standards in line with the ILO's Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP)</p>

			<p>Reducing other forms of exploitative work and exclusion from labour laws</p> <p>Supporting the formalization of the informal economy and the rural economy</p> <p>Promoting and strengthened social dialogue to improve labour market governance and administration for all economic sectors</p> <p>Advocating for the adoption of women-friendly policies for safer work spaces</p> <p>Supporting the implementation of laws on home-based workers, supporting women in the informal economy and creating linkages with supply chains, including for microenterprises</p>
--	--	--	---

OUTCOME 5. GOVERNANCE

Impact	Outcome	Output	Main intervention strategies
People trust in and benefit from open, agile, accountable, future-ready and effective governance and justice systems, which are able to deliver solutions for achieving the SDGs.	By 2027, the people in Pakistan, especially women, children, the most vulnerable and marginalized, have increased access to fundamental rights, gender equality and fundamental freedoms through inclusive, accountable, effective and evidence-driven governance	5.1. Democratic governance institutions and systems – including, legislative bodies, local governments and electoral management bodies – are strengthened, effective and responsive to people’s needs, for transparent and equitable service delivery, with a focus on data governance systems and digital solutions.	<p>Increasing the capacity of service delivery institutions, and coordination between them, to develop and deliver inclusive, rights-based and gender-responsive policies and services, including by providing technical expertise and technological solutions</p> <p>Supporting policy makers to increasingly use evidence-based approaches and technological solutions to take timely, informed decisions consistent with population changes and other mega trends</p> <p>Engaging and strengthening the capacity of stakeholders mandated to draft and vet legislation – including legislators, parliamentary committees, commissions and law departments – to improve legislative reform, oversight for policy implementation and the protection of fundamental freedoms</p> <p>Supporting Increased coordination and cooperation between institutions to improve service delivery, including government departments, criminal justice institutions, the judiciary, civil society and the media</p> <p>Supporting public financing, financial management, budget tracking (including on gender indicators) and improvements of the taxation system</p> <p>Strengthening the supply-side local governance and protection system through coordinated leadership, structures and mechanisms, while enhancing demand-side elements, including citizens’ voice and participation, especially of women, youth and children</p> <p>Strengthening governance systems and rights-based, responsive mechanisms in the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as in other marginalized regions</p>
		5.2. Justice systems are more accessible, efficient and affordable.	<p>Supporting women’s Increased capacity and representation in the justice system, in order to improve the delivery of people-centred services and increasing access to justice, especially for women, children and other marginalized groups</p> <p>Building the capacity of criminal justice institutions and law enforcement agencies to apply gender-responsive approaches, particularly for victims/survivors of gender-based violence and child protection violations</p> <p>Improving access to the justice system for women and other vulnerable groups through supply side interventions, including gender-responsive infrastructure</p>

	systems and rule of law institutions at all levels of government, that contribute to good governance and stability.		<p>Facilitating the accessibility of free legal aid and increased legal representation for women, children and marginalized groups, including refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons</p> <p>Supporting the review and revision of legal frameworks to align them with international norms and practices, including gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches</p>
		5.3. People are aware of, and increasingly able to demand and obtain their rights.	<p>Supporting government institutions to establish baselines to track progress on relevant rights-based and inclusive responses, coupled with regular stock-taking to assess progress and make informed decisions</p> <p>Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders – government mechanisms, the justice chain, civil society and the media – to ensure that protection mechanisms enable people to claim their rights, especially vulnerable groups like women, children, those deprived of liberty, and people at risk from violence Facilitating social and behavioural change communication strategies to increase public awareness – especially of vulnerable groups, including women and children – of human rights, while promoting the protection of these rights and access to essential services</p> <p>Promoting increased civil space and economic opportunities, especially for women and youth</p>