



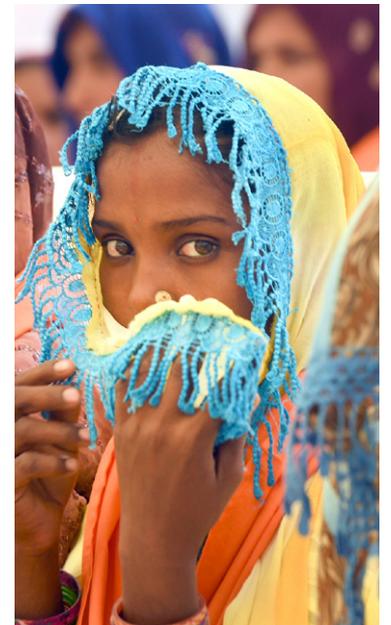
UNITED NATIONS  
PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان



UNITED NATIONS  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION  
FRAMEWORK 2023–2027

PAKISTAN

**ABRIDGED VERSION**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **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). It is nationally owned and reflects national development priorities. It 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.

The UNSDCF is the UN’s framework for planning and implementing development activities at the country level through a set of outcomes to be achieved jointly between 2023 and 2027. It aims to ensure the coherent, integrated and streamlined achievement of development results by UN agencies, working together as one, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team.

The UNSDCF outlines how the UN system will support Pakistan to achieve the SDGs, uphold fundamental rights, advance gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE), build resilience, improve accountability and enhance sustainability. At the core of our commitment is the priority to **leave no one behind**, and to reach those furthest behind first, by responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people in Pakistan. UN global reform positions Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks as “the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of the UN development activities.” This is the case for the UNSDCF for Pakistan.

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 included resident and non-resident UN agencies, the Government of Pakistan at the federal and provincial levels, technical ministries, national partners, civil society organizations, international financial institutions, development partners, the private sector, academia, organizations for persons with disabilities and international non-governmental organizations.

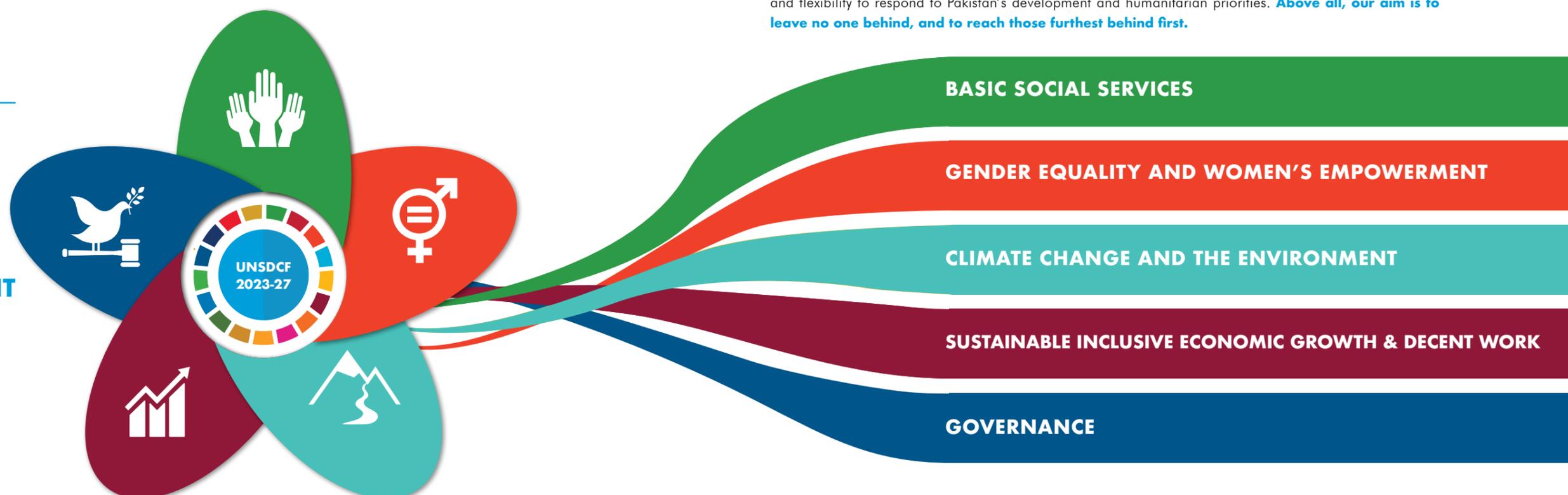
With this UNSDCF, the UN in Pakistan has prioritized **five development outcomes** to improve people’s lives, especially the lives of those at greatest risk of being left behind. The UN will support Pakistan to move forward on its pathway towards sustainable development, on the understanding that:

- 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, inclusive green economic growth and decent work, there will be equitable employment opportunities, greater 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.

The UN will maintain its commitment to mobilizing UN agencies working in Pakistan, as well as regional and global offices, to enhance coherence and strong, diverse partnerships for achieving the SDGs. Collaboration with government counterparts will be further strengthened, informed by up-to-date analysis of capacities and needs. The UNSDCF’s implementation will begin in the midst of unprecedented climate catastrophe leading to massive floods that affected one-third of the country and in the aftermath of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This carries 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.**

## THE UNSDCF PRIORITIZES 5 DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES



# CONTEXT



Pakistan was one of the first countries in the world to embrace the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as its own ‘national development goals’.

While analysis suggests that Pakistan may achieve some SDG targets by 2030, overall progress is likely to be limited due to social, economic and environmental challenges.

To advance progress on the SDGs, 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.
- Build upon a **common vision and shared goals**, with people and the planet at their core.

The **catastrophic floods** that affected one-third of the country in 2022 and the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic have the potential to push back hard-won progress on socio-economic indicators. Therefore, the UNSDCF 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, harnessing the potential of youth, and achieving progress on the rule of law, gender equality, human development and urban resilience.



**Leaving no one behind** is the central pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With its focus on leaving no one behind, the UNSDCF for Pakistan places people at the heart of development and humanitarian action. It supports approaches that respond to people’s needs, expand access to assistance and protection for all, address violations and enhance accountability. The UNSDCF’s focus on leaving no one behind involves **four priorities**:



**Closing data gaps**



**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**



**Turning political commitments into development action**



**Minimizing the development-humanitarian divide**

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



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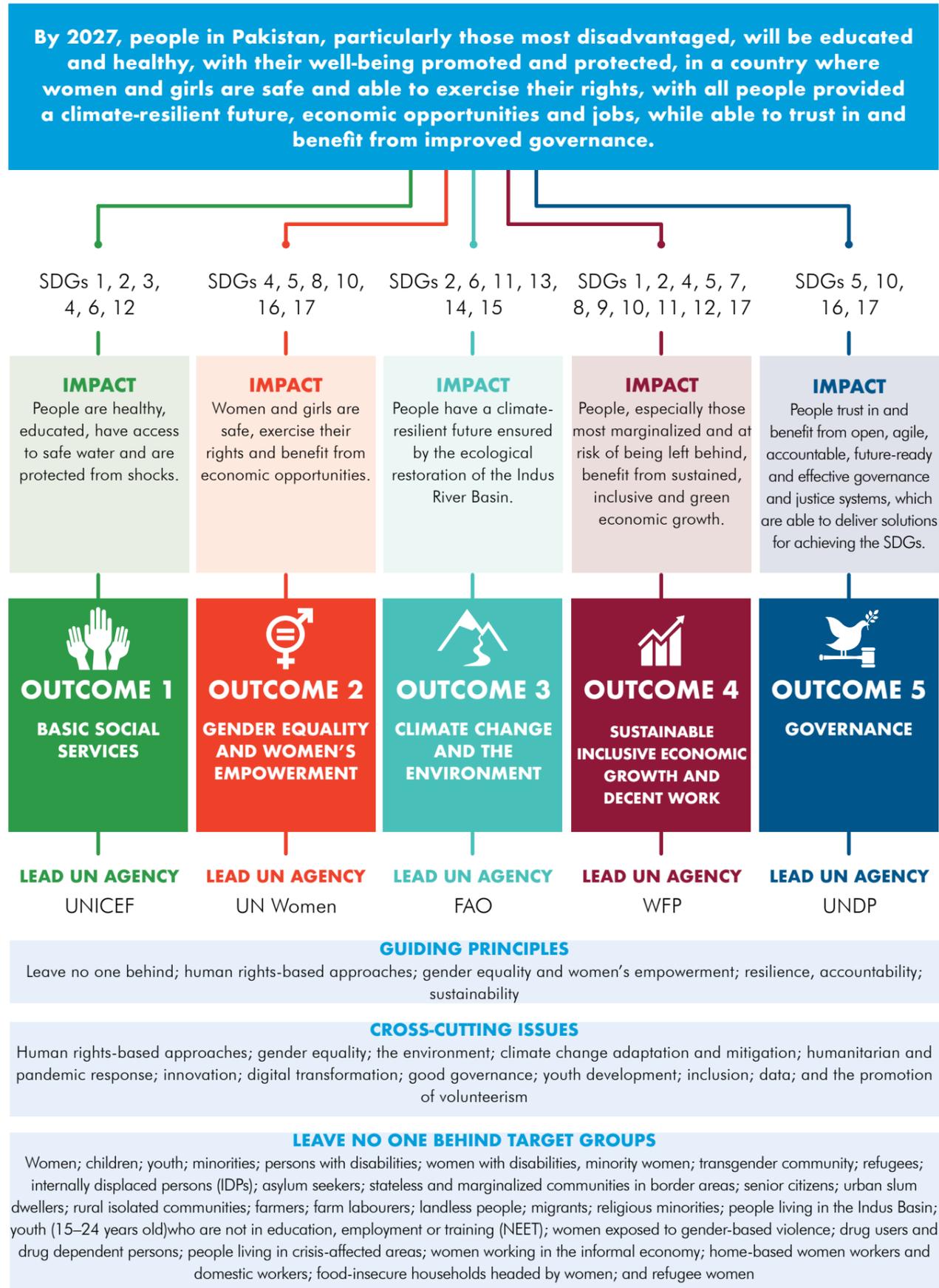
# THEORY OF CHANGE

The sustainable development pathway for Pakistan – captured in the UNSDCF’s **theory of change** – 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, as well as a commitment to rights-based approaches that empower all people, particularly women and the most marginalized, vulnerable groups.

The **UNSDCF’s outcomes** are designed to support Pakistan to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda by building capacities at the national and sub-national levels, while responding to differences across provinces and regions, with a focus on both immediate and longer-term development goals. The UN will introduce innovative financing mechanisms and ways of working, while forming stronger partnerships to scale up the UN’s contribution to sustainable development within Pakistan’s national plans and programmes for broader impact and sustainability. We will work to increase digitization, the generation and use of disaggregated data, integrated cross-sectoral approaches, and capacity development for the long-term sustainability of skills development, institution-building, service delivery and volunteerism.

**At the end of the programming cycle in 2027**, it is expected that the impacts identified within the theory of change will be achieved so that Pakistan experiences positive economic, social and environmental change, demonstrated through verifiable results. These impacts 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. 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 UNSDCF’s results.

## UNSDCF THEORY OF CHANGE





**OUTCOME 1**

**BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

**IMPACT** People are healthy, educated, have access to safe water and are protected from shocks.

**OUTCOME STATEMENT**

**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).**

**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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OUTCOME 1**

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF (lead agency), UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, WHO

**UN SUPPORT FOR QUALITY HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION WILL INCLUDE:**

- Health systems strengthening across all health system pillars of governance.
- Prioritizing essential immunization, particularly full immunization targets and 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 (TB) care and prevention, quality essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, and maternal, newborn and adolescent health (MNCAH) through partnerships at the federal and provincial level.
- Facilitating improved access to and utilization of services for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- Contributing to the development of core capacities for the early detection of, and response to, health emergencies.

**UN SUPPORT FOR NUTRITION SYSTEMS' STRENGTHENING WILL INCLUDE:**

- Prioritizing strengthened quality nutrition services, including support for policy and legal frameworks.
- Partnering with governmental and non-government entities to strengthen capacity and 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 skills to prepare and respond to humanitarian situations.

**UN SUPPORT FOR IMPROVED WASH SYSTEMS WILL INCLUDE:**

- Policy, governance, coordination and legal frameworks' strengthening, including increased investment/financing to promote equitable, sustainable and gender-responsive quality services, while prioritizing the most deprived and vulnerable 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 to humanitarian situations, natural disasters and the potential influx of refugees.

**UN SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION SYSTEM DELIVERY WILL INCLUDE:**

- Assisting efforts to strengthen 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.

**UN SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND MEASURES WILL INCLUDE:**

- 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 strengthen existing schemes, such as the Benazir Income Support Programme/Ehsaas and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal by applying 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.



OUTCOME 2

# GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

**IMPACT** Women and girls are safe, exercise their rights and benefit from economic opportunities.

## OUTCOME STATEMENT

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.

### 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 commitments, the production, analysis and use of sex/gender-disaggregated statistics, SDG data, and knowledge advocacy and accountability.

### 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.

### OUTPUT 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.

### 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.

### 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 THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OUTCOME 2

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, UN Women (lead agency), WFP, WHO

### UN SUPPORT FOR NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND DATA WILL INCLUDE:

- 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.
- 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, public and private sector to develop SDG-aligned gender and human rights institutions and frameworks.
- Mainstreaming gender perspectives in SDG data production, analysis and utilization, including sex-disaggregated data.
- Promoting public and private sector governance and accountability frameworks to enhance women's labour force participation.
- Strengthening human resources, financial capacity and coordination within and between oversight institutions and stakeholders.
- Supporting linkages between oversight institutions (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.

### UN SUPPORT FOR INCLUSIVE GENDER-FINANCING WILL INCLUDE:

- Assisting the identification of priority areas with low financial allocations to support the most marginalized and excluded people.
- Introducing a new evidence-based policy action framework to bridge gender gaps and translate existing policies into action.
- Supporting the establishment of federal/provincial gender-responsive programming, finance, planning systems and budgetary frameworks.
- Engaging the private sector and promoting gender-responsive procurement in the sector, while fostering regional collaboration.
- Assisting the introduction and use of innovative gender-responsive financial tools and gender equal access to finances and resources.
- 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.

### UN SUPPORT FOR PROTECTION AGAINST HARMFUL PRACTICES & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WILL INCLUDE:

- Assisting reforms aligned with international standards and commitments, and the full implementation of pro-women laws.
- Building the capacities and accessibility of the justice sector, as well as of gender-responsive justice service providers.
- Facilitating stronger coordination between justice sector institutions to enhance service provision, including in emergencies.
- Strengthening capacities to provide multi-sectoral essential services for survivors of gender-based violence.
- Increasing advocacy on harmful social norms, practices and behaviours in workplaces, public spaces and transportation.
- 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 breastfeeding, family-friendly workplace policies, and better adolescent nutrition and dietary practices.

### UN SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S AWARENESS, VOICE, AGENCY AND LEADERSHIP WILL INCLUDE:

- Raising awareness of pro-women and gender equality-related legislation, policies and services.
- Contributing to strengthening women's machineries and parliamentary caucuses, women-led organizations and women's leadership.
- Assisting the advancement of women's political participation at all levels, gender inclusion and parity in public and private entities.
- 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.
- Contributing to improved care practices for girls and boys throughout the life course.
- Advocating for the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment priorities in the development and humanitarian nexus.
- Helping to build new and strengthen existing networks with civil society and volunteer organizations working on gender equality.

### UN SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT WILL INCLUDE:

- Raising awareness of unpaid care work and advocating for the equitable distribution of care work and public child care facilities.
- Assisting women-owned businesses' transition from the informal to the formal economy, especially micro-enterprises.
- Supporting women in agriculture through the provision of skills, resources and rural finance.
- Assisting the enforcement of rules, regulations and laws (e.g. on home-based workers, domestic workers and workplace harassment).
- Contributing to catalysing the growth of women-owned businesses via access to finance, skills, training and supply chain linkages.
- Helping to leverage IT to provide women with non-traditional income sources and increasing their representation in STEM fields.



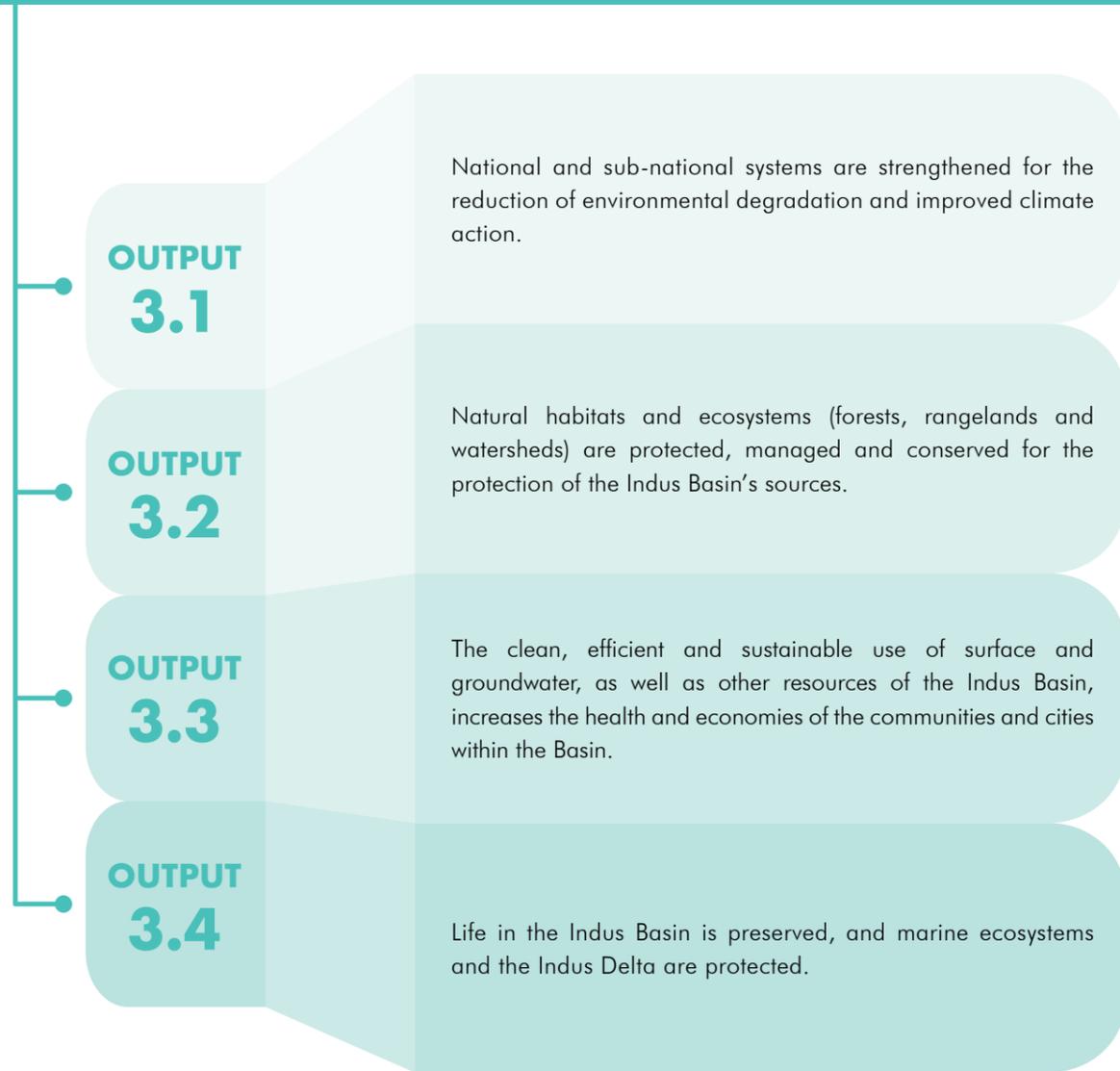
**OUTCOME 3**

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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

## OUTCOME STATEMENT

**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.**



### UN AGENCIES THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OUTCOME 3

FAO (lead agency), IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, UNV, WFP, WHO

#### UN SUPPORT FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT THAT DRIVES CLIMATE ACTION WILL INCLUDE:

- Assisting the development of implementation frameworks and action plans of the National Climate Change Policy, provincial climate change policies and regulatory frameworks, research and 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, techniques and practices that contribute to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, while ensuring the participation of formal/informal volunteer groups.
- 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.

#### UN SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING THE SOURCE OF THE INDUS BASIN WILL INCLUDE:

- 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.

#### UN SUPPORT FOR THE EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT USE OF WATER AND OTHER RESOURCES WILL INCLUDE:

- 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.
- 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, integrated water resource management, addressing water scarcity, watershed management, water harvesting, conservation infrastructure and technology.
- Supporting the development of climate-resilient water safety plans, adaptive capacities to address climate-related disasters and stronger emergency response infrastructure to enhance local governments' and communities' response to sudden onset disasters.
- Championing the inclusion of excluded communities most affected by climatic events, facilitated by volunteer engagement in climate resilience.
- Advocating for climate financing and the promotion of climate-resilient livelihoods.
- Exploring the feminine principle in relation to nature and analysing gender divisions in natural resource management.

#### UN SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING THE INDUS BASIN'S MARINE ECOSYSTEMS WILL INCLUDE:

- 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.



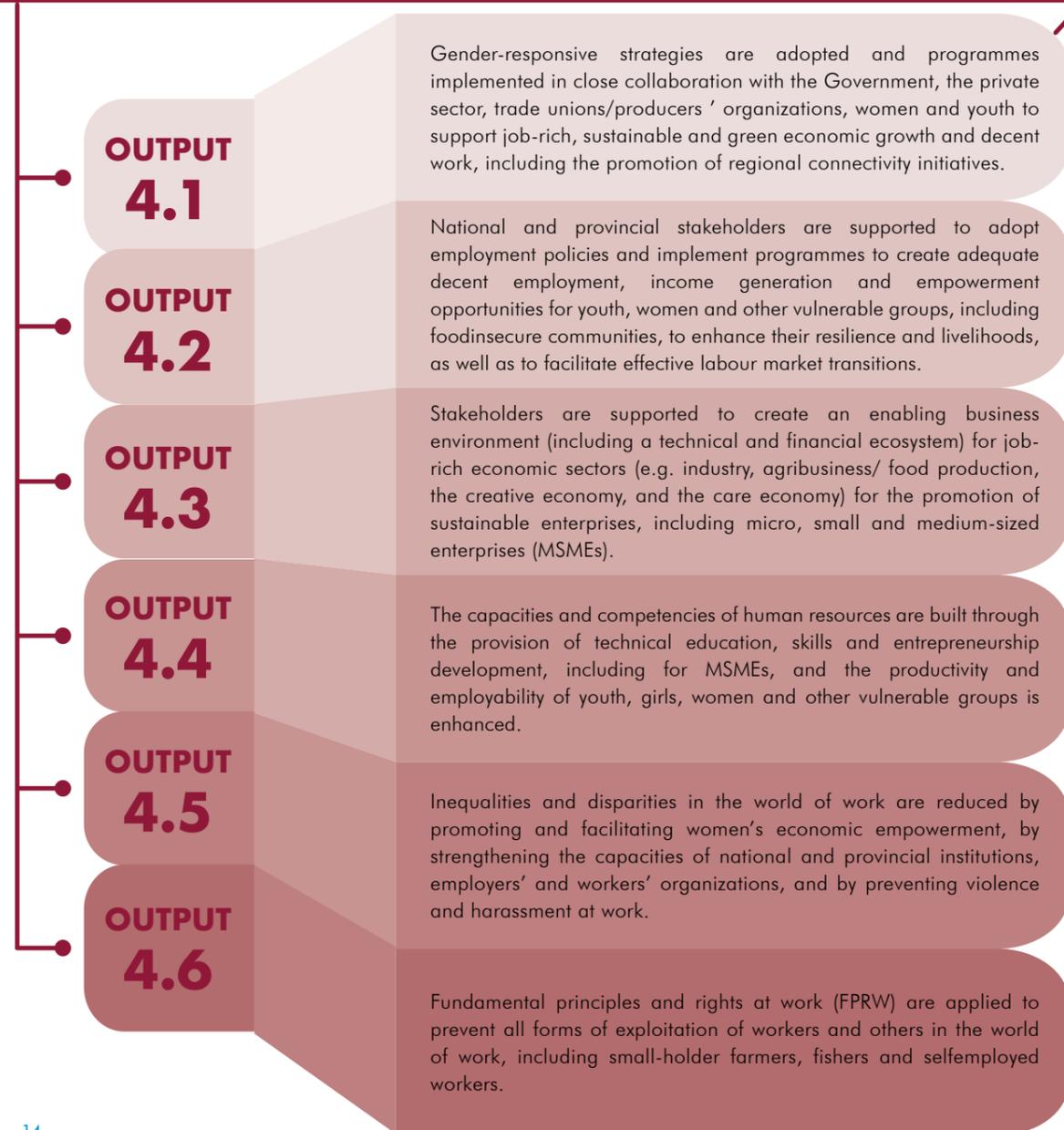
**OUTCOME 4**

# 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 STATEMENT**

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.



**UN AGENCIES THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OUTCOME 4**

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP (lead agency)

**UN SUPPORT FOR JOB-RICH, SUSTAINABLE, GREEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK WILL INCLUDE:**

- Assisting the review of economic policies, providing technical advice and supporting inclusive strategies for economic growth.
- Promoting a just transition towards environmentally-sustainable economies, including promoting green works and green jobs.
- Exploring potential opportunities for economic growth through regional connectivity and south-south cooperation.
- Facilitating institutional coordination mechanisms to ensure an integrated approach to gender-responsive economic growth.
- Contributing to the integration of poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups into market systems, as well as supporting the food production sector to improve and ensure food security, while stimulating employment, livelihoods and decent work.
- Promoting accelerated investment in rural infrastructure and growth/employment through environmental rehabilitation.

**UN SUPPORT FOR POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES THAT FOSTER DECENT WORK WILL INCLUDE:**

- Identifying disparities in employment, focusing on gender-based disparities and marginalized groups (e.g. food-insecure households)
- Supporting strengthened gender-responsive labour market programmes and employment services, with a focus on youth.
- Assisting tripartite coordination mechanisms to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment.
- Building the capacities of service providers and the private sector to implement employment strategies.
- Promoting fair labour migration, as well as 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.

**UN SUPPORT FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES WILL INCLUDE:**

- Assisting the development of sectoral, pro-poor growth strategies and economic inclusion strategies for women/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 those in underdeveloped areas, and those headed by women and other marginalized groups.
- Promoting a circular economy for community development, clean green productivity solutions for small business, SEZs, eco-industrial parks, cluster and value chain enhancement, resource efficiency and productivity enhancements for M/SMEs.
- Facilitating a fair market financing ecosystem and an innovative financing window for livelihoods/activities that address food insecurity.
- Introducing Fintech solutions for MSMEs/startups, facilitating rural economic clusters and rural business development sectors.
- Promoting livelihoods that stimulate eco-, cultural and religious tourism, and the sustainable management of heritage sites.

**UN SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND EMPLOYABILITY WILL INCLUDE:**

- Promoting a 'skills needs anticipation system' to enhance industry-institute linkages.
- Facilitating gender-responsive planning tools to deliver skills training and TVET, 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.
- 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.

**UN SUPPORT FOR REDUCED INEQUALITIES AND DISPARITIES IN THE WORLD OF WORK WILL INCLUDE:**

- 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 public and private sector accountability frameworks to increase women's labour force participation and empowerment.
- Supporting the full implementation of HBW laws, opportunities for women in the informal economy, and supply chain linkages.
- Promoting enhanced capacity and coordination 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

**UN SUPPORT FOR PREVENTING ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION WILL INCLUDE:**

- Strengthening data, normative and analytical work on supporting women, youth, the working poor and marginalized groups.
- Promoting an end to exploitative forms of work, including the worst forms of child labour, forced labour and human trafficking.
- Supporting the application of International Labour Standards (ILS) and national labour laws in all economic sectors.
- Promoting the formalization of the informal economy, 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.



**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 STATEMENT

**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.**

### 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 systems and digital solutions.

### OUTPUT 5.2

Justice systems are more accessible, efficient and affordable.

### OUTPUT 5.3

People are aware of, and increasingly able to demand and obtain their rights.

## UN AGENCIES THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OUTCOME 5

FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP (lead agency), UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women

### UN SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS WILL INCLUDE:

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

### UN SUPPORT FOR ACCESSIBLE, EFFICIENT AND AFFORDABLE JUSTICE SYSTEMS WILL INCLUDE:

- 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.

### UN SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE’S AWARENESS OF, AND ABILITY TO DEMAND AND OBTAIN, THEIR RIGHTS WILL INCLUDE:

- 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.

# UNSDCF'S IMPLEMENTATION

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.

- The **Joint UN-Government Steering Committee (JSC) mechanism** will ensure national ownership of all UN-supported initiatives. This function is exercised by the Oversight Committee and Provincial Steering Committees.
- 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 if the Secretary is absent – and the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC).
- **Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs)** will provide provincial oversight and increase sub-national ownership of the UN's work. These geographically representative bodies will each be co-chaired by the Chairman of the Provincial Planning and Development Board/Additional Chief Secretary for Planning and Development, and the head of the UN entity 'lead' for the province.

## UN INTER-AGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The **United Nations Country Team (UNCT)** – led by the UN Resident Coordinator and comprised of the heads of all UN agencies working in Pakistan, including non-resident agencies – will guide the UNSDCF's implementation.

The **Programme Management Team (PMT)** – comprised of the deputy heads of UN agencies in Pakistan – is the key advisory body to the UNCT, providing advice on harmonized results management and supporting joint UN initiatives.

The **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PME)** supports the Programme Management Team, providing guidance and advice on decision-making, monitoring frameworks and the development of Joint Work Plans.

**Outcome Groups (OGs)** will support inter-agency engagement around the joint programming priorities of each UNSDCF outcome. One UN agency will 'lead' each Outcome Group, acting as the convening (lead) agency.

**Provincial Programme Teams (PPTs)** – comprised of UN programme staff based in Pakistan's provinces and administrative areas – will report to the Programme Management Team and support the UN lead agency in each province/administrative area to engage with sub-national governments.

The **Gender Theme Group** will ensure the UN system is unified and coordinated in providing support to the Government and other partners on issues related to gender equality.

The **United Nations Communications Group (UNCG)** – comprised of communication focal points from all resident UN agencies in Pakistan – will support the UNCT to develop and implement the UNSDCF's Communication Strategy to ensure that the UN system in Pakistan speaks with 'One Voice'.

The **Operations Management Team (OMT)** will implement the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0, improving organizational effectiveness via common business operations to support the UNSDCF's implementation.

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.

## 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)** and/or agency-specific work plans, as needed. These 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.

## RESOURCING

The UNSDCF's implementation will rely on available funding, the mobilization of resources at the country level, and 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. A **resource mobilization approach** will be developed, the UNCT will use the UNSDCF to leverage joint UN funds that promote SDG integration, and it will support the Government's development and implementation of an **Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)**.

Outcome	Total funding required (US\$)	Available funding (including projected) (US\$)	Funding to be mobilized (US\$)
<b>1. Basic Social Services</b>	3.02 billion	667.85 million	2.35 billion
<b>2. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>	345.34 million	53.19 million	292.15 million
<b>3. Climate Change and the Environment</b>	325.63 million	92.51 million	233.11 million
<b>4. Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work</b>	701.87 million	295.15 million	406.71 million
<b>5. Governance</b>	331.61 million	58.52 million	273.10 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.72 billion</b>	<b>1.17 billion</b>	<b>3.56 billion</b>

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring the UNSDCF will be an annual evidence-based process of determining the UN's efficiency and effectiveness while programmes are implemented. All UN agencies will report on their contributions to the UNSDCF directly in the **UNInfo** online platform against planned activities and resources, as part of their direct support for the monitoring cycle. The UNCT will also develop a costed multi-year **Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan (MEL)**. The UNSDCF's progress will be monitored through the **Joint UN-Government Steering Committee** mechanism once a year, which can consider circumstances that may impact the continuity of the planned approach to inform amendments to the UNSDCF and Joint Work Plans.

Data generated through government monitoring activities will be used to monitor UN contributions to development results, as will the collection of sex-disaggregated data, gender statistics and related analysis. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, each Outcome Group will conduct an annual performance review with its stakeholders to discuss achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned. **Annual UN Country Result Reports** will be prepared, drawing on UNInfo reports, annual performance reviews and CCA updates. A **final independent evaluation** of the UNSDCF will be conducted in 2026.



**24.71%**  
OF FUNDS ARE  
AVAILABLE OF  
THE REQUIRED  
**US\$4.72 BILLION**



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**PAKISTAN** اقوام متحدہ پاکستان



## UN ENTITIES IN PAKISTAN



Food and Agriculture  
 Organization of the  
 United Nations



International  
 Labour  
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