



UNITED NATIONS  
PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان



One UN Pakistan

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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Author: Ruya Leghari  
Graphic Design: Kamron Ismatullaev  
and Zaffar Shabdurasulov

<b>FOREWORD</b>	2
<b>MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR</b>	3
<b>ACRONYMS</b>	5
<b>DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN TRENDS</b>	6
<b>ONE UN PROGRAMME III: DELIVERING AS ONE IN 2019</b>	8
<b>REAL LIVES: STORIES FROM ACROSS PAKISTAN IN 2019</b>	10
<b>OUTCOME 1 ECONOMIC GROWTH</b>	12
<b>OUTCOME 2 DECENT WORK</b>	20
<b>OUTCOME 3 HEALTH AND WASH</b>	28
<b>OUTCOME 4 NUTRITION</b>	40
<b>OUTCOME 5 FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE</b>	46
<b>OUTCOME 6 RESILIENCE</b>	54
<b>OUTCOME 7 EDUCATION AND LEARNING</b>	62
<b>OUTCOME 8 GENDER, EQUALITY AND DIGNITY</b>	70
<b>OUTCOME 9 GOVERNANCE</b>	78
<b>OUTCOME 10 SOCIAL PROTECTION</b>	88
<b>ONE VOICE: COMMUNICATING AS ONE</b>	94
<b>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE</b>	96
<b>ANNEXES</b>	98
<b>ANNEX I DELIVERING AS ONE IN PAKISTAN</b>	98
<b>ANNEX II JOINT BUDGETARY STATUS AT THE OUTCOME LEVEL</b>	99
<b>ANNEX III PARTNERSHIPS</b>	100



## FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION



Pakistan was among the first countries in the world to embrace the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. Through a unanimous parliamentary resolution, Pakistan adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its own national development goals, committing to leave no one behind and to reach those farthest behind, first.

Since 2015, the Government of Pakistan has taken full ownership of the SDGs, as reflected by key initiatives aligned with the SDGs' aims and aspirations. The *Ehsaas* ('Compassion') Programme, the largest poverty reduction programme in Pakistan's history, aims to reduce inequality, uplift districts that lag behind, and invest in people, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable – widows, orphans, people with disabilities, poor women, labourers, and farmers. The *Kamyab Jawan Programme* provides financial and technical assistance for unemployed young people, including through its new *Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme* (YES). The *10 Billion Tree Tsunami* is a drive to recover deforested landscapes, protect the environment and conserve biodiversity by planting 10 billion saplings nationwide. These examples illustrate our commitment to issues at the heart of Agenda 2030.

Pakistan's commitment is further reflected in the strength of our 70-year partnership with the United Nations. Throughout 2019, the Government of Pakistan and the UN continued a highly-valued partnership to accelerate sustainable development across the country. The aims of our collaboration are articulated in the *United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) 2018–2022*, also known as the One UN Programme III. This guiding agreement frames our joint work in support of national priorities, aligned with the SDGs.

Together in 2019, we achieved important progress to improve the lives of Pakistan's people across 10 Outcome areas: economic growth; decent work; health and water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition; food security; resilience; education and learning; gender, equality and dignity; governance; and social protection.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, the Economic Affairs Division commends the UN's support in advancing people-centred development, quality services and responsive governance, as well as combating inequality, multidimensional poverty and climate change. As we move forward on our collective journey, the Government stands ready to support the implementation of the One UN Programme III. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration to achieve our vision of Pakistan: a country free from poverty, unshackled by inequalities and exclusion, and oriented around the common benefits of sustainable human development for all.

Noor Ahmed  
Secretary  
Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs  
Government of Pakistan



## MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR



In 2019, millions of lives in Pakistan changed for the better as the UN worked 'as one' to deliver the greatest impact for people in the greatest need. In words, images, facts and figures, this Annual Report chronicles the high-impact results that the UN in Pakistan achieved, together with our partners, to make the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for all the people of Pakistan.

The SDGs inspired us to aim higher and think bigger. Their pledge – to transform lives, protect our planet, and leave no one behind – is at the heart of our framework for cooperation with the Government of Pakistan, the *United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018–2022*, also known as the One UN Programme III (OP III). In implementing the OP III, we supported Pakistan to make the SDGs more relevant at home by localizing the global goals to meet local and national priorities.

Across the OP III's 10 outcome areas in 2019, the UN supported development that is sustainable, inclusive and resilient. We fought to end poverty and hunger, to turn the tide of ill health, insecurity and inequality. We strove to promote equitable economic growth grounded upon decent work and environmental sustainability. We reached those farthest behind, first, by supporting better health care, immunization, water and sanitation solutions, good nutrition, food security, and quality education.

Along this journey, we helped to build equity and resilience to shocks, standing with the most vulnerable communities in Pakistan. We assisted strides towards greater social protection and good governance, embedded in a rule of law culture in which people can exercise their rights, secure their livelihoods, and protect those of future generations. All of our efforts sought to advance gender equality and human rights – the cornerstones of sustainable development. As civic space shrinks worldwide, we know that defending equality and fundamental rights has never been more necessary.

To support Pakistan's progress on the SDGs, the UN needs to be bold – transforming traditional paradigms of development and ways of working, starting with our own. This is why we have embraced a 'new way of working', blending urgent, life-saving humanitarian response with development that fosters long-term resilience, recovery and stabilization.

In 2019, the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Merged Districts (KPM) Support Programme* best reflected our integrated approach, with UN agencies partnering as never before to help communities to return to lives of dignity. We worked to help people get on their feet and stay there – meeting immediate needs while laying the foundations for a brighter future.

I am enormously proud of the results achieved in 2019 – and the values we upheld – with our partners, our dedicated staff, and the people we serve. The achievements in this report belong to many contributors. On behalf of the UN family in Pakistan, I thank our government counterparts at all levels, our civil society and development partners and, above all, the people of Pakistan.

2020 will mark five years since all UN Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. With this historic marker on the horizon, the UN and our partners in Pakistan have an opportunity to do more. We will build official capacity to deliver quality services, offer more and better technical assistance for evidence-based policy-making and implementation, advocate for greater accountability and equality, and accelerate change towards people-centred sustainable development.

The UN's mission in the country has never been clearer. We are here to help Pakistan achieve its sustainable development priorities so that no one is left behind. Together, I believe we will achieve the future we want: a more inclusive, equitable and prosperous Pakistan.

Julien Harneis  
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator  
United Nations Pakistan



## ACRONYMS

<b>DRR/DRM</b>	Disaster risk reduction/disaster risk management
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>KPMD</b>	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Merged Districts, formerly known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)
<b>HBW</b>	Home-based worker
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>LHW</b>	Lady Health Worker
<b>OP III</b>	One United Nations Programme III 2018–2022 (also known as the UNSDF)
<b>PKR</b>	Pakistani Rupee
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SUN</b>	Scaling Up Nutrition
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNSDF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan 2018–2022 (also OP III)
<b>UN Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>US\$</b>	United States Dollar
<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



## Development and humanitarian trends

Home to 207.8 million people<sup>1</sup>, Pakistan is the world's sixth most populous country. It is also one of the youngest, with nearly two-thirds of its population under the age of 30. The Government's commitment to localizing the Sustainable Development Goals bodes well for the country's development outlook, as do efforts to reduce poverty through the *Ehsaas ('Compassion') Programme*, to employ youths through the *Kamyab Jawan Programme*, and to advance environmental sustainability with the *Clean and Green Pakistan* movement.

©ILO / Khadija Yousuf



©UNDP

Despite 2019's gains, it was a challenging year for Pakistan. Economic growth declined – falling from 5.8% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018, the highest rate of growth in 11 years, to 3.29% in 2019.<sup>2</sup> As economic activity slowed, inflation gained pace. This will make it more difficult for the economy to absorb the millions of young people who enter the labour market, year on year. Although local government elections were delayed, successful provincial government elections took place. Elected representatives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts in the provincial assembly are making a difference in mainstreaming political, social and economic development in the districts, among the most impoverished areas in Pakistan.

Pakistan ranked 152<sup>nd</sup> of 189 countries on the Human Development Index in 2019, falling two places since 2018.<sup>3</sup> Inequality and insecurity are pervasive, with wide disparities between provinces and administrative areas. Malnutrition affects nearly half of Pakistan's children. A spike in poliovirus cases – 146 in 2019, up from 12 cases in 2018 – highlights the need to do more to eradicate polio, once and for all.

Pakistan continues to have among the highest rates of out-of-school children and of maternal and child mortality in South Asia, as well as some of the lowest rates of women's labour force participation and gender parity in education. Discrimination and violence affect women, girls, transgender people and minorities. One in four Pakistanis lives in poverty – income-based poverty stands at 24.3% and multidimensional poverty at 38.8%.<sup>4</sup>

Pakistan is also the fifth most vulnerable country in the world to climate change and natural disasters – spanning floods, earthquakes and drought, climbing three places compared to its ranking on Germanwatch's *Global Climate Risk Index* in 2018.<sup>5</sup> The country hosts among the largest protracted refugee populations in the world. In 2019, the legal protection of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards was temporarily extended until the end of June 2020 for 1.4 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Pakistan (2017) *National Census 2017*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

<sup>2</sup> Finance Division (2019) 'Overview of the Economy', *Pakistan Economic Survey 2018–19*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

<sup>3</sup> UNDP (2019) *2019 Human Development Index Ranking*. New York: UNDP.

<sup>4</sup> Planning Commission of Pakistan, UNDP and OPHI (2015) *Multidimensional Poverty in Pakistan*. Islamabad: UNDP.

<sup>5</sup> Germanwatch (2019) *Global Climate Risk Index 2020*. Bonn: Germanwatch.

# ONE UN PROGRAMME III: DELIVERING AS ONE IN 2019

The One UN Programme III 2018-2022 (OP III) articulates the shared purpose of the UN family in Pakistan: delivering as one to achieve the SDGs.

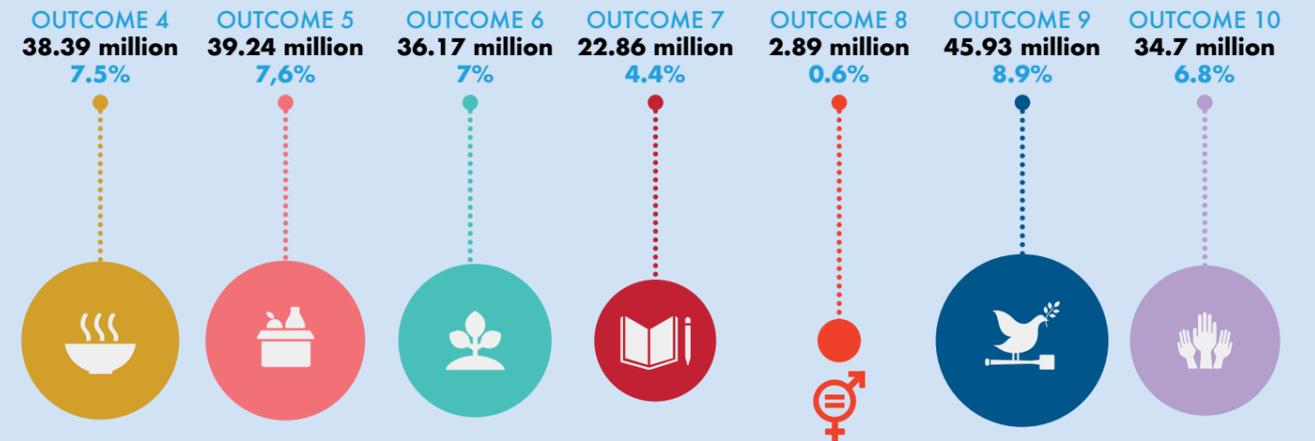
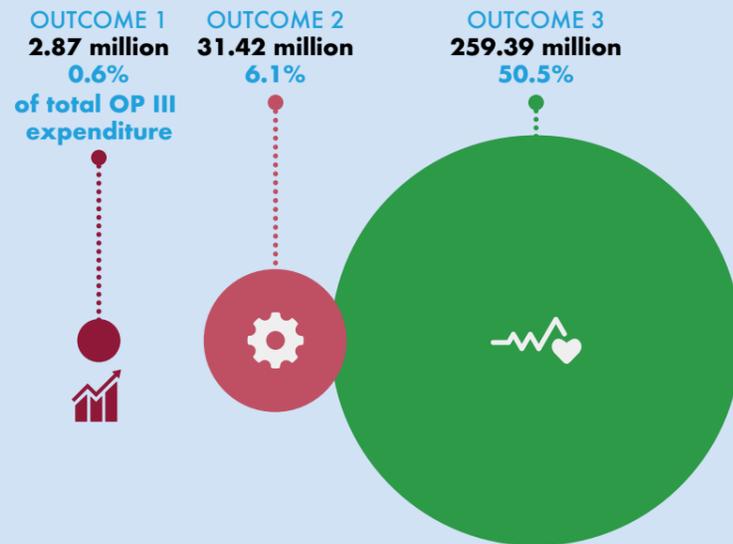
Together, we work with the Government and partners in Pakistan to improve people's lives, reduce inequalities, protect the planet and leave no one behind.



## EXPENDITURE IN 2019

TOTAL UN  
BUDGETARY  
EXPENDITURE  
IN 2019

U S \$  
**513.86**  
MILLION



## REAL LIVES: STORIES FROM ACROSS PAKISTAN IN 2019

The true measure of success for the UN is the difference we make to people's lives. This Annual Report 2019 features stories from across Pakistan – testaments to the real-life impact of the UN's work in each of the One UN Programme III's Outcome areas.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa  
Merged Districts  
Gilgit-Baltistan  
Pakistan Administered Kashmir  
Islamabad Capital Territory

Balochistan

Punjab

Sindh



OUTCOME 1



## Economic Growth

A strong, inclusive and green economy is a pathway to prosperity for all. Through Outcome 1 of the One UN Programme III, the UN works with the Government of Pakistan to foster sustainable, resource-efficient economic growth that leaves no one behind. While speaking to the challenges of a growing, urbanizing population, we envision growth characterized by women's and young people's equitable participation, fair trade, domestic and foreign investment, strong value chains, sustainable energy, and environmentally-friendly industrial development.

# 1

## ECONOMIC GROWTH



**OUTCOME 1:** By 2022, the people in Pakistan, especially key populations, including those who are unskilled, benefit from improved inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and progress towards full access to energy and fair trade practices

**KEY RELATED SDGs**

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

## IMPACT IN 2019



**Enabling environment for cluster development**  
**300** SMEs benefitted from the Cluster Development Initiative



**Support for value chains and agro-industry**  
**1.3 million** households benefit from livestock vaccinations



**Moves to reduce industry's environmental footprint**  
**159** people trained on climate adaptation and reducing pollution



**Advances on affordable housing**  
**500,000** houses will be built with UN support



**Attention paid to sustainable energy in industry**  
**50** industries will benefit from the Energy Management System initiative



**Support for the cultural and creative industries**  
**30** museum professionals trained on cultural management

**EXPENDITURE**  
**U S \$**

**2.87**  
**MILLION**

**PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

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

**REDUCING INDUSTRY'S FOOTPRINT**

Pakistan's leather industry is booming. This is good news for exports, but without urgent action, it is bad news for the environment and public health. Chemicals used in the tanning process expose workers to hazardous pollutants, while wastewater discharged from tanneries carries these pollutants onto nearby farmland, causing extreme soil and water pollution. This is why the UN is promoting ways to reduce industry's environmental footprint – in aid of a cleaner, greener Pakistan.

In 2019, we worked to curb environmental hazards through the project, *Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation through Water Resource Management in Leather Industrial Zone Development*, in Sialkot, Punjab. UNIDO teamed up with the Sialkot Tannery Association Guarantee Limited (STAGL) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve water management, wastewater treatment and water conservation. The project completed the master planning of the 400-acre Sialkot Tannery Zone, so that all of the city's tanneries can move to a single, well-planned area replete with key facilities – ranging from a combined effluent treatment plant, to a chrome recovery plant and drainage systems. The zone's segregated effluent and storm water conveyance system was designed, as were flood protection measures, and recommendations on management and mandatory clean technologies. Alongside *Typical Tannery Design Guidelines*, the project finalized the *Techno-Economic Study of Common Chrome Recovery Plants*, a *Climate and Social Assessment*, and an *Assessment of Waste Water and Energy Efficiency* to improve compliance with the standards outlined by the Leather Working Group (LWG).

We paired this progress with a focus on partnerships and capacity development. Collaboration with the Government Women's University of Sialkot is set to strengthen climate change adaptation campaigns. An internship programme for women students enrolled in the university's *BSc Environmental Sciences* degree strengthened local capacities, as did eLearning modules and field trainings for 159 participants. Since workers are safer when they receive training in local languages, the project translated training materials on hydrogen sulfide (H2S) safety and operational safety and health (OSH) into Urdu, making them accessible to tannery workers.

 **Sialkot Tannery**  
Zone neared completion

 **159**  
people engaged through eLearning and field trainings

 **IMPACT**  
Progress on reducing industrial pollution and improving climate change adaptation

**LOCAL CLUSTERS, GLOBAL EXPORTS**

The UN-supported *Punjab Cluster Development Initiative* is helping to create an enabling environment for inclusive growth, jobs and innovation. In 2019, it boosted the productivity, quality and competitiveness of small-scale local industries – from ready-made garments, leather products and auto parts in Lahore, to surgical instruments in Sialkot. More than 300 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) benefitted from UNIDO's technical assistance on design and development, optimizing resources and enhancing exports.

Galvanizing support for cost-sharing led to the creation of two design studios to diversify Pakistani exports for African markets. Ready-made garment exporters set up an Apparel Design and Research Centre (ADRC), and footwear exporters are following suit. The initiative mobilized three foreign investors to invest in technology transfer in the automotive sector, and assisted surgical supply manufacturers to find a new market in South Africa. Encouraging exporters to form consortia to jointly market their products let them tap into opportunities that they could not have accessed individually.

The results speak volumes. Beneficiary companies' exports have grown by 10% since the *Cluster Development Initiative* began. The initiative's success inspired the Government of Punjab to adopt 'cluster development' as a key part of its growth strategy, industrial and MSME policies. The provincial government also agreed to set up an Industrial Intelligence Unit (IIU) to ensure that data informs evidence-based policy-making and revamps standards for export readiness.

 **300**  
SMEs benefitted from the *Cluster Development Initiative*

 **10%**  
growth in beneficiary companies' exports

 **IMPACT**  
Enabling environment for locally-driven inclusive growth



**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN INDUSTRY**

Industrial energy efficiency is gaining ground in Pakistan with UN support. In 2019, UNIDO launched the *Energy Management System (EnMS) in Industries* initiative to facilitate green growth. Energy consultants will assist 50 energy-intensive industries, across 10 industrial clusters nationwide, to implement the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) 50001 standard for energy management systems and conduct energy audits. This will make industries more environmentally-friendly and competitive, resulting in huge savings while slashing greenhouse gas emissions. Training sessions for 10 consortia groups – including energy management consultants, energy auditors and academics – strengthened their capacities to participate in this pioneering initiative.

With UN assistance, 2 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) projects promoted the uptake of renewable energy technologies by Pakistan's industries. The Prime Minister's Task Force on Energy Reforms drafted the *National Integration Energy Plan* and *Alternative Renewable Energy Policy 2019*, setting the stage for increased reliance on renewable sources. A new study shed light on opportunities for scaling up renewable energy and energy efficiency in five energy-intensive sectors: paper, steel, dairy products, textiles, and ceramics.

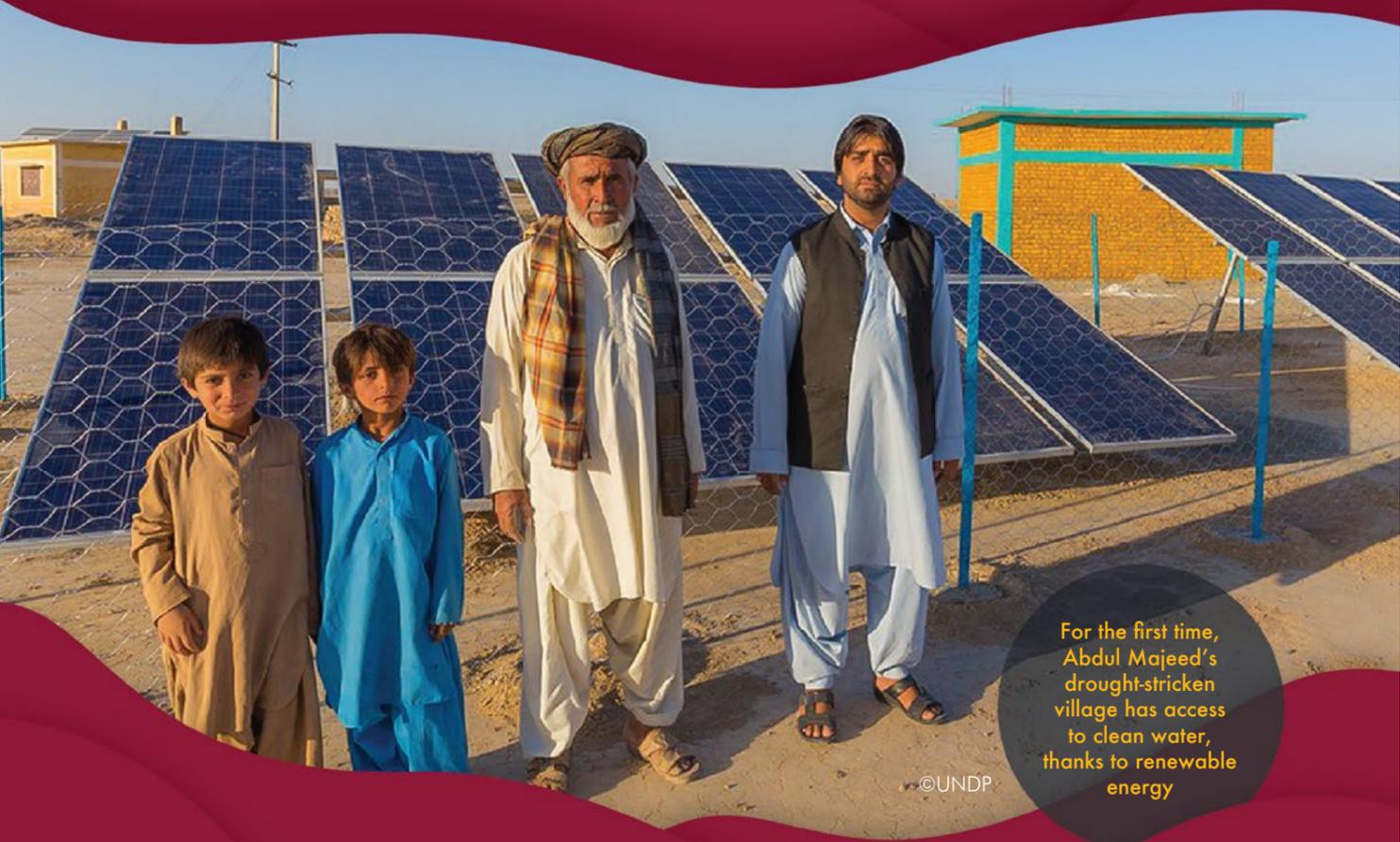
 **50**  
industries will benefit from the *Energy Management System* initiative

 **10**  
consortia groups trained to scale up the EnMS initiative

 **2 MW**  
solar photovoltaic projects promoted renewable energy

 **5 MW**  
& 25 KW biomass projects spearheaded

 **IMPACT**  
Advances on sustainable energy management, renewable energy and energy efficiency



For the first time, Abdul Majeed's drought-stricken village has access to clean water, thanks to renewable energy

©UNDP

## ABDUL MAJEED'S STORY: CLEAN ENERGY, CLEAN WATER

"Before the installation of the RO plant, we could only associate a very bitter taste with water," admits Abdul Majeed.

His village of Killi Sardar Abdul Samad, in Balochistan's Nushki district, is one of the hardest hit by prolonged drought. As eight months passed without rain, groundwater began drying up. Animals started dying. Unable to give them water, villagers sold off their remaining camels rather than see them die of thirst. Each day, desperate women travelled for miles in the scorching heat to find a source of clean drinking water. In droves, locals began migrating to nearby towns. Their last water pond was left with just a shallow pool of stagnant, bacteria-laden water.

"Diarrhoea in young children and lung diseases amongst the elderly became increasingly common," Abdul Majeed explains. "Waterborne diseases became a common cause of death among the locals. Pregnant mothers began losing their unborn children as a result of poor health conditions caused by unclean drinking water, and hepatitis was rampant in the area. The nearest hospital was at least 40 kilometres away [...] even if those in need of treatment did manage to get to the hospital in time, most locals could not afford the hospital fees."

The village was desperate for a solution to water scarcity. Renewable energy has given them one.

The Government of Balochistan teamed up with UNDP to build solar-powered Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants that provide clean drinking water in remote villages across the district of Nushki. Killi Sardar Abdul Samad is one of these villages.

"For the first time, we were able to taste clear water," says Abdul Majeed, recalling the fateful day that the RO plant started up.

Powered entirely by the sun, the plant transforms unusable water into potable drinking water in a few simple steps.

"People carry water containers to ensure they have enough clean water available for the entire day."

Women and children from surrounding villages flock to Killi Sardar Abdul Samad to fill their own water containers.

"This plant has not only benefitted us but has also benefitted people from other villages in the area," Abdul Majeed says. "Now that we have clean drinking water available, children have become safe from waterborne diseases. The local population's health and their general well-being has also improved significantly."

His experience is a testament to the power of renewable energy – to help solve Pakistan's water crisis, revive barren land, protect livelihoods, and expand access to water and sanitation. Since all facets sustainable development are interlinked and indivisible, stories like Abdul's remind us that renewable energy will be key to achieving the SDGs.

### BENEFITS OF BIOMASS

Biomass – fuel derived from organic matter – is an increasingly popular form of environmentally-friendly power generation. With UN support, Pakistan's first biomass cluster was created in 2019 to demonstrate the technical and commercial viability of biomass-to-energy conversion technologies. A 5 MW biomass project in a leading textile firm showed how the commercial use of biomass can help industries curb emissions and their reliance on the national electric grid – helping to solve Pakistan's energy shortfall while advancing sustainable growth. A 25 KW biomass pilot in Punjab served as a model for using biomass to provide rural communities with clean, green electricity.

### ADVANCING AGRO-INDUSTRY

UN initiatives in 2019 championed agro-industry's enormous potential for growth. The new *Project on Agri-Food and Agro-Industry Development Assistance (PAFAID)* geared up to support high-value horticultural and livestock value chains in two provinces. With funding from the Government of Japan, UNIDO began work to enhance the productive and compliance capacities of actors in Balochistan's apple value chain in the districts of Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah, Pishin, and Quetta, and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's cattle meat value chain in Abbottabad, Dera Ismail Khan, Kohistan, and Peshawar. Detailed value chain analysis examined ways forward for both value chains, as did seven feasibility studies, and an environmental and social management plan.

By strengthening the capacities of food producers and processors, improving supply chain management, and adding more value to products, the project will reduce food losses, increase incomes and foment socio-economic stability. In collaboration with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, it will also assist government bodies to offer sustainable, scaled-up services for agro-industries.

### ADDING VALUE THROUGH VALUE CHAINS

UN efforts helped smallholder farmers in Pakistan engage in agricultural value chains – gaining added value to improve their livelihoods and contribute to economic growth. FAO trained 2,700 farmers, over half of whom are women (52%), in value addition practices for common agricultural commodities, marketing and business development. Over 43,000 farmers affected by floods and drought resumed production thanks to the provision of agricultural inputs and capacity building. Livestock vaccinations for 9.9 million animals against transboundary livestock diseases like foot and mouth disease (FMD) benefitted 910,000 households, as did vaccinations against *peste de petite ruminants* (PPR) for 3.89 million small ruminants, benefitting 410,000 households.

Gender-inclusive studies of six value chains in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts laid the groundwork for developing inclusive value chains that benefit both women and men. UN support aided the Government of Balochistan's small-scale certified seed production initiative.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, trout farming gained pace by providing fish incubators to the district of Chitral's Fisheries Department. The creation of Chilgoza Forest Conservation and Protection Committees raised awareness at the community level, so that pine nut growers can secure maximum profits for their produce.



**2,700** 52% women  
farmers trained on value added practices and business development



**43,000** 27% women  
farmers benefitted from inputs and capacity building



**1.3 million**  
households benefitted from the vaccination of:



**13.79 million**  
large and small ruminants against livestock diseases



**IMPACT**  
Strengthened agricultural value chains and inclusive economic growth

### SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PLANNING

Municipal planning sets the scene for inclusive, sustainable urban development. In 2019, UN Habitat developed a pilot *Municipal Business Plan* for Peshawar's Town Municipal Administration I (TMA-I) to test the challenges and opportunities for improving business planning and revenue collection, while reducing costs. The plan's implementation aims to accelerate urban poverty alleviation by making the delivery of basic services more effective and boosting economic growth.



Women artisans' handicrafts from Chitral were launched onto the world stage by Italian designer Stella Jean

©UNIDO

## WOMEN ARTISANS' STORY: PAKISTANI HANDICRAFTS MAKING WAVES

*"Despite thousands of miles of distance, dozens of women have worked together, with the common goal of caring and preserving an endangered global culture heritage."*

This is how Pakistan's Secretary of Commerce, Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, described the camaraderie between women artisans from northern Pakistan and Italian-Haitian fashion designer Stella Jean, who incorporated their crafts in her spring/summer 2020 collection at Milan Fashion Week in September 2019.

In a visit supported by UNIDO and the Ministry of Commerce, the designer spent two weeks in the remote valleys of Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

There, among the Kalasha people, she learned about the intricate embroidery which local women specialize in – a tradition that, much like the Kalasha people themselves, is at risk of becoming extinct.

In an effort to raise awareness and provide artisans with an income, Jean collaborated with the Chitral Women's Handicrafts Centre.

For weeks on end, 46 Kalasha women embroidered more than 400 meters of material with traditional chain-stitch floral motifs for her collection.

Launching traditional Pakistani handicrafts onto the world stage shone a light on women artisans and the enduring value of their art.

## BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOMES

Amid rapid urbanization and population growth, affordable homes are in short supply in Pakistan. A landmark UN-supported housing initiative aims to bridge this gap by expanding access to sustainable housing. In 2019, UNOPS joined forces with the Government of Pakistan and SHS Holdings to build 500,000 safe, affordable, environmentally-sound homes over the next 10 years. These houses will feature the latest renewable energy and disease preventative technology – including solar panel roofs, waste-to-energy technology and mosquito-repellent coatings. The agreement will benefit millions of the poorest people in Pakistan, and as many as 78 industries, directly or indirectly.



**500,000**  
safe, affordable homes will be built with UN support



**IMPACT**  
Progress on access to sustainable, affordable housing

## CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Cultural and creative industries can power sustainable development – empowering people, stimulating innovation and driving inclusive growth. In this spirit, UN initiatives in 2019 strengthened cultural management in Pakistan. UNESCO contributed to guidelines on conserving the historic Lahore Museum. Its new *Museum Improvement Plan* sets out a five-year and long-term strategy to revive Lahore Museum as a cultural heritage institution by rethinking management and staffing practices.

Training on exhibitions and management honed the capacities of 30 professionals from public and private museums. The *Taxila Museum Management Plan* is set to better safeguard and showcase Taxila's unique heritage, while integrated management plans for Gurdwara Sacha Sauda and Gurdwara Rohri Sahib aim to promote religious tourism in Punjab.



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OUTCOME 2



## Decent Work

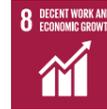
Making decent work a reality for all Pakistanis is the foremost aim of Outcome 2 of the One UN Programme III. Across the board, the UN assists policy development and implementation that advances compliance with International Labour Standards. UN agencies support the Government to expand decent work, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood opportunities for all – both to create new jobs that can absorb the millions of youths entering the labour market each year, as well as to improve conditions for the millions of Pakistani women and men already working in the formal and informal economy.

# 2

## DECENT WORK



KEY RELATED SDGs



**OUTCOME 2:** By 2022, the people in Pakistan, especially women and youth, have improved access to productive livelihoods, income opportunities and decent work

## IMPACT IN 2019



Support for upholding labour standards  
workers' occupational safety and health improved  
**15,900**



Promoting decent work for women  
women home-based workers received life skills training  
**9,060**



Livelihood opportunities for marginalized groups  
host community members and refugees received vocational training  
**2,045**



Advances on craft-based sustainable livelihoods  
artisans trained on sustainable craft development  
**50**



Support for youth employment and entrepreneurship  
young people benefitted from entrepreneurship education  
**16,213**



Empowering entrepreneurs, MSMEs and startups  
entrepreneurs accessed microfinance  
**2,200**



EXPENDITURE  
U S \$  
**31.42**  
M I L L I O N

### PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

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

UPHOLDING LABOUR STANDARDS

By reforming policies, laws and regulations on labour inspection with UN support, Pakistan took another step forward on compliance with International Labour Standards. In 2019, the ILO strengthened the capacities of workers' and employers' organizations, promoting their engagement in labour inspection and in upholding occupational safety and health (OSH).

Capacity development honed the skills of social partners on gender-responsive collective bargaining, and of government departments – including federal and provincial Bureaux of Statistics – on gender-responsive reporting. The Government of Sindh developed 11 sets of 'rules of business' and fixed a minimum wage for provincial workers.

After training on OSH, the implementation of the ILO Score Module, and in-factory support, 15,900 workers in 106 enterprises reported that their access to safety and health improved. Over 12,000 workers in eight enterprises reported lower rates of turnover and absenteeism, greater efficiency and higher productivity.

To help workers understand their rights, 648 cotton growers, cotton pickers and farm workers – including 298 girls and women – were trained on labour standards, OSH and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW). Awareness raising familiarized employers and workers in the formal and informal economy with the Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100) and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111). Sensitizing over 1,100 people on child labour, forced and bonded labour mobilized stakeholders on the need to end economic exploitation.

MAKING 'DECENT WORK' WORK FOR WOMEN

Empowering women economically is a moral imperative. It also makes good economic sense. Women's participation strengthens economies, improves household productivity and living standards, and enhances women's agency. In 2019, the UN continued to champion women's economic empowerment in Pakistan, reaching out to those most in need. Education and employment initiatives engaged 16,809 young women across the country.

Life skills training backed by UN Women helped 9,060 women home-based workers and members of marginalized groups to increase their incomes. Online training on business development engaged 625 women home-based workers, while 33 transgender persons benefitted from capacity building.

Capacity development on market trends, using e-commerce, and supplying local and international businesses made it possible for 153 women entrepreneurs in Sindh and Balochistan – including 12 transgender persons – to open online shops through the Vceela.com e-portal. In Sialkot, the incomes of 52 business women rose by 300% after capacity building, strengthening their livelihoods and quality of life.

Stronger capacities were also a boon to sustainable livelihoods in Pakistan's critical agricultural sector. In Gilgit-Baltistan, for example, UN-backed training honed the capacities of women workers in the apple value chain and juice production. Sustained advocacy by UN Women convinced four more multinational companies to sign up to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP) – pledging to create a more inclusive, gender equal working environment.



**648** 46% women  
cotton growers and workers trained on labour standards



**16,809**  
young women engaged in employment and education initiatives



**1,100**  
stakeholders sensitized on child and forced labour



**9,060**  
women home-based and marginalized workers trained



**15,900**  
workers reported improved access to safety and health



**153** 8% transgender persons  
women entrepreneurs benefitted from capacity building



**12,000**  
workers reported lower turnover and higher productivity



**300%**  
increase in 52 trainees' incomes



**IMPACT**  
Progress on upholding labour standards



**IMPACT**  
Advances on women's and marginalized groups' economic empowerment



Hajra's intricate traditional carpets are a source of income and inspiration

©FAO/Shahid Ahmed

HAJRA'S STORY: BREAKING THROUGH THE GLASS CEILING

"My identity is no longer limited to being a mother of nine. I am proud to be known as a carpet-maker and designer now", says 40-year-old Hajra.

Thanks to UN support through the FAO-Australia Balochistan Agriculture Business Programme (AusABBA), Hajra was one of the women trained in the art of weaving wool into elaborate traditional carpets.

"The training was very easy and accessible since I did not have to leave my village to learn these useful skills," she explains. "With a limited social life, the women were often frustrated. This activity has given many of us purpose, especially the unmarried girls who now occupy their time usefully."

Using natural dyes from the vegetables she grows in her kitchen garden, Hajra spends six hours a day weaving carpets. She is making good use of the loom she received through the UN-supported training programme, but she plans to purchase another one soon to increase her output. Carpet weaving has given her both a creative outlet and a source of income.

Leading hotels and local ministers are among Hajra's clients. One hotel in Quetta bought a carpet of hers for

PKR 80,000. Her craft has expanded her horizons, quite literally. Last year, for the first time in her life, she travelled beyond Balochistan – visiting Lahore and Islamabad to display her carpets at art expos.

Thanks to her rising income, all of Hajra's children – sons and daughters alike – are getting an education. Her skills have given her a newfound confidence. Before, she confesses, she used to shy away from speaking to strangers. Now, she has a voice and is proud to use it. Far from a timid bystander, she strides into her children's school whenever she needs to discuss anything with the administration. Even her status at home, and her relationship with her husband, has improved. She feels that she has a greater say in decision-making on household matters and her children's future.

Today, Hajra is on the verge of realizing her dream: opening a 'glass shop' in Quetta. By a glass shop, she means a modern shop with glass displays that can be spotted from afar, so that more people can admire and buy her beautiful carpets. She is eager to attend FAO's training on business development, which will teach local women about business models, marketing, quality management, and entrepreneurial skills – from how to invest in a business, to how to apply for a bank loan.

Hajra hopes that, one day, every woman in Balochistan will have the skills she needs to earn an income, to secure her future and that of her children, and to find her voice along the way.



©UNDP

Thanks to UN-supported skills training, Manthaar is now a skilled machine operator

## MANTHAAR'S STORY: BREAKING THE BONDS OF POVERTY

"Usually you need some sort of a reference to get hired, but unemployed people who are desperate for work often just stand outside the factory gate all day long hoping to get called inside," explains 19-year-old Manthaar Ali.

He was one of them, lining up outside the garment factories in Korangi, a neighbourhood in Sindh's capital city, Karachi. Desperate for work, he would wake up at 5 a.m. and stand outside the gates, hoping to be asked inside for a job. He waited for two months, but never got the call.

Manthaar Ali's family are ethnic Sindhis who have lived in Korangi for generations. They have seen it transform from a sleepy mangrove-lined village by the Arabian Sea to an impoverished, violent part of Pakistan's largest and fastest growing city.

Yet, even as millions flocked to Karachi in search of a better life, Manthaar's family was left behind. His father is a night watchman in a fishing community; his elder brother a dockworker who depends on daily wages. The family struggled to make ends meet. The sixth of ten children, Manthaar left school after completing Grade 8 to find work. Since then, he has toiled in a shoe workshop, a grocery store and a poultry farm. Each job ended abruptly, without notice from his employers.

Work may have been hard to find in Korangi, but unrest and criminality was everywhere. Manthaar was constantly harassed by criminals on the street. He even lost an uncle to violence.

Manthaar's life changed when a friend told him about a training programme, a part of UNDP's Youth Employment Project. In partnership with Karachi's vocational training institutes and growing garment industry, the initiative brings vulnerable young men and women like Manthaar into work by training them in the skills employers need, and linking them to work placements. Manthaar is one of 13,000 Karachi youth whom the project intends to reach by 2020, to build sustainable livelihoods, foster economic growth, and reduce their susceptibility to violence.

Today, Manthaar is a skilled computerized machine operator at Akhtar Textiles in Korangi. Every morning, he passes through the same gates he waited in front of for months, hoping for a chance. Now he brings home PKR 13,500 (US\$135) every month.

"This may not be enough for my huge family," says Manthaar, "but it is still a lot in terms of providing much needed support to the household."

Since Manthaar found work, his family's fortunes have improved. Slowly but surely, Korangi too is becoming more secure.

"Hopefully, the peace and the job are both here to stay," he says.

### DATA ON MIGRANT WORKERS

In-depth UN research in 2019 shed light on the plight of Pakistan's most vulnerable workers – offering vital insights to guide evidence-based policy action. A [situation analysis of female labour migration from Pakistan](#) examined trends and offered recommendations to ensure that women have equal opportunities for safe and fair migration.

Awareness raising engaged 9,800 migrant workers and their families, and reached out to a further 89,000 people with critical information on safety. Thirty Migrant Resource Centres at district offices of the Pakistan Workers' Federation provided outgoing and potential migrants with information and counselling – empowering them to make informed choices. (See Outcome 8 for developments related to data on home-based workers).



**50** women and men artisans trained on sustainable craft development



**16** tour guides and hoteliers trained on eco-tourism



**IMPACT** Stronger links between traditional crafts and sustainable livelihoods

### EMPOWERING PAKISTAN'S YOUNG PEOPLE

More young people live in Pakistan today than at any time in its history. They are a wellspring of ideas and inspiration, leadership and creativity. The UN is committed to supporting Pakistan's young women and men to realize their potential – as empowered workers and entrepreneurs, citizens and leaders.

In 2019, we supported the development and launch of the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme to empower Pakistan's youth. Entrepreneurship education, career counselling and support services for 16,213 young men and women sought to unleash their economic potential. Capacity developed enabled 3,274 youths to secure jobs and cement sustainable livelihoods.

Through a focus on social entrepreneurship, the UN supported scores of young women and men to devise and implement solutions to the problems facing Pakistan today. UNDP's Youth Innovation Challenge in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa awarded 43 young people's innovative plans on youth engagement in their communities. These innovators engaged 3,767 youths in their projects to transform the socio-economic landscape. Hot on the heels of the initiative's success, we launched a second phase of the challenge in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, awarding grants to 100 youths to take forward their innovative visions.

Mentoring helped 9,277 young women and men to create space for personal growth in their chosen fields, and to play a part in their communities as agents of constructive change. To promote diversity, tolerance and peaceful co-existence, 4,566 young people participated in sessions on global citizenship, soft skills, critical thinking, counselling, and civic education. In tandem, 43 young people were awarded for innovative projects to promote and sustain community-level youth engagement.



**9,800** migrant workers and their families engaged by awareness raising



**89,000** men and women received information on safe migration



**IMPACT** Advances towards meeting migrant workers' needs

### SUSTAINING CRAFT-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Pakistan's rich cultural heritage is alive in the skills of its craftspeople and the traditions of its communities. UN initiatives in 2019 helped more artisans turn their skills into sustainable, profitable livelihoods. Nearly 50 entrepreneurs and artisans engaged in two UNESCO training workshops on the sustainable development of Pakistan's craft sector, exploring how to maintain authenticity while making the most of innovation. In December, intricate traditional embroidery by 200 women artisans from southern Punjab was exhibited in a wall art installation, *Bagh Gardens*, raising awareness of their craft's abiding value.

In the Kalash Valley of Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UN initiatives worked with local communities to expand livelihoods linked to eco-tourism. UNESCO trained 12 hotel owners and 16 tour guides on hospitality management, while 14 guides – including three women – were supported to secure tour guide licenses from the provincial government.



**16,213**  
young people benefitted from entrepreneurship education



**9,277**  
youths mentored on supporting constructive change



**4,566**  
young people trained on global citizenship and civic education



**IMPACT**  
Support for youth empowerment, employment and entrepreneurship

CHANGING LIVES WITH SKILLS TRAINING

Skills training prepares people for a productive life, decent work and sustainable livelihoods. UN initiatives in 2019 harnessed the potential of training to transform the lives of some of the most marginalized groups in Pakistan. The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) trained 2,045 young people with UN support and funding from the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO). These 1,211 members of Pakistani host communities and 834 Afghan refugees will receive internationally-recognized certification. Livelihood training fine-tuned the skills of 763 more on hospitality, agriculture, handicrafts, home décor, and tailoring. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts, 2,375 people accessed grants and training on business management.



**2,045**  
young host community members and refugees received vocational training



**2,375**  
people benefitted from grants and business management training



**IMPACT**  
Vocational training supports sustainable livelihoods

EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS

Empowering entrepreneurs means growing a country's economy. UN initiatives reached out to Pakistan's entrepreneurs in 2019, expanding access to training, finance and business development. Technical training for startups engaged 681 entrepreneurs, while 180 received incubation support to pilot new businesses. Over 2,200 aspiring entrepreneurs accessed microfinance through the Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance company. A training module and workshop, developed with Beaconhouse National University, honed the skills of 12 startups and accelerators to spearhead careers in the cultural and creative industries. These include film, design, digital culture, architecture, the media and publishing. By collecting case studies, conducting a survey and mapping policies, this initiative shed light on creative businesses' potential.

With private sector partners, UN agencies pioneered research on women's entrepreneurship. Studies on *Stimulating Women's Entrepreneurship through Gender-Responsive Procurement in the Public and Private Sector*, and *Supporting Procter & Gamble in Finding Potential Women-Owned Businesses* looked at procurement policies through a gender lens. They will help us understand the challenges that women-owned businesses face in Pakistan, and identify entry points to support them.



**2,200**  
aspiring entrepreneurs accessed microfinance services



**180**  
entrepreneurs benefitted from business incubation support



**IMPACT**  
Steps to unleash the potential of Pakistan's entrepreneurs



Farhad's business is booming thanks to a microfinance loan and UN-backed training

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FARHAD'S STORY:  
NEW LIVELIHOODS,  
NEW HORIZONS

"Due to poor health, I had to quit my job. My unemployment worsened the financial situation of my family. It was then when I thought of doing business. I decided to give it a chance and that chance changed my entire life", explains 49-year-old Farhad.

For 31 years, he worked as a truck driver, transporting goods across Pakistan. Casting about for a way to keep his family afloat after he was forced to quit, Farhad decided to open his own business. In 2016, he turned the guest room of his house into a grocery shop in the village of Aishe Khel in Landi Kotal, the capital of Khyber, one of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts.

"Initially the income from the shop was very low, I just had enough to bear the minimal kitchen expenses and pay my children's school fees," Farhad recalls.

Access to finance was a major hurdle. It might have been insurmountable if it weren't for the FATA Economic Revitalization Programme (FERP). Through the programme, UNDP and the the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported the Islamic Microfinance Organization to set up two branch offices in Khyber. These cater to communities' financial needs, providing interest-free loans and enterprise development training.

"One day, a few locals were discussing that an organization is providing interest-free loans to the community," Farhad remembers. "Initially I took it as a hoax, but later a few other friends also shared the same information. Out of curiosity, I decided to pay a visit to their branch office to get information."

The branch office told him about their interest-free loan programme. When his loan was approved, Farhad joined other borrowers for an enterprise development training. He learned about planning, market assessment, promotion, record keeping, and managing a successful business.

"This training was very resourceful," says Farhad. "Even though I am in this business for the last three years, there were certain tips I never thought of applying. I was not keeping record of daily sales and stock purchases. Thus, I had no idea about my daily sales, expenditures, and monthly income. The training helped me do business differently and more effectively."

Farhad made the most of his learning and his loan.

"Now after three years, I am able to earn PKR 12,000 to 15,000 per month," Farhad reports. "With this loan, I expanded my shop and stocked it with new items like liquid petroleum gas cylinders for resale purposes, purchased a refrigerator for cold drinks and juices, and some high-demand grocery items," he explains. "This amount of PKR 30,000 looks very small, but I firmly believe that if you work hard and with the help of the Almighty, you can earn millions from one Rupee."



OUTCOME 3

## Health and WASH

Good health, clean water and sanitation are the lifeblood of sustainable development. Through Outcome 3 of the One UN Programme III, the UN family works with the Government of Pakistan to improve health care for all – from immunization, to treatment for non-communicable diseases, quality maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health care (MNCAH), and HIV prevention, treatment and care services. Across the board, we work to expand access to safe water and sanitation services – in aid of a cleaner, greener and healthier Pakistan.

# 3

## HEALTH AND WASH



**OUTCOME 3:** By 2022, the people in Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have access to, and benefit from, improved universal health coverage, including sexual and reproductive health, and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services

KEY RELATED SDGs



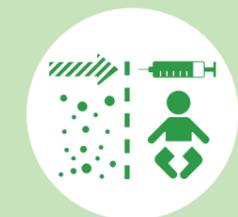
## IMPACT IN 2019



**Moves towards universal health coverage**  
Support for the implementation of the *National Health Vision 2025*



**Better maternal and child health**  
700 MNCH providers trained



**Progress on immunization**  
40 million children reached by polio vaccination campaigns



**Localization of SDG 3**  
SDG 3 targets and indicators integrated into the *National Health Plan*



**Greater access to water, sanitation and hygiene**  
1.7 million people gained access to safe drinking water



**Support for the HIV/AIDS response**  
8,000 people screened for HIV in Balochistan



EXPENDITURE  
U S \$  
**259.39**  
MILLION

### PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

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

### UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Health is a human right – all people should be able to live healthy, productive lives, without being pushed into poverty for seeking health care. This makes universal health coverage (UHC) a critical component of sustainable development and poverty reduction. With UN support, Pakistan is moving closer to achieving universal health coverage. In 2019, WHO provided technical assistance for implementing the *National Health Vision 2025*, the framework that offers a common direction to improve the health of all Pakistanis – particularly women and children – through universal access to quality essential health services, ensuring financial protection for vulnerable groups, and creating a more resilient and responsive health system.

A landmark UHC benefit service delivery package was developed, as were health sector strategies in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab – all of which integrate a focus on universal health coverage. The *Punjab Health Sector Strategy* was informed by data on women and children from the province’s latest UNICEF-supported *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)*. The implementation of Pakistan’s *Human Resources for Health Vision* commenced, alongside a *Patient Safety Initiative* and a *Family Practice* approach to strengthen primary health care. As part of system strengthening in 2019, an online *Knowledge Hub Dashboard* on health was developed to digitize all national and sub-national policies, alongside project documents by governments and development partners.

### LOCALIZING SDG 3

2019 was a landmark year for scaling up the implementation of SDG 3 (‘Good Health and Well-being’). Pakistan became the first country in the region to localize SDG 3 targets and indicators, while integrating these into the *National Health Plan* and provincial health strategies with UN assistance. With WHO’s support, a *National Strategic Framework for Action on Health in All Policies (HiAP)* was developed. Informed by an expert mission on HiAP and intersectoral policy dialogue – that drew together the Ministries of Health, Communications, Climate Change, Economic Affairs, Education, Food Security, Human Rights, the Interior, Planning, Development & Reform, Social Welfare, and Water Resources – the framework is aligned with SDG 3 and DCP3’s *Essential Health Service and Universal Health Coverage Benefit Package*.

A course on *Country Leadership on Health and Well-being Under the 2030 Agenda* strengthened official capacities to ramp up the implementation of SDG 3 and HiAP. Conducted by WHO in collaboration with the Imperial College of London, the course trained 38 senior officials – 10 women and 28 men – from provincial Departments of Health, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, and other federal ministries. The course was led by nine international expert instructors and six national facilitators.

### IMPROVING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Pakistan’s localization of SDG 3 offers a renewed opportunity to improve the health of all women, adolescents and children, in all circumstances. In 2019, UN support was key to strengthening maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health (MNCAH) services in Pakistan, alongside sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). With UNICEF’s assistance, all four provinces implemented *Newborn Survival Strategies* and developed *MNCH Quality of Care Frameworks*. Twelve Centres of Excellence – that assist 76,000 deliveries each year – established a *Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance (QI/QA)* system and implemented 12 interventions critical for maternal and newborn survival. The accreditation process is ongoing for 5,374 health facilities across the country. *National Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Management Guidelines* were aligned with protocols on the *Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI)*. National guidelines, quality of care standards and a standardized training package were formulated on family planning and *Kangaroo Mother Care* – a proven, cost-effective intervention for reducing deaths in premature and low birth weight newborns. WHO trained 700 MNCH providers on family planning and early essential newborn care. The UNFPA-led *End Fistula* campaign supported fistula repair surgeries and advocated for scaled-up efforts to end obstetric fistula – the devastating but preventable childbirth injury caused by prolonged obstructed labour.

A focus on sexual and reproductive health was integrated in *Monsoon and Drought Response Plans* to ensure that women’s reproductive health needs are met, even in emergencies. With UN support, Pakistan also developed national guidelines for the management of sexually transmitted infections (STI) – a vital move to address a major cause of acute illness, infertility, long-term disability and death for scores of men, women and children. The development of a landmark *National Strategy on Adolescent Health and Development* promises improvements in the health of Pakistan’s young women and men.

With a focus on leaving no one behind, UN efforts supported maternal and child health services for refugees. In 2019, 16,382 women in refugee villages accessed antenatal care, and 14,457 children – 78% of all children born in these villages – were delivered by skilled birth attendants. Within 42 days of giving birth, 16,015 women accessed postnatal care, and UN financial support covered the medical expenses of 151 women. Through the *Refugee-Affected and Hosting Area Programme (RAHA)*, eight health facilities received medical equipment to enhance the quality of their services. In 2019, the programme was funded by the Governments of Germany, Japan and the United States of America, as well as the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO). Equipment was paired with support for persons with disabilities – both host community members and refugees – in the districts of Malakand and Buner in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Capacity building programmes for Afghan women, including a series of vocational midwifery trainings, helped to enhance health care in the province.

The *Health System Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)* initiative was scaled up in development and humanitarian settings, particularly in areas with large refugee populations and areas with outbreaks of disease.



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The knowledge and capacities of health care professionals were strengthened in over 300 health facilities to provide care services for survivors of violence.

### PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING

Pakistan’s population is growing at a rate of 2.4% each year – the highest rate in South Asia. This poses serious challenges for socio-economic development. In 2019, the country renewed its commitments to achieving the *International Conference on Population and Development’s (ICPD25) Programme of Action*. UN advocacy contributed to growing consensus among Pakistan’s politicians, planners, civil society, and academics on the need to address population growth, including by recognizing family planning as a vital vehicle for sustainability.

A *National Population Narrative* came to the fore with the assistance of UNFPA and the Population Council, grounded on a wide-ranging consultative process with federal and provincial governments, parliamentarians, academics, religious scholars, civil society, and the media. The narrative aims to galvanize action towards a sustainable population growth rate – striking a balance between resources and responsibilities to ensure people’s well-being, prosperity and security. The Federal Task Force on Population adopted a *National Action Plan* to implement the Council of Common Interests’ (CCI) recommendations, including on reducing the fertility rate.

Balochistan and Sindh made it mandatory for all service delivery points to provide family planning information and services, in order to help parents make informed choices. Sustained action is needed to address challenges identified in 2019, ranging from the limited availability of contraceptives in Pakistan’s provinces to lengthy customs clearance procedures for imported reproductive health commodities – hurdles that take a toll on reproductive health and family planning services at the grassroots level.

- 

**12**  
Centres of Excellence rolled out QI/QA systems and interventions for maternal and newborn survival
- 

**300**  
health facilities assisted to provide services for GBV survivors
- 

**700**  
MNCH providers trained on family planning and essential newborn care
- 

**16,382**  
women in refugee villages benefitted from antenatal care

**IMPACT**  
Progress on maternal, newborn and child health services





Razia is a source of inspiration and support for scores of other women suffering from fistula

©UNFPA

## RAZIA'S STORY: SURVIVING FISTULA, A STORY OF RESILIENCE

"Helping women suffering from fistula is my mission in life," says Razia Shamshad, herself a fistula survivor. "No woman deserves to live in misery, especially when it is treatable."

From a small, impoverished village in Punjab, Razia was married off at the age of 13. Still a child herself, she was soon expecting a child of her own. Six months later, a heavily pregnant Razia lost her husband in a road accident. Devastated and unable to afford proper health care, she delivered her baby after four days of excruciating labour, with a *Dai* (a traditional birth attendant) by her side. The baby had to be pulled from her womb, causing serious damage.

Razia suffered from obstetric fistula – a hole between the birth canal and bladder and/or rectum, caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without access to timely, quality medical treatment. It leaves women leaking urine, faeces, or both, often leading to chronic medical problems, depression, social isolation, and deepening poverty.

"I was alone with my elderly father-in-law. People would either avoid me or just make fun of me. I never felt clean," Razia recalls of those dark days.

Determined to change her life for the better, she set off to Karachi. Her destination was the Koochi Goth Women's Hospital, which specializes in treating reproductive health conditions like fistula.

"With the support of UNFPA, we were able to perform a series of operations to treat Razia," explains Dr Sajjad Ahmed, who was trained with UN support to perform fistula repair surgery. "Her determination was exceptional. She was resilient and strong, and was able to pull through the difficult process successfully."

Soon after recovering, Razia met her current husband and adopted a little girl, not expecting to have more children of her own. But Razia surprised herself and her doctors by conceiving again. With regular prenatal care, she delivered a healthy baby girl by caesarean section.

Today, Razia lives with her family in Karachi and works as a volunteer at the Koochi Goth Women's Hospital.

"I believe life experiences shape us into the people we need to become," she says. "My experiences have given me the courage and drive to help women who have lost all hope because of fistula."

Razia's perseverance and support is a source of invaluable solace to other fistula survivors.

"Never give up hope," she tells them.

Razia's story is a testament to the success of the UN's *End Fistula* campaign. In 2019, the UNFPA-led campaign celebrated a major milestone – since 2003, it has directly supported over 105,000 surgical repair procedures, transforming the lives of women in 55 countries, including Pakistan. In November, Razia represented Koochi Goth Women's Hospital at the *Nairobi Summit on ICPD25*, sharing her story to inform and inspire the world to end the health and human rights tragedy of obstetric fistula.



©UNICEF/Asad Zaidi



**40 million** children vaccinated against polio through 3 immunization campaigns



**5 million** children vaccinated in high-risk areas



**IMPACT**  
Continued support for eradicating polio in Pakistan

### ERADICATING POLIO

With UN support, Pakistan's *Polio Eradication Programme* continued the fight to end polio. In 2019, WHO assisted three immunization campaigns, reaching 40 million children. Over 5 million were vaccinated in high-risk areas within some of Pakistan's most underserved communities. UNICEF supported three national, four sub-national and 13 event response campaigns, alongside the procurement of 244 million b-OPV vaccine doses, 2.6 million IPV doses and 5.56 million m-OPV-2 doses – ensuring 100% vaccine availability. A UNICEF-backed network of 25,000 community vaccinators – 85% of whom are women – was sustained in high-risk districts, reaching 4.1 million children. Despite progress, the number of wild poliovirus cases in Pakistan shot up in 2019, rising to 146 – up from 12

cases in 2018 and eight in 2017, but down from 306 cases in 2014. *National Immunization Day* targets were affected by the 'Peshawar incident' in April 2019 – a torrent of rumours and false allegations about supposed illness linked to vaccination, prompting scores of families to refuse vaccines. This year's spike in polio cases highlights the need to do more: to ramp up immunization, especially by reaching out to communities to dispel anti-vaccination rumours, building trust and educating parents about the importance of vaccinating their children.

### EXPANDING IMMUNIZATION

Vaccines are at the heart of ending preventable child deaths. In 2019, UN agencies continued to support Pakistan to save millions of lives through vaccination. Over 37 million children were vaccinated against measles by the *Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)* – reaching 93.3% of the target and dealing a blow to a leading cause of preventable deaths and disabilities.

Pakistan became the first country in the world to introduce typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) into its routine immunization schedule. This WHO-recommended vaccine is the first typhoid vaccine that can be given to children as young as 6 months old, conferring long-term protection against the often fatal bacterial infection. The vaccine's introduction began with a landmark UN-supported campaign in Sindh, the centre of an ongoing drug-resistant (XDR) typhoid outbreak. Over 8,000 vaccinators and 8,000 registration assistants were the backbone of this provincial campaign to reach 10 million children using real-time reporting through a mobile phone application. In tandem, UNICEF piloted digital platforms, including Facebook's *Chatbot* and a video game for children on the TCV campaign.



Arshad (centre) and Farzana (in a pink veil) are saving children's lives with vaccination

©UNICEF/Adresh Laghari

## FARZANA'S AND ARSHAD'S STORY: VACCINATORS SAVING LIVES

"For us, every week is Immunization Week," says Farzana Shakeel.

She and her colleague Arshad Muhammad are the only vaccinators at the Basic Health Unit in Younusabad, a neighbourhood of the impoverished coastal Kamari Town in Pakistan's largest city, Karachi.

"On some days we have less energy and courage to complete our work," Arshad admits. "But we remind ourselves of all the lives we are saving, and the energy comes back."

Saving lives is no easy task, least of all in the face of community resistance. Farzana recalls being shouted at and pelted with stones in communities where people were unwilling to let her immunize their children.

"These are my own people, so this kind of experience only made me stronger," she says.

Her words echo a determination shared by vaccinators across Pakistan, who brave abuse, violence and even death in their quest to end vaccine-preventable diseases. Every day, Farzana and Arshad head out to places like Shamspir – a tiny island off the coast of Karachi's Kamari Town, home to 5,000 people, including Farzana's in-laws.

"I have been working in the area for 10 years, but I am still an outsider here," says Arshad. "Happily, Farzana is always a few steps ahead."

She knows how to change the mind of the families who don't want their children to be vaccinated at first. She is a source of inspiration to me."

As a member of the indigenous fishing community, Farzana finds it relatively easier to interact with locals.

"Parents become less aggressive once I have interacted with them for several months," she explains. "But there are always new parents who are unwelcoming, reminding me of how I used to struggle when I first started. To this day, many people in my community think that vaccines are a conspiracy to prevent them from having more children, or to harm them."

Dispelling such myths is a major part of vaccinators' work. Even when parents agree to have their children vaccinated, many ignore the follow-ups needed to complete each vaccination course. To change attitudes, Farzana and Arshad involved village elders, religious leaders and community influencers while mobilizing mothers and other women. Their efforts have been a huge success.

"Over a year ago, there were 180–200 children in Shamspir who had not received any vaccine after possibly receiving the first shot right after birth," Arshad says. "We worked very hard. Within 10 months, each of these children had received all the immunization shots they needed against preventable diseases."

Now, the village's immunization rate is over 90%. Still, one in three Pakistani children – and one in two in Sindh – miss out on the basic vaccines they need to stay alive and thrive. Vaccinators like Farzana and Arshad are the backbone of Pakistan's Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and its UN-supported drive to reach every child in the country.

Analysis of immunization equity and coverage shed light on trends at the federal level, as well as in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Health profiling was completed for 4,417 slums in 10 major cities. As a high-quality cold chain allows health workers to deliver life-saving vaccines to every last child, 2,472 pieces of cold chain equipment with continuous temperature monitoring systems were installed, bringing the total up to 9,300 nationwide. In Punjab and Sindh, UNICEF supported the transition to *District Health Information Software 2* (DHIS2) to improve the evidence-based management and performance of health systems at the district level. Introducing an integrated digital *Health Management Information System* (HMIS) in 12 facilities in Sindh contributed to better forecasting and regular supplies of commodities.

A UNICEF-supported evaluation of the *Lady Health Worker* (LHW) Programme offered analysis and recommendations on how to strengthen the initiative's performance to better provide health services in marginalized and remote communities. For *World Immunization Week*, social mobilization and media activities were coordinated across Pakistan to raise awareness of the importance of immunization.

**37 million** children vaccinated against measles

**10 million** children reached with typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV)

**16,000** vaccinators and registration assistants led the TCV campaign

**2,472** pieces of cold chain equipment installed

**IMPACT**  
Progress on immunization to protect vulnerable children

### DEFENDING AGAINST DISEASES

Pakistan has one of the world's highest burdens of tuberculosis and hepatitis C. To curb these diseases, the UN supported the formulation and implementation of provincial *Hepatitis Action Plans* in Punjab and Sindh, alongside Pakistan's development of a *National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis* (2020–2023).

UN technical assistance helped Pakistan secure an allocation of US\$178 million from the Global Fund to fight tuberculosis. Advocacy promoted the inclusion of commitments to limit saturated fatty acids and trans fats in food supplies in the *National Action Plan on Noncommunicable Diseases* (NCDs) to address their major contribution to cardiovascular and other diseases. Efforts to scale up the *Tobacco Control Initiative* (TCI) continued, including through the simplification of Pakistan's tobacco tax structure, an increase in tobacco taxation, and the approval of a health levy on tobacco products.

### TACKLING HEALTH EMERGENCIES

UN support contributed to Pakistan's response to a range of health emergencies in 2019, brought on by drought in Balochistan and Sindh, avalanches in Balochistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir, and nationwide outbreaks of leishmaniasis and dengue fever. Working with government and health care partners, particularly the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSR&C), enabled a scaled-up national dengue response.

### RESPONDING TO THE HIV OUTBREAK

UN agencies acted swiftly to respond to an HIV outbreak in the district of Larkana, Sindh, first detected in April 2019. Collaboration with the Government led to the development of the *Sindh Outbreak Response Plan 2019–2020*, which includes short-term and long-term steps to identify the causes of the HIV outbreak, investigate and address them, and strengthen the continuum of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. On-site technical support helped local partners respond to the outbreak and reduce the impact of the crisis.

Capacity building for health care providers equipped them to deliver services and address stigma in Larkana and its sub-division of Ratodero, the epicentre of the outbreak. The capacities of local media professionals were strengthened on HIV reporting, prompting the launch of the *Sindh Media Alliance on HIV*. Alongside media orientation sessions and training for community leaders, UNICEF's rapid assessment enabled community engagement in 435 villages in the *tehsil* (administrative area) of Ratodero. This was paired with information, education and communication (IEC) materials, the creation of support groups for parents, and referrals for testing for 782 family members of HIV-positive children.



**782**  
family members of HIV+ children referred for testing



**435**  
villages benefitted from community engagement to curb HIV



**IMPACT**  
Rapid efforts to stem the HIV outbreak in Larkana, Sindh

**HIV/AIDS RESPONSE**

To end HIV/AIDS as a public health threat, UN initiatives strove to reach out to key populations, distributing free contraceptives and syringes to people who inject drugs (PWID). The evidence-based expansion of 44 antiretroviral (ART) and prevention services gained pace for key populations in major cities across Pakistan. In Balochistan, 8,000 people from high-risk groups accessed free HIV screening services. Strengthening data and the *Health Management Information System* in health facilities, alongside a review of the *National AIDS Control Programme*, aim to inform national and provincial HIV/AIDS strategies that respond to needs on the ground. A UNICEF-supported evaluation of *Preventing Parent-to-Child Transmission (PPTCT)* recommended integrating HIV services, including PPTCT and paediatric HIV care, prompting the development of guidelines for integrated PPTCT, paediatric and adult HIV services.

UN efforts strengthened knowledge and capacities on the *Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC)* and *Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC)* to integrate evidence-based drug use prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services into Pakistan's health system. In addition to training 331 health and drug dependence treatment practitioners, we supported three community outreach campaigns on prevention and treatment for substance abuse that trained 65 community members. The One Fund – now known as the UNSDF Fund – helped the UN address gaps and push the HIV/AIDS agenda further at the federal and provincial levels, as well as within the UN system. It catalysed new collaboration and fortified existing partnerships with communities and groups affected by HIV/AIDS.

As prisoners are highly vulnerable to a lack of access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services, UNODC worked with key partners – including the National and Provincial Aids Control Programmes, Hepatitis Control Programmes, and Provincial Prisons Departments – to conduct integrated biological and behavioural surveillance on HIV and hepatitis C in selected prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh.

Standard operating procedures (SOPs) on HIV testing and counselling in prisons were developed and endorsed. This is a strong step towards an HIV response that leaves no one behind. To bridge remaining gaps, there is a need to develop national guidelines on HIV services in prison settings, while adopting good practices recommended by UNAIDS, WHO and UNODC. These include opiate substitute therapy (OST), pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among men who have sex with men and transgender people, and encouraging the use of condoms among women sex workers and other key populations.



**8,000**  
high-risk individuals screened for HIV in Balochistan



**44**  
antiretroviral and prevention facilities expanded in cities



**IMPACT**  
Outreach to key populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS

**A CLEANER, GREENER PAKISTAN**

UN support continued for the Government's *Clean and Green Pakistan* movement in 2019, geared towards improving sanitation and environmental protection nationwide. Assistance was provided for a range of initiatives under its umbrella, including recruiting volunteers as Clean Green Champions to lead local tree planting and awareness raising campaigns, the *Clean Green Schools* component, and the *Clean and Green Pakistan Index*. This index will rank 19 cities in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on their WASH infrastructure and environmental sustainability, with a view to eliciting progress across five pillars: tree planting, safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management, both of liquid and solid waste.

WASH policies and strategies developed with UN support – frameworks that are gender-responsive and which localize the SDGs to Pakistan's context – were approved in 2019. Crucially, budget allocations for WASH increased. By pledging the finances needed for the effective implementation of evidence-based policy frameworks, Pakistan showed that it is serious about improving WASH outcomes, in line with SDG 6 ('Clean Water and Sanitation').



Thanks to new latrines, Zahra and her neighbours are reaping the benefits of improved sanitation

©UNICEF/Asad Zaidi

**ZAHRA'S AND RAZZAQ'S STORY: SANITATION EMPOWERS RURAL PAKISTAN**

In less than a year, each family had a latrine of their own. Zahra's neighbourhood is now on the verge of being officially declared 'Open Defecation Free' (ODF).

These successes owe a great debt to the support of community members like Abdur Razzaq – for years a lone voice advocating for better sanitation in the village. The 34-year-old brick layer was the logical choice to head the village's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Committee, created as part of the ASWA programme.

"Whenever I needed to relieve myself, my mother had to come with me due to safety concerns," recalls 14-year-old Zahra.

She stifles a giggle at the memory of her mother scolding her if she "bothered her too often"; but the memory is tinged with a sober fear.

"I used to panic if I had to go to the bathroom, especially during the day," she admits.

Zahra points proudly at the newly-built latrine next to her home in Behari colony, in the district of Jhang, Punjab. This is not just a toilet. It is a life-saver, a dignity-protector and an opportunity-maker. Until 2019, only 13 of 41 families in Zahra's neighbourhood used latrines. Open defecation was rife, making diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery commonplace. For Zahra and her neighbours, household latrines are transforming sanitation and hygiene. In doing so, they are transforming lives.

Through the UN-supported *Accelerated Sanitation and Water for All Programme II (ASWA)*, UNICEF is partnering with Qatar Charity and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) to provide marginalized communities like Zahra's with access to clean water, basic sanitation services and improved infrastructure. The programme offered Behari colony's residents practical, low-cost solutions to build their own latrines.

"I was the first person in this village to construct a latrine in my house, back in 2014," says Razzaq. "I have always discouraged my neighbours from practicing open defecation. Apart from the obvious spread of diseases, it also makes women and young girls vulnerable to assault. Moreover, who likes to have that terrible stench around the neighbourhood?"

The committee Razzaq leads supervised the construction of latrines, advising and assisting villagers. With UN support, it organizes regular health and hygiene sessions for women and children on proper handwashing techniques, handling drinking water safely, basic sanitation and hygiene, and menstrual hygiene management.

Empowering communities is at the heart of UN support for the *Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS)*, the Government's drive to eliminate open defecation throughout the country. Despite considerable progress, only 60% of Pakistan's population has access to basic hygiene facilities, and 13% – roughly 22 million people – still practice open defecation. Ensuring that everyone in Pakistan has access to safely managed WASH services and facilities is our aim – because sanitation is a human right, for everyone, everywhere.



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### EXPANDING ACCESS TO WASH

Increased access to safe water and sanitation is helping to protect the health and well-being of Pakistan's people, dealing a blow to waterborne and sanitation related diseases – among the leading causes of death in the country. With UN support for the *Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS Plus)*, 1.7 million more people gained access to safe drinking water in 2019, and 813,000 to improved sanitation.

Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) initiatives led by UNICEF reached 4.8 million people with life-changing messages on sanitation and hygiene. Community-led behaviour change approaches mobilized more rural communities to eliminate harmful practices, such as open defecation. To make sure that no one is left behind, UN interventions placed a focus on integrated WASH services in extremely deprived areas. Community investment grants (CIG) helped provide WASH services to the most vulnerable members of communities across Pakistan. The UN-led Natural Disasters Consortium (NDC) supported at-risk and disaster-affected communities through multisectoral preparedness, response and recovery activities, including raising awareness of safe WASH practices.

National ownership of development efforts matters. Truly country-driven processes are key to cementing effective capacities, services and positive outcomes. In 2019, engaging Public Health Engineering Departments (PHED) in the selection of vendors to rehabilitate water systems enhanced provincial governments' ownership of WASH interventions, making them

more sustainable and effective. Simultaneously, the UN explored avenues for involving the private sector in scaling up sanitation – to tap into the immense potential of Pakistan's private sector to contribute to better WASH outcomes for all.

 **813,000** people gained access to improved sanitation

 **1.7 million** people gained access to safe drinking water

 **4.8 million** people engaged in WASH social and behaviour change communication interventions

 **IMPACT** Improved WASH and health outcomes for millions of people

### WASH IN SCHOOLS

We know that when children have access to safe water, gender-segregated toilets and soap for handwashing at school, they have a better environment to learn, thrive and realize their full potential. If education is the key to helping children escape poverty, access to water and sanitation in schools is key to safely maximizing their education and well-being.

The *WASH in Schools* initiative in Pakistan improved children's health and learning opportunities in 2019 – sowing the seeds of better health and nutrition, alongside higher enrolment, attendance and retention in education. With UNICEF's support, the initiative ensured access to improved sanitation facilities for over 123,000 children (50,430 girls and 72,570 boys) in 323 schools. Pakistan incorporated *WASH in Schools*, including menstrual hygiene management (MHM), into the *National Education Policy*. Benchmarks for WASH in health facilities are underway.

To reduce absenteeism, 1,103 girls' schools reaped the benefits of menstrual hygiene management services. A comprehensive national and provincial action plan was developed to mainstream MHM in Departments of Education, Health, and Local Government. A new standardized MHM package, developed with the support of UNICEF and WASH sector partners, will drive MHM forward through the training of trainers, training manuals, and information, education and communication (IEC) material. Young people who took part in the *Generation Unlimited Innovation Global Challenge* pinpointed innovative ideas for MHM. One all-women Pakistani team, Red Code, was awarded US\$20,000 to develop its concept for reusable sanitary pads into a sustainable business.

 **123,000** students benefited from WASH facilities in:

 **323** schools nationwide

 **IMPACT** Improved student health, hygiene and learning



©UNDP

Clean drinking water is transforming the lives of Bushra and her fellow villagers in Gilgit-Baltistan

### BUSHRA'S STORY: CLEAN WATER CHANGING LIVES

"In this village, females were facing extreme difficulties due to the unavailability of water," explains Bushra Batool, a teacher in the village of Gole, Gilgit-Baltistan. "Women are responsible for household chores like cleaning, washing, fetching water, and cooking, all of which are directly related to water. Girls are expected to help out with these chores, resulting in their frequent absence from school and low rate of enrolment."

When she moved to the village from the bustling city of Skardu, only 32km away, Bushra was shocked by the poor health and poverty she saw around her. A lack of sanitation facilities and clean water, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, hit women especially hard.

"Diseases such as gastrointestinal infections, typhoid, hepatitis were prevalent in the community, which not only had an economic cost but also impacted community members psychologically and emotionally", Bushra recalls.

A new UNDP-supported water and sanitation supply scheme by the Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization (MGPO) has changed the lives of the village's 2,880 residents. MGPO created a Management Committee, half of whose members are women, and delivered training on project management skills. The scheme channels fresh spring water through underground pipes and into villagers' homes.

"For generations the women in households had to spend many hours each day in search of water. Now it feels like we are part of the modern world with water available at our doorsteps", says Fatima, one of Bushra's neighbours. "With decreased expenses on health, we are saving more and we can think of engaging in enterprise development and sending our children to better schools."



# 4

## NUTRITION



KEY RELATED SDGs



**OUTCOME 4:** By 2022, children, adolescent girls and boys, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and persons with disabilities have improved dietary intake, feeding and care practices, resulting in improved nutritional status, while reducing stunting and other forms of under nutrition

### OUTCOME 4



## Nutrition

Across Pakistan, the UN is working to make good nutrition a reality for the people who need it most. Through Outcome 4 of the One UN Programme III, UN agencies are at the forefront of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, spearheading community-level action to prevent and treat malnutrition among children, adolescents, women, and entire communities. Nationwide, the UN supports the Government to pioneer policy frameworks that can – and do – improve nutrition, while strengthening the institutional capacities and coordination mechanisms needed to translate policies into results on the ground.

## IMPACT IN 2019



**Policy progress on nutrition and food fortification**  
Adolescent Nutrition Strategy developed



**Treatment and prevention of malnutrition**  
266,780 children treated for severe acute malnutrition



**Stronger capacities for improving nutrition**  
35 officials trained to monitor breastmilk substitutes legislation



**Foundation for evidence-based nutrition interventions**  
Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition developed



**Moves to stop stunting in its tracks**  
15% reduction in stunting in intervention areas in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab



**Progress on food safety frameworks**  
Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Policy finalized



**EXPENDITURE**  
U S \$

**38.39**

**MILLION**

**PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

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



### SCALING UP NUTRITION

Nutrition governance grew stronger in 2019, as Pakistan's leading coordination forums worked to mainstream nutrition-focused policies and programmes across the country. As part of the global *Scaling Up Nutrition* (SUN) movement, Pakistan has established a National SUN Secretariat within the Federal Planning Commission, as well as SUN Units in the Planning & Development Departments of all four provinces and the administrative areas of Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir. With UN assistance, these entities developed a *National Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy* and *Action Plans* replete with nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific allocations to help Pakistan achieve SDG 2 ('Zero Hunger') and the aims of its national development framework, *Vision 2025*.

Capacity development on public finance tracking helped SUN Units ensure sustained financing for nutrition, despite shrinking fiscal space in many sectors. One of its landmark initiatives is the *National Action Plan for Nutrition*, developed under the SUN umbrella. Based on the *Pakistan Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy* (2018–2025), the action plan offers a coordinated response to the challenges pinpointed by the country's most recent *National Nutrition Survey 2018*.

### MAINSTREAMING NUTRITION

Nutrition was placed centre stage in Pakistan's new and existing policy frameworks, aided by UN advocacy and policy support. In 2019, UN agencies assisted the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection to develop a strategy for the nutrition component of the Government's *Ehsaas* ('Compassion') Programme. This will help to mainstream nutrition across *Ehsaas*, targeting the needs of children and women from poor households who are enrolled in the *Benazir Income Support Programme* (BISP). UN advocacy with parliamentarians helped move Pakistan towards becoming 'trans fat-free' by 2023, prompting the development of a draft national action plan based on an assessment of the consumption of trans-fatty acids, salts and sugars in the country.

Over 47 million adolescent girls and boys stand to benefit from a new *Adolescent Nutrition Strategy* and its provincial implementation plans, developed with UN support. The newly launched *Adolescent Nutrition Supplementation Guidelines for Pakistan*, which localize global guidelines to Pakistan's context, are poised to help the country improve adolescent health and nutrition manifold. Focusing on this often neglected group promises a triple dividend: better health for adolescents now, improved productivity in their adult lives, and reduced health risks for their children in the future.



**47 million**  
young people stand to benefit from the *Adolescent Nutrition Strategy*



**Policy progress**  
on nutrition at the national and sub-national levels



**IMPACT**  
Groundwork laid to achieve better nutrition for all

### NEW EVIDENCE ON NUTRITION

Through evidence generation and awareness raising, the UN continued to promote a shift in norms around nutrition in Pakistan. The results of the *National Nutrition Survey* (NNS 2018) were disseminated nationwide, providing district-level data on the nutrition status of children, adolescents and women. This multi-partner research initiative by the Government, UNICEF, and the Aga Khan University was the largest-ever study of nutrition and food security-related challenges in Pakistan's history. Its findings affirm that there is no magic bullet for ending malnutrition in Pakistan; instead, good nutrition requires progressive policy-making and proper implementation.

Alongside the *National Nutrition Survey*, UN-backed studies offered strong evidence to support nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions. The *Universal Salt Iodization Sustainability Study* is poised to enhance the sustainability of the USI programme in Pakistan – a key initiative to end preventable iodine deficiency disorders by sustaining optimal iodine nutrition for all. In Sindh, the *Iron, Folic Acid and Multi-Micronutrient Powder Compliance Study* was conducted to inform micronutrient supplementation programming. The *Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition* were developed and adapted into an e-Learning course for health and nutrition service providers, food and agriculture professionals, programme managers, and policy-makers. Launched in December 2019 with the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform, the guidelines and course are well-placed to guide high-impact, evidence-based nutrition interventions.

### MOVING FOOD FORTIFICATION FORWARD

Fortifying foods with essential vitamins and minerals prevents disease, strengthens immune systems, and improves productivity. To move food fortification forward, the UN supported Pakistan's development of policy frameworks on mandatory wheat flour fortification with the Ministry of National Health Services,

Regulation and Coordination, and National and Provincial Fortification Alliances. Work began on a *National Fortification Management Information System* (NFMIS) to record fortification data nationwide.

Sub-national progress on fortification advanced a pace, with a provincial *Food Fortification Strategy* launched in Sindh, and strategies formulated in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan Administered Kashmir's *Wheat Flour Fortification Programme* continued to ensure better nutrition for an estimated 2.6 million people (65% of its population). Food safety and quality management guidelines were developed to ensure the sustainability of the programme's outcomes. Communications initiatives raised awareness of the benefits of fortifying wheat – spanning orientation sessions for 1,500 Lady Health Workers, posters, brochures, and a radio programme by WFP and Radio Pakistan that reached over 600,000 people. In Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the UN and the National Fortification Alliance launched a pilot project to support *chakkis* (small-scale local grinders) to fortify milled flour rich in micronutrients – a step towards combating micronutrient deficiencies. This initiative aims to cover 67% of both cities' populations.



**2.6 million**  
people benefitted from wheat flour fortification in PAK



**600,000**  
people reached by awareness raising on wheat fortification



**IMPACT**  
Progress on food fortification to curb micronutrient deficiencies

### BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING

By regulating the marketing of breastmilk substitutes, Pakistan made headway on promoting breastfeeding to safeguard the health and nutrition of infants nationwide. UN support bolstered the implementation of legislation on breastmilk substitutes (BMS), following legislative revisions to align Pakistani laws with World Health Assembly resolutions. Capacity building on the *International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes* and World Health Assembly Resolutions (NetCode) equipped 35 government officials from across the country to implement and monitor BMS legislation. With government partners, UN agencies contextualized global best practices for Pakistan, including the *Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative*, which offers evidence-informed recommendations on the protection, promotion and support for optimal breastfeeding in maternal and newborn health facilities.



Mamoona's daughter is now a happy, healthy child thanks in large part to exclusive breastfeeding

©WFP/Mamoona Ghaffar

## MAMOONA'S STORY: THE BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING

"Breastfeeding was a struggle for me, just like it is for majority of the women living in Pakistan," admits Mamoona.

With her husband travelling for work, and no close family nearby, opting for exclusive breastfeeding was challenging.

"Some of my friends [...] recommended I use formula milk, as I will not have the time or energy to breastfeed all the time. I won't lie, I did think about it," says Mamoona. "But I thought to myself, what about all that I had learn at work?"

As a member of WFP's Nutrition Unit, Mamoona was aware of the enormous benefits of breastfeeding.

"Hence, without a doubt I decided to breastfeed Hanna. This was only made possible with the 24-week paid maternity leave I got from work, which not only allowed me to breastfeed her, but to also build a close bond with my newborn," Mamoona explains. "Breastfeeding my daughter keeps her healthy and happy. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months helped boost her immune system against diarrhoea and other common infections."

Going back to work was a difficult transition; neither Hanna nor Mamoona were keen on formula milk.

"For this reason [...] a few other mothers from the office and I advocated for a breastfeeding facility to be built", Mamoona reports. "We succeeded! We now have a fully functioning breastfeeding facility in our office."



Specialized nutritious foods, breastfeeding and awareness raising are combatting stunting in Sindh ©WFP

## ZULE KHAN'S STORY: PUTTING A STOP TO STUNTING

By the time Zule Khan was 30, she had lost two children to malnutrition. Amid inexpressible grief, she worried that her next pregnancy would end in tragedy. A visit from a local Lady Health Worker, Muradi, changed everything.

"I told her about malnutrition and WFP's specialized nutritious foods," explains Muradi, recalling her first visit to Zule Khan's home in Mola Buksh Shoro, Sindh. "She agreed to give it a go, so I gave her a ration of *Maamta*," she recalls, speaking of the locally-produced, nutrient-rich supplementary food for pregnant and lactating women. "I visited her regularly during her pregnancy. At each visit, I saw a great improvement in her overall health. I would also spend a few minutes teaching her about the importance of breastfeeding, healthy eating and other good hygiene practices."

By June, Zule Khan had given birth to a healthy baby boy, Abdullah. She breastfed him exclusively until he was six months old, when he was enrolled in the UN-supported *Stunting Prevention Programme*.

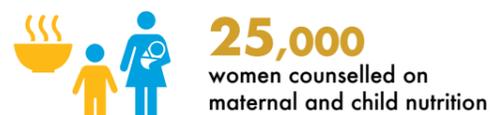
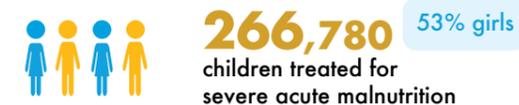
"Zule Khan was the happiest I had ever seen her," says Muradi, "She told me that compared to his other brothers at the same age, Abdullah fell less sick, was much taller and more responsive to those around him."

Zule's son, Abdullah, is now on the road to growing up healthy and well-nourished, free from the irreversible effects of stunting.

## TACKLING MALNUTRITION

Action at the community level continued to curb malnutrition across Pakistan, as UN agencies supported the *Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)* programme in 22 districts. Strengthening 17 Nutrition Stabilization Centres were in hard-to-reach areas, treating 3,000 children under the age of five for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with complications. UN collaboration with the Government enabled the treatment of 266,780 children with severe acute malnutrition (141,107 girls and 125,673 boys) through 2,172 outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) sites. Moreover, 848 *Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP)* sites treated 129,304 moderately malnourished children – 68,064 girls and 61,240 boys – as were 126,700 acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women. Over 25,000 pregnant and lactating women received counselling on maternal nutrition and infant and young child feeding (IYCF).

A *CMAM Surge Approach* in the district Umerkot, Sindh, enabled more cost-effective, sustainable responses to nutrition emergencies. Implemented with Concern Worldwide and Sindh's Department of Health, the approach builds the health system's resilience, capacity and responsiveness to shocks. As specialized nutritious foods (SNF) are vital for preventing and addressing nutritional deficiencies, the UN assisted Pakistan's Ministry of Health to secure tax exemptions for the raw materials needed to produce SNFs. As a result, these life-saving products are set to become more accessible and cost-effective.



## STOPPING STUNTING IN ITS TRACKS

Throughout 2019, UN nutrition interventions worked to break the intergenerational cycle of stunting among the most vulnerable children and women in Pakistan. Under the leadership of the SUN Secretariat, the *National Framework for Stunting Reduction* was revised, as were provincial multisectoral strategies and action plans. A pioneering *Stunting Prevention Research Programme* was finalized in Sindh and rolled out in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Sindh's district of Umerkot, an individual randomized, double-blinded and controlled clinical non-inferiority trial was initiated to document the effectiveness of the specialized nutritious food for the treatment of acute malnutrition.

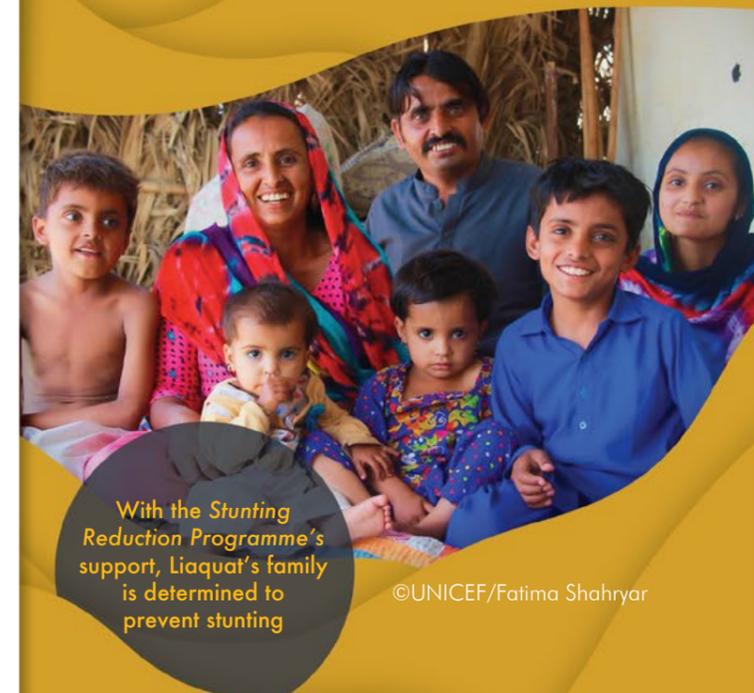
Research in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab – by the provincial Department of Health, WFP, the Aga Khan University, and the *Benazir Income Support Programme* – revealed a 15% reduction in the prevalence of stunting among children who benefitted from a combination of nutrition-sensitive interventions, compared to the control group (see Outcome 10 for more).



## SPEARHEADING FOOD SAFETY

To reduce the burden of foodborne diseases, UN agencies aided the development of a *Food Safety Manual for Pakistan*. Endorsed by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the manual will be used to train food vendors, inspectors and authorities, with a view to improving food safety and ensuring access to safe and nutritious food.

The *Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Policy* was finalized and agreed upon by the Food Authorities of the Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad. Its implementation will oversee safety across the entire food chain in the federal capital – from raw produce, through to production and sale points.



With the *Stunting Reduction Programme's* support, Liaquat's family is determined to prevent stunting ©UNICEF/Fatima Shahryar

## LIAQUAT'S STORY: SAVING CHILDREN FROM STUNTING

"For the past many years, beginning of the summer season meant beginning of a round of stomach and intestinal illness for our children, and us," says Liaquat Ali. "Seasonal illness and infections would really take a toll on us, as my work only helps me earn enough for everyday expenses."

Liaquat is a farmer in the village of Loung Soomro, in Sindh's Khairpur district. Here, a toxic mix of poor nutrition and poor sanitation causes stunting rates to soar.

"We didn't know the reason but were particularly concerned as more than half of the children in our village are short-heighted. The elderly believed it to be a curse," Liaquat explains.

The UN-supported *Stunting Reduction Programme* is reaching out to villages like Liaquat's. Bringing together UNICEF, the Government of Pakistan and the United States Agency for International Development, the programme prioritizes community-driven interventions. It engages local community resource persons to raise awareness of proper nutrition and sanitation, while expanding access to sanitation facilities and services.

"Initially, building toilets, maintaining hygiene and consuming nutritious food seemed like fancy ideas, but it was also our last resort to finding a way out of the never-ending cycle of illnesses," admits Liaquat. "Having learned about the ill effects of unsafe water, poor hygiene, lack of nutritious food and improper childcare practices, we are changing our lifestyle and can already feel the difference," he reports. "My wife is breastfeeding our youngest daughter and we both try to convince others to adopt healthy practices."



OUTCOME 5



## Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

Pakistan produces more than enough food to feed its population. Yet, the most vulnerable often struggle to meet their daily food needs. Through Outcome 5 of the One UN Programme III, the UN supports the Government to lay a solid foundation for food security – enhancing policy frameworks, encouraging climate-smart agricultural techniques, improving supply chains, cementing sustainable rural livelihoods, and strengthening safety nets. We work across the entire food chain – from farm to fork – to ensure that all of Pakistan’s people have access to sufficient food and the well-balanced diet needed for active, healthy lives.

# 5

## FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE



KEY RELATED SDGs



**OUTCOME 5:** By 2022, the people of Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, have improved availability of, access to, and consumption of safe, nutritious and sufficient food, while promoting sustainable agriculture to achieve zero hunger

## IMPACT IN 2019



**Evidence-based food security mechanisms**  
Food Security and Nutrition Information System (FMIS) rolled out



**Relief assistance meets immediate food needs**  
19,812 households received monthly food assistance



**Support for climate-smart agriculture**  
9,400 farmers trained to adopt climate-smart practices



**Advances on improved land governance**  
555 tenancy agreements signed in Sindh



**Livelihood support cements long-term food security**  
713,600 people aided by the Food Assistance for Assets initiative



**Sustained efforts to mitigate drought**  
9,193 drought-affected people helped to revive infrastructure



EXPENDITURE  
U S \$

**39.24**  
MILLION

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

OUTCOME 5 is coordinated by WFP, bringing together the efforts of FAO and UNIDO



©FAO/Shahid Ahmed

### SHINING A LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY

Pakistan became better equipped to respond to food security challenges in 2019, as UN agencies contributed to up-to-date, high quality information. In aid of the Government's poverty reduction drive, *Ehsaas*, we identified value chains, small entrepreneurs and agriculture commodities in impoverished areas to advance agriculture-based poverty alleviation. FAO worked with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to roll out the *Food Security and Nutrition Information System (FSNIS)* – a tool that offers an integrated view of the determinants and outcomes of food and nutrition security. By preventing the fragmentation of food security data, the system stands to improve the effectiveness of policies and resource allocations, helping to target the needs of marginalized areas and enable timely response to emergencies. The *Pakistan Food Outlook Report 2019* and the *Pakistan Overview of Food Security and Nutrition (POFI 2019)* were developed, representing Pakistan's first country-level analysis based on the methodology of the UN's global *State of Food Security and Nutrition* series.

Capacity development helped to mainstream data collection to track progress on the SDGs, while strengthening the data collection methodology for the upcoming *Agriculture Census*. Honing the capacities of provincial Departments of Agriculture supported Pakistan's transition towards e-Agriculture – that is, the design, development and application of innovative ways to use information and communication technologies (ICT) in agriculture, the mainstay of Pakistan's economy. Officials became well-versed in employing ICT to enhance production, reach more farmers, transfer knowledge, adapt to climate change, modernize the agricultural sector, and address challenges. With UN support, the Government developed its first *e-Agriculture Strategy*, due to be launched in 2020.

### SAVING LIVES WITH FOOD RELIEF

Live-saving UN relief assistance helped to cement food security in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts – safeguarding immediate well-being, while laying the groundwork for long-term resilience. The Government of Pakistan donated 20,000 metric tonnes of wheat for WFP's humanitarian and resilience-building activities, worth US\$4.8 million. Monthly food assistance was a lifeline for 19,812 households that remain temporarily displaced from their homes, as was six months' worth of food aid for returnees. Both groups benefitted from food baskets containing vital essentials – including wheat flour, vegetable oil, pulses, and salt.



**19,812**  
households benefitted from monthly food assistance



**20,000**  
MT of wheat distributed to displaced and returnee households



**IMPACT**  
Live-saving food assistance meets urgent food needs

### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR ASSETS

Community-based livelihood recovery reinvigorated food security in five of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts, whose residents were hardest hit by prolonged displacement. Working with communities to identify assets of immediate importance, WFP's *Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)* initiative rehabilitated and revived key assets – from water courses, to land, link roads, and irrigation channels. The initiative reached out to 713,600 of Pakistan's most food-insecure people, providing them with cash or food-based transfers to meet their immediate food needs while they rehabilitated key assets.

These efforts will strengthen local livelihoods in the districts of Kurram, Orakzai, North and South Waziristan, and Khyber by creating healthier natural environments, reducing the risks and impact of shocks, increasing food productivity, and strengthening resilience. Sustained collaboration between partners – communities, UN agencies, the FATA Secretariat, district administrations, local NGOs, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Agriculture – made 2019's gains possible.



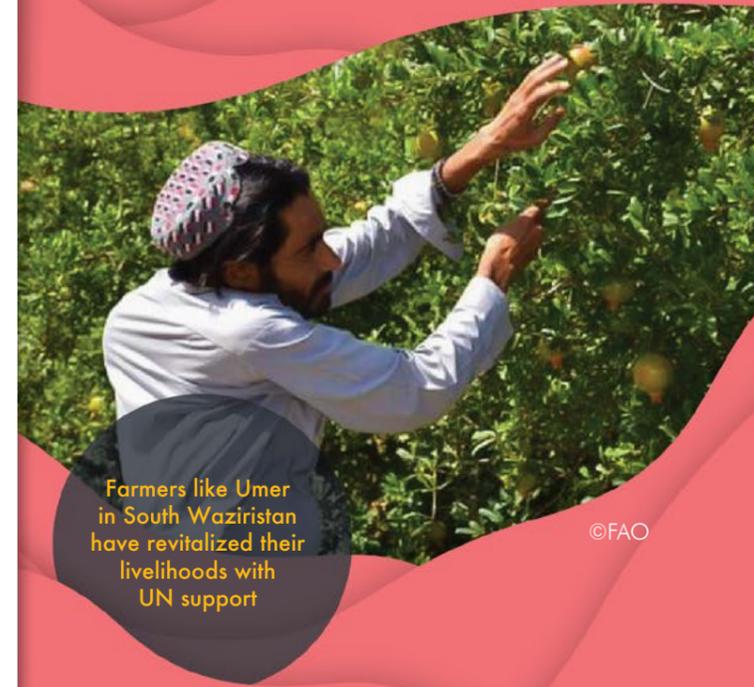
**713,600**  
people reached by the Food Assistance for Assets initiative



**IMPACT**  
Rehabilitating community infrastructure revived livelihoods and cemented long-term food security

### CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

UN capacity development was at the heart of efforts to restore agricultural livelihoods and promote climate-smart agriculture. Over 43,000 smallholder farmers – 27% of whom are women – received training and quality agricultural inputs to resume production. Training equipped 9,400 farmers – 44% of whom are women – with the skills to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, thanks to FAO-supported Farmer Field Schools, Livestock Farmer Field Schools and Women Open Schools. Women represented nearly half (52%) of the 2,700 farmers trained in value added practices, enhancing their opportunities for building sustainable rural livelihoods. These capacity building efforts centred on strengthening skills on business development, marketing and agricultural commodities. In tandem, UN initiatives helped to bring over 2,800 hectares of land back to its productive best by rehabilitating irrigation channels. Adopting a 'cash for work' approach engaged 248 local labourers in these rehabilitation efforts.



©FAO

Farmers like Umer in South Waziristan have revitalized their livelihoods with UN support

## UMER'S STORY: REVIVING RURAL LIVELIHOODS

"I believe that there is no substitute to working hard. Our area holds vast potential for agriculture which we need to take advantage of," says Umer.

He is one of the farmers benefitting from an initiative by the UN and USAID to revitalize returnee livelihoods in South Waziristan, one of the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa most affected by widespread displacement.

Now 26, Umer was born in Annar Bagh, a remote corner of South Waziristan surrounded by rich arable land. Poor agricultural infrastructure and economic hardship compounded the difficulties faced by local farmers as they returned to their homes after years of displacement. As a person with a physical disability, Umer's own path was often a difficult one.

"I do not see my disability as an obstacle," Umer explains, his words reflecting an indomitable spirit. "It took me some time to realize my strengths and to start pursuing my dreams."

FAO's support helped Umer on his journey, providing him with 600 pomegranate, guava and apple plants to start his own orchard. As his yields grew, he began selling fruit in the local market. Making the most of his homeland's fertile soil, Umer was soon growing seasonal vegetables as well, such as okra, tomatoes and carrots. With his profits soaring, Umer soon opened his own shop.

"Fulfilling the needs of my family, sending my children to school and having a good-quality life have always been a priority for me," Umer says. Now, thanks to the UN's initial helping hand, he has made his dreams a reality.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the UN's *Restoration Initiative* (TRI) supported the formation of 13 Chilgoza Forest Conservation and Protection Committees. These aim to empower local communities to contribute to the restoration, protection and sustainable management of the *Chilgoza* pine forest ecosystem – promising a boon for environmental sustainability, community resilience and local livelihoods.

To enhance the climate resilience of farmers in the Indus River Basin, an agreement was signed with the Green Climate Fund to establish cutting-edge information systems. By measuring, monitoring and modelling hydrological processes in eight districts of Sindh and Punjab, these systems will inform the integration of climate considerations into agricultural and water policies, while supporting the resilience of poor, small-scale farmers. Our aim is to move Pakistan's agricultural heartland away from its current situation of acute vulnerability, and toward greater resilience and food security through better information, water management and farming practices.

Clear agreements between landowners and sharecroppers (*haris*) are a win-win solution for sustainable food and agricultural production systems. In 2019, the UN supported the signing of 555 informal tenancy agreements between *haris* and landlords. These recognize the status and tenancy rights of vulnerable sharecroppers, while supporting their formal registration at the Union Council level.

Twenty Village Grievance Redressal Committees (VGRCs) were established to address conflicts between *haris* and landlords – comprising 60 men and 40 women.

Training sessions enhanced the capacities of 162 stakeholders to implement the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* (VGGT). These government officials, civil society representatives, academics, and *haris* are now well-placed to promote the security of land tenure among Sindh's most vulnerable peasant farmers.



**43,000** 27% women  
farmers supported to restore agricultural livelihoods



**9,400** 44% women  
farmers trained to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices



**2,700** 52% women  
farmers trained on value added practices, marketing and business development



**IMPACT**  
Progress on sustainable, climate-smart agricultural livelihoods



**162**  
stakeholders trained to strengthen land governance



**555**  
tenancy agreements signed between *haris* and landlords in Sindh



**IMPACT**  
Advances towards more equitable land governance

### IMPROVING LAND GOVERNANCE

2019 was a landmark year for improved land governance in Sindh. A strategy for *Mainstreaming the Principles and Practices of Responsible Governance of Tenure in Legislation, Administration and Policies of the Land Sector* was developed by the provincial government with FAO's assistance. Its implementation will contribute to greater transparency and efficiency in land use, enabling the province to overcome food insecurity and climate risks through equity and climate-smart agricultural production.

### SUPPORTING THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR

Efforts to strengthen food security governance bore fruit in 2019. With UN support, Balochistan organized a *Livestock Expo* and launched its first *Livestock Policy and Strategy* to boost its critical livestock sector. Developed by Balochistan's Livestock and Dairy Development Department (LDDD) with FAO's assistance, it provides a roadmap to stimulate sectoral growth in a way that increases the prosperity of households and businesses involved in livestock value chains.

Its implementation stands to increase these households' income by 50% over the coming decade, generating projected profits worth PKR 100 billion (equivalent to US\$620 million) for Balochistan's rural women and men.

Gul Bano is reinforcing food security in her communities, and rewriting the narrative on what rural women can achieve



©FAO/Aliyya Noor

### GUL BANO'S STORY: A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Fifty-year-old mother of seven, Gul Bano, was always interested in farming. Her village of Tando Allahyar, in Sindh's Mirpur Khas district, is renowned for its fertile soil. Yet limited knowledge and means kept her from pursuing her passion and making the most of her homeland's lush fields.

Her life changed when the UN-supported initiative, *Improving Land Tenancy in Sindh* (ILTS), reached out to Gul Bano and her fellow villagers.

The initiative aims to improve the food and nutrition security of poor, agriculture-dependent communities in Sindh. It hinges on improving land tenancy and agriculture practices, bringing them in line with FAO's *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* (VGGT). It places a focus on engaging smallholder farmers – both women and men – and other disadvantaged groups.

After a visit from local FAO Field Facilitators, Gul Bano began to attend meetings on the ILTS project. Sessions at the local Farmers Field School helped her learn how to prepare land for cultivation using laser levelling, how to employ sustainable farming techniques and how to reap the benefits of kitchen gardening.

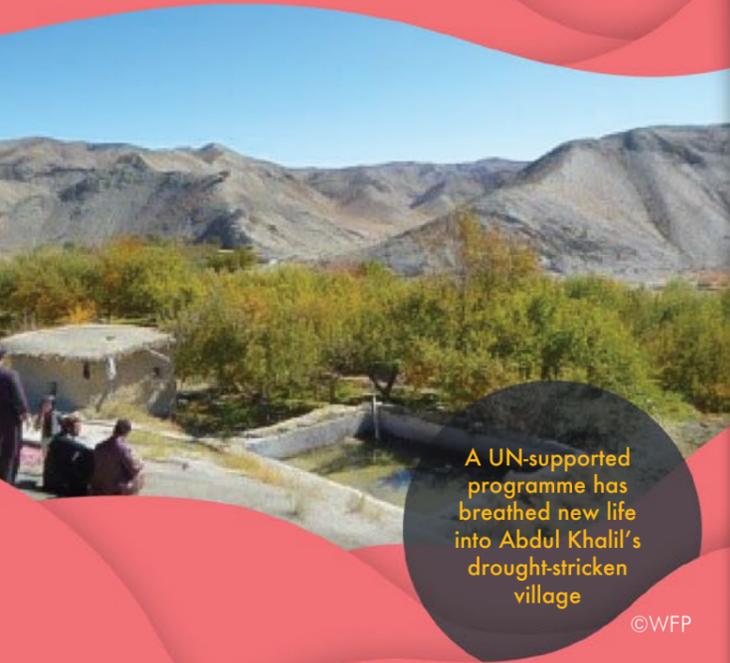
She learned to use homemade natural pesticides, such as detergent mixed with neem, instead of commercial sprays. The benefits of this training were twofold: not only did Gul Bano save money, she was also able to grow crops while protecting the land she holds so dear.

Equipped with new knowledge and practical skills, Gul Bano used the plot of land she owns to grow okra and ridge gourd, using seeds distributed by the project. Keen to support those around her, she allocated part of her land to fellow trainees who lack land of their own, enabling them to grow their own vegetables.

As she waits to harvest her crops, Gul Bano is determined that her household and community will reap the benefits. Her example is inspiring other women in the community to get involved in the project and take up kitchen gardening themselves.

Now, Gul Bano aspires to become a volunteer facilitator, sharing the knowledge and skills she has gained to improve livelihoods in her community, and especially to empower the women around her. She wants to expand her area of cultivation and save enough money to send all of her children to school.

Gul Bano hopes that, one day, her daughters will teach at the local village school, which is falling into disrepair due to a lack of teachers. In time, they can join her in rewriting the narrative on what rural women can achieve.



A UN-supported programme has breathed new life into Abdul Khalil's drought-stricken village

©WFP

## ABDUL KHALIL'S STORY: DEFEATING DROUGHT

"When the drought hit Balochistan two years ago, everything changed for me," laments Abdul Khalil.

Here in the district of Killa Abdullah, the drought has been pitiless, ravaging one of the poorest parts of Pakistan.

"I lost everything," Abdul Khalil explains. "I used to own a small piece of land and a few goats. This was my only source of income. Even worse, the local karez [irrigation system] dried up, meaning no water for my crops. No crops meant no food for my goats. Being unable to feed my animals, I was left with only two choices – to let them starve or to sell them. I chose to sell them for some quick money. I could not even ask my family and friends for help because everyone was struggling. We tried many times to restore the karez, but we could never gather enough money."

Across the province, communities are reeling from water and food shortages, pushing livestock herders deeper into poverty. For them, the UN-backed Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) has been a lifeline.

"They brought everyone together and helped us to restore the karez," Abdullah reports. "WFP even paid us for the labour we put in. We all received PKR 9,500 each for 12 days of work. The money was very useful. I used it to buy food and other necessities for my family. Although it's the restored karez that has been the real blessing! Access to water has brought life to my barren land again. Inshallah [God willing], I'll soon buy some goats and get my old life back!"

## SEEDS OF CHANGE

Quality seeds mean quality yields. Farmers' food security, therefore, depends on their seed security. In 2019, UN efforts enhanced official capacities to reform Pakistan's seed sector. Following training for 20 staff members at the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department (FSC&RD), the department's Central Seed Testing Laboratory (CSTL) was accredited by the International Seed Testing Association. FAO also supported Balochistan's *Certified Seed Production* initiative to bolster provincial food security.



**20** 20% women  
government officials trained on seed certification



**IMPACT**  
High quality seeds are poised to improve crop yields

## MAKING EVERY DROP COUNT

Water scarcity is on the rise in Pakistan, prompting prolonged drought, decimating livestock and depleting crop yields. Innovative UN solutions are helping the country to navigate its water crisis. In Punjab and Sindh, FAO supported water accounting spatial maps for district and canal command areas. A five-year analysis estimating crop demand and water supplies in Punjab yielded vital data to prevent Pakistan's most populous province from running dry. In areas plagued by drought, WFP's conditional assistance helped 9,193 people revive critical community infrastructure. As a result in Killa Abdullah, Balochistan, the community met its own water needs, including the needs their livestock, on whom local livelihoods depend.



**9,193**  
people aided to revive community infrastructure in drought-stricken areas



**IMPACT**  
Advances on water security and addressing prolonged drought



©UNDP



OUTCOME 6



## Resilience

As climate change gains pace, Pakistan is among the countries most affected by natural disasters – from floods to drought, earthquakes, heat waves, landslides, and other crises. Through Outcome 6 of the One UN Programme III, the UN works with the Government to help Pakistan weather the storm. Our focus is on strengthening disaster management systems, policies and capacities to bounce back from disasters, spearhead climate-smart responses and promote environmental sustainability. As one, UN agencies pair immediate relief with a focus on reducing risks, enhancing preparedness, improving response, and cementing resilience.

# 6

## RESILIENCE

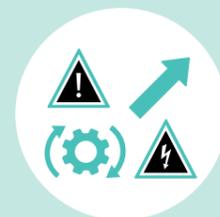


**OUTCOME 6:** By 2022, the resilience of the people in Pakistan, especially key populations, is increased by addressing natural and other disasters, including climate change adaptation measures and the sustainable management of cultural and natural resources

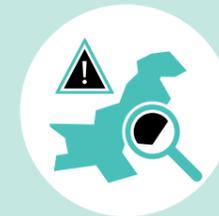
**KEY RELATED SDGs**

- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15 LIFE ON LAND

## IMPACT IN 2019



**Stronger capacities for disaster risk management**  
**1,100** government and humanitarian partners trained on preparedness



**Early warning systems minimized risks**  
**35** automatic weather stations up and running



**Frameworks for disaster and climate risk management**  
 District-level *Disaster Risk Management Plans* developed



**Support for formerly displaced persons**  
**1.57 million** people's access to basic services improved



**Community preparedness, recovery and resilience**  
**3.6 million** people benefitted from preparedness, response and recovery interventions



**Moves to safeguard cultural heritage**  
**23** Kalasha women handicraft artisans engaged



**EXPENDITURE**  
 U S \$  
**36.17**  
 MILLION

### PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

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



©UNDP



©UNOPS

With the Solar Schools Project, clean energy is revitalizing education in underserved districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

**STRENGTHENING DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

To protect development investments and build resilience, strengthening disaster management systems (DRM) is a cornerstone of UN efforts to identify, reduce and manage risks. In 2019, UN agencies assisted the development of *District Disaster Risk Management Plans* in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh – a step towards more effective DRM, from the ground up. With UN support, Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) improved coordination mechanisms to engage with provincial and district institutions. UNDP partnered with the NDMA to create a dedicated cell for monitoring and reporting on the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (SFDRR). The cell will review existing DRM policies and plans to gauge progress on Pakistani frameworks. The creation of a centralized information management repository with the NDMA was a major feat, enabling data management professionals to collect, store and access up-to-date information in a single system to inform effective disaster management decisions.

Stronger partnerships between the UN and government counterparts at all levels, alongside civil society, academia and religious leaders, were a hallmark of progress in 2019. Dialogue with the private sector promises to increase businesses’ availability of resources for DRM, while building companies’ resilience to disasters. In tandem, we supported the development of an *Volunteer Management System* for the Red Crescent Society, enabling the RCS to match volunteers’ skills to real needs.

**REDUCING DISASTER RISKS**

Early warning systems minimized multi-hazard risks across Pakistan in 2019. Thanks to UN collaboration with the Pakistan Meteorological Department, and District and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, 35 automatic weather stations (AWS) are up and running at strategic locations, enabling rapid weather observations. The development of evidence-based *Flood Management Plans* – powerful tools for flood response and mitigation – aim to curb the destructive force of increasingly frequent flooding.

The UNDP and Green Climate Fund-supported *Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Project* (GLOF II) will protect 30 million people from dangerous floods and climate change by scaling up early warning systems, delivering training and building protective infrastructure in Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. To take the project forward, UNDP cemented partnerships with federal and provincial entities.



**35**  
automatic weather stations enabled rapid weather observations



**IMPACT**  
Early warning systems minimized multi-hazard risks

**ABDUS’ STORY:  
LIGHTING UP SCHOOLS  
WITH CLEAN ENERGY**

Thirty years ago, Abdus Samad used to study at a school that had no boundary walls, no proper rooms and no electricity. Students depended on sunlight be able to learn to read and write. A rainy day was a ‘no-school day’.

Three decades on, the Government Primary School (GPS) of Wanda Sultanabad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa still had no electricity. In the summer, temperatures rise to 50 degrees Celsius – making its three tiny classrooms unbearably hot and stuffy. Without electricity, teachers and students huddled under a large tree in the courtyard for some respite from the heat. Children would sweat so much that they became dehydrated; many fainted, especially those who walk long distances to get to school. Between April and October, attendance dropped to 60% – a serious challenge in an area where enrolment rates are already low. A lack of basic facilities – electricity, clean water and toilets – plays a major role in keeping children out of school.

“Our children go to school one day and the next day they do not want to go,” explains Abdus.

The UN-supported *Solar Schools Project* is using clean energy to reinvigorate education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

UNOPS and the provincial Elementary and Secondary Education Department joined hands, using funding from

the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development and the Saudi Fund for Development to provide 1,250 primary and middle schools with free access to uninterrupted green electricity. Clean energy will power lights and fans in classrooms – creating a healthier, more productive learning environment for 150,000 children, and reducing CO2 emissions by 2,250 metric tonnes each year. To ensure sustainability and community ownership, local Parent Teacher Councils (PTCs) are being trained to operate and maintain their solar systems.

GPS Wanda Sultanabad is one of these schools. When Abdus first saw the survey team, he was unsure of what to expect. When they installed a solar system at the school within a few days, he was elated. During school hours, direct electricity from solar panels powers 17 new fans and 17 lights. In the evenings, the solar system’s batteries continue to power the school’s lights and fans, so that the building can be used as a community centre.

“We want our children to acquire an education. That is why we are trying our best to send them to school, despite many challenges. They are our only asset,” says Abdus Samad. “The solar system in our school has solved one of the biggest issues of our community.”

With enrolment rates rising by 30–40% in the past year alone, the school is a shining example to the power of clean energy – and the benefits it promises for education, community well-being and sustainable development.



Samina's six-month-old accompanies her to her local Women and Child-Friendly Space

©UNFPA

## SAMINA'S STORY: WOMEN-FRIENDLY SPACES

"It is not only the skills I have learned," says Samina, "coming to the centre has given me confidence, the will to go on."

The 28-year-old is speaking of her local Women-Friendly Health Space in the district of Killa Abdullah, Balochistan – a source of solace and support that has transformed her life. Married off at the age of 15, Samina was never able to complete her education. Unskilled and uneducated, she toiled as a domestic servant. When her husband became ill, Samina faced new hardships – not only was she the family's principle breadwinner in a district plagued by drought, she also suffered increasing domestic violence at her husband's hands.

Seriously injured, Samina was rushed to a UNFPA-supported Women-Friendly Health Space by her neighbours. As part of the Government's emergency relief activities in drought-affected Balochistan, the UN provides medical supplies, delivery kits and psychosocial counselling at local health facilities.

At her local centre, Samina immediately received shelter, medical treatment and counselling. Later, she enrolled in the centre's sewing class, acquiring lucrative livelihood skills. Long-term counselling for her husband has had a positive effect – challenging the toxic masculinity that underlies violence against women.

Women-Friendly Health Spaces are playing an important role in keeping women in emergencies safe – protecting the health, security and well-being of women like Samina. One-year on, Samina now earns a decent living from her sewing. She credits her local centre with her recovery and, above all, her newfound sense of purpose.

## CONSOLIDATING DRM CAPACITIES

Nationwide, UN support strengthened life-saving risk reduction and response capacities, while building a network of disaster management practitioners equipped to mitigate hazards. Training enhanced the institutional capacities of federal, provincial, district and local Disaster Risk Management Committees on policy-making, planning and implementing DRM. We honed the skills of 90 government officials to implement disaster and climate risk management (DRR/CRM) in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. In Balochistan and Sindh, 120 government officials and members of local communities were trained to use automated external defibrillators and administer first aid, preparing them to respond swiftly when emergencies strike.

A sustainability strategy developed with government partners aims to ensure that humanitarian capacity building is integrated into government training initiatives. UNDP paired support for institutions' policy, regulatory and legal frameworks with efforts to strengthen District Emergency Response Cells (DERC) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan by providing emergency preparedness and response equipment in 15 districts.

Preparedness is also set to improve in the wake of IOM's Multi-Sector Preparedness Training Programme, reaching over 1,100 government and humanitarian partners overall. UN collaboration on the NDMA's Early Recovery Risk Assessment (ERNA) Guidelines and Toolkit bolstered the capacities of district officials. Training platforms and UN manuals on Disaster Risk Reduction and School Safety enabled Pakistan's schools to cope with disasters based on three pillars: safe school facilities, school disaster management and risk reduction education. Over 170 staff and volunteers of the Red Crescent Society were trained and deployed to help hotspots in Karachi prepare for, and respond to, heat waves – among the longest and hottest heat waves in South Asia since records began.



**1,100** government and humanitarian partners trained on preparedness



**170** Red Crescent staff and volunteers deployed to heat wave hotspots



**90** officials trained on disaster risk reduction and climate risk management



**IMPACT** Disaster and climate risk management capacities strengthened

## PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Over 3.6 million Pakistanis affected by natural disasters benefitted from UN interventions to strengthen preparedness, response and recovery in 2019. The rehabilitation of community infrastructure benefitted 130,000 people directly, laying the foundation for a transition towards sustainable development pathways and lasting resilience.

Through the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Merged Districts (KPM) Support Programme, UN initiatives worked to improve the lives of 1.57 million formerly displaced persons by securing their access to basic services – enhancing health, safeguarding dignity and expanding opportunities for a better life. Engaging young people and women strengthened initiatives, bolstered sustainability and promoted the availability of trained human resources at the community level.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh, UNDP worked to secure better access to sanitation and safe drinking water for vulnerable families. As a result, over 1,510 impoverished people, 320 women, 1,345 youths, and 21 persons with disabilities were protected from health hazards and waterborne diseases.

UN Habitat and the European Union spearheaded disaster-resilient school infrastructure in Peshawar and Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They paired awareness raising and capacity building with new retrofitting guidelines for schools – demonstrating a strong integrated risk reduction model for resilient infrastructure. Aligned with national DRM plans and policies, the guidelines cover structural and non-structural retrofitting techniques, customized to different hazards and types of buildings.



**3.6 million** people benefitted from preparedness, response and recovery interventions



**1.57 million** formerly displaced persons' access to services improved in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts



**130,000** people benefitted from community infrastructure rehabilitation



**IMPACT** Recovery and resilience among disaster-affected communities



Fuel-efficient stoves are dealing a blow to indoor air pollution in Gilgit-Baltistan

©UNDP

## BANI'S STORY: CLEAN AIR, FUEL-EFFICIENT STOVES

"I had to burn wood three times a day for cooking, heating water, and making bread", says Bani. "It was very difficult to breathe due to the smoke."

Pollution is not something you would associate with the pristine valleys of the Karakoram, nestled between the high mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan. But without basic amenities – like electricity, gas and water – communities like Bani's rely on traditional wood-burning stoves (*bukharis*) that are a font of indoor air pollution.

Bani's life has changed for the better, thanks to a UN-supported initiative to strengthen the Central Karakoram National Park Management System. UNDP teamed up with local partners, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF Pakistan) and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve living conditions in the buffer zones of the Central Karakoram National Park and the Deosai National Park.

As part of the initiative, 50 households received 200 locally-designed and produced fuel-efficient stoves to stem the harmful effects of indoor air pollution.

"Now, I make bread, cook for my family and heat water at the same time from the single stove and that too in a smokeless and clean environment," reports 35-year-old Bani. "Previously, in *bukhari[s]*, we used to burn all kinds of plastics and waste generated in the household for heating purposes. We were suffering from respiratory diseases, eyes and skin infections", she explains. "We are happy with this stove, as now we can breathe in clean air inside our homes throughout the year."



Yar Muhammad's wheat fields are back to their productive best, making his family more resilient and food secure

©FAO/  
Seema Ghazi

## YAR MUHAMMAD'S STORY: FIELDS OF GOLD NURTURING RESILIENCE

"Finally, the day is here! I'm harvesting my wheat crop! Every farmer waits for this day to collect the golden wheat from their fields," Yar Muhammad beams.

This day has been a long time coming. For nearly a decade, the 47-year-old farmer was unable to till his own fields. Like millions of others, military operations forced his family to flee their homeland of Bara, in Khyber, one of the Merged Districts of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They spent years in the Jalozai camp for temporarily displaced persons.

"Who likes living in a camp with their entire family, waiting for others to feed them?" asks Yar Muhammad. "We had left everything behind and were not certain whether we will ever be able to return to our homes."

He recalls better times, before displacement robbed him of his land and livelihood.

"We used to grow our own vegetables. Everything we ate came from our own fields – we did not buy anything from the markets. Times have changed now," he says. "Upon our return, the agriculture field had turned into barren land, irrigation canals were filled with sand."

Determined to bring his land back from the brink, Yar Muhammad did not lose hope. With UN support, households returning to Bara received support to resuscitate their land, revive their livelihoods, and rebuild their lives. FAO's USAID-funded project, *Restoring Subsistence and Commercial Agriculture in FATA*, boosted agricultural productivity in the Merged Districts by providing quality inputs, introducing innovative practices and reclaiming land. This support has made families like Yar Muhammad's food secure year round – increasing their incomes, while revitalizing local economic opportunities.

"I received agriculture packages, mainly wheat," reports Yar Muhammad. This aid has been a revelation, helping him obtain a yield of 600 kilograms of wheat per acre from UN-provided certified wheat seed – nearly twice his yield last year. "Now I will not have to buy wheat flour from the market," he says. "I have my family to feed, this produce will be for our domestic consumption. Now that the wheat is being harvested, I will have fodder for my livestock too. I will also store some wheat seed for the next cultivation period."

Yar Muhammad's inspiring story reflects how communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts are making the most of support to cement their agricultural resilience.

"I was very happy to cultivate my land again," Yar Muhammad declares. "Walking in their fields and irrigating their land would make any farmer's day – as it did mine."



©FAO/Shahid Ahmed

## SAFEGUARDING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Culture is who we are and what shapes our identity. No development can be sustainable without including culture. From cultural heritage to the cultural and creative industries, culture is both an enabler and a driver of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

In 2019, the UN continued to support Pakistan's drive to safeguard its rich cultural heritage. UNESCO joined hands with a national NGO, the Kaarvan Crafts Foundation, to train women in the Kalash valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to improve the quality of their handicrafts, while strengthening market linkages with other parts of the country. The initiative enabled 23 Kalasha women to travel to Punjab's capital city, Lahore, for a two-day exhibition of their products that let locals learn about Kalasha culture.

In the Kalash valley itself, training on eco-tourism and cultural sensitivity enabled 81 police officers to maintain security during the Chawmoss festival. With UN support, *From Tsiam to the Hindu Kush* – a book of essays and photographs on the Kalasha people and their culture co-published by UNESCO and THAAP – was launched, documenting the extensive research undertaken to nominate the Kalasha astronomical practice of *Suri Jagek* for inclusion on UNESCO's *List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding*. Its inclusion on the list in 2019 gave new impetus to the cause of protecting Kalasha traditions.



**81**  
police officers trained on eco-tourism and cultural sensitivity



**23**  
Kalasha women and an exhibition on Kalasha handicrafts supported



**Suri Jagek**  
inscribed on UNESCO's *List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding*



**IMPACT**  
Progress on safeguarding Pakistan's cultural heritage



OUTCOME 7



## Education and Learning

Every child has the right to learn. Education transforms lives, reduces poverty and creates peaceful, prosperous societies. Through Outcome 7 of the One UN Programme III, the UN supports the Government of Pakistan to move education systems, policies and programmes forward for every child. Our focus is on expanding access to education, improving quality and enabling lifelong learning - including through early childhood education and alternative learning pathways - to build a brighter future for all of Pakistan's children.

# 7

## EDUCATION AND LEARNING



KEY RELATED SDGs



**OUTCOME 7:** By 2022, children and youth will have enhanced, equitable and inclusive access to, and benefit from, quality learning opportunities

## IMPACT IN 2019



**Progress on education sector planning**  
2 provincial Education Sector Plans endorsed



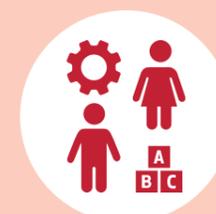
**Efforts to advance girls' education**  
6,898 schools trained on menstrual hygiene management



**Promotion of tolerance and inclusive education**  
27,539 refugees supported to study the Pakistani curriculum



**School feeding bolsters nutrition and education**  
3,500 children will benefit from school feeding in ICT



**Advances in non-formal education and ECE**  
302,192 children supported to access formal and non-formal education



**Focus on media and information literacy**  
1,000 people engaged on media and information literacy



EXPENDITURE  
U S \$

**22.86**

MILLION

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

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

### ENHANCING EDUCATION FRAMEWORKS

With UN support, all of Pakistan's provinces made headway on policy development and structural reforms to strengthen education – from getting out-of-school children into school, to expanding early childhood education (ECE) and improving the quality of learning. UN agencies assisted provincial governments' development of *Education Sector Plans (ESPs)* to guide their education reform agendas. ESPs were endorsed in Punjab and Sindh, and neared completion in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Both Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa drafted applications for *Education Sector Programme Implementation Grants* to better implement ESPs – with a view to creating stronger education systems, capable of delivering improvements in equity and learning.

Pakistan's enrolment and retention rates improved, as did resource allocations for the education sector. The federal budget for education rose from PKR 93.41 billion in 2014–2015 to PKR 131.15 billion in 2018–2019 – a 41% increase over five years. To enhance education opportunities for all, UNDP supported the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training's stakeholder consultation on integrating *madrassas/madaris* (religious seminaries). UN advocacy highlighted areas where efforts are needed to accelerate progress on SDG 4 ('Quality Education') – from increased financing in sectoral development, to the use of education data to guide decision-making.

Another 77,201 children benefitted from early childhood education (ECE), enabling them to enter school with the skills they need to learn, succeed and prosper. Enrolment campaigns, school supplies and teacher trainings reached out to children nationwide, expanding learning opportunities for scores of Pakistan's most disadvantaged children and youths.



**302,192** 55% girls  
out-of-school children accessed formal and non-formal primary education



**40,627** 50% girls  
benefitted from accelerated learning programmes



**77,201** 61% girls  
accessed early childhood education



**IMPACT**  
Progress on meeting the learning needs of disadvantaged children

### PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

In 2019, the *Learning for Empathy* programme promoted inclusive education to advance a culture of peace, non-violence, global citizenship, and cultural diversity – the aims of SDG target 4.7. With funding from the Government of Japan, the UNESCO-led programme strengthened school and *madrassa* teachers' capacities to equip learners with knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to live healthy lives, advance sustainable development and become responsible global citizens. Its socio-cultural activities celebrated diversity, drawing together teachers, *madrassa* representatives, government officials, parliamentarians, civil society, and development partners.

### SCALING UP SCHOOL FEEDING

For many hungry children, a school meal may be their only nutritious meal during the day. School feeding initiatives not only boost child nutrition and health, they are also a strong incentive to send children to school – increasing their access to, and achievement in, education. In 2019, UN policy advice and technical assistance helped federal and provincial Departments of Education to design government-led school feeding initiatives across Pakistan. WFP worked with the Ministry of Education and Professional Training on a small-scale pilot to assess the feasibility of school feeding in urban areas, and to develop a large-scale national *School Feeding Programme*. The pilot in Islamabad Capital Territory will cover 3,500 students in 13 rural schools, providing mid-morning snacks and raising awareness on eating habits, health and hygiene.

### EXPANDING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

By building foundational literacy, numeracy and life skills, non-formal education is a powerful means of meeting the learning needs of children at risk of being left behind. Such pathways are vital for addressing the serious learning crisis facing Pakistan. With UN support, 302,192 out-of-school children (OOSC) – over half of whom are girls (55%) – accessed formal and non-formal primary education in 2019. Among them, 40,627 children and adolescents – 50% of whom are girls – accessed accelerated learning programmes (ALPs). These provide a fast-track second-chance to complete formal education, helping disadvantaged children to catch up with their peers.



**3,500**  
students will benefit from a school feeding initiative in Islamabad



**IMPACT**  
Progress towards improved student nutrition, enrolment and retention



Thanks to the organization that supported his parents, 12-year-old Aamir is now in Grade 5

©UNICEF/Niaz

### AAMIR'S STORY: FROM THE FIELDS TO THE CLASSROOM

As a child, Aamir would wait for the village boys to walk by. They were like him, but their lives were different. Each day, Aamir followed his father to the fields. Each day, the boys walked side-by-side to school.

"Every time I saw the boys, I would ask my dad to send me to school too," Aamir recalls. "His answer was always the same. 'If I could,' he'd say, 'I would. But we can't afford the books and uniforms.'"

For years, Aamir toiled in the fields of Sindh's Ghotki district, braving blazing desert heat in the summer, freezing temperatures in the winter, insects, snakes, and dangerous pesticides. He might have spent his entire childhood as a child labourer, if a local organization hadn't visited his home. They taught his parents about financial literacy and the importance of education.

Most importantly, they gave the family a small sum of money – enough to join forces with their neighbours and buy a cow. Aamir's parents hit their stride, selling cow milk in the neighbourhood. For the first time, they were earning not just to survive – but to save. As soon as they could afford it, Aamir's parents used their extra earnings to send him to school.

"All of a sudden, I was waking up to go to school – not the fields – just like the boys I used to watch every day," says Aamir. "It was like a dream come true."

Now, 12-year-old Aamir is in Grade 5.

"I study hard," he reports proudly, "and sometimes I teach other children in my neighbourhood to help them understand the lessons they find difficult."

Finally, Aamir has what every child deserves: the right to quality education, and the right to be protected from harmful work. Aamir's early years remind us that a childhood without education, a childhood where children are obliged to work, is unacceptable for any child – regardless of who they are, where they come from, or how much money their parents make.

"I want to do so much," Aamir confesses, "but more than anything, I want to have a nice job that will help me buy or rent a house in the city. A house that has cement walls, is safe from floods, and won't flow away in the water like this mud house of ours. I just want my parents and siblings to be safe. I want them to live a comfortable life."

Aamir's words speak to the heart of what all the children in Pakistan should have: a chance to learn, to thrive in a secure environment and to live well.



ECE is bridging communal divides by bringing children like Kanhaiya and Muskan together as classmates and friends

©UNICEF/ Asad Zaidi

## KANHAIYA'S AND MUSKAN'S STORY: ECE FOSTERS COMMUNAL HARMONY

"Many of my students come from different ethnic communities," explains Iram Akmal, a teacher in the impoverished district of Rahim Yar Khan, in southern Punjab. "But in the ECE class they all learn, play and even pray together. Congeniality among these children has brought their families closer and is promoting social cohesion in a diverse community."

Four-year-old Kanhaiya and five-year-old Muskan are two of her students. Ordinarily, they might never interact – Kanhaiya is from a Hindu family, while Muskan's family are Muslims. But thanks to their local early childhood education (ECE) classes, they are best friends.

"Muskan often comes to our house to play with Kanhaiya and she also goes over to his house," says Surmi Devi, Kanhaiya's grandmother. "I pray for these children to remain friends forever and our families to always live together in peace." Before ECE classes were offered in the district, conflicts tended to erupt between religious communities. "We used to get worried," Surmi Devi recalls. "However, the overall environment in schools has really improved. There is no physical punishment and teachers ensure that students do not bully each other. Our children go to school without any apprehension of being singled out as a minority."

In such ways, early childhood education is laying the foundation for children's emotional, social and cognitive development – the building blocks of peace, prosperity and communal harmony.

Since 2015, ECE classes have been rolled out in six districts of Punjab with UN support, including Rahim Yar Khan. UNICEF works with Punjab's Department of Education to train teachers, caregivers and School Management Committees, while providing ECE learning kits and technical assistance to turn classrooms into nurturing, child-friendly spaces. Iram is one of the many teachers trained through this drive.

"Students in the ECE class are young and have impressionable minds," Iram points out. "What they learn here will help form their future personalities. We not only try to make learning easy and attractive for them, but also teach them the importance of tolerance, peace, harmony and strong communal ties."

Through its interactive, play-based approach, early childhood education sets the stage for lifelong learning. This is especially key for children from minority groups or poor families, who are likely to miss out on quality early learning. Every girl and boy who benefits from ECE is more likely to continue their education, through primary school and beyond. As of 2019, ECE classes are offered in nearly 12,000 schools across Punjab, benefiting 100,000 pre-primary students. Since the introduction of ECE classes, children's interest in learning has skyrocketed.

"Every morning, they are excited to go [to school]," Surmi Devi says of her granddaughter Kanhaiya and her friend Muskan. "When they come back, they tell us all that they have learned during the day."

### GETTING GIRLS INTO SCHOOL

Girls' education transforms lives and the future of whole communities. Yet every day, girls in Pakistan face barriers to their education caused by poverty, cultural and gender norms, poor infrastructure, and a lack of security. In 2019, the UN supported efforts to break down these barriers nationwide. In especially impoverished areas, initiatives geared up to improve gender parity in secondary education by increasing girls' enrolment and retention. In the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a conditional cash transfer scheme provided a stipend of PKR 1,000 each month for girls enrolled in Grades 6 to 10 who attend at least 70% of their classes. In Balochistan, 275 girls received cash grants, enabling them to continue their studies, purchase school supplies, secure basic necessities, and access safe transportation.

UN initiatives raised awareness of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) to end the stigma, stress and shame shrouding menstruation. Without access to proper sanitation facilities in schools, girls are often forced to stay home during their periods; others drop out of school altogether. In 2019, MHM trainings in 6,898 schools in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab sensitized school management, students and teachers on positive MHM practices.

Through the UNESCO-led *Girls' Right to Education Programme* (GREP), UN advocacy championed the cause of girls' education. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohistan district, the programme harnessed the power of traditional truck art to raise awareness of the importance of educating girls. Local communities embraced the approach as their own, with truck drivers painting their trucks with intricate motifs and slogans, such as "Education is power, education is light". The approach amplified important messages on girls' education, while preserving local art forms and engaging school children.

 **6,898** schools trained on menstrual hygiene management

 **275** girls received cash grants to continue their education

 **TRUCK ART** advocacy raised awareness of girls' education

 **IMPACT** Progress on ensuring girls' right to education

### ENSURING EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES

With UN support, refugees in Pakistan were empowered through education, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to live productive, fulfilling and independent lives. In 2019, 52,236 primary schools for refugee students were supported by UNHCR – with funding from the United States of America – in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. All 146 schools in Refugee Villages received textbooks, school supplies and uniforms to help them provide quality learning opportunities. Rehabilitating and upgrading 61 of these schools improved access to education for some of the most marginalized children in Pakistan. Aided by UN technical assistance, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Institute of Teacher Education (PITE) trained 188 teachers to ensure a smooth transition to the Pakistani curriculum, benefitting 27,539 Afghan refugee students. Tertiary-level scholarships for 433 refugee students enabled them to attend Pakistani universities recognized by the Higher Education Commission – helping them acquire higher education to improve their lives and contribute to sustainable development.

 **52,236** primary schools for refugees supported

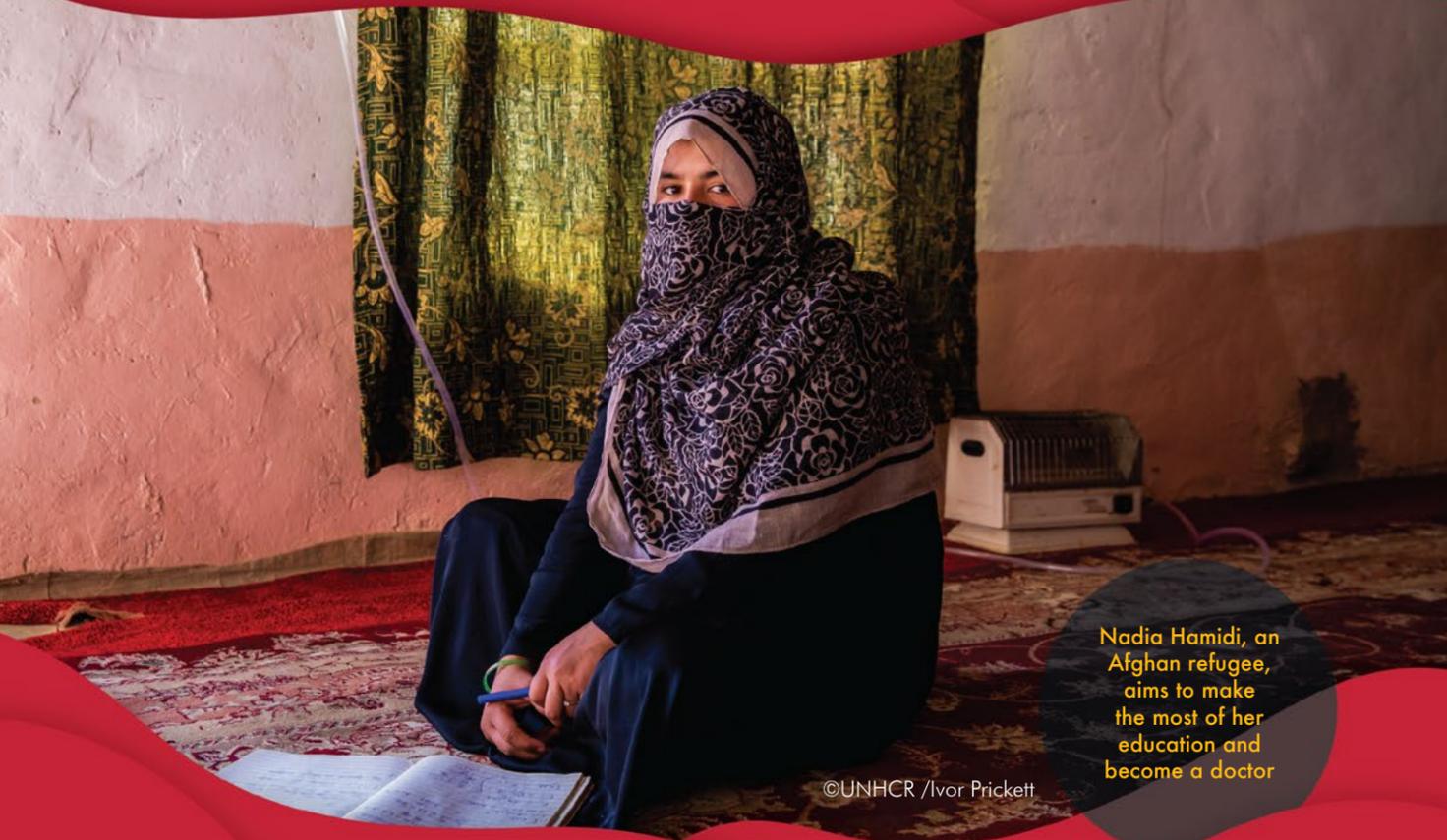
 **27,539** refugee children benefitted from the transition to the Pakistani curriculum

 **433** tertiary-level scholarships granted to refugee students

 **IMPACT** Greater inclusion of refugees in the education system

### MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Information and the media play a central role in all of our lives. Media and information literacy (MIL) lies at the core of equitable access to information because it empowers people to understand the functions of information providers, to critically evaluate their content and to make informed decisions as users and producers of media content. UN initiatives in 2019 fostered constructive discussions of how Pakistan can promote media and information literacy to prevent violent extremism. These included a national multi-stakeholder dialogue, a high-level conference and youth sensitization campaigns in universities.



Nadia Hamidi, an Afghan refugee, aims to make the most of her education and become a doctor

©UNHCR /Ivor Prickett

## NADIA'S STORY: EDUCATION EMPOWERING REFUGEES

"In Afghanistan, we need educated people," says Nadia. "If we don't have educated people, we won't improve ourselves and we won't improve our country."

Nadia is determined to be one of these educated people. Now 17, she was born a refugee. Like millions of Afghans, her parents fled Afghanistan 40 years ago. They have lived in Pakistan ever since.

For decades, Pakistan and Iran – which together host 90 per cent of the world's Afghan refugees – have permitted refugees to attend public schools and access national health care systems. Backed by UN support for refugees and host communities, access to education is giving refugees in Pakistan a path towards a brighter future.

Nadia is a shining example of the power of education. She is a star student at her high school in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan. Thanks to the *Safe from the Start* programme, led by UNHCR and funded by the United States of America, she is also one of scores of refugee women benefitting from computer classes – a key part of the initiative's drive to build refugees' livelihood skills. Nadia dreams of becoming a surgeon.

"To help my family," she explains, "to help my country, to make them better."

Her hunger for education is shared by refugees across Pakistan.

"It's up to Nadia if she wants to become a doctor," says her father, Abdul Rashid. "That's her choice. But we are happy for her to become a doctor so she can build her own life."

In Quetta, Abdul ekes out a living to provide for his family. Each morning, he sets out with his cart of *qabli* – an Afghan dish made with rice, chicken, raisins, and cumin – to sell on the street. He returns home late in the evening, weary from a slipped disc and sore feet.

"I'm doing my best to help her take her studies forward," he says, "It's an achievement for both of us."

That Nadia has come so far is a testament to her family's support and the importance of ensuring access to education for all – including refugees. While conflict has trapped families like Nadia's in exile, she yearns to return – once there is peace, and once she has the medical skills to care for her people. She is unfazed by the path ahead, despite the challenges she faces, as a refugee and as a woman.

"If I want something, I have to work hard," she declares, determined to continue studying and one day, to help her country heal.



©UNOPS/Rabail Habib

UN capacity building and policy dialogue engaged over 1,000 people – youths, journalists, academics, researchers, civil society, and government officials – in debates on creating a digital policy framework and equipping Pakistanis with media and literacy competencies to support sustainable development, promote human rights and leave no one behind. Plans are afoot to scale up MIL training for teachers and students in 2020–21.



**1,000**  
people engaged on media and information literacy



**IMPACT**  
Advances towards equitable access to, and responsible use of, information

In 2019, UNICEF, UNDP and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office worked with the Government to take forward Generation Unlimited's two-pronged approach, which combines country-level action through investment agendas with efforts to scale innovations and broker partnerships. Pakistan created a high-level Strategic Advisory Council to lead Generation Unlimited in the country, chaired by the Minister of Education and co-chaired by the Prime Minister's Special Adviser on Youth Affairs.

The Government's strong ownership of youth initiatives, such as the *Kamyab Jawan Programme*, helped the UN identify key areas for technical support, utilize linkages and mobilize resources in aid of national priorities. Engaging young people through social media – ranging from WhatsApp to SLACK – helped to create networks of young leaders, provide mentoring and set the scene for youth volunteerism in communities.

Learn more about:



### UNLEASHING GENERATION UNLIMITED

As interest grows in linking skills development with formal education, UN agencies worked to localize the global *Generation Unlimited* (GenU) partnership to Pakistan's context, to meet the urgent need for education, training and employment opportunities. Its goal is to create an ecosystem surrounding young people's progress, to innovate faster and better than ever before and to ensure that all young people have the ability and opportunity to realize their potential.



OUTCOME 8



# Gender, Equality and Dignity

Gender equality, dignity and leaving no one behind are the linchpins of sustainable development. Through Outcome 8 of the One UN Programme III, the UN supports Pakistan's women, girls, minorities, and vulnerable groups to realize their potential and claim their rights. With our partners in the Government and beyond, we support gender-sensitive policy reforms, livelihood opportunities, sexual and reproductive health, and a cross-sectoral response to gender-based violence. We work to dismantle hurdles, while championing socio-economic empowerment and social justice for all.

# 8

## GENDER, EQUALITY AND DIGNITY



**OUTCOME 8:** By 2022, government institutions will have increased accountability towards gender equality commitments and social, economic, cultural and political rights

KEY RELATED SDGs



## IMPACT IN 2019



**Support for home-based workers' empowerment**  
3,839 HBWs supported to diversify their incomes



**Legislative progress on gender equality**  
4 provincial GEWE policies drafted



**Progress on combatting gender-based violence**  
1,042 justice officials and police trained on VAWG



**Advances towards ending child marriage**  
Support for the Child Marriage Restraint Act Amendment



**Improved services for women and vulnerable groups**  
1,100 women supported to obtain Computerized National Identity Cards



**Support for women's mobility and safety**  
14 women-only buses rolled out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



**EXPENDITURE**  
U S \$  
**2.89**  
M I L L I O N

**PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

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

**POLICY PROGRESS ON GENDER EQUALITY**

Gender equality policies are essential for creating inclusive societies, economies and sustainable development that works for everyone – women and men, girls and boys, and transgender people. In 2019, the UN strengthened the capacities of women’s development institutions in all four provinces, enabling them to draft provincial *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) Policies*. With UN Women’s assistance, Sindh became the first province to finalize its *GEWE Policy*. Informed by consultations with 80 government departments and civil society groups, the policy pinpoints cross-sectoral linkages and actions to advance gender equality.

UN support for state institutions is paving the way towards stronger accountability mechanisms – both national and sub-national – to ensure that women and girls are protected from violence and able to claim their social, legal and reproductive health rights. Sindh’s Commission on the Status of Women launched its first three-year *Strategic Plan* to guide institutional capacity building, actions to end violence and its review of provincial legislation and programmes from a gender perspective. Government partners intensified efforts to monitor and report on Pakistan’s global commitments to equality – including the *Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*, the SDGs and the 25th review of the *Beijing Platform for Action*. Provincial governments in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh restructured and re-notified CEDAW Committees to oversee the convention’s implementation, enhance inter-departmental coordination and contribute to periodic reporting.

**WORKING WITH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Child marriage is a human rights violation that decimates rights to health, security and opportunities. Girls are neither physically nor emotionally ready to become wives and mothers. If they marry at a young age, girls face greater risk of domestic violence, as well as dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth. With little access to education and decent work, they and their families become trapped in a cycle of poverty.

In 2019, key players in Pakistan took a stand against child marriage. With UN support, the Federal Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s WPC and Punjab’s Gender Mainstreaming Committee proposed amendments to the *Child Marriage Restraint Act*, including raising the age of marriage for girls to 18. UN Women formalized its partnership with the Federal Caucus – the forum of women parliamentarians who work across party lines to advance gender equality – teaming up on strategic planning, research, capacity building, awareness raising, and advocacy. Stronger partnerships between federal and provincial parliamentarians, especially in Sindh and Balochistan, generated momentum for legislative reform, learning and solidarity. Male parliamentarians were engaged as gender equality champions, while Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses championed an enabling environment for women in parliament – paving the way towards progress on the SDGs.



**4** provincial *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policies* drafted



**Child Marriage Restraint Act Amendment** gained support through sustained advocacy



**IMPACT** Progress on policies and institutional mechanisms to advance gender equality

**LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**

Ensuring gender equality in access to essential services is vital for achieving the SDGs’ central pledge: to leave no one behind. UN agencies worked tirelessly to advance gender equality across sectors in Pakistan – from advocacy on equal access to education, retention and learning, to supporting girls’ primary and secondary education, developing gender-sensitive WASH systems, and scaling up work on menstrual hygiene management (MHM). Partnering on the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Merged Districts Support Programme*, UN Women, FAO, UNDP and UNICEF worked to make returns sustainable and help people rebuild their lives. To ensure that women have access to aid and essential services, we supported 1,100 women to secure *Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs)* – the first essential step towards having real choices, safeguarding their dignity and exercising their rights.

Among the most overlooked groups in Pakistan, persons with disabilities are at high risk of being left behind. In 2019, UN Women continued to champion the rights of women with disabilities to employment and a life free from discrimination, in close collaboration with sister UN agencies, the Ministry of Human Rights, civil society, and technical and vocational training institutions. Efforts in Peshawar, Karachi and Islamabad sought to increase the recognition of women with disabilities as rights holders, build their skills, decrease the vulnerability and stigma associated with disability, and enhance the capacity of Disabled Persons Organizations.

In Sindh, UN Women collaborated with the Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) to strengthen the vocational skills of 97 women with disabilities. For many participants, this one-month course was the first chance they had ever had to venture out of their homes and take up opportunities to improve their incomes.



**1,100** women supported to obtain CNICs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Merged Districts



**97** women with disabilities benefitted from vocational training



**IMPACT** Growing access to services and opportunities for vulnerable groups

**ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERING WOMEN**

Investing in women’s economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive growth. In 2019, UN initiatives worked to economically empower women, including millions of home-based workers (HBWs) who make up the lion’s share of Pakistan’s informal labour force. Engagement with provincial officials helped to move forward the enactment of the *Sindh Home-Based Workers’ Act 2018*, the first piece of legislation in Pakistan, and in South Asia, to enshrine the protection of home-based workers in law. UN Women’s life skills training helped 3,839 women home-based workers diversify their incomes, while data gathered on 9,000 HBWs in six districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh is poised to inform responsive policies. UNFPA helped complete a *Social and Economic Well-being Survey* in Punjab, yielding provincial and district-level data that offers a baseline for monitoring SDGs 5 and 8.

A flagship UN Women project, implemented with Norwegian support, transformed the lives of scores of Pakistan’s home-based workers by building their capacities, connecting them to conventional and digital markets, and advocating for legislation and social protection. In Sindh’s capital city, Karachi, the project supported 40 women home-based workers to gain new design and dress-making skills at the Pakistan Ready-Made Garments Technical Training Institute, while working with HomeNet Pakistan to ensure safe transport to and from the institute.

Now, women who have spent most of their lives at home are breadwinners, negotiators, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers, well on their way to financial independence. The example of the district of Thatta, Sindh, is a case in point. In the first three months of 2019, 325 women home-based workers received financial literacy training, 867 women and girls were sensitized on pro-women legislation and protection mechanisms, and Thatta’s District Action Committee helped identify 1,190 HBWs and members of excluded groups. Twenty-five women benefitted from interest-free microfinance loans, 100 gained business development and e-commerce skills, and 73 were linked with an online platform to sell their products worldwide.



Naseem Bibi’s has empowered herself with her mosaic art skills, supported by UN-backed training

©UN Women

**NASEEM BIBI’S STORY: EMPOWERING WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES**

“My life is difficult. We seldom eat two times a day. But my hope is alive,” explains 35-year-old Naseem Bibi.

As a woman with a visual impairment and physical disability, she has weathered immense challenges. Growing up in Bari Imam, a town near Pakistan’s capital city, Islamabad, no formal education was available to her. Yet, she persevered, learning Braille and studying until Grade 5.

The needs of women and girls with disabilities have long been ignored in Pakistan, compelling them to live on the margins of society. In spite of it all, Naseem Bibi has withstood adversity. When her father was struck by paralysis, it was up to her to feed her family. She determined to beat the odds, gain skills and earn a living.

Through a UN Women-led project – *Moving from a Charity Model to Rights-based Work: Delivering as ONE for the Empowerment of Women with Disabilities*, supported by the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) – Naseem Bibi began to learn marble mosaic skills. It takes immense courage for a woman with disabilities in Pakistan step out of her home and face the world. But Naseem Bibi has courage in spades. The UN-supported marble mosaic training has taught her to create picture frames, mirror frames and mosaic plates. Since her vision is blurred, most of her exquisite artwork is the result of her infinitely creative imagination.

“I am taking this training and looking forward to honing my skills and make [my] livelihood,” Naseem Bibi says, “I know I’m going to make these beautiful marble mosaic art pieces and sell them for a living.”



Thanks to UN-supported training, Samina has opened her own stitching centre and rebuilt her life

©UN Women

## SAMINA'S STORY: SKILLS TRANSFORMING LIVES

Samina Kausar struggled to provide for her five children after leaving her abusive, drug-addicted husband.

"My brother started to provide for me and my children," Samina recounts. "He is very kind and compassionate, but I always felt like we were a liability he hadn't asked for. I started stitching working gloves from home again to contribute to the family income."

When she learned about the UN-supported Women Entrepreneurship and Gender-Responsive Procurement Programme, she did not know it would change everything – enabling her to set up a stitching centre and rebuild her life.

"I got to know about this project and applied to the visiting team of Baidarie, the project implementing partner of UN Women in Sialkot, [Punjab]," Samina recounts. "I was one of 52 women who were selected, put in groups and given the capacities to start and run our own businesses. I was encouraged to turn away from thoughts that made me pessimistic, to speak up and to never abandon hope. I was further supported with vocational skills training. I started my own stitching centre along with other community women at the house gifted to me by my brother. This started to change my life for good!"

Samina went from strength to strength, building on the training she received – from skills on enterprise development and market linkages, to a three-month training course on stitching sports goods.

"I taught the skills I had learned from two trainings to other women from my village," she says. "Now I have 15 machines where women work with me on a per-piece basis. We collectively produce about 50 pieces of boxing gloves, 50 martial arts belts and 700 sports bandages every day."

Business is booming, giving Samina and her colleagues a new lease on life – and new hope for their families.

"Now each one of us makes around PKR 18,000 to 20,000 [US\$114–127] per month. While I'm still living with my brother, I can now provide for my children's food and education."

Samina's example is changing hearts and minds in the community.

"Once fault-finders, community members now come to me for guidance and support on doing similar things," explains Samina. "I don't snub them. Rather, I try to help them in whatever way possible for me. I'm thankful for what I've become today. Self-assurance and hard work are the keys that can unlock opportunities for anyone. I aspire to live independently with my children, provide them with a good-quality education, and do not want them to share the same fate which I went through in my early years of married life."



**3,500** women home-based workers diversified their incomes thanks to life skills training



**9,000** home-based workers socio-economic data analysed to inform policies



**IMPACT** Advances on the rights and economic empowerment of home-based workers

### COMBATTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Women and girls have the right to live in safety, free from any form of violence. But until that right is realized, they need support. The UN continued to provide support in 2019, striving to prevent, combat and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG) across Pakistan. We engaged with government officials, civil society, donors, male champions, marginalized groups, non-traditional partners and, most importantly, women themselves to transform the harmful norms that normalize gender-based violence. Ongoing UN research promises to shed light on what more needs to be done, including an upcoming 'gap analysis' of federal and provincial laws related to violence against women and a Women Safety Audit (WSA) in five districts with high rates of gender-based violence in Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh.

The launch of the Essential Services Package (ESP) brought Pakistan one step closer to ending violence against women and accelerating progress on the SDGs. This global joint programme of the United Nations (UNJP) brings together the efforts of UN Women, WHO, UNFPA, and UNODC to ensure that a coordinated set of essential and quality multisectoral social services are provided to women and girls who have been subjected to gender-based violence. ESP Guidelines for Survivors were localized to Pakistan's context in order to improve coordination between essential service providers – ranging from the health sector to social services, the police, and the justice system. Translating these guidelines into Urdu and disseminating them widely has made sure that they are accessible to stakeholders across the country, from the grassroots level to the highest tiers of government.

Strengthening local capacities remained at the heart of UN efforts to end violence against women and girls. Training 33 health care providers as master trainers in Balochistan, and 31 in Sindh, prepared them to roll out the Essential Services Package, as did ESP workshops on gender-sensitive policing for 60 officers in Gujranwala, Punjab. Capacity development equipped 431 police and 611 justice sector partners to plan and implement effective responses for preventing and eliminating gender-based violence.

A Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre in Gujrat, Punjab, opened its doors to provide essential services to survivors of violence. Designed with UN support, the state-of-the-art centre provides an enabling and supportive environment for reporting, recording and investigating crimes against women and children – overwhelmingly the victims of sexual abuse, gender-based and domestic violence. Prioritizing engagement with the community, senior police officers and civil society organizations has caused locals' sense of ownership of the centre to soar.



**1,042** police and justice sector actors trained on addressing violence against women and girls



**124** health care providers and police trained on the Essential Services Package



**ESP Guidelines** launched to improve services for VAWG survivors



**Facilitation Centre** for women and juveniles set up in Gujrat, Punjab



**IMPACT** Stronger capacities and evidence base to combat violence against women and girls

### HEALTH SYSTEM RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE

In 2019, WHO scaled up the Health System Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence initiative in development and humanitarian settings – addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, including refugees, and responding to outbreaks of disease, such as HIV/AIDS, through multiple partnerships. More than 300 health facilities were strengthened to provide care for survivors of violence.

Over 1,000 health care providers – including Medical Officers, Women Medical Officers, Medico-Legal Officers, Lady Health Visitors, and community midwives – were trained in all provinces on the National Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and Health Response Package, including its clinical handbook on providing services as a multisectoral responsibility.



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In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts, integrating an evidence-based communications for development (C4D) approach across sectors promoted polio vaccination services, HIV response and a gender-sensitive parenting package based on family care practices. This standardized key messages, reduced the costs of developing communications materials, fostered joint ownership and enhanced community engagement approaches. In 2020, the UN will take forward data-driven C4D approaches with a focus on the community feedback loop.

### WOMEN ON THE MOVE

A women-friendly *Sakura Bus Service* is proving a game changer for women's safety, mobility, employment, and empowerment. To combat sexual harassment on public transportation, UNOPS and UN Women partnered with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with funding from the Japanese Government, to launch the service in the districts of Mardan and Abbottabad. Operated by women conductors, Sakura buses offer women students safe, reliable transport at a fraction of the cost of private alternatives. Fourteen customized buses and 31 prefabricated bus stops – powered by solar panels to ensure uninterrupted lighting at all times – were handed over to the provincial government to promote women's mobility, reduce congestion and cut carbon emissions. UN Women rolled out a 'safety app', enabling women to share their locations with friends and family while travelling on the buses. Training 125 police, transport and government representatives honed their capacities to combat harassment and ensure women's safety.

 **1,000** health care providers trained on the SGBV and Health Response Package

 **300** health facilities strengthened to provide care for survivors of violence

 **IMPACT** Improved health sector response to gender-based violence

 **14** 31 bus stops Sakura buses handed over to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

 **IMPACT** Harassment-free public transport promotes women's safety and mobility



Women-only Sakura buses are helping to keep women like Shagufta safe from harassment on public transport

©UNOPS/ Nazia Akram

### SHAGUFTA'S STORY: ALL ABOARD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

For 23-year-old Shagufta Hussain, being admitted to the Women's University of Mardan was nothing short of a miracle. Overcoming financial hardship and resistance to women's education, she became the first girl in her family to set foot inside a university. But there was a catch. As she began commuting to and from the university campus, she faced a relentless tirade of harassment on public transport.

*"I felt unsafe every time I used Suzuki or Qingqi,"* Shagufta confesses, referring to the overcrowded minivans and tottering rickshaws that dominate public transport in Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's second largest city.

Verbal abuse and street harassment became a part of her daily routine – lecherous comments, catcalls and even being grabbed. Standing up to harassment is something she could little afford. If she got off a minibus, she faced a potentially unsafe location and a steep fare for a private rickshaw home.

*"I come from a poor family so every single penny I spend is important,"* she explains.

More women and girls than ever are pursuing an education in Mardan, but safe public transport for women is almost

non-existent. Although shared modes of transportation are cheap, women are reluctant to use them – curtailing their mobility and holding many back from pursuing an education, a career, or any kind of participation in public life. Passengers are crammed into minivans cheek by jowl, leaving women vulnerable to abuse. Women who can afford it tend to book private cars instead. Those who cannot – like Shagufta – often face humiliation and harassment, day in and day out.

Providing safe, reliable and affordable public transportation is a crucial step towards improving women's access to basic services, education and employment opportunities. This is why the new UN-supported *Sakura Bus Service* has been a revelation – transforming the lives of women like Shagufta with secure women-only buses, a regular timetable and well-lit bus stops around the city.

Now the *Sakura Bus Service* is helping Shagufta on her journey to acquire a higher education, free from fear and violence. She no longer has to worry about her daily commute, her safety, or being late for classes.

*"I feel very safe and I am happy that men do not sit with us,"* she says. *"My parents used to worry about me when I commuted on local transport because they could not accompany me, but now they are satisfied."*

She is determined to complete her PhD, have a meaningful career and travel the world. For women like Shagufta, the *Sakura Bus Service* is providing not just hope, but a means to a better future.



OUTCOME 9



Governance

Good governance is a powerful, proven vehicle for sustainable development. Through Outcome 9 of the One UN Programme III, the UN works with Pakistan's Federal and provincial governments to ensure that the machinery of the state is accountable and transparent, inclusive and responsive. We strive to strengthen the rule of law, counter organized crime, improve civil registration, and promote freedom of expression. Our aim is to help Pakistan to usher in a new age of democratic governance, social cohesion and protection for all.

9

GOVERNANCE



**OUTCOME 9:** By 2022, the people in Pakistan will have increased knowledge of their rights and improved access to more accountable, transparent and effective governance mechanisms and rule of law institutions

KEY RELATED SDGs

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

IMPACT IN 2019



**Support for digitizing governance**  
Human Rights Information Management System rolled out



**Strengthened law enforcement capacities**  
400 officers trained by the Terrorism Investigation Course



**Advances towards a more responsive justice system**  
22 Legal Aid Desks handed over to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



**Gains for refugee rights and child protection**  
1.4 million refugees benefitted from PoR card extension



**Progress on birth registration**  
1.26 million children registered by birth registration systems



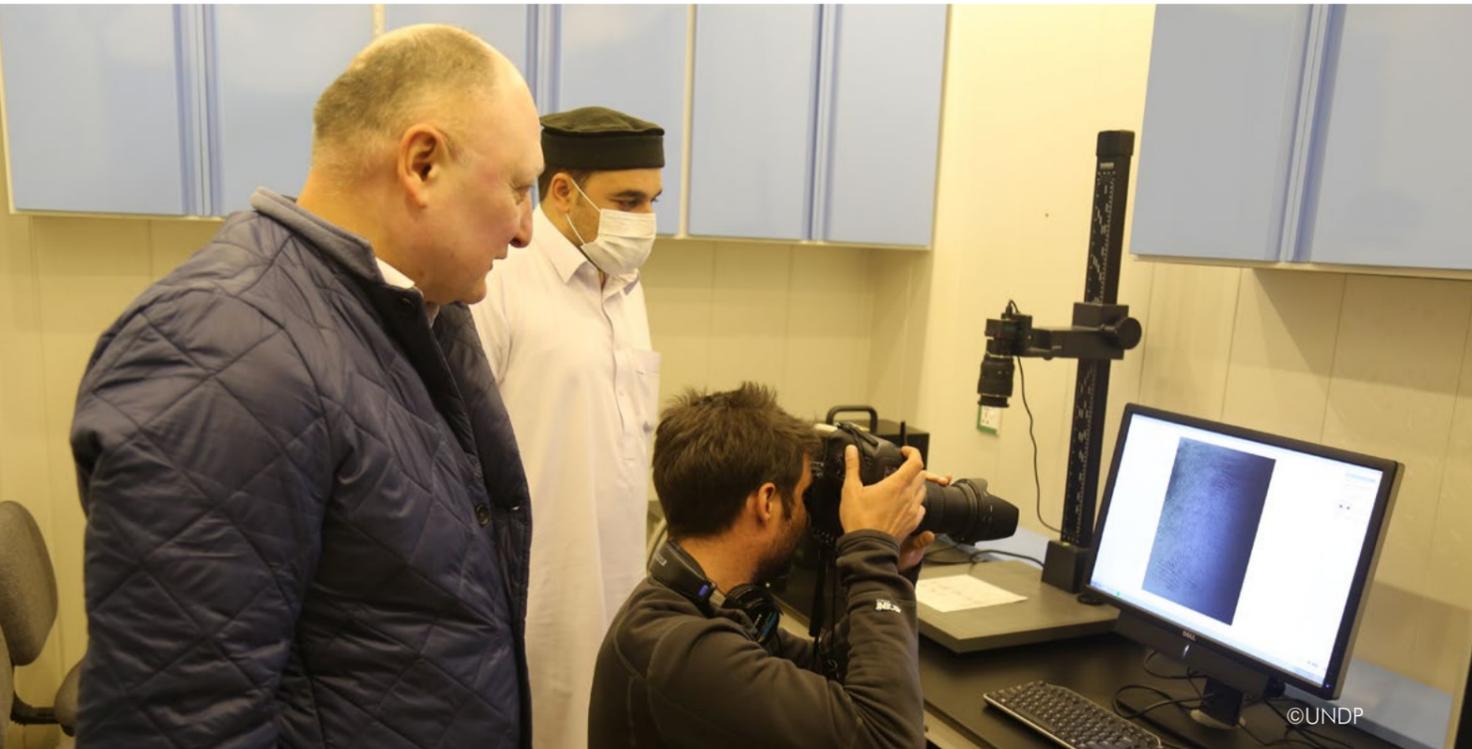
**Attention to freedom of expression**  
1,000 stakeholders sensitized on freedom of expression



EXPENDITURE  
US \$  
**45.93**  
MILLION

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

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



©UNDP

### DIGITIZING RIGHTS-BASED GOVERNANCE

By digitizing processes, governments can enhance services, save money, and improve people's quality of life. In 2019, UNDP supported the institutional digitization of the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) to enhance their effectiveness and accountability. Rolling out the *Human Rights Information Management System (HRIMS)* in all four provinces laid the foundation for better monitoring and implementation of human rights mechanisms. The system offers an integrated, digitized database on human rights that will strengthen data collection, analysis, management, and reporting. UNODC's assistance helped the Financial Monitoring Unit digitize anti-money laundering systems, reporting and analysis to curb financial crimes and terrorism financing. Piloting a data inter-connectivity platform of financial and population databases will enable state-of-the-art digital analysis of financial data.

Support continued for preparations to hold transparent, peaceful local elections. Backing the implementation of the *Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Strategic Plan and Elections Act 2017* aimed to increase the ECP's accountability to the public and strengthen parliamentary oversight of the commission. The ECP's post-election review evaluated successes and challenges faced in the 2018 General Election. By developing an *Action Plan* to improve electoral administration and processes, the ECP is now better placed to enable transparent elections.



**HRIMS**  
rolled out in all 4 provinces to strengthen human rights data



**Local Government Act**  
revised in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



**IMPACT**  
Moves to strengthen governance and human rights institutions

### GALVANIZING IMPROVED GOVERNANCE

By building the capacities of Pakistani institutions, the UN aided moves towards improved national and local governance. UNDP helped strengthen the core functions of the Senate of Pakistan and the Provincial Assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to increase transparency – boosting the capacities of parliamentary committees, members and Secretariat staff, alongside linkages with the public. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amended its *Local Government Act 2013* with UN support, setting the scene for local governments in its Merged Districts.

### RESHAPING JUSTICE SERVICES

A strong justice system provides access to justice for all. It ensures that laws are upheld, so that people can live their lives safe in the knowledge that their rights will be protected.

In 2019, the UN continued to assist Pakistan to make its justice system stronger, more responsive and people-centred. To improve service delivery and access to justice, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council took custody of 22 Legal Aid Desks with UNDP's support – a decisive step towards institutionalizing legal aid in the province. Legal aid is a building block of an efficient, humane justice system as it offers access to legal information, advice and assistance, even for the poorest and most marginalized.

Technical assistance helped the Peshawar High Court and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy to develop new rules under the *Criminal Procedure Code of Pakistan*. These will enable judges and lawyers to conduct and conclude criminal cases in less time, in order to clear the backlog of cases and enhance service delivery. In Balochistan and Sindh, UNODC supported provincial governments to translate the strategic vision of their *Rule of Law Roadmaps* into action, to deliver real change for people, reduce overcrowding in prisons, and increase conviction rates.



**22**  
Legal Aid Desks handed over to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council

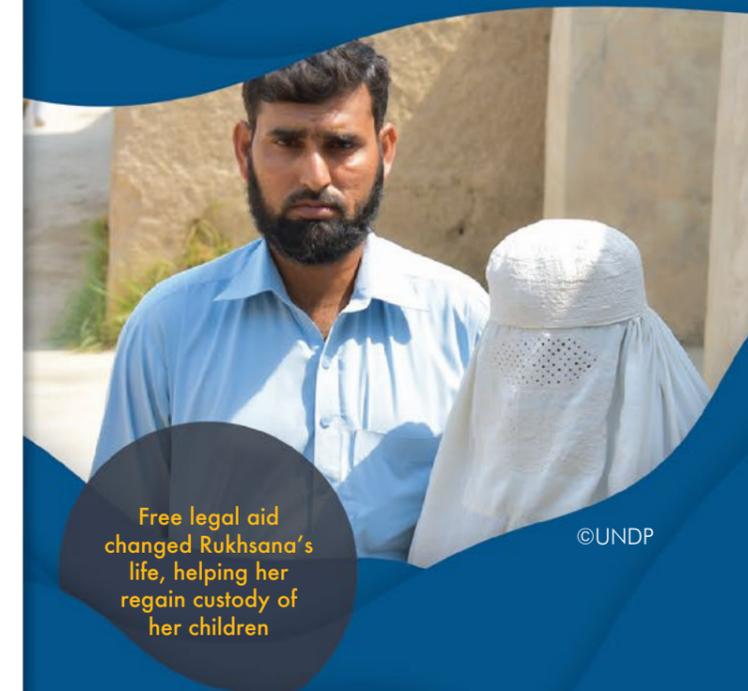


**IMPACT**  
Progress towards a more efficient, responsive justice system

### RAMPING UP THE RULE OF LAW

Capacity development, paired with expert UN advice on international standards and best practices, is improving Pakistani law enforcement's efficiency and responsiveness. A 'top-to-bottom' engagement approach secured the support of decision-makers. Equipped with UNODC training modules on modern methods of investigation, a rising number of cases were solved and submitted to prosecutors. Anchoring human rights in Pakistan's *National SDG Framework* provided a strong basis for sustainability, including for training law enforcement personnel. UN efforts also identified the need for more data on drugs and crime, improving institutions' monitoring and evaluation, and increasing women's representation in law enforcement.

Training 238 police and prosecutors – including 22 women – boosted collaboration between these key players in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, and Sindh. Criminal intelligence collection capacity grew after training for 88 field staff members – 11 of whom are women – from customs, border control, taxation, and law enforcement agencies. Some 1,561 police officers were trained on crime scene investigation, behaviour change, forensics, and first response, while the training of trainers yielded a cadre of 197 master trainers to secure sustainability.



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Free legal aid changed Rukhsana's life, helping her regain custody of her children

## RUKHSANA'S STORY: WOMEN SEEKING JUSTICE

Forced to marry against her will, Rukhsana Bibi's married life began with a fundamental violation of her rights. It ended with another, as she was deprived of her children when she and her husband divorced. But she had never been to a police station before and did not know how to report her case.

Rukhsana was on the verge of despair when she learned about a local paralegal who could help her. Mureed Hussain, a paralegal from Paroa, in the district of Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, provided the support she needed to access justice. On his advice, she reached out to the Women's Desk at a police station.

"The women police officers were friendly and paid all due attention to my case," explains Rukhsana.

They directed her to an Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee which settled her case. Rukhsana Bibi was awarded custody of her children, while her ex-husband was given the responsibility of paying for their children's living expenses.

When Rukhsana and her ex-husband both remarried, he took their children away from Rukhsana's care. Once more, Mureed Hussain mediated between the parties to resolve their custody dispute at the local level.

Rukhsana's experience speaks to the heart of why legal aid matters – without it, women and men deprived of their rights may never be able to see justice served. This is why the UN is training paralegals across the province to provide their life-changing services, free of cost, to the people who need it most.



Senior Constable Meena Khan is trained in gender-responsive community policing services

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## MEENA'S STORY: WOMEN DELIVERING JUSTICE

"Nothing was possible without the help of my father, who encouraged me throughout my life. It was a day of great achievement for my parents when they learned about my selection in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police," says Senior Constable Meena Khan.

Her ground-breaking career path was fraught with challenges. Women from the Gandapur tribe in the district of Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, tend not to work outside the home – held back by gender norms.

"My relatives were against the career path I had chosen for myself," explains Meena. "They believed that I would face harassment in the police force. It was my father who [...] said that I should not care about what people say and that I should continue to pursue my dreams."

She did just that, joining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's police force in 2008. Rising through the ranks, Meena is now a Senior Constable at a model police station set up with UNDP's support. These police stations have been upgraded with new equipment, renovated premises and training on gender-responsive community policing. 'Women Desks', staffed by women officers, cater to women who are often unable to access services.

"Today I am a role model," Meena reveals. "The elders of my tribe not only come to me to redress their legal concerns but they also want to induct their daughters in the police force."

By making the most of UN-supported capacity development, Meena plans to strengthen her investigative skills and better serve her community.

Crime scene management improved in Balochistan thanks to a dedicated police training facility and the provision of eight Mobile Crime Scene Units, 1,950 First Responder kits and 200 crime scene investigation (CSI) kits. In Punjab, training was paired with 450 First Responder and 24 CSI kits for Gujrat's police. Four eLearning Centres were set up for the police in Gujrat and Gujranwala, Sindh's Judicial Academy and the policy training centre in Quetta, Balochistan – bringing the total number of eLearning Centres established by UNODC in Pakistan to 55. The inauguration of a one-stop Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre in Gujrat aims to ensure that the voices of women and adolescents – whether as survivors of violence, witnesses, or perpetrators – are heard, so that the law enforcement and justice system responds to their needs (see Outcome 8 for more).



**2,624**  
first responder and CSI kits provided in Punjab and Balochistan



**238**  
police and prosecutors trained on collaboration



**1,561**  
police trained on CSI, forensics, first response and behaviour change



**IMPACT**  
Enhanced law enforcement capacities to uphold the rule of law

### IMPROVING PRISON MANAGEMENT

The UN-supported *Prison Management Information System* (PMIS) continued to make prison management more efficient and transparent. In 2019, the system automated records in 43 prisons across Pakistan. In 22 prisons in Sindh, UNODC reached out with legal aid services. As a result, 177 cases were deemed eligible for further processing, 64 acquitted on merit, 74 cases closed, and five under-trial prisoners granted bail.

### TACKLING TRAFFICKING, COUNTERING CRIME

A UN awareness raising campaign sensitized the public on drug trafficking in 33 Pakistani cities, while the launch of



©UNODC

the *World Drug Report 2019* improved understandings of drug production, consumption and trafficking. To strengthen the Anti-Narcotics Force's hotline for reporting suspicious activities, a UNODC survey evaluated the effectiveness of the hotline's awareness campaign. Training on controlling the delivery of drugs and precursor chemicals for 84 officials aided efforts to stem narcotics trafficking. A *Public-Private Partnership Conference* galvanized support for ending trafficking in persons, while training built the skills of 118 personnel on data collection to counter human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

As part of *Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism* (PACT) project, a specialized *Terrorism Investigation Course* honed the capacities of 400 police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) officials from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It improved skills for investigating terrorism cases, including by analysing physical evidence, better crime scene management, using criminal analysis tools, and digital forensics. Five Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions equipped 93 officials to train their teams, producing a multiplier effect.

Capacity development on police-prosecution cooperation aimed to stop terrorism financing, building the skills of 78 officials. *Joint Investigator-Prosecutor Workshops* trained representatives of the Intelligence Bureau, Inter-Services Intelligence, Military Intelligence, and the Federal Investigation Agency, while workshops and mock trials engaged 57 justice system actors, alongside officials from the State Bank, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Financial Monitoring Unit. UNODC's *Anti-Money Laundering Support Programme* helped Pakistan comply with the Financial Action Task Force's requirements, including by sensitizing 930 non-profits, non-financial businesses/professionals and private sector actors on risk-based reporting.

To digitize crime fighting, the UN secured a *3D Virtual Reality Simulator* to help Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Counter Terrorism Department manage terrorist crime scenes, as well as *IBM i2 Analyst software* to aid the investigation of terrorist networks. A new *Case Management and Monitoring System* (CMMS) will help automate the work of counter-terrorism prosecutors.



**930**  
participants trained to counter money laundering and terrorism financing



**400**  
police and CTD officers trained by the Terrorism Investigation Course



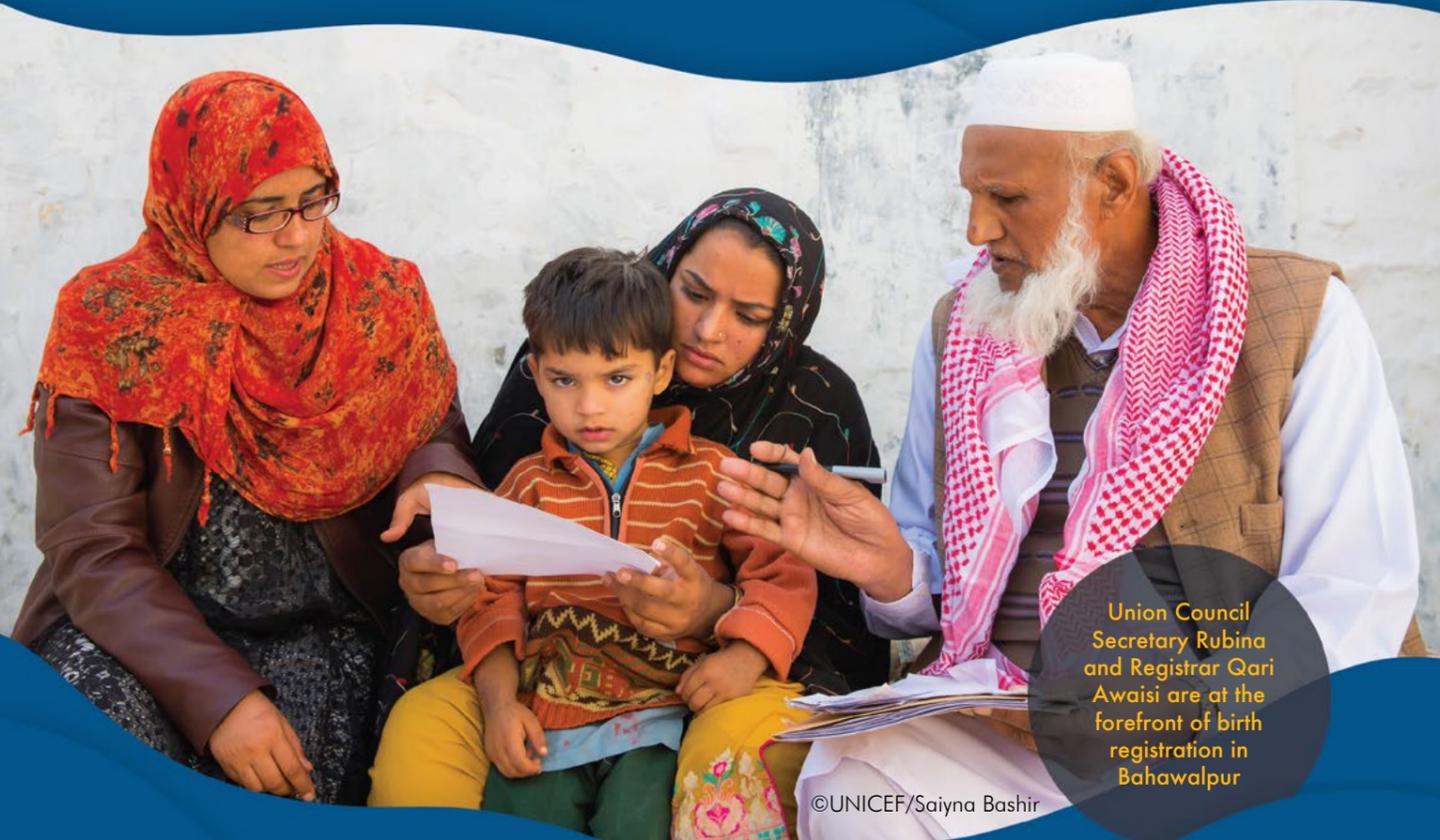
**84**  
officials trained to control drug and precursor chemicals to stem trafficking



**33**  
cities targeted by an awareness campaign on drug trafficking



**IMPACT**  
Growing law enforcement skills to fight crime, trafficking and terrorism



Union Council Secretary Rubina and Registrar Qari Awaisi are at the forefront of birth registration in Bahawalpur

©UNICEF/Saiyna Bashir

## RUBINA'S STORY: REGISTERING EVERY CHILD

*"Working with people and convincing them to change their behaviour for the best can sometimes be more difficult than it seems," says Rubina Kausar, the only woman Union Council Secretary in the district of Bahawalpur, Punjab. "People in my community did not even know the purpose of birth registration, let alone its benefits," she explains. "But together with the help of Nikkah [marriage] Registrars, the local clerics, we are now informing the communities about why it is so important, while ensuring that every child is registered in the system."*

Rubina is a passionate advocate of birth registration. As a Union Council Secretary, she is her community's focal person for registering births, deaths, marriages, and divorces. She takes her awareness raising role seriously, explaining to the community why birth registration matters.

Birth registration ensures access to vital services, including health and education. It helps prevent child labour and early marriages, and ensures that children are not treated like adults by the justice system. Birth registration is also critical for child safety – when disasters strike, it is far easier to reunite registered children with their caregivers, compared to children whose births are not registered.

For all its benefits, an estimated 60 million children in Pakistan remain unregistered; 25 million live in Punjab.

In Rubina's district of Bahawalpur, there are 761,000 unregistered children, a number that increases every day.

To ensure that every child in Pakistan is registered, UNICEF is helping to build the capacities of communities and local authorities – including Union Council Secretaries like Rubina and the Nikkah Registrars she works with – on digital birth registration. With the support of Telenor and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, these key players are using smart phones and tablets to register births in seven of Punjab's districts. This quick, cost-effective method of registration saves families time and money by delivering services to their doorsteps. So far, technology has helped to register over 100,000 children in Bahawalpur alone.

To ensure that all children's births in her community are registered, Rubina joins the local Nikkah Registrar, Qari Mohammad Bakhsh Awaisi, on home visits. Visiting families together is helpful; many women in the community are more comfortable speaking to a woman than to a man. They use digital devices to enter data into the dashboard, which Rubina verifies as the Union Council Secretary, before issuing a registration number to each child.

*"I have been working as a cleric in this community for over 38 years now," says Qari Awaisi. "I have seen Rubina come a long way and I am immensely proud of her. Seeing her work as a one-woman army, I can tell that she is doing crucial work in the service of the people in her community."*

## SUPPORTING REFUGEES

The UN in Pakistan is a steadfast advocate for the rights of refugees and undocumented Afghans. In 2019, we continued to work towards solutions that benefit both refugees and host communities. Marking 40 years of Afghan displacement, UNHCR called on the world not to let hope fade for refugees, and to support countries like Pakistan that have provided refuge to millions of Afghan children, women and men for decades.

UN advocacy contributed to the Government of Pakistan's decision to affirm the legal status, freedom of movement and dignity of 1.4 million registered refugees by extending the validity of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards until the end of June 2020. In 2019, 22,093 newborns were registered and 20,041 five-year-olds obtained or registered for individual PoR cards.

Nine UNHCR-supported Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALAC) provided legal assistance to 32,147 PoR card-holders. Direct aid by ALAC teams secured the release of 1,405 PoR card-holders detained or arrested by the authorities. These activities were principally funded by the Government of Japan and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

children's rights to protection from violence, to their access to essential social services, including health care, education and justice. In 2019, birth registration systems grew stronger in all of Pakistan's provinces. UN agencies supported multisectoral strategies to design contextualized, cost-effective birth registration models. Multifaceted approaches reached out to the country's most marginalized children, driving up registration rates. This year alone, 1,260,777 children were registered.

In the context of the *Regional Framework for Action on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)* in Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF engaged Pakistan's federal and provincial institutions to enhance understandings of CRVS system requirements. Providing clarity on data management and facilitating knowledge sharing between federal and provincial partners moved Pakistan a step closer to achieving universal birth registration.

**1.26 million** children registered by birth registration systems

**46% girls**  
**54% boys**

**IMPACT**  
More children enjoy their right to a legal identity

**1.4 million** Afghan refugees benefitted from the extension of PoR cards

**20,041** five-year-olds obtained or registered for PoR cards

**32,147** PoR card-holders received legal assistance

**IMPACT**  
Efforts to protect the rights and dignity of Afghan refugees

## IMPROVING CHILD PROTECTION

All children have the right to be safe, to live free from violence, exploitation and abuse. In 2019, the UN was on the frontline of efforts to advance child protection in Pakistan. UNICEF supported moves to strengthen child protection systems and response mechanisms, including by finalizing the design of the *Child Protection Case Management and Referral System (CP-CMRS)*. Model District Child Protection Units (CPUs) were set up as CP-CMRS hubs in Quetta, Balochistan, and Gilgit in Gilgit-Baltistan. These will receive, register, assess, and refer cases of child abuse, bolstered by capacity building for 124 Child Protection Officers and line department officers in Balochistan and 50 in Gilgit-Baltistan. Strategic advocacy secured public sector allocations for the establishment of Child Protection Units, while increasing local ownership and sustainability. With UN support, Pakistan aligned policy frameworks with the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* and the recommendations of the CRC Committee – a harbinger of upholding child rights more effectively. UNICEF and the National Commission for Human Rights assisted the drafting of *Child Protection Bills* in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. Sindh's child protection helplines were strengthened, leading to referrals for 82 cases of child abuse.

## BOOSTING BIRTH REGISTRATION

Birth registration is a passport to protection. It provides a permanent, official record of a child's existence and legal proof of their identity. Without it, children are invisible to their governments. The information collected from birth registration records helps authorities decide where and how to deliver services, and what areas to focus on. Birth registration is a right that helps to ensure that all other rights are upheld – from



©UNOPS

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Department of Health drafted a *Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Strategy* with UN support, and piloted the integration of a *Mental Health Service Plan* in its health care system. The province included MHPSS in its provincial *Health Policy 2019-2025* and allocated PKR 250 million (equivalent to US\$1.6 million) to scale up services in seven districts. Honing the capacities of 628 teachers, 338 Lady Health Workers (LHWs) and 60 Medical Officers equipped them to deliver MHPSS services. Overall in 2019, 4,645 people in the province – including 1,860 children – benefitted from psychosocial family counselling services.

### SHINING A LIGHT ON CHILD LABOUR

Pakistan's latest *Child Labour Surveys* – the first in over two decades – were launched nationwide in 2019 to provide invaluable, up-to-date evidence on the economic exploitation of children. With total allocations of PKR 370.9 million approved by provincial administrations in Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh, and Gilgit-Baltistan, the survey process began in earnest. UNICEF worked side-by-side with government partners and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development. Analysis of data collected in Gilgit-Baltistan began, paired with support for the completion of household listings in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh.



**4,645**  
people benefitted from family counselling in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



**1,026**  
teachers, LHWs and Medical Officers trained to deliver MHPSS in KP



**174**  
Child Protection Officers trained in Balochistan and GB



**82**  
cases of child abuse referred in Sindh thanks to stronger protection hotlines



**IMPACT**  
Progress on child protection and support for mental health

### FOSTERING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Freedom of information is essential to helping us face, understand and overcome development challenges. In 2019, UN advocacy sought to strengthen freedom of expression, the right to access information and the safety of journalists. UNESCO reached out to over 1,000 stakeholders, raising awareness of the critical need to safeguard free expression.

Engaging 613 duty bearers and training 500 media professionals sought to create a conducive environment for civic engagement and media development. Strategic partnerships were formed with the Parliamentary Task Force on the SDGs, the National Commission for Human Rights and the Parliamentarian Commission for Human Rights. With UN support, the first government-led coordination and reporting mechanism was created on SDG 16.10 ('Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms').



**1,000**  
stakeholders sensitized on freedom of expression



**1,113**  
media professionals and duty bearers trained



**IMPACT**  
Growing attention paid to freedom of expression

### DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

High quality development data is the foundation for meaningful policy-making, efficient resource allocations and effective public service delivery. In 2019, UN support advanced evidence generation in Pakistan. UNFPA aided the launch of the *Pakistan Demographic Health Survey (PDHS) 2017-18* at the national and sub-national levels, while data collection was completed for the first-ever *Pakistan Maternal Mortality Survey*.

*National Transfer Accounts* provided a coherent accounting framework of economic flows from one age group to another. They helped policy-makers understand the links between population dynamics, development and their macroeconomic implications. By using this information, they can work to harness the country's demographic dividend.



Farisa is one of the young women activists working for social cohesion in Pakistan

©UNDP

### FARISA'S STORY: BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION

"I was motivated by the passion to work for communities," explains 27-year-old Farisa Memon.

As a volunteer social worker, Farisa is one of a small, but growing, group of young women activists working for social change. She began her journey in Saadi Town, a multi-ethnic part of Karachi, Sindh's sprawling capital. After she encouraged young local women to enrol in a public vocational training centre, 25 of them secured work. When she saw that displaced families, newly arrived from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts, were not sending their children to school, she found out why: they lacked information on admissions. She teamed up with a local school principal to help parents enrol their children.

Soon, Farisa joined a local civil society initiative to promote peace and social cohesion in violence-prone communities. This took her to impoverished Korangi, home to Memon, Mohajir and Bengali families. Her team organized fundraising and festivals in schools that celebrated Pakistan's strength in diversity. They mobilized and trained young people, organized street theatre performances and encouraged children from different ethnic backgrounds to play together.

Farisa was one of the 50 youth activists selected for the *Capacity Building and Mentorship Trainings on Leadership, Negotiation and Communications Skills* by UNDP's Youth Empowerment Programme.

"I did not have the required skills to convey important messages to my audience or to effectively network with power brokers and change makers," explains Farisa. "This training has helped me in honing my communication and negotiation skills."

With these skills, activists like Farisa are ready to do even more to strengthen and sustain social cohesion in their communities.

OUTCOME 10



## Social Protection

Our aim is to leave no one behind and to reach those farthest behind, first. Social protection is a powerful tool to fulfil this central commitment of the SDGs. Through Outcome 10 of the One UN Programme III, the UN supports the Government of Pakistan to develop a strong social protection framework, to expand access to protection and to address the drivers of poverty and exclusion. Our work is not just about transferring resources to keep people above the poverty line – it is also about transforming structures so that people have the access, opportunities and freedom to live with dignity.



# 10

## SOCIAL PROTECTION



**OUTCOME 10:** By 2022, improved and effective social protection systems will be available for all, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations

KEY RELATED SDGs



## IMPACT IN 2019



Progress on provincial social protection systems  
**300** households linked with social assistance via a One Window system



Support for Ehsaas poverty alleviation  
UN assistance prioritized universal social protection



Momentum on social protection for informal workers  
*Mazdoor ka Ehsaas* ('Compassion for Workers') programme formalized



Advances on reducing health inequities  
*Healthy City Programme* rolled out in Islamabad



Precedent for workplace safety and compensation  
**224** dependents of the Baldia factory fire accessed compensation



Protection for refugees and other vulnerable groups  
**6,035** refugees accessed cash assistance to support repatriation



EXPENDITURE  
U S \$

**34.7**  
MILLION

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

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



**Mazdoor ka Ehsaas** programme aims to extend social protection to informal workers



**300** households linked with social assistance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



**IMPACT**  
Progress on social protection at the national and provincial levels

**EHSAAAS: ENDING POVERTY, EVERYWHERE**

UN agencies joined hands to support *Ehsaas* ('compassion'), the biggest, boldest poverty alleviation drive in Pakistan's history. Through 134 policies and programmes, *Ehsaas* aims to lift millions out of poverty, provide social safety nets and create a welfare state. UN assistance for *Ehsaas* prioritizes universal social protection, based on tried and tested best practices. In 2019, we contributed to developing the *Mazdoor ka Ehsaas* programme to extend social protection to informal workers, who make up the lion's share of Pakistan's workforce. Supported by the ILO, the Labour Welfare and Social Protection Expert Group integrated the principles of the *Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (No. 102)* and the *Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202)* into the programme. As brick kiln workers are among the most marginalized in the country, a legislative assessment and policy discussions built momentum on including these workers in social protection provisions.

Because data is central to development, the UN supported the *Benazir Income Support Programme's (BISP) Ehsaas Communications Plan*, including a newsletter and social media campaign to share and collect evidence on what works, and why. Alongside assistance for the *Dar ul Ehsaas* initiative for orphans, a new *Data Atlas* shed light on child-related development, in line with *Data4Pakistan* – the first open access, district-level portal on socio-economic indicators. With UN support, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform collected data on *SDG 1.3* ('Social protection systems') and created a database to monitor progress on this *SDG* target.

**PROVINCIAL PROGRESS ON PROTECTION**

Sub-national progress on social protection is afoot. In Pakistan Administered Kashmir, the UN worked with government partners on a social protection policy aligned with the *Social Security Convention* and *Social Protection Floors Recommendation*.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 300 households in Nowshera and Lower Dir were linked with social assistance through an integrated *One Window Operation*. Thanks to an innovative management information system (MIS), this 'one-stop shop' for social protection facilitates access to existing benefits by locating social protection services at the local level.

**SHOCK-RESPONSIVE PROTECTION**

Pakistan needs social protection systems that are responsive to immediate shocks and long-term challenges. In Tharparkar, Sindh, a *Shock-Responsive Social Protection* project reached out to food insecure families through the *Benazir Income Support Programme*. In 2019, 61,275 households accessed humanitarian cash transfers of PKR 1,000 each to bridge the gap in their incomes wrought by drought and help them meet their basic food needs. UN-backed operational research highlighted the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of nutrition-sensitive safety nets. Conducted with the BISP in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab, this research revealed that combining interventions – social and behavioural change communication (SBCC), specialized nutritious foods and unconditional cash transfers – clearly prevents stunting in children between 6 and 23 months old. By delivering interventions through existing health and social protection systems, this pilot can be scaled up nationwide.



**61,275** food insecure households in Sindh received cash transfers



**Stunting prevented** in Punjab through nutrition-sensitive safety nets



**IMPACT**  
Shock-responsive, nutrition-sensitive social safety protects the vulnerable

**WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION**

Health and safety at work is a fundamental human right. Six years on, the deadly *Ali Enterprises' fire* in Baldia Town, Karachi, remains a wake-up call for Pakistan: we must enforce standards to keep workers safe. In 2019, 224 dependents of workers killed in the fire received monthly compensation payments, following negotiations enabled by the ILO. This complex negotiation process has set a precedent for safeguarding the welfare of Pakistani workers in its critical textile industry, and beyond.



**224** dependents of workers killed in the Baldia fire accessed compensation



**IMPACT**  
Precedent on compensation and protecting workers' safety

**SOLUTIONS AND SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES**

Through advocacy, mixed solutions and repatriation support, the UN continued to work for the protection of refugees in Pakistan. In 2019, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 6,220 Afghan refugees, 6,035 of whom were entitled to cash assistance. A time-bound subsistence allowance, or one-time emergency cash support, helped 117 families with specific needs, in line with the principles of inclusive social protection. The *Refugee-Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA)* programme improved social cohesion, protection and resilience by linking humanitarian and development interventions that benefit both host communities and refugees. In 2019, the programme built five drinking water facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's districts of Swabi and Kohat.



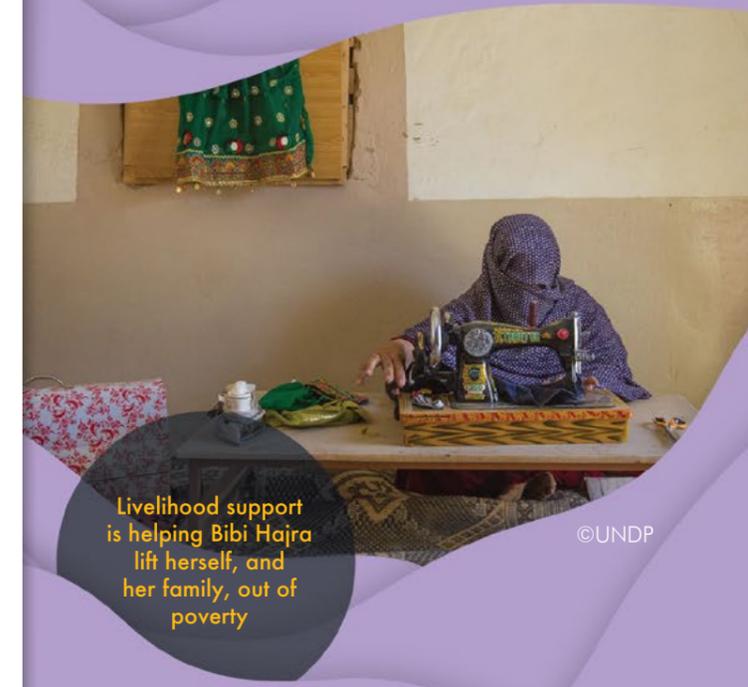
**6,035** Afghan refugees accessed cash assistance to support repatriation



**IMPACT**  
Efforts to improve protection for refugees and host communities

**PLANNING FOR HEALTHY CITIES**

The *Healthy City Programme* worked to strengthen Islamabad Capital Territory's community-based social protection system. Aligned with the *ICT Model Health Strategy*, the programme aims to support primary health care facilities, preventive health care and universal health coverage. An open-air gym was opened in Fatima Jinnah Park and the *Islamabad City Health Equity Assessment* was finalized – based on WHO's *Urban Heart* methodology – to identify and reduce health inequities.



Livelihood support is helping Bibi Hajra lift herself, and her family, out of poverty

©UNDP

**BIBI HAJRA'S STORY: LIFTING HERSELF OUT OF POVERTY**

"When I lost my husband, I had no choice but to move in with my brother," says Bibi Hajra. "I often felt my children and I were an additional burden," she laments, "my brother [...] earned a meagre sum as a day labourer and was already struggling to provide for his own family."

Like millions of women in Pakistan, a lack of opportunities and social protection threatened to trap Bibi Hajra in a cycle of poverty in her village of Sultan Shah in Balochistan's Nushki district. She took a job as a domestic worker to eke out a living. Every day meant an arduous commute, back and forth, on foot.

"The houses where I worked were a long distance away from my own home. Each day, by the time I reached the neighbourhood, I was already exhausted – my actual job of cleaning the houses still lay ahead of me," she recalls.

The toll on her health was severe, as her family struggled to survive on her daily wage. Things changed when she visited a local UNDP-supported stitching centre. Bibi Hajra was one of the women trained in embroidery and sewing. Her new livelihood skills have given her a new lease on life, highlighting how support systems can help people lift themselves out of poverty.

"My situation has improved drastically," Bibi Hajra reports. "I now make PKR 5,000–6,000 on average from sewing and embroidering clothes – which is enough for me to run my household. I now have more time to spend with my children and my health is also improving. I feel completely at peace now."



Saleema has beaten the odds by training to become the first woman Turkmen refugee doctor in Pakistan

©UNHCR / Roger Arnold



Pakistan's new law allowing refugees like Sifat and Azeem to open bank accounts has improved their lives

©UNHCR / Roger Arnold

## DR SALEEMA'S STORY: AFGHAN DOCTOR HEALS PAKISTAN'S POOR

"I have a duty to help women," says Saleema. "I feel so lucky. In my community many girls do not get this opportunity. I think it is in my destiny."

To her patients in Rawalpindi, Dr Saleema is a lifeline. Every day, she delivers around five babies and cares for 40 women in each ward, many of whom live in poverty. Treatment is free. But there are two patients for every bed and she works long shifts to attend to them all. After decades of study, 28-year-old Saleema has beaten the odds by training to become the first woman Turkmen refugee doctor in Pakistan. To her community, she is an inspiration.

"Whenever I go home, women come to me and say they feel very proud. I am so happy that maybe their ideas will change and they will send their daughters to school. I want them to get an education. This will make a difference to generations," she explains. "Even my own niece wants to be a doctor. She always takes my stethoscope," she adds, laughing.

Getting to this point has not been easy. Growing up in the Turkmen refugee community in north-west Pakistan, cultural expectations, insecurity and limited resources meant that Saleema faced an uphill battle for education. But she was not alone.

Her father, Abdul, who fled Afghanistan at the age of 13, was by her side every step of the way. He helped open local schools and advocated for girls' education. By day, he sold bananas to keep his family afloat. By night, he designed carpets.

"Saleema applied for three consecutive years for medical scholarships," explains Abdul. "She was always struggling to make her dream come true. We faced many challenges from our elders who said that we should not be sending children to school, but finally, we won." "If there is a problem in my community, they ask me because I have a daughter who is a doctor. It is a great sense of pride for us," he says. "Saleema is an example for Pakistan, for our community, for Afghanistan. She is an example for people."

Next year, Saleema will finish her specialization as a gynaecologist. But, as a refugee, her future as a doctor in Pakistan is uncertain.

"Training is allowed, studies are allowed," says Saleema. "But what to do afterwards? If the Pakistan Government allows us Afghan refugees to practice here, we can be very helpful to our community and I can work for the Pakistanis as well."

Saleema's supervisor, Dr Humaira Bilqis, agrees.

"I didn't know she was a refugee. I don't see her as that. We have never thought of her as not Pakistani. She is one of us," says Dr Bilqis. "After knowing it, I am even more proud of her."

## AZEEM'S AND SAFIT'S STORY: BANKING ON A BRIGHTER FUTURE

In a small corner of a bustling market in southern Pakistan, Mohammad Azeem runs his fingers through a barrel of bright red paprika. He smiles. His spices are selling well today.

"Before, I dealt in cash only," explains Azeem at his spice stall in Al-Asif Square, Karachi.

As an Afghan refugee with no access to Pakistan's banking system, he relied on friends to cash cheques. Whenever he had cash to hand, he lived in fear of being robbed.

"There is a threat to you when you have that kind of cash at home. Having a bank account is really important."

For four decades, Pakistan has worked to include refugees in its education and national health care systems, while supporting host communities.

Since February 2019, Pakistan has also allowed Afghan refugees like Azeem to open bank accounts, providing them with access to safer and more secure forms of managing their finances.

"We deposit cash in the account and then we can take cash out at the ATM. Money is safe there," says Azeem. "It has helped us."

Now, business is booming thanks to Pakistan's new laws that enabled Azeem to open his own bank account.

23-year-old Sifat Ullah feels the same. He worked as a tailoring apprentice for six years before opening his own carpet shop.

As a refugee, Sifat was forced to rely on cash and borrow from his boss to raise capital for his business. Now, with a bank account, he makes regular repayments to his creditor and save for the future.

"It used to be hard to find the money," says Sifat. "Now we are at a point where we're able to pay back our creditors and provide for my family."

# ONE VOICE: COMMUNICATING AS ONE

Communication is a two-way street. To achieve the SDGs, people, governments, civil society, businesses, and the media need to know what the goals are, and how they can take action to create a sustainable future. This is the maxim of UN efforts to 'communicate as one'. The UN family in Pakistan works to bring people's voices to the table, while reaching them with the core messages of the One UN Programme III: that together, we must achieve sustainable development and ensure that no one is left behind.

Speaking with one voice, the UN reached out to the public across Pakistan in 2019 to accelerate action on the SDGs. Through partnerships with Pakistan's media, universities, civil society, and donors, we raised awareness of issues at the heart of the goals – from climate change to women's empowerment, youth engagement, environmental protection, food security, peacekeeping, human rights, and many more.

Outreach messages were spread far and wide by 16 radio and television talk shows, seminars, panel discussions, debates, film screenings, publications, applications, 11 opinion pieces by senior UN officials in leading newspapers, and a historic visit to Pakistan by the President of the UN General Assembly. Twelve short videos featuring key joint messages by the UN Country Team (UNCT), produced in-house, reached out to a wide audience through a range of social media channels. An interactive media briefing strengthened the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation's capacity to produce programmes on the SDGs.

The fifth edition of the flagship *Human Rights Reel Film Festival* was a resounding success. The festival shone a light on the universality of human rights issues – including justice, the environment, gender equality, domestic violence, women's rights, transgender rights, child rights, labour rights, migration, freedom of expression and of the press. It engaged 12,000 people, presented 29 films and toured 10 major Pakistani cities. Several screenings were followed by discussions on taking action on human rights between audience members, young people, filmmakers, human rights defenders, journalists, university students, schoolchildren, diplomats, donors, civil society, and government representatives. The festival was brought to the people of Pakistan by the European Union, the UN, as well as donor embassies, high commissions and diplomatic missions in Pakistan.

In partnerships with the Inter-University Consortium for the Promotion of Social Sciences (IUCPSS) and national education institutions, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> *International Students Convention and Expos* were organized in Lahore and Karachi. These engaged over 1,200 students from 70 national and international universities, alongside around 45,000 visitors – twice as many as last year. Young women and men took part in the convention's and expos' *Arts and Literary Festivals*, Model UN sessions, startup competitions, sport competitions, cultural nights, and skills workshops.

The UN made key International Days springboards of awareness raising activities to strengthen the public's understanding of pressing issues, discuss solutions and mobilize political will to overcome challenges. In 2019, celebrations marked *World Radio Day*, *International Women's Day*, the *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*, *World Water Day*, *World Autism Awareness Day*, the *International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace*, *World Environment Day*, *International Youth Day*, *United Nations Day*, and *Human Rights Day*.

*United Nations Day* reaffirmed the UN's commitment to supporting Pakistan to achieve the SDGs and upholding the values of the UN Charter: peace, security and development. A *Climate Action for Peace* activity brought members of the UNCT together to plant saplings, in aid of cleaner, greener Pakistan. On *International Youth Day*, we re-launched a UN-produced song on the SDGs, '*Tu aao badlein ik achey kal ke liye*' ('Let's bring change for a better future'), sung by renowned musician Shafqat Amanat Ali Khan.



©UNICEF /Giacomo Pirozzi

A stirring 'I am Pakistan' video put young people from across the country in the spotlight, including UN interns and staff, who shared their ambitions to contribute to national development. A new UN calendar application was launched and translated into Urdu, helping people find out when International Days are, and how to participate in them. Across the board, sharing key messages translated into Urdu – including eight key messages by the UN Secretary-General – reached out to more people than ever before.

At the global level, the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) and the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC) joined hands to lead UN communications worldwide. In line with UN system reforms, 2019 was a year of strengthening the role of UN Resident Coordinators, including on strategic communications.

In Pakistan, the integration of the UN Information Centre in Pakistan (UNIC) began, moving its communication position into the UN Resident Coordinator's Office to provide more direct communication support to the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT. This was followed by the integration and conversion of UNIC's social media accounts into those of the UNCT's. The new, integrated UNCT website will let us launch a stronger online platform in 2020 to communicate as one.



**12,000**  
people participated in the 2019  
*Human Rights Reel Film Festival*



**45,000**  
people visited the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*International Students Convention and Expo*



**16**  
radio and TV talk shows raised  
awareness of SDG-related issues



**10**  
key International Days  
commemorated



**IMPACT**  
The UN speaks with 'one voice' to  
raise awareness and accelerate action  
on the SDGs

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In 2019, the second year of the One UN Programme III (OP III) in Pakistan, the UN used available financial resources to deliver high-impact results under the OP III's 10 Outcomes. The planned or 'indicative' budget for 2019 was US\$688.87 million, of which US\$578.81 million was obtained, yielding a funding gap of US\$110.36 million. Total expenditure under the OP III was US\$513.86 million in 2019, reflecting a strong delivery rate of 88.8%.

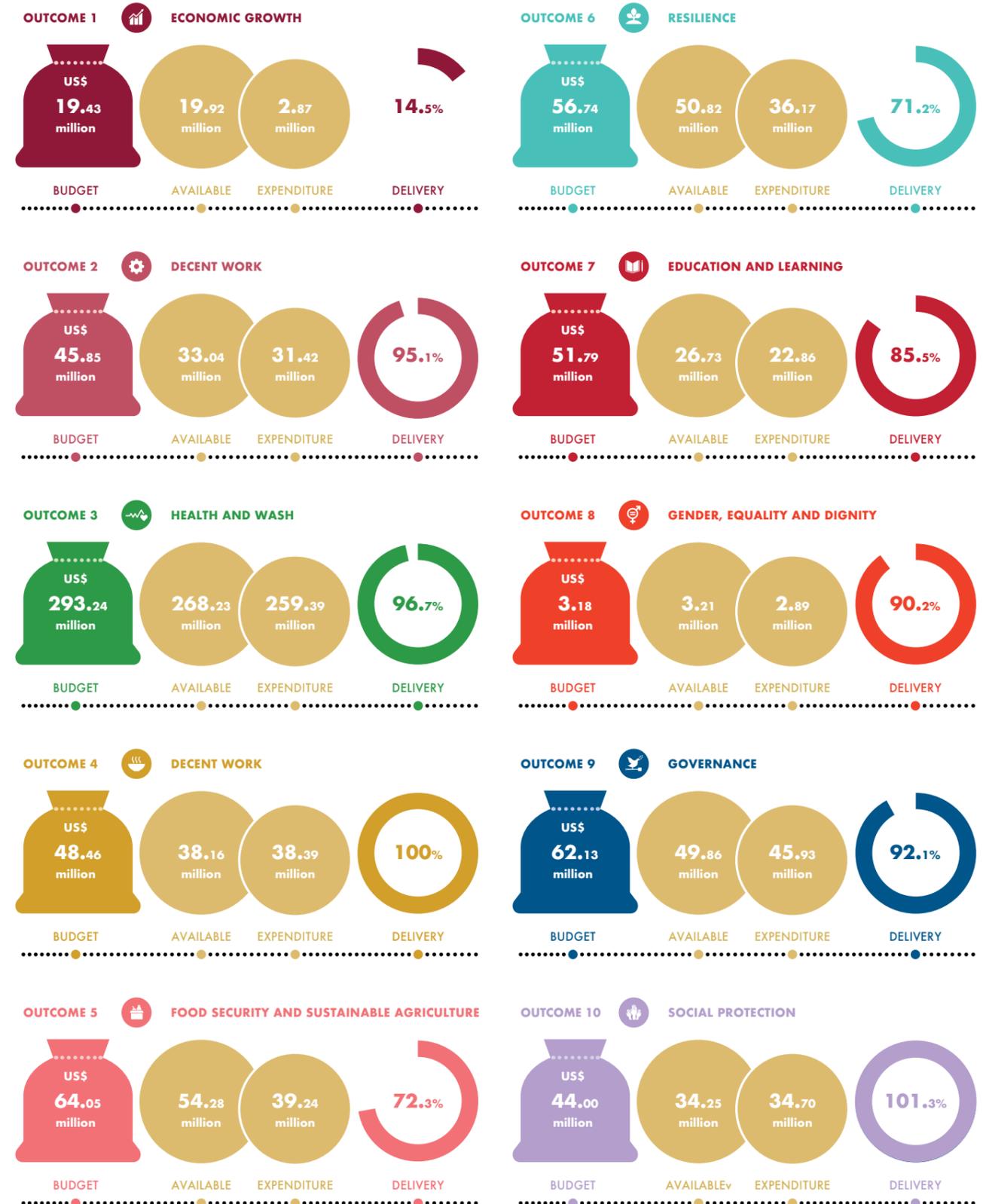
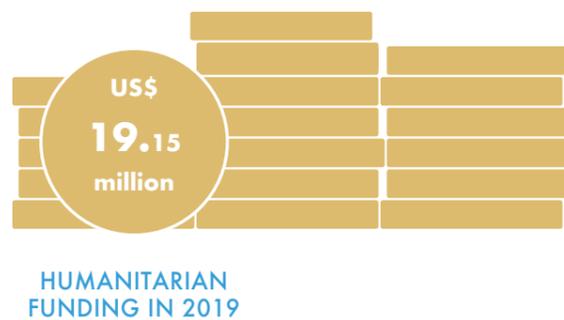


## RESOURCE FRAMEWORK

The resource framework of the One UN Programme III in Pakistan comprises core funds of UN agencies – provided to them by their headquarters – non-core funds mobilized by the agencies, alongside the *United Nations Sustainable Development Fund* (UNSDF Fund), previously known as the One Fund. Together, these resources contribute financially to the OP III's 10 Outcomes and their associated outputs. The indicative budget of the OP III in 2019 was a subset of the costed five-year *OP III Operational Plan Results Framework*.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING IN 2019

In 2019, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs managed a total of US\$19.15 million from different funding streams - US\$10.28 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and US\$8.8 million from the Pakistan Humanitarian Pooled. These funds were received and disbursed to UN agencies and NGOs for humanitarian projects.



# ANNEXES

## ANNEX I DELIVERING AS ONE IN PAKISTAN

The UN in Pakistan has been 'Delivering as One' since 2007. As part of UN reforms to enhance efficiency, the Delivering as One (DaO) approach streamlines UN interventions, increases national ownership, improves joint program-ming among UN agencies at the country level, reduces transaction costs, and fosters accountability. It does so through five pillars: One Leader, One Programme, One Fund, One Office, and One Voice.

### OP III MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE

The OP III's management structure is characterized by strong country leadership through the Joint UN-National Oversight Committee, coupled with a greater role for provincial stakeholders in oversight via Provincial Steering Committees. Outcome Groups allows for coordination and joint programming at the national and provincial levels.

- The Oversight Committee provides national level oversight for the UN's work under the OP III framework. It is co-chaired by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) – the Government's coordinating entity – and the UN Resident Coordinator.
- Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs) provide provincial oversight and increase local ownership of the UN's work in Pakistan. These are co-chaired by the Chairman of Pakistan's Planning & Development Board/Assistant Chief Secretary for Planning & Development, and the Head of the UN agency 'lead' for the province in question.

Internally, the OP III is guided by the UN Country Team (UNCT) – comprising the heads of UN agencies in Pakistan – with the support of the Programme Management Team (PMT), the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Group, 10 Outcome Groups and Provincial Programme Teams (PPTs).

### ONE BUDGET AND ONE FUND

A Common Budgetary Framework allows the UN Country Team to present all planned and costed programme activities in one place, alongside available and expected funding sources, including the One Fund. This enhances transparency, joint resource mobilization and performance. Between 2009 and 2017, the Pakistan One Fund acted as an instrument of UN reform for country coherence. Since 2018, many of its functions have been taken up by the new United Nations Sustainable Development (UNSD) Fund.

### ONE LEADER

The Resident Coordinator leads the UN family and, with the UNCT, provides strategic oversight and technical support for the OP III's implementation. The following management arrangements support their leadership:

- The Operations Management Team advances common business practices – finance, administration, procurement, ICT and human resources – to strengthen joint services.
- The Programme Management Team manages the planning, implementation and monitoring of the OP III, while ensuring coherence across its Outcomes. Provincial teams work to improve programming at the provincial level.
- The Inter-Agency Group on Gender Equality draws together experts to develop capacities and provide technical support for addressing gender in OP III's context.
- The Human Rights Task Force brings together the heads of UN agencies to offer technical support for the advancement of human rights and a human rights-based approach to programming throughout the OP III's implementation.
- UN Communications Group (see below).

### ONE VOICE

The inter-agency UN Communications Group (UNCG) supports the efforts of the United Nations Country Team to "communicate as one". It raises awareness of Pakistan's development priorities, engages counterparts in communicating these priorities and keeps the donor community informed of the OP III's achievements.

### ONE OFFICE

Operations in Pakistan continue to be harmonized through the One Office pillar to promote cost effectiveness and support the delivery of results under the OP III's Outcomes.

## ANNEX II JOINT BUDGETARY STATUS AT THE OUTCOME LEVEL

One UN Programme III Outcome	Total required resources (US\$)	Available resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	% delivery (100* e/c)
Outcome 1 Economic Growth	19,429,018.00	19,922,346.00	2,866,703.00	14.5%
Outcome 2 Decent Work	45,845,233.14	33,035,812.95	31,418,789.30	95.1%
Outcome 3 Health and WASH	293,235,351.60	268,231,475.24	259,389,112.95	96.7%
Outcome 4 Nutrition	48,459,727.00	38,154,708.00	38,391,851.73	100%
Outcome 5 Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture	64,048,528.26	54,280,081.26	39,239,246.98	72.3%
Outcome 6 Resilience	56,744,843.26	50,821,973.26	36,168,432.22	71.2%
Outcome 7 Education and Learning	51,794,251.98	26,731,929.98	22,855,482.04	85.5%
Outcome 8 Gender, Equality and Dignity	3,175,176.00	3,211,807.00	2,896,637.00	90.2%
Outcome 9 Governance	62,134,274.22	49,861,068.03	45,930,544.77	92.1%
Outcome 10 Social Protection	44,000,989.55	34,254,560.68	34,702,902.78	101.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>688,867,393.01</b>	<b>578,505,762.40</b>	<b>513,859,702.77</b>	<b>88.8%</b>

## ANNEX III PARTNERSHIPS

On behalf of the millions of lives that changed for the better in 2019, the UN family would like to say a very special 'thank you' to the following partners



**National partners:** Government of Pakistan; the Governments of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir; Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees; Climate Change Division; Commissionerates for Afghan Refugees Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Economic Affairs Division; FATA Secretariat; Federal Flood Commission; Higher Education Commission; Ministry of Climate Change; Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training; Ministry of Industries and Production; Ministry of Information; Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination; Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform; Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of States and Frontier Regions; Ministry of Water Resources; National Commission for Human Rights; National Database and Registration Authority; National Disaster Management Authority; National Productivity Organization; National Vocational and Technical Training Committee; Pakistan Bureau of Statistics; Pakistan Meteorological Department; Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund; Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights, Parliamentary Task Force on the SDGs; Provincial Departments of Antiquities, Archaeology, Culture, Education, Health, Information, Irrigation, Planning & Development, Science and Technology, Sports, Tourism, Water, Wildlife and Forestry, and Youth; Provincial Disaster Management Authorities; Provincial Environmental Protection Agencies; Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA); Women Parliamentary Caucus of Pakistan and Provincial Caucuses of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh.

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PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان



United Nations Pakistan  
Serena Business Complex  
Khayaban-e-Suhrwardy,  
Sector G-5/1  
Islamabad, Pakistan  
<https://pakistan.un.org/en>

Facebook: @UnitedNationsPakistan  
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