



COVID-19
RESPONSE



UNITED NATIONS
PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان



ONE UN PAKISTAN

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FOREWORD

The Government of Pakistan responded decisively to this unprecedented health, economic and social emergency and worked hand-in-hand with the United Nations. Immediate actions to contain the spread of the virus were paired with measures to strengthen health systems and services, assistance for families in need through the Ehsaas programme and support for small businesses. Action to mitigate the pandemic's social and economic consequences focused on shielding the poor and most vulnerable segments of the society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals even more challenging. The Government of Pakistan is determined to rise to the challenge. We will continue our highly valued partnership with the United Nations to steer Pakistan's recovery toward a more sustainable and inclusive path, so that no one is left behind.



Noor Ahmed
Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA)
Government of Pakistan

MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

The COVID-19 pandemic rocked the world to its core. This report showcases how the UN in Pakistan mobilized to mount a swift defence against COVID-19 and change millions of lives for the better in 2020. To respond to the massive needs triggered by the pandemic, we worked tirelessly with our partners across all tiers of Government, development organizations, donors, communities, local leaders, civil society, the private sector, the media, youth activists and the people of Pakistan.

The UN's response to COVID-19 in Pakistan is about saving lives, protecting people and recovering better. Throughout 2020, we supported the Government's country-level coordination, planning and monitoring. Our immediate WHO-led health response helped to control the transmission of the coronavirus, reduce mortality and get people the health care they need. We assisted better surveillance and case identification, stronger laboratory capacities and testing, and precautions at points of entry. We provided logistics, common services and operational support to the Government and other partners on the frontline of the pandemic. Building on the humanitarian-development nexus, the UN's humanitarian response simultaneously helped the most vulnerable people in Pakistan to withstand the COVID-19 crisis. Better planning, life-saving emergency supplies, food and cash assistance reached those most in need, especially communities recovering from floods and multiple shocks. Our socio-economic response framework supported the Government to minimize, mitigate and manage the effects of the pandemic. We pinpointed resource requirements and aided resource mobilization to ensure that Pakistan can protect economic activity and meet the social and health needs of vulnerable groups in a cohesive, collaborative manner.

Our COVID-19 response confronted the human crisis that the pandemic has wrought on Pakistan's society and economy, cutting across every outcome of the One UN Programme III, the UN's framework for cooperation with the Government of Pakistan. In each of these areas, we prioritized risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), alongside infection control and prevention (IPC). We reached out to communities, authorities, the media, religious leaders, parents, teachers, students, law enforcement agencies, young people and vulnerable groups nationwide to raise awareness of the very real threat that COVID-19 poses. We used different platforms in innovative ways to battle the tide of COVID-19 misinformation by increasing the volume and reach of trusted, accurate information – from the mass media to social media, helplines and public announcements. Our IPC measures tackled COVID-19 head on by providing personal protective equipment, training frontline workers, disinfecting schools and health centres, and rehabilitating and building WASH facilities.



As One UN, we worked to keep public services accessible, households afloat, businesses solvent, supply chains functioning, institutions strong and human rights at the forefront. UN initiatives created cash-for-work opportunities, trained entrepreneurs and aided business continuity. We helped Pakistan's health system to address the coronavirus, plan for the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines and ensure the continuity of essential health services. We combated malnutrition and strove to cement food security, even as the pandemic hit agricultural livelihoods hard. Our efforts built resilience to disaster risks and fomented environmental sustainability because, if COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that we cannot afford to ignore risks to our planet and its people. We supported children to continue learning, both remotely and safely in classrooms. We worked to prevent, address and respond to gender-based violence while ensuring psychosocial support services for survivors. Our efforts prioritized strengthened social protection, so that no one is left behind. We engaged with governance stakeholders and mobilized Pakistan's young people, communities and civil society to overcome the impacts of this seismic crisis across the board.

2020 will be remembered as a tragic, traumatic year. On behalf of the UN family, I would like to pay tribute to the thousands of people in Pakistan who lost their lives to COVID-19. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Pakistan's health workers, who are the heroes of this pandemic. From doctors, nurses and midwives to sanitary workers, technicians, essential businesses and administrators, frontline workers put themselves in harm's way every day to save lives. We salute all those who stood up to misinformation and followed safety protocols. You have helped to protect us all. We commend our partners, across Pakistan and abroad, for making the achievements outlined in this report possible. To all of you, from all of us at the UN in Pakistan, thank you.

COVID-19 has fundamentally changed the world, but the UN's mission in Pakistan remains unchanged. We are here to help Pakistan achieve its sustainable development priorities in a way that leaves no one behind, and reaches those farthest behind first. Together, we must make the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for all the people in Pakistan.



Julien Harneis
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
United Nations Pakistan

“
The UN's
response to
COVID-19
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recovering
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UN COUNTRY TEAM IN PAKISTAN



The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is composed of the heads of all the UN agencies, funds and programmes active in Pakistan. The UNCT leads the implementation of the One UN Programme III, guided by a Joint UN-National Oversight Committee, which is chaired by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division and the UN Resident Coordinator. The UN family works **as one** with the Government and partners to improve people's lives, reduce inequalities and protect the planet.

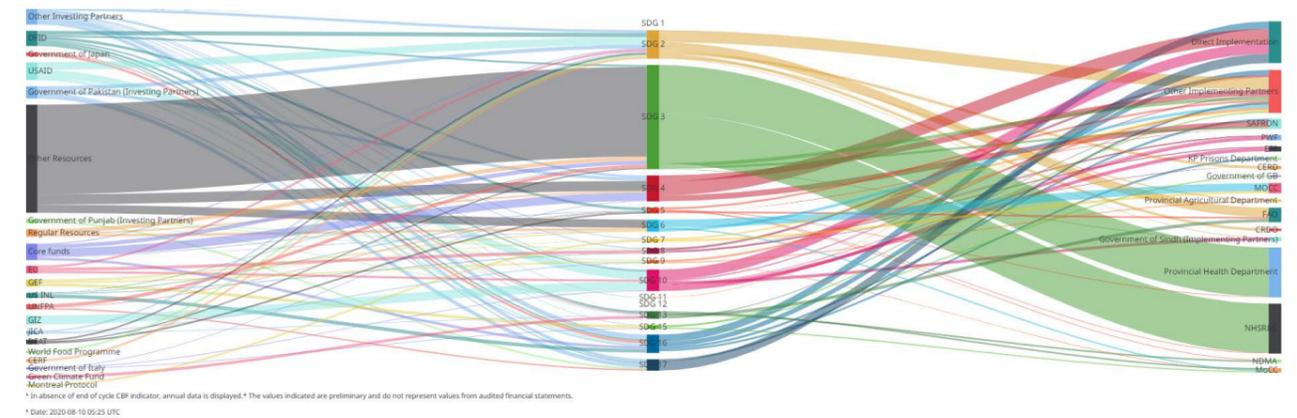
THE UN FAMILY IN PAKISTAN*



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

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

LINKING INVESTMENTS, PARTNERS AND THE SDGs IN PAKISTAN, 2020



The key development partners of the UN system in Pakistan are the Government of Pakistan, international development organizations and financial institutions, donor governments and development agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and the people of Pakistan.

We wish to thank and acknowledge the many partners who have supported our work during the COVID-19 response in 2020, without whom the results presented in this report would not have been possible.

Special thanks are due to the Federal Government of Pakistan – particularly the Economic Affairs Division, the Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Division, and the Ministries of Climate Change, Federal Education and Professional Training, Finance, Human Rights, Information Technology and Telecommunication, National Food Security and Research, National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, and Planning, Development and Special Initiatives – the Provincial Governments of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh, the Regional Governments of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan, the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, and the National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women, among many others.

We are especially grateful to the many generous donors who supported UN initiatives in 2020, whether financially or in-kind, including our dedicated implementing partners who led field activities on the ground during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

20 DONORS REGISTERED ON THE COVID-19 PARTNERS PLATFORM



KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

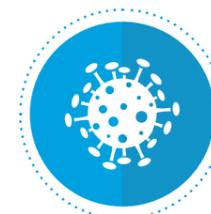
Pakistan embraced the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2016 by adopting the SDGs as part of its own national development agenda, *Vision 2025*. Since then, there has been considerable progress on mainstreaming the SDGs in national policies and strategies, including the *Five-Year Plan*, provincial growth strategies and Pakistan's long-term development perspective.



OVERALL CONTEXT

Home to 220.9 million people¹, Pakistan is the fifth most populous country in the world. It is also one of the youngest – 61.4% of Pakistanis are of working age (15–64 years old)² and 51% are under 19.³ Despite recent development gains, challenges persist. Pakistan ranked 154th of 189 countries on the *Human Development Index 2020* (HDI), falling four places since 2018. One in four Pakistanis lives in poverty – income-based poverty stands at 24.3% and multidimensional poverty at 38.8%.⁴ Malnutrition affects nearly half of Pakistan's children. Women's labour force participation rate (22.5%) is among the lowest in South Asia.⁵ Pakistan also has among the highest rates of maternal and child mortality, and among the lowest rates of gender parity in education in the region. It is home to the second highest number of out-of-school children in the world (22.8 million), 53% of whom are girls.⁶ Inequality is pervasive between regions and geographic (urban-rural) locations. Discrimination and violence affect women, girls, transgender people and minorities; as a result, it ranks 151st of 153 countries on the World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Index 2020* (GII). Pakistan hosts 1.4 million Afghan refugees, the largest protracted refugee population in the world. Germanwatch's *Global Climate Risk Index 2020* considers it the fifth most vulnerable country in the world to the impact of climate change and natural disasters, including floods, drought and earthquakes.⁷

COVID-19 IN PAKISTAN



13,935
DEATHS FROM COVID-19 & 633,741 CONFIRMED CASES⁸



-1.5%
REAL GDP GROWTH IN FY2020



1.2 TRILLION
(PKR) GOVERNMENT STIMULUS PACKAGE LAUNCHED

COVID-19 has compounded these challenges. Pakistan is facing an unprecedented economic shock due to the pandemic, coupled with enormous pressure on its health sector. Real GDP growth declined from 5.5% in FY18 to 1.9% in FY19 and -1.5% in FY20, according to the World Bank. A complete lockdown (March–June 2020) to stem the spread of the virus restricted consumption and production. COVID-19 has increased the incidence and intensity of multidimensional poverty, especially for the most vulnerable – the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, children and non-nationals. Some 56.6% of Pakistan's population has become susceptible to becoming multidimensionally vulnerable; thus, an estimated 126 million people are likely to be pushed into multidimensional poverty.⁹ During the lockdown, 20.6 million workers lost their jobs and 6.7 million lost income. More than 2 million remained out of work in December.¹⁰ Young people are being disproportionately affected, particularly in the world of work. Women are bearing the brunt of the COVID-19 crisis and are on the frontline of responding to it. They represent 70% of frontline health workers and face growing risks, including of gender-based violence and additional burdens of unpaid care work. Despite the challenges, Pakistan's COVID-19 response has drawn praise from the international community, including the UN. The Government launched a fiscal stimulus package worth PKR 1.2 trillion that involves expanding the *Ehsaas* emergency programme's outreach from 5.2 million to 12 million households, providing cash grants to 3 million daily wage labourers in the informal sector, and distributing food items to poor families at subsidized rates. It established a multi-stakeholder National Command and Operation Centre – including members of opposition parties – to oversee the COVID-19 response and coordinate with the provinces. The country's 'smart' lockdown approach, following an initial full lockdown, maintained economic activity while keeping the reported number of infections relatively low.

¹ According to the last Population Census, the country's population was 207.8 million in 2017. This figure reflects the projected population in light of the population growth rate of 2.4% recorded by the *Pakistan Economic Survey 2019–20*. See *World Population Prospects 2019*.
² UNDP (2017). *National Human Development Report 2017: Unleashing the potential of a young Pakistan*. Islamabad: UNDP.
³ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2018). *Labour Force Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.
⁴ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2019). *Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey 2018–19*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan; UNDP, OPHI and Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform (2015). *Multidimensional Poverty in Pakistan*. Islamabad: UNDP.
⁵ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2018). "Table 6", *Labour Force Survey 2017–18*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan; World Bank Group (2019). *Pakistan@100: From Poverty to Equity Policy Note*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
⁶ United Nations Children's Fund (2021). "Education: Pakistan". Islamabad: UNICEF.
⁷ GermanWatch (2020). *Global Climate Risk Index 2020*. Bonn: GermanWatch.
⁸ As of 23 March 2021, see: Government of Pakistan (2021) "Health Advisory Platform: Pakistan Case Details, 23 March 2021".
⁹ UNDP (2020). *Multidimensional Vulnerability Index*. Islamabad: UNDP.
¹⁰ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2020). *Special Survey For Evaluating the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.



UN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

A THREE-PRONGED RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

UN PAKISTAN
— COVID-19 —
RESPONSE

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

DELIVERED

LIFESAVING

CASH, FOOD & EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

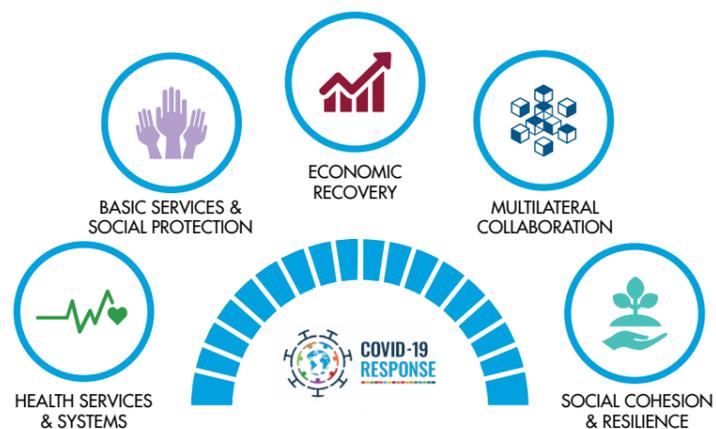


THE FOCUS OF OUR IMMEDIATE WHO-LED HEALTH RESPONSE



- ✓ COORDINATION, PLANNING & MONITORING
- ✓ RISK COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- ✓ SURVEILLANCE, RAPID RESPONSE & CASE INVESTIGATION
- ✓ LABORATORY CAPACITIES
- ✓ INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL
- ✓ QUARANTINE & CASE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ OPERATIONAL SUPPORT & LOGISTICS

THE COVID-19 PAKISTAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK (DEVELOPED IN MAY 2020) HAS 5 PILLARS



FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS WERE PROVIDED PPE



PEOPLE REACHED WITH COVID-19 PREVENTION MESSAGES



HANDWASHING STATIONS INSTALLED IN STRATEGIC PUBLIC LOCATIONS

UN agencies in Pakistan mobilized swiftly and comprehensively to respond to COVID-19. The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator led our three-pronged health, humanitarian and socio-economic response, bringing the UN Country Team together to support the Government. The WHO-led health response focused on science, solidarity and solutions. The UN assisted coordination at the federal and provincial levels, leading task forces, working groups and regular meetings across a range of sectors, from health and nutrition to WASH, education, child protection, gender-based violence, disaster risk reduction and many more. UN agencies contributed to planning for the rollout of COVAX in 2021, in addition to providing support for cold chain procurement, vaccine logistics, community engagement, crisis communications and training.

The UN assisted Pakistan's *Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Plan* on responsive, transparent and consistent messaging in local languages through trusted communication channels, community-based networks and key influencers. For example, engaging 423,662 religious leaders expanded the reach of COVID-19 awareness raising through mosque announcements and Friday sermons that promoted preventive behaviours, such as handwashing, mask-wearing, physical distancing and immunization. Partnerships with provincial governments and community-based organizations – including local leaders and youth groups – helped COVID-19 prevention messages reach 36.6 million people. UN support for the detection of COVID-19 cases, contact tracing and case identification included training surveillance teams and donating vehicles to transport samples between health facilities and laboratories. To strengthen laboratory systems, specialists were deployed to train lab workers on biosafety and quality assurance. Installing automated hand hygiene stations at major airports, training staff and information displays made points of entry safer. We aided infection prevention and control (IPC) in communities and health facilities to promote preventive behaviours, raise awareness and stem the transmission of the coronavirus. For example, installing 3,767 handwashing stations in public places and training 7,172 frontline sanitary workers built critical IPC capacities in health facilities and high-risk communities. In terms of operational support and logistics, we actively procured medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). For instance, UN agencies provided 130,154 frontline health workers with PPE kits and distributed 50,000 PPE and hygiene kits through the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities.

The UN's response also addressed the humanitarian impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups in Pakistan. For example, UN agencies supported the Government's flood response in Sindh with medical supplies, mosquito nets, food and cash assistance for over 70,000 people. In May 2020, the UN Country Team collectively developed the *COVID-19 Pakistan Socio-Economic Framework* in partnership with the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, establishing the basis for the Government's response to the pandemic. The framework includes an analysis of technical and financial resource requirements. It seeks to support the Government to implement new economic priorities, protect jobs and economic activity, ensure food security, and meet the social and health needs of vulnerable groups in a cohesive, collaborative manner. The rest of this report highlights the high-impact results achieved in aid of the socio-economic response in 2020.

Rapidly assessing emerging needs, the UN revised project strategies, reprogrammed and adapted interventions. We revisited work plans to devise safe avenues for service delivery, including using virtual means of communication and incorporating strict adherence to COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during in-person meetings. Online training was delivered wherever possible, as was 'hybrid' or 'blended' training combining online and face-to-face sessions. Some activities had to be dropped or delayed, such as large-scale in-person events and field activities. New actions were added, particularly COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns, support for helplines and the provision of key supplies – running the gamut from PPE to medical and IT equipment, ventilators, sanitary supplies, disinfectants and hygiene kits. For instance, the UN supported toll-free government helplines in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to address stigma, discrimination and mental health issues, benefiting 20,181 people. We provided assistance and handholding for technological solutions by, for example, providing the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with secure video conferencing equipment and software to ensure connectivity. UN agencies repurposed resources to address COVID-19, including US\$0.55 million to provide humanitarian and technical support to rule of law stakeholders. Some US\$4.63 million was mobilized to mitigate the pandemic's impact on food security, nutrition and livelihoods.



ONE UN PROGRAMME III

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

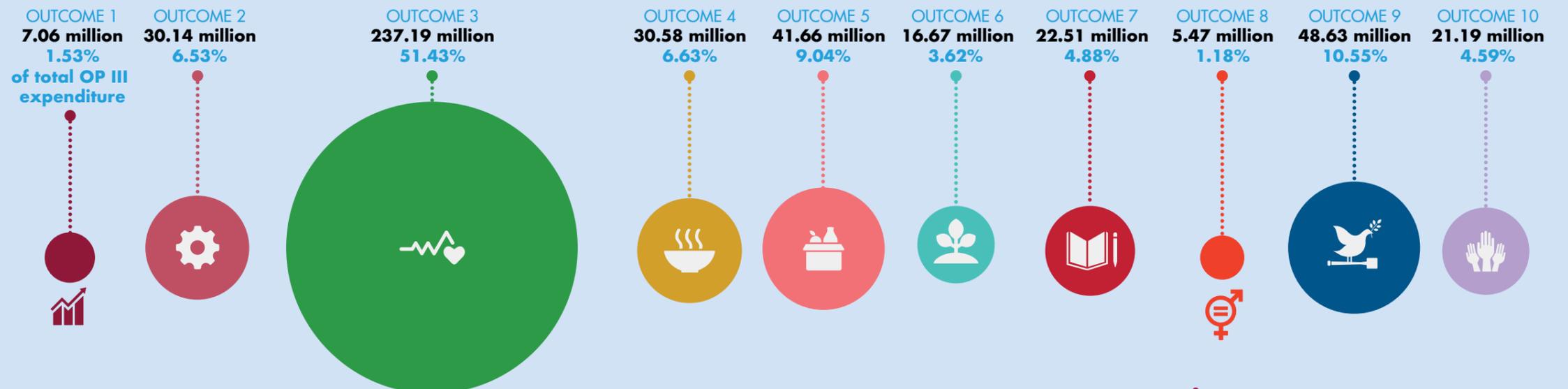
Leaving no one behind, and reaching those farthest behind first, are the common thread that connects all UN efforts in Pakistan, across all 10 outcome areas of the One UN Programme III. These are:



EXPENDITURE IN 2020

TOTAL UN BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE IN 2020

U S \$
461.10
MILLION





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OUTCOME 1



ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 PER CENT

INCREASE IN 300 SMES' EXPORTS WITH UN SUPPORT



50 PER CENT

REDUCTION IN PAKISTAN'S HCFC QUOTA



3,400 METRIC TONNES

OF CO2 EMISSIONS WILL BE PREVENTED BY 5MWS SOLAR PROJECTS

The COVID-19 pandemic was a seismic shock to economies everywhere. In Pakistan, the UN ramped up support for government efforts to spearhead economic recovery, protect small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and develop a roadmap for inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). To promote industrial competitiveness, the UN's World Bank-funded *Cluster Development Initiative* supported 300 SMEs on design and development, resource optimization and export enhancement. It mobilized foreign investment for technology transfer in the automotive sector, facilitated export diversification to African markets and helped set up two design studios by galvanizing commitments to cost sharing. The results speak volumes: beneficiaries' exports have grown by 10%. Inspired by the initiative, the Government of Punjab has positioned 'cluster development' as a key part of its growth strategy and is looking to develop an Industrial Intelligence Unit. In Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the *Project for Agri-food and Agro-industry Development Assistance* revitalized livelihoods in the cattle meat and apple value chains – among farmers, herders and food processors, especially women and youth. Funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the project's support and introduction of best practices improved quality, safety, value addition and productivity, reducing production losses while boosting marketability, profits and access to high-end markets. We also identified horticultural value chains to upgrade in Balochistan and the Newly Merged Districts based on their development potential. Capacity building will enhance their efficiency through technology, value addition, access to markets and services, and by addressing critical gaps.

UN projects funded by the Global Environment Facility advanced resilient industrial infrastructure and green development. The *Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation through Water Resource Management in Leather Industrial Zone Development* project finished work on a drainage system, culverts, roads and electrification in Punjab's Sialkot Tannery Zone. Civil works began on a common effluent treatment plant, while the designs of a chrome recovery plant and green tannery guidelines were completed. The *Transforming the Leather Processing Industries towards Low Emissions and Climate Resilient Development Paths* project assessed solid waste in Sindh's Korangi Leather Area, while a report on COVID-19's impact informed a response plan for Korangi's leather sector. The *Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries in Pakistan* advanced energy system optimization by helping 50 industries to implement an energy management system in sectors like textiles, paper and pulp, food and beverages, foundries and ceramics. It paired capacity building with support for developing energy policies, conducting energy audits, setting baselines and targets, and applying energy saving measures. Implementing this system yielded energy savings and reduced the industries' carbon footprint. Renewable energy investment support grants aided the initiative's business-to-business model, enabling the completion of 5 MW solar projects at industrial and commercial sites. These projects will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3,400 metric tonnes annually. UN assistance under the *Montreal Protocol* is helping Pakistan to phase out ozone-depleting substances from its foam and refrigeration sectors. By implementing the *Hydrofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase Out Management Plan*, Pakistan reduced its HCFC quota by 50% in 2020. As the cultural and creative industries are key to sustainable development, UN initiatives improved understandings of heritage management at the Provincial Directorate of Archaeology and Museums and the Evacuee Trust Property Board. Three management plans reflecting best practices – for Gurdwara Sacha Sauda, Gurdwara Rohri Sahib and Taxila Museum – were submitted to the Government to lay the groundwork for responsible tourism.

1

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

KEY RELATED SDGs

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

MODULUSTECH'S STORY: STARTUPS COPING WITH COVID-19



©ModulusTech/UNIDO

"The summer heat in Karachi, coupled with the fasting month of Ramadan, was making it impossible for doctors to sit outside wearing personal protective equipment and they urgently required a screening room," explains Nabeel Siddiqui, CEO of the startup ModulusTech. "We provided them with a low-cost – around US\$4,400 – air-conditioned screening room with space for further testing of patients in less than 10 days, while there was a lockdown in the city and all markets were closed [...] The hospital staff were super happy with the speed of delivery, as well as the energy efficiency of the structures."

ModulusTech's design of energy efficient houses won first prize at the Pakistani edition of the UN *Global Cleantech Innovation Programme* in 2017. "The prize was essential for our survival, as we were able to get initial funding for our startup and start operations, as well as find the right partners," Nabeel says. ModulusTech spent 2020 working with hospitals, designing emergency response units for public authorities and creating a conveyor system for disinfecting packages. Their story is a testament to how Pakistani entrepreneurs mobilized to save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.





©UNDP Pakistan/Shahzad Ahmad

2

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

KEY RELATED SDGs

OUTCOME 2



DECENT WORK



900
+

PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM A UN CASH-FOR-WORK INITIATIVE



74,390
+

COTTON PICKERS TRAINED ON LABOUR ISSUES AND COVID-19 PREVENTION



3
MILLION

WORKERS REACHED BY A COVID-19 AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN

The COVID-19 pandemic turned the world of work upside down. Every worker, every business and every corner of Pakistan was affected in 2020. The UN mobilized in support of the Government to protect workers, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, and advance decent work for all. For example, one UN cash-for-work scheme with the Sarhad Rural Support Programme provided **immediate temporary employment** for 900 villagers (34% of whom are women) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This income stream was a lifeline for vulnerable families hit hard by the pandemic, while benefitting the community by desilting irrigation channels, stitching and distributing school uniforms, running COVID-19 awareness sessions and forming 90 community organizations.

A large-scale UN campaign saved lives by raising awareness of COVID-19 safety at work, reaching 3 million workers and 1,000 employers. Sensitization on fundamental rights and principles at work, occupational health and safety (OSH) and other labour issues engaged a range of key players – from public officials to workers’ and employers’ organizations, brick kiln owners and workers, cotton farmers and workers, and civil society. With UN support, the Pakistan National Textile, Leather, Garments and General Workers Federation developed an awareness toolkit in Urdu and trained 1,366 cotton pickers – including women and adolescents – on child and forced labour, OSH and COVID-19. UN assistance helped 30 Migrant Workers’ Resource Centres reach out to 150,000 prospective and returned migrants on safe, regular migration.

We continued to prioritize capacity development to expand sustainable livelihoods. The *Skills Development Programme* provided certified vocational and technical skills training to 4,715 young refugees and Pakistani host community members. Among them, 200 refugees were placed in internships for on-the-job training. Acquiring skills in demand by the labour market, and receiving certificates from a recognized training institution, helped trainees secure work. Entrepreneurship education, career counselling and support services for 74,394 young people (38% of whom are women and 0.03% are transgender persons) aimed to unleash youth’s economic potential. Livelihood skills training and psychological counselling aimed to help 157 young prisoners reintegrate in society, as did free legal aid for 25 prisoners. Training sessions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa engaged youth on heritage entrepreneurship. Business management training, in-kind grants and incubation support benefited aspiring entrepreneurs. Pakistani trainers were certified by the *Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)* programme, facilitating the programme’s implementation in 12 enterprises. As a result, their labour turnover declined and productivity increased. Training 24 enterprises and conducting environmental audits of 14 businesses boosted compliance with international environmental standards. With UN support, the first textile company from Pakistan was certified by the Alliance for Water Stewardship 2.0.

Policy progress advanced the decent work agenda, with UN support for the development of a National Emigration and Welfare Policy, the rules of business for Sindh’s *Home-Based Workers Act* and a *Skills Development Strategy* for the post-COVID ‘new normal’. UN research provided a strong evidence-base for further progress, including on Pakistan’s international commitments, gender-responsive budgeting, young women’s economic empowerment and **labour migration**. A seminal *Decent Work Country Profile* and strategy on promoting decent work in the rural economy were finalized, as was a policy paper on private sector engagement and the ease of doing business in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Newly Merged Districts – vital prerequisites for the region’s economic and social development. Knowledge products also explored ways to extend social security to brick kiln workers, bridge decent work deficits in the brick kiln and cotton sectors, and mitigate COVID-19’s impacts on these sectors and many more.

ULFAT’S AND ZAFAR’S STORY: A PATHWAY TO RECOVERY



©UNDP Pakistan/Shahzad Ahmad

“Our business was at a standstill because of coronavirus. It constrained our finances where it became difficult to make ends meet,” says Ulfat from the village of Tarnab in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She is one of 900 people, including 306 women, for whom a new UN’s cash-for-work initiative has been a game-changer in a time of crisis. *“Skilled women were given tailoring kits to stitch school uniforms, and also get paid for the work,”* she explains. *“I registered myself and worked diligently [...] I am now planning to buy an ironing table with the cash I earned from this activity. I will use it as my workstation for embroidery, and stitching.”*

“The work done by UNDP and SRSP is very well designed and it benefited a lot of people.” said Sohail Ahmad, president of Gara Tajik village’s community organization. For Zafar Shah from the village of Palam Deri, for example, the initiative cushioned the blow dealt by COVID-19. *“We worked for 10 days to dispose-off solid waste and received PKR 10,500 (US\$63),”* he reports. *“I spent some of this money to buy groceries for my house and medicines for my children. With the remaining money, I paid back a loan that I had taken during the lockdown to fulfil my family’s daily basic needs.”*





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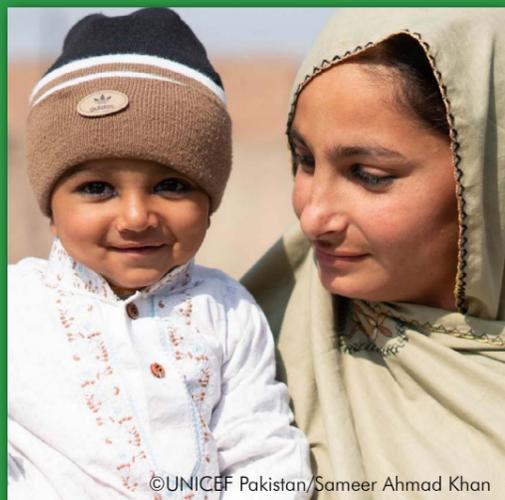
3

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

KEY RELATED SDGs

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

UMME AMMARA'S STORY: HELPING CHILDREN SURVIVE AND THRIVE



©UNICEF Pakistan/Sameer Ahmad Khan

"Having access to treatment locally saved my child," says Zainab, holding her 8-month-old baby boy. "Some months ago, Muhammed Kabir fell sick. His body temperature was high, his umbilicus was red and drained pus, which we found worrisome."

"On the advice of the local Lady Health Worker, my mother took him to Kanganpur Rural Health Centre but she could not take him to the bigger hospital in Kasur, as doctors suggested, because it is 60 kilometres away. Happily, the Health Centre here was able to give him injections and medicines, and he recovered after a week."

Umme Ammara is the paramedic at Kanganpur Rural Health Centre in Punjab who identified Muhammed Kabir's condition: he was suffering from a possible serious bacterial infection.

After she was trained on the integrated management of childhood illnesses with UN support, she has saved countless lives. "I have since screened more than 100 children for PSBI and referred those who might be seriously sick to the programme. All of them were treated and have recovered," explains Umme.

OUTCOME 3



HEALTH AND WASH



39 MILLION

CHILDREN TARGETED BY 14 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



14.3 MILLION

PEOPLE SENSITIZED ON BETTER HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR



9 MILLION

NEWBORNS AND CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM IMPROVED HEALTH CARE

The UN mobilized in support of Pakistan's health system in 2020, helping it address COVID-19 while sustaining essential health services. UN support provided 130,000 frontline health workers with protective personal equipment (PPE), while training 83,744 on COVID-19 and 142,978 on infection prevention and control (IPC) using specially developed training manuals. Training 1,570 paediatricians enabled the identification and safe management of 4 million suspected cases among children. In aid of an effective COVID-19 response, UN specialists seconded to government entities enhanced capacities and coordination forums like the UN-H5 partnership and the Development Partners' Group supported the Government to coordinate health sector partners. The UN assisted planning for the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines under the COVAX initiative in 2021 so that no one is left behind.

With UN support, 2.5 million people accessed primary health care services. Telemedicine benefited 8,185 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. The *Tele-ICU Programme* linked 5,000 medical professionals, enabling critical care specialists provide advice virtually to 60 public and private intensive care units. Training at seven hospitals in Balochistan honed capacities on critical care, COVID-19 screening and treatment, and tele-ICU implementation. In five flood-affected districts of Sindh, 20 mobile teams provided 111,772 people (28% of whom are children and 46% are women) with integrated immunization, nutrition, and maternal, newborn and child health services. UN assistance enabled access to improved health care for 9 million newborns and children nationwide. For instance, 40,248 sick newborns received lifesaving medical care, 1,150 pre-term babies were managed in 17 Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Centres, and the *Point of Care Quality Improvement* was rolled out in 10 districts. Scaling up home-based newborn care, KMC and the management of possible serious bacterial infections in seven districts increased the survival chances of 399,299 newborns. Urgently-needed clinical guidelines were launched, including on managing pregnancy and children with COVID-19. In Punjab and Sindh, 1.67 million children (121% of the target) were treated for pneumonia and diarrhoea by community health workers trained using UN *Guidelines on the Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses*. Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services reached 136,947 people (94% women and girls), including 653 persons with disabilities (83% women and girls). The UN supported 35 health facilities and 8,675 skilled deliveries in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as mobile medical units and health workers trained on the *Minimum Initial Services Package*. Training another 2,000 health care providers improved SRH telemedicine services, as did the creation of six telemedicine centres.

Enhancing health workers' capacities was pivotal in 2020. Training of trainers' (ToT) sessions were delivered on the *Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative* and 11,208 frontline workers – including 3,000 polio workers – were trained on the parenting package by 284 master trainers. To end the tragedy of obstetric fistula, the UN supported fistula surgeries and trained health professionals on fistula prevention, repair and rehabilitation. A digital *Paediatric HIV Case Management Training Protocol* was developed as the UN rallied assistance from the Paediatric European Network for the Treatment of AIDS. Following up on the HIV outbreak in Larkana, Sindh, 35 paediatricians were trained using the new protocol, enabling them to care for 1,339 children living with HIV/AIDS enrolled in anti-retroviral therapy (ART) with a 94% adherence rate. With UN support, Pakistan devised strategies to scale up the prevention of parent-to-child transmission (PPTCT) and paediatric HIV treatment. We trained national trainers on the *Universal Prevention Curriculum* and organized 30 awareness sessions on preventing drug use and COVID-19 in communities, 500 counselling sessions, and community-based drug treatment services for 98 drug users in Faisalabad, Punjab. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh, 95 health care professionals and prison staff were trained on HIV testing and counselling services while the *Drug Demand Reduction Prevention and Control* initiative conducted 2,434 HIV tests in Sindh's Malir prisons.





**1.5
MILLION**

PEOPLE GAINED
ACCESS TO CLEAN
DRINKING WATER



**9.8
MILLION**

PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM WASH
IN HEALTH FACILITIES
AND SCHOOLS



**1.1
MILLION**

MORE PEOPLE NOW LIVE IN
OPEN DEFECATION-FREE
ENVIRONMENTS

In the fight against COVID-19, communication was key. With the Ministry of National Health Services, the UN developed standard public awareness messages to spread accurate health information and dispel myths. We reached over 14.3 million people with targeted messages to improve health-seeking behaviour, service delivery and demand for essential services through social media, the mass media and by engaging community influencers and gatekeepers. Over 4,087 radio spots were broadcast on 10 radio stations, and 636,000 scrolls displayed on national and regional television channels. Through the *Neighborhood Watch Project*, 1,224 community health workers and reached 600,000 households with COVID-19 prevention messages and support to link them with reproductive health services. Effective awareness raising contributed to keeping people safe and getting children immunized. For example, enhanced outreach activities (EOA) had a huge impact on improving routine immunization coverage after a sharp dip during the lockdown period. These activities reached 144 districts, deploying 18,656 vaccinators and social mobilizers to provide 2.2 million children with 31.6 million doses of essential vaccines (over 80% of the target).

To save lives through immunization, the UN supported the installation of 4,476 cold chain equipment systems with continuous temperature monitoring and the deployment of the *Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform*. The transition to the *District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2)* and the rollout of the *Electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMS)* in Sindh and Punjab enhanced the management of medical commodities. An emergency plan for resuming *Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)* services was developed in May 2020 with key partners. The improved cold chain system, microplanning and demand creation supported the Government to achieve routine immunization coverage of 83% for Penta-3 and 94% for the measles vaccine. Piloting birth dose vaccinations at four hospitals in Balochistan boosted the proportion of newborns vaccinated – from 5% to 95%. Fourteen UN-supported polio vaccination campaigns reached 97.8% of 39 million targeted children. In addition to deploying 13,000 community-based vaccinators and mobilizers to polio-endemic regions, we ensured 100% vaccine availability by procuring 302 million vaccine doses. Applying a communication and social mobilization strategy for high-risk districts, the campaigns successfully engaged community actors, conducted research and spearheaded community listening and dialogue. As a result, vaccine refusals fell from 0.47% in February to 0.33% in November. Integrated service delivery was rolled out in 40 union councils at ‘super-high risk’ of polio (SHRUCs), where 80 health camps delivered an integrated service package to 45,596 people. Vaccinators were equipped with PPE and trained on IPC, as were EPI staff – enabling them to deliver cascade training to 5,258 of their colleagues. Over 2,000 EPI centres were refurbished and 9,081 EPI staff trained to develop microplans.

With direct UN support as part of the COVID-19 response, 1.5 million people (48% of whom are women) accessed clean drinking water, 0.57 million (49% women) accessed safe sanitation, and 9.8 million (5.3 million men and boys, and 4.5 million women and girls) benefited from WASH facilities in 686 health care facilities and 1,249 schools. Inclusive community-centred interventions provided safe, sustainable drinking water to 1.42 million people – with a roughly 50/50 gender breakdown – by rehabilitating WASH infrastructure and constructing 656 hand pumps, 124 piped water systems and 56 climate-resilient solar-powered water systems. Another 1.119 million people (51% of whom are women and girls) are now living in open defecation-free (ODF) environments in 744 ODF-certified communities as the UN integrated WASH interventions with polio eradication, nutrition, health and child protection programmes in super-high-risk union councils. Building the capacities of 744 Village WASH Committees and community resource persons to promote hygiene and maintain WASH facilities helped sustain services and encourage transformative behavioural change. Gender-sensitive WASH services benefited 365,414 students in 1,533 schools, including 1,077 institutions supported as part of the COVID-19 response with WASH and IPC packages. Some 46,074 girls received menstrual hygiene management supplies and engaged in awareness sessions. Private sector partnerships enabled the provision of menstruation supplies to 73,108 women and girls, who were rendered especially vulnerable by the pandemic. UN efforts coordinated sectoral partners, mobilized service providers in 20 cities to implement IPC activities and leveraged flagship government WASH programmes for the COVID-19 response. For instance, 119,000 youths and adolescents actively engaged as Clean Green Champions played a key role in disseminating COVID-19 prevention messages. Using existing WASH communications network of social mobilizers, religious leaders, community resource persons and social media platforms empowered over 9.5 million people with information on maintaining hygiene and preventing COVID-19 infection.



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NASEEB GUL'S STORY: HANDWASHING PREVENTING COVID-19



©UNICEF Pakistan/Umar Swati

"I heard that it can be caught by touching dirty surfaces, but what can I do? I have to search through garbage dumps all day long to find anything valuable that I could sell," says 19-year-old Naseeb Gul. "This is my livelihood and my family depend on it."

Like scores of others in Pakistan, Naseeb had no real way of washing his hands with soap, either at home or in public. This is why the UN and Abbottabad's Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSCA) installed 54 hand washing stations across the city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, paired with a public information campaign. *"When I noticed the large number of water drums being placed all over the city, I didn't know their purpose,"* reflects Naseeb. *"But once I saw a banner with pictures on it, I understood that they were here to help us wash our hands with soap."*

Naseeb is among the 300,000 people who used these handwashing stations every day, helping to keep them safe from COVID-19. *"Now I wash my hands with soap many times a day, including each time after I touched garbage,"* he explains. *"I hope that these water drums and soap will stay even after the virus is gone."*





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4

AGENCIES

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

KEY RELATED SDGs



KHAN BIBI'S STORY: FOOD ASSISTANCE BECOMES A LIFELINE



©WFP Pakistan

"My sons are daily labourers. Now that all the shops and markets are closed, they can't go out and look for work. I pray to God to stop this virus from spreading, it will make our lives more difficult if things continue like this," says Khan Bibi.

She is one of an estimated 16,000 people who remain displaced from the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, formerly known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. With the restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19, UN food assistance has become ever more critical for safeguarding nutrition among vulnerable families.

Every month, Khan Bibi receives a pack that consists of wheat flour, pulses, cooking oil and salt. When she arrives at the UN food distribution site, her temperature is taken. Everyone is asked to thoroughly wash their hands with water and soap. Waiting in a queue to verify her identity and collect the food, social distancing is observed, with people standing a metre apart in chalk circles. While the pandemic prevented temporarily displaced families from returning home and becoming self-sufficient, UN support has been essential to seeing vulnerable households through the crisis.

OUTCOME 4



NUTRITION



0.43 MILLION

CHILDREN AND WOMEN RECEIVED FOOD ASSISTANCE



57,700

CHILDREN TREATED FOR SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION



3,200

GOVERNMENT STAFF TRAINED TO IMPROVE NUTRITION

The UN supported Pakistan to sustain and scale-up nutrition programming in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Our initiatives prevented and treated malnutrition, especially among vulnerable children and women. The *Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition* (CMAM) programme was successfully handed over to the Government and implemented in 22 districts. Some 57,745 children (52% of whom are girls) were treated for severe acute malnutrition, while 435,489 people – including children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, and pregnant and lactating women – received 4,565MT of food assistance through CMAM in 20 districts. To combat micronutrient deficiencies, the UN directly provided micronutrient supplements to 333,478 children (52% girls) and 246,493 pregnant and lactating women. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 27,318 adolescents received micronutrient supplements as part of integrated service delivery in 15 union councils at 'super-high-risk' of polio. While COVID-19 prevented two rounds of Vitamin A supplementation, one round was successfully carried out in 130 districts nationwide. With the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), the UN supported Ehsaas Nashonuma, the Government's new stunting prevention programme that reached 4,442 children, 6,996 women and set up 29 facilitation centres.

To safeguard nutrition during the COVID-19 crisis, we provided protective personal equipment to professionals delivering nutrition services, everywhere from health facilities to UN offices. UN agencies assisted the Government to develop a COVID-19 communication package, including messages on maternal and child nutrition, FAQs on COVID-19 and nutrition, and a nutrition-sensitive food distribution kit. The development of simplified guidelines aided the continuation of services to address severe and moderate acute malnutrition and improve infant and young child feeding (IYCF). Capacity strengthening was the backbone of the nutrition response. The UN supported 76 Nutrition Stabilization Centers and trained 3,287 government workers, in addition to training staff at *Outpatient Therapeutic Programme* and *Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme* sites. As part of the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Stunting Prevention and Rehabilitation Integrated Nutrition Gain* (KP SPRING) initiative, 1,940 government staff were trained. With UN assistance, the Government translated the Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition and adapted them into an eLearning course for service providers and policy makers for cost-effective, high impact interventions. A food safety manual and eLearning course will deliver key messages to food business operators, handlers, mothers and care providers.

UN advocacy, policy support, evidence generation and innovation pushed for better nutrition in Pakistan. Tax and duty exemptions granted on imported raw materials will reduce the costs of producing specialized nutritious foods locally by 30%. To move food fortification forward, a pilot was launched through 10 small-scale mills (*chakkis*) in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Strategic communication boosted consumer demand for fortified wheat, including radio jingles and clips. UN research made a strong case for strengthening nutrition services – from the *Pakistan Overview of Food Insecurity and Malnutrition 2020* to a food security and livelihood assessment, a rice fortification study, and operational research on stunting prevention that benefited 3,535 children and women in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Newly Merged Districts. Nutrition governance grew stronger as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat and provincial SUN Units pursued multisectoral nutrition strategy processes and action plans with UN support. Policy progress included provincial *Breast Milk Substitute Rules*, draft national standards for specialized nutritious foods and work on maternal nutrition and dietary diversification strategies. The UN contributed to the *Federal Nutrition PC-1*, which will transform the national nutrition response. To expand the availability of nutrition services at the primary care and community levels, we supported the inclusion of key services in the *Universal Health Care Benefit Package* – such as treatment for severe wasting, the promotion of breastfeeding and complementary feeding, and Vitamin A, iron and folic acid supplementation.





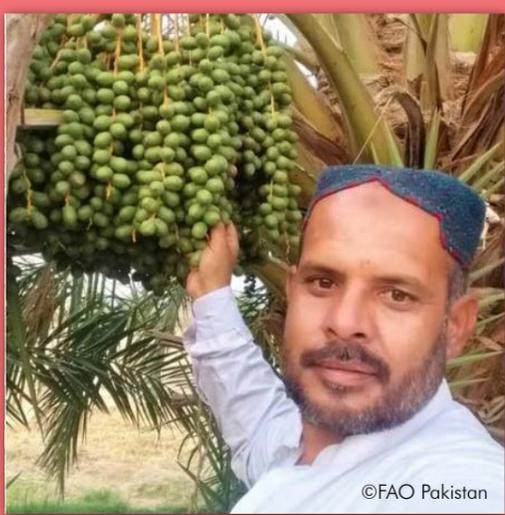
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5

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



HAJI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL'S STORY: PRODUCING IN A PANDEMIC



©FAO Pakistan

"This is the first time in about 15 years that Lahore-based traders are purchasing our dates from Balochistan," explains Hajj Muhammad Ismail. Like other date farmers in Balochistan's district of Washuk, he had struggled to access national markets. While Balochistan is the largest producer of dates in Pakistan, accounting for 51% of total annual production, challenges prevent farmers from selling their produce – from small-scale output to high transaction costs and challenges in meeting quality and quantity requirements.

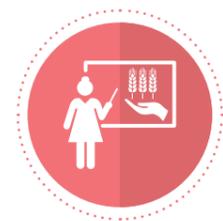
UN support is helping to turn the tide. Capacity development and market linkages for date growers like Mohammad Ismail enhanced their agribusiness skills and post-harvesting operations. It introduced them to new ways of doing business, enhancing their profitability several times over.

"Thanks to support from FAO, we are able to sell our dates in major markets at a time when our livelihoods have been severely disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Mohammad Ismail says. "We are able to reach buyers by phone and have signed new contracts even during this difficult time. This new way of doing business will help us to increase date production and processing and to expand our businesses."

OUTCOME 5 



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE



330 +

OFFICIALS TRAINED ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE-RELATED SDG INDICATORS



27 PER CENT

OF BENEFICIARIES OF FFA CONDITIONAL CASH ASSISTANCE WERE WOMEN



44,000 +

FARMERS TRAINED ON CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

Food assistance was a lifeline for communities facing a multitude of risks aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. UN relief assistance targeted families affected by this crisis and other shocks, such as extreme snowfall in Pakistan Administered Kashmir and Balochistan, and floods in Sindh. Monthly food rations sustained families who remain displaced from the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As transgender people are especially vulnerable, the UN's multi-hazard response registered 30 transgender people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for cash assistance. Throughout 2020, we paired lifesaving food aid with recovery support. The Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) initiative helped disaster-stricken communities rehabilitate their lives and livelihoods. They included families in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa returning to their homes after prolonged displacement, complementing the Government's stabilization efforts, and food-insecure communities in drought-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan. Women represented 27% of FFA conditional cash assistance participants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – far more than in the past.

The UN partnered with the Government and key stakeholders to cement food security by building sustainable food systems, promoting climate-smart agriculture, improving value chains and strengthening safety nets to ensure that vulnerable people have access to sufficient nutritious food. With UN assistance, a Food Security and Nutrition Information System was operationalized, including a Food Price Dashboard to track anomalies in supply chains and prices. To support the Government's COVID-19 response, the UN published weekly price bulletins on major food items. UN knowledge products offered evidence to inform policy-making and action on the ground – from the Pakistan Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020 to the Pakistan Food Forecast 2020–21 for Kharif crops and an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Analysis of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Newly Merged Districts. Rapid needs assessments shed light on urgent concerns like COVID-19's impact on food security and needs in 17 flood-affected districts, 21 locust-affected districts and 16 districts deluged by heavy rain and snowfall.

To safeguard food security in a changing climate, UN initiatives built the capacities of 44,000 smallholder farmers (18% of whom are women) on climate-resilient agriculture techniques and smart water techniques practices, while providing them with quality agricultural inputs. By rehabilitating irrigation channels, we helped to restore 26,134 hectares of land to its productive best, benefiting 2,400 households. Capacity development honed the skills of 1,398 farmers (27% are women) on value addition, marketing and business development. UN support enhanced the tomato, potato and poultry value chains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, while improving land governance and tenure security in Sindh through 985 informal tenancy agreements between sharecroppers (haris) and landlords. Initiatives in 2020 strengthened the capacities of government officials to advance food security, such as 110 officials trained on agriculture and natural resource-related SDG indicators and 221 trained on genetic resource use in pre-breeding, varietal development and seed systems. The UN aided policy development, including a National Policy for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's draft Livestock Action Plan and Food Security Policy. Four seminal provincial Agriculture and Natural Resources Programmes/Plans were designed. To support the transition towards eAgriculture, the UN went beyond supporting the development of an eAgriculture Policy and Strategy to promote practical solutions for their implementation. The AgriSurge Innovation Challenge invited startups and entrepreneurs to leverage new technologies to develop innovative, cost-effective solutions to agricultural challenges.



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6

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

KEY RELATED SDGs



OUTCOME 6



RESILIENCE



140
+

DISTRICT OFFICIALS TRAINED ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



0.6
MILLION KM²

OF LAND SURVEYED AND 11,300 KM² TREATED TO CURB LOCUST ATTACKS



4.3
MILLION

ANIMALS VACCINATED AGAINST FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

COVID-19 has shown us the urgent need to build more resilient societies. In 2020, the UN strengthened resilience across Pakistan by pairing immediate relief with a focus on reducing risks, enhancing preparedness and improving the response to disasters – from COVID-19 to climate change-induced disasters. We prioritized institutional strengthening at three levels. At the national level, the UN supported the National Disaster Management Authority to develop evidence-based policies and recommendations aligned with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*. Work began on integrated water resources management (IWRM) guidelines for Pakistan. The UN's *World Water Development Report 2020* was launched, as was the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources' *Groundwater Investigations and Mapping in the Lower Indus Plain*. UN webinars tackled a range of subjects, from 'open science' to IWRM, the water-energy-food nexus and COVID-19's relationship with nature. At the provincial level, 147 participants in disaster risk reduction 'hackathons' brainstormed innovative ideas to address climate change, disasters, locust attacks and the pandemic. The UN is now helping young people to pilot these ideas. Karez cultural landscape mapping began in three districts of Balochistan. Support for Disaster Management Authorities also involved monsoon contingency planning, and disinfecting government buildings and public sites to guard against COVID-19.

At the district level, the UN reviewed *Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans* with local administrations and helped to develop DRM plans for five of Pakistan's most disaster-prone districts: Chitral and Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Tharparkar and Dadu in Sindh, and Jhang in Punjab. These frameworks will help to integrate disaster risk reduction in sectoral planning. District Emergency Operation Centres set up in all five districts will boost monitoring and emergency response. Officials in Sindh's districts of Ghotki, Kashmore, Dadu, and Tharparkar have stronger capacities to address disasters thanks to UN-backed training on DRR, climate change adaptation and early recovery needs assessments. They put their learning into practice when floods inundated Sindh. The UN was on the frontline supporting the Government's flood response, including by distributing emergency cash assistance to 72,000 flood-affected people in September and another 78,234 by December. When earthquakes struck Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the UN helped remove debris, build shelters and repair pavements in Bhimber and Mirpur. To tackle livestock diseases, UN initiatives vaccinated 4.3 million animals against foot and mouth disease (FMD) – benefiting 410,500 households – 3.29 million ruminants against peste des petits ruminants – benefiting 150,615 families – and 4,500 animals against contagious caprine pleuropneumonia and enterotoxemia. All 443 outbreaks of FMD were successfully controlled.

As rainfall patterns change, swarms of desert locusts are threatening crops and pastures across Pakistan, putting agriculture and food security at risk. In January 2020, the Prime Minister declared a 'national desert locust emergency'. To support the Government's response, the UN paired urgent operational and early warning support – such as forecasts, technical advice and capacity building – with IT support, equipment and assistance for monitoring, coordination, inter-regional and global collaboration, including through the *International Desert Locust Appeal*. We mobilized resources for pesticide sprayers, vehicles and surveillance equipment from core funds and donors' generous contributions in aid of Pakistan's huge surveillance and control operation – which surveyed over 600,000 km² and treated 11,300 km². By May–June, 1,000 surveillance teams were equipped with the UN's 'eLocust3 suite' of digital tools for data collection and real-time transmission. These improved early warning by rapidly detecting locust outbreaks and likely sites of infestation, yielding a more strategic, effective approach to surveillance and control. Weekly virtual meetings of the South West Asia Commission's Technical Operational Committee facilitated dialogue between Pakistan, India, Iran and Afghanistan on locust infestations, control operations and forecasting.

JAMAN'S STORY: PREPARING FOR DISASTERS



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"We were used to dealing with disasters on our own, which was not very helpful," recalls Jaman Bheel. He was one of the first teachers trained by a UN-supported initiative on disaster risk reduction (DRR). Implemented with the provincial Education Department, the project strengthened preparedness across schools and communities in Sindh.

"The new techniques and information I received were very useful. It was particularly interesting to learn that sometimes a timely action is enough to prevent a bigger loss," Jaman says. Before the pandemic, he trained his students on first aid management. "We have all become more aware of our surroundings following this exercise," Jaman explains. For instance, community members came together to fix electrical wires hanging loose in the local school. His newfound knowledge turned out to be a blessing at home as well. "After attending the training, I trained my wife how to perform first aid," he says. "A few months ago, our 4-year-old son, Sooraj, fell into the water pond while my wife was washing clothes. The water is 12-feet deep so without wasting a minute, she jumped in the water and pulled him out, while also administering first aid to help him breathe easily."





OUTCOME 7



EDUCATION AND LEARNING



1.06
MILLION

CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM HYGIENE MEASURES TO PREVENT COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS



1.27
MILLION

SMC MEMBERS, TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS SENSITIZED ON KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE



0.215
MILLION

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN SUPPORTED TO ACCESS EDUCATION

7

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

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KEY RELATED SDGs



NAJEEBA'S STORY: MY HOME, MY SCHOOL



©UNICEF Pakistan/Waheed

"It feels like being at school. I really enjoy the video lessons, which Najeeba Baji helps us understand whenever we find it difficult," says 8-year-old Mariam. Her 19-year-old cousin, Najeeba, is one of the many women and men who volunteered to participate in *My Home, My School*. Supported by the UN Balochistan's Secondary Education Department, the initiative helps children continue learning during the pandemic by providing guidance on how to teach children at home, and how to protect themselves from COVID-19, including through WhatsApp groups.

Najeeba turned a spare room into a classroom to teach children mathematics, science and English. Some of her students are enrolled in public schools, others in non-formal UN-supported *Accelerated Learning Programmes*. "Since the lockdown started one month ago, children have learned more about germs and viruses than anything else," Najeeba says.

"They now willingly wash their hands with soap, and I make sure that they do it every hour or when required. I have set up a handwashing point especially for children and explained to them that they have to maintain a certain distance from each other at all times."

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the education of 42 million learners in Pakistan. It threatens to reverse years of progress by raising the risk of learning losses, education inequality and dropouts, especially for girls. The UN helped education stakeholders adapt rapidly, while continuing sectoral reforms. Pakistan developed a *National Education Response and Resilience Plan* with UN assistance, as well as a simulation and costing model, and a *Continuity of Learning Framework* covering remote 'blended' learning. With UN support for GPE-funded sector planning, provincial *Education Sector Plan Implementation Grants* valued at US\$94 million were developed, and Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa endorsed pioneering *Education Sector Plans* (ESPs). In a major move, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa included refugee education in its ESPs for 2020–21 and 2024–25. The UN developed age appropriate, gender-sensitive *National Guidelines on Life Skills-Based Education* (LSBE) and LSBE content on child protection was incorporated in the curriculum for Grades 1–5 under the Prime Minister's *Single National Curriculum* initiative. After a participatory webinar, the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission resolved to adopt a hybrid approach for technical and vocational education and training, combining digital and face-to-face solutions to mitigate COVID-19's impact.

UN support for remote learning modalities like the Government's *Teleschool* initiative contributed to the immediate continuity of learning, mitigating the effects of school closures. As so many children do not have access to the Internet, the UN backed alternative solutions, such as radio-based distance learning in 18 marginalized districts. Guidance adapted from the *COVID-19 Education Response Toolkit* aided Education Departments, while teachers benefited from capacity building and 'consolidated curriculum academic plans' devised by government authorities with UN assistance. To make schools safe once they reopened, the UN supported the development of SOPs and trained 2,705 School Management Committees (SMCs) and 28,285 teachers on reopening, mental health and psychosocial support. Hygiene promotion and supplies prevented the spread of COVID-19, benefiting 1.06 million children in 13,177 schools and Alternative Learning Programmes (ALPs). Equipping schools with personal protective equipment and rehabilitating WASH facilities proved vital. For example, UN-supplied health and hygiene kits kept 16,236 students safe (44% of whom are girls) in refugee villages in Balochistan.

UN efforts placed marginalized children centre stage. For instance, 215,161 out-of-school children (54% of whom are girls) accessed education in early 2020 through ALPs, non-formal and formal schools with UN support. UN initiatives enrolled over 20,000 out-of-school children in marginalized districts. Unconditional cash transfers for 4,697 adolescent girls encouraged retention in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Newly Merged Districts. In Peshawar, IT and English courses helped *madrassa* and public school students to keep learning. With UN support, 57,200 Afghan refugee children (35% of whom are girls) accessed free education, a transportation allowance helped girls get to school and the Provincial Institute for Teachers' Education honed the skills of 469 refugee teachers. School feeding programmes, designed by national and provincial governments with the UN, are poised to boost education and nutrition. Innovative communications activities reached out to communities, parents, students and education stakeholders. The UN sensitized 1.7 million SMC members, teachers and educators on COVID-19 prevention through SMS messages, robocalls and social media. We used WhatsApp groups to communicate with teachers and virtual outreach to engage young people, including 1,897 girls in Balochistan on menstrual hygiene management.





OUTCOME 8 



GENDER, EQUALITY AND DIGNITY



600 +

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUSTICE OFFICIALS TRAINED TO ADDRESS GBV



10.15 MILLION

PEOPLE SENSITIZED ON PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND GBV



100,000 +

RURAL WOMEN SENSITIZED ON COVID-19 PREVENTION

Women and girls are disproportionately affected in times of crisis – the COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. It has laid bare, and often intensified, gender inequality by increasing women’s vulnerability to income loss, unpaid care work, threats to mental health and soaring rates of gender-based violence (GBV), so high that GBV has been dubbed a ‘shadow pandemic’. The UN remained a staunch advocate for gender equality and gender-responsive solutions. While phase II of the *Essential Services Package* (ESP) programme ended in December 2019, UN agencies continued to rollout activities in 2020 using the ESP as a guiding framework for responding to violence against women and girls (VAWG), and initiated the programme’s third phase. Training materials were developed and over 600 law enforcement and judicial officials trained on addressing GBV and upholding pro-women laws. We strengthened the capacities of criminal justice institutions, legal staff, law enforcement, decision makers, opinion leaders and service delivery sectors to plan, legislate, implement and respond to women’s and girls’ needs, while addressing COVID-19’s gendered dimensions. We reached out to people directly by supporting helplines, shelters and Women-Friendly Health Centres, training social workers to deliver mental health and psychosocial support services, and spearheading awareness raising campaigns. For example, an awareness campaign on psychosocial support and GBV reached 10.15 million people. We leveraged existing government initiatives for maximum impact, including at the provincial level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, such as the Punjab Police’s *Women Safety Application*, as well as at the federal level, such as the Ministry of Human Rights’s *Cyber Harassment Helpline*. Some 4,200 people (60% of whom are women) and 250 women with disabilities accessed tele-psychosocial support and GBV referral services. Another UN campaign sensitized 100,000 rural women on how to mitigate COVID-19 risks. Capacity building and COVID-19 sensitization strengthened women-led value chains in Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Newly Merged Districts, advancing rural women’s economic empowerment. In Sindh, 14 radio shows and six online sessions on mental health and GBV reached 240,682 youths and 348,179 community members.

We worked to address the root causes of gender inequality, especially social norms and practices that pose structural barriers to women’s empowerment. The UN supported legal and policy reforms to establish functional accountability mechanisms, both national and sub-national, to keep women and girls safe and enable them to claim their rights. All four provincial governments finalized and endorsed *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policies*, replete with implementation frameworks, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab included gender-responsive planning and budgeting in their annual plans. With UN support, government partners monitored and reported on Pakistan’s international commitments. UN research shed light on urgent issues, such as the *Gap Analysis of Legislation Related to Ending Violence against Women Reports*, based on which the UN helped draft amendments to select legislation to make them more pro-women through consultative, legal expert-led processes. A *Women’s Safety Audit in Public Places* offered evidence-based recommendations to overcome challenges to women’s safety and mobility, while a study on *Child Marriage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab* contributed to UN advocacy on ending child marriage with women parliamentarians, parliamentary caucuses and Alliances for Ending Violence against Women and Girls. Based on a rapid assessment of COVID-19’s impact, the UN distributed relief packages to transgender persons, as well as to women and other vulnerable groups in remote areas, shelters and prisons to ensure that the COVID-19 response leaves no one behind.

8

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

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KEY RELATED SDGs

5 GENDER EQUALITY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



NAYYAB’S STORY: EMBRACING INCLUSION



©Jamil Akhtar/UNDP Pakistan

Nayyab Ali is one of Pakistan’s most prominent transgender activists and educators. As a UNDP master trainer, she is at the forefront of capacity development to challenge transphobic stigma and discrimination.

As the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected transgender people across Pakistan, trainers like Nayyab have been key to the UN response, including training of trainers (TOT) sessions for duty bearers, rights holders and civil society. These trainings foster an enabling environment for rights-based approaches to meet the needs of socially excluded groups.

To combat COVID-19’s impact on the transgender of community in 2020, the UN also supported the Ministry of Human Rights to distribute *Eid Relief Packages* for 120 COVID-affected transgender persons. Beneficiaries were identified through a trans community-led *socio-economic rapid needs assessment* in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Transgender focal points in the twin cities — who are also members of the National Implementation Committee of the *Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018* — guided the assessment to identify vulnerable community members. UN agencies also assisted the establishment of a Transgender Protection Centre in Islamabad.



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9

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

KEY RELATED SDGs

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

AMANAT'S STORY: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMBASSADORS



©UNDP Pakistan

"Stay at home." 33-year-old Amanat Ali Afridi spoke the words through a loudspeaker the remote village of Jamrud, Khyber, in the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The villagers fumed; many questioned the ongoing COVID-19 awareness campaign. Amanat projected a phone call from a COVID-19 patient in a neighbouring village through the loudspeaker. It was a turning point. The patient's ordeal opened people's eyes to the real threat of the virus.

Amanat is one of 120 Local Government Ambassadors who have gone from social mobilizers to frontline workers with UN support. Equipped with training, sanitation manuals, safety kits, posters and leaflets, they are helping the region's new Tehsil Municipal Administrators to conduct COVID-19 awareness campaigns through loudspeakers mounted on vans. Amanat also supervised disinfection in residential areas and quarantine centres, burial measures, and other aspects of the community response. The Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa awarded him a well-deserved certificate for saving lives as an agent of change. "This validation of being loved and accepted for your efforts by the community compensates for all our struggles and sleepless nights," says Amanat with a smile.

OUTCOME 9



GOVERNANCE



1,600
+

OFFICERS TRAINED TO COUNTER TRAFFICKING AND ILLICIT FINANCING



2.5
MILLION

CHILDREN'S BIRTHS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH UN SUPPORT



4.5
MILLION

PEOPLE REACHED BY A COVID-19 YOUTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In times of crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic, good governance matters more than ever. Throughout 2020, the UN worked with Pakistan's Federal and Provincial Governments to make governance more accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive. For example, UN support strengthened the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's capacities for planning, communications and implementing reforms. We assisted the integration of the *Financial Management Information System*, the development of a *Local Government Budgetary Framework*, the creation of a *Technical Assistance Unit* and a technologically-assisted land resettlement exercise. With UN support, the province developed its economic recovery plan, *Azm-e-Nau*. A Village and Neighbourhood Council profiling exercise yielded a critical evidence-base for development programming in the Newly Merged Districts. Awareness raising increased demand for local governance in the region by bridging the information deficit on governance mechanisms and reforms – reaching 46,452 people (29% of whom are women) face-to-face and many more with civil society events, talk shows, television and social media. At the national level, UN efforts enhanced the capacity of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) by helping to formulate the Federal Election Academy's mandate, training 330 ECP staff and finalizing implementation plans for the ECP's third strategic plan. We also assisted the creation of an *Online Appeals Management System* at the Pakistan Information Commission. Eight anti-corruption policies were drafted, as were guidelines for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Leadership is increasingly taking ownership of the SDGs' implementation, as the Government notified a Sub-Committee of the National Economic Council on the SDGs and a Sub-Committee to explore innovative SDG financing. Improvements in public financial management systems included a tracking system in the *Financial Accounting and Budgeting System* to track development and current expenditures vis-à-vis the SDGs. The UN helped strengthen the rule of law by training members of the judiciary, prosecutors, police and civil society on key issues – from forensic science to police-prosecutor collaboration, eJustice, gender-responsive law enforcement and gender-based violence. More than 600 duty bearers were trained on freedom of expression and the safety of journalists and human rights defenders. UN-backed Advice and Legal Aid Centres built the capacities of 881 lawyers, prosecutors and law enforcement staff on refugee protection, while providing legal aid to 25,900 refugees. Training honed 1,600 officials capacities to counter organized crime, including illicit financing, narcotics and human trafficking.

Youth engagement bolstered responsive governance, enabling youth champions to advocate for inclusive policies and 35,256 young people (49% women and 0.01% transgender) to participate in federal and provincial planning processes. The UN's *Adolescent and Youth Engagement Initiative* partnered with young people to contribute to the Government's COVID-19 response through the *Youth Innovation Challenge*, mentoring 209 young leaders and a digital campaign that reached 4.5 million people. A youth-led policy dialogue forum was set up and *Generation Unlimited* was launched in Pakistan. Community stabilization programmes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh offered meaningful livelihood opportunities, training, psychosocial support and sensitization to prevent youth from falling prey to violence. UN efforts strengthened the *Child Protection Case Management and Referral System* to respond to violence against children, enabling 2,297 children in Balochistan (48% girls) and 1,441 in Sindh (27% girls) to access protection services. Backed by UN training, 6,705 social workers delivered mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) to 114,857 people (52% women and girls). Since UN agencies began supporting birth registration in Pakistan, 2.5 million children have been registered and 784,432 (45% girls) were registered under the *Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)* reform agenda. With UN support, new data emerged to inform policies and programming, including the first *Maternal Mortality Survey*, the *Pakistan Population Situation Analysis*, the *National Human Development Report* on inequality, a *Monograph on Family Planning and the SDGs* and child labour surveys piloted in all four provinces.



©ILO Pakistan

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

KEY RELATED SDGs




RESHAM'S STORY: RELIEF AFTER THE RAINS



©WFP Pakistan

"I cannot forget the night when our home collapsed due to continuous rains and all our food was destroyed by knee-deep floodwaters," shudders Resham. "I covered my children with the plastic sheet and spent that night under the open sky while it was still raining." Before the devastating monsoon rains inundated Sindh in August 2020, the widow worked as a domestic helper. Then the floods came. Their house was washed away, leaving Resham and her children with no place to go.

To assist vulnerable families like hers, the UN provided emergency food aid in early September, followed by cash assistance. In their moment of need, this support was all that stood between Resham's family and hunger, homelessness and despair. When Resham received her first cash transfer, she immediately hired someone to repair her house so that she and her children have a roof over their heads. With the second transfer she will receive by the end of January 2021, she plans to buy fruits and vegetables to make nutritious meals for her children.

"I am hopeful," says Resham. "Once I am back on my feet, I will resume my work and so that I can continue supporting my children."

OUTCOME 10 



SOCIAL PROTECTION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| 88,600 + | 74,000 + | 50 + |
| VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITED FROM SHOCK-RESPONSIVE CASH ASSISTANCE | REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITED FROM UN CASH TRANSFERS | FOCAL POINTS FROM SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTITUTIONS TRAINED |

Throughout 2020, the UN supported the Government to mitigate COVID-19's impact on the poorest, most marginalized groups in Pakistan, while paving the way for large-scale social protection reforms. Using existing safety nets helped us respond to the crisis in a swift, cost-effective manner. For example, the UN's shock-responsive social protection initiative with the *Benazir Income Support Programme* (BISP) leveraged the BISP's existing system to distribute cash assistance – worth PKR 131 million in total – to 88,664 vulnerable households. This multi-donor-funded initiative addressed food deficits in the districts of Sindh (Tharparkar and Umerkot) and Balochistan (Jhal Magsi, Kharan and Nushki) hardest hit by drought-like conditions and the repercussions of the pandemic. It provided beneficiaries with a humanitarian top-up of PKR 4,000 each – a lifeline for families in dire straits. Reaching out to 74,442 vulnerable Afghan refugee families with unconditional cash transfers cushioned the blow of COVID-19 on one of the groups most affected by the pandemic's socio-economic fallout, as they rely heavily on informal work. This UN intervention with the Pakistan Post and the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) mirrors the Government of Pakistan's *Ehsaas* emergency cash programme, that provides vulnerable Pakistani families with PKR 12,000 each (approximately US\$77) to cover a four-month period. Integrated livelihood and social protection support for refugees, including productive assets for 2,500 refugee households through the *Poverty Graduation Programme* in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, improved food security, coping strategies, psychosocial well-being and self-esteem, while enabling refugees to build sustainable livelihoods.

With UN support, a web-based data portal on social protection coverage (SDG 1.3.1) was set up, paired with training for focal persons from 54 social protection institutions. The process of digitizing national registries and adopting data analytics to support social protection mechanisms began in earnest, as work on a digital transformation roadmap and the *Ehsaas* programme's introduction of a *One-Window Portal* for integrated social protection services. Tripartite constituents now have stronger capacities on social protection and workers' rights, thanks to UN-backed capacity development. eLearning courses on social security systems trained 33 participants from the public sector and social partners, while online workshops on employment injury systems honed the capacities of medical officers and staff of Employees' Social Security Institutions. To aid the continued provision of lifetime pensions for survivors of the Baldia Town factory fire of 2012, the UN worked with the Sindh Employees' Social Security Institution to improve its management system for the disbursement of top-up benefits. UN initiatives identified 36 injured workers, while supporting 22 workers to secure a one-time compensation payment and nine to secure a life-time 'disablement' pension.

UN research, coordination and policy development support advanced the social protection agenda. A *Social Protection Policy* was drafted for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and work began on a framework to extend social security coverage to vulnerable groups, including domestic workers, construction workers, miners and brick kiln workers. With UN assistance, a tripartite Coordination Forum for Social Security Agencies was set up. UN studies explored the possibilities for a *National Registry of Workers and Enterprises* and an *Unemployment Insurance Scheme*. A *Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Ehsaas Programme* devised a monitoring and evaluation framework to gauge the impact of Ehsaas interventions. UN agencies also worked with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics to include questions on social security in Pakistan's latest *Labour Force Survey*, launched in July 2020.

SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

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



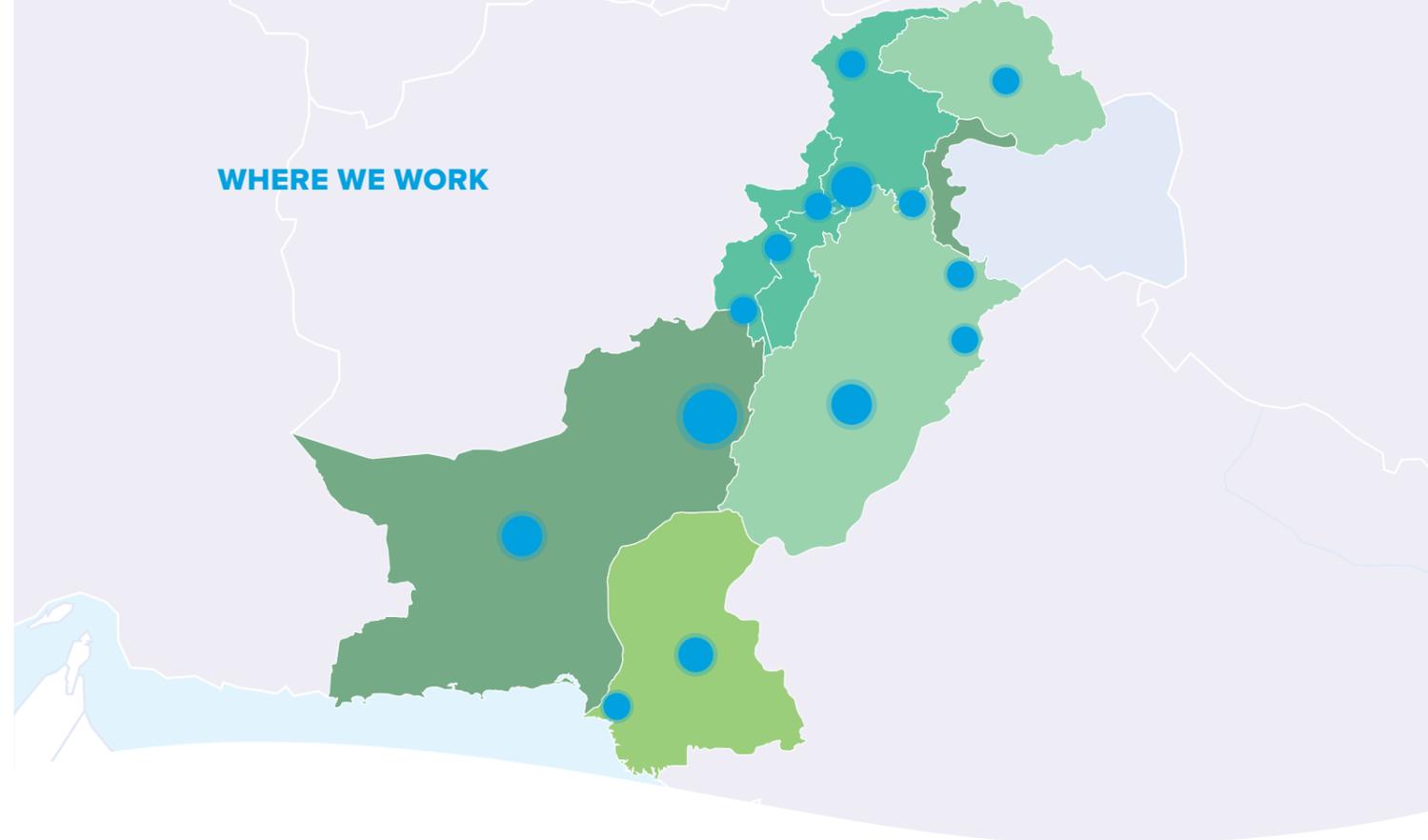
Innovative partnerships forged by the UN in Pakistan helped to advance the SDGs and leverage financing to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For instance, to support the Government's COVID-19 response, the UN mobilized US\$4.63 million from the allocated budget and additional assistance to address the pandemic's impact on food security, nutrition and livelihoods. Following recommendations by the UN's *COVID-19 Pakistan Socio-Economic Response Framework*, the Government allocated a substantial sum for emergency unconditional cash transfers (PKR 144 billion), primarily to support daily wage labourers and informal economy workers. The UN's long-term approach of building strong relationships with government authorities helped lay the foundation for systematic, shock-responsive social protection platforms to protect vulnerable groups from recurring disasters. Based on learning from its work with the UN, the Benazir Income Support Programme elected to club cash disbursements together so that beneficiaries could access support 'in one go', thereby making protection services more time-efficient and cost-effective. With UN support, the Government developed a successful US\$71 million proposal for the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS. Following UN advocacy, routine immunization was moved from the development budget to the recurrent budget, which enhanced the sustainability of immunization financing.

The WASH sector offers another telling example of UN partnerships advancing the 2030 Agenda. As a result of our partnership with Pakistan's Federal and Provincial Governments – including advice and technical support for capacity assessments, public expenditure reviews and capacity building – government WASH sector spending almost doubled to US\$346 million. Despite the pressure that COVID-19 placed on the economy, the Federal Government allocated an unprecedented US\$77 million to water, sanitation and hygiene, with US\$52 million to be allocated by the provinces, leading to a total allocation of US\$128 million for the national WASH programme. The UN supported successful pilots of two flagship government WASH programmes – *Clean and Green Pakistan* and the *Clean Green Champions Programme* – to create climate-resilient, gender-responsive green jobs for Pakistan's youth. These programmes leveraged political will and public sector financing for WASH, prompting the Prime Minister to approve their nationwide 'scale up' with an estimated US\$800 million in federal funding over the next three years.

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

The UN in Pakistan has been 'Delivering as One' since 2007. As part of UN reforms to enhance efficiency, the Delivering as One approach streamlines UN interventions, increases national ownership, improves joint programming among UN agencies at the country level, reduces transaction costs, and fosters accountability and coherence. In 2020, UN agencies in Pakistan worked together 'as one', demonstrating significant flexibility as we adapted to the rapidly changing environment. This helped us respond effectively to Pakistan's emerging needs for technical support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Initiatives that illustrate the results of multiple UN agencies working better together include the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Merged Districts Support Programme*, which sought to build stability, reduce poverty, improve access to services, strengthen the social contract, foster resilience and advance the sustainability of returns to the Newly Merged Districts. Another example is the multiagency *Adolescent and Youth Engagement Initiative*, whose activities ranged from a large-scale COVID-19 youth awareness raising campaign to a *Youth Innovation Challenge*. These initiatives leveraged the unique technical expertise of each UN agency – combining their know-how, resources and partnerships to deliver high-impact results for the people of Pakistan.

WHERE WE WORK



LESSONS LEARNED FROM A CHALLENGING YEAR

The pandemic compelled us to rethink our approach, while remaining true to the central pledge of the OP III and the SDGs: to leave no one behind, and to reach those farthest behind first. Adjusting to remote work was challenging, both for the UN in Pakistan and our partners. The growing pains of shifting from office work to teleworking eased slowly over the course of the year, as we redistributed tasks and became used to new routines and modes of communication. Technical assistance and handholding was required to overcome gaps in technological infrastructure among government entities and implementing partners. Most challenging of all were the delays in project implementation, particularly during the complete lockdown period (March–June). Disruptions in global and national supply chains delayed the delivery of supplies, while restrictions on movement affected emergency outreach in the field. Limited internet access among many groups was a major hurdle. It took time for information to trickle down to the district level and for implementing partners and contractors to remobilize in compliance with new COVID-19 procedures. The pandemic has significantly reduced fiscal space to finance development expenditures, both within the Government of Pakistan and among multilateral donors. As resources were redirected to the COVID-19 response, there was a paucity of funds for long-term programmes in many sectors, such as nutrition. Other challenges also persisted in 2020, such as rapid government staff turnover, an unpredictable security situation in some areas and difficulties in obtaining the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) required for implementing partners to access certain districts.

Despite the challenges, 2020 was enlightening. The pandemic made clear how necessary it is to be flexible, plan for contingencies and adapt to the situation on the ground. Key lessons learned include the importance of prioritizing community engagement, especially through participatory social mobilization and engaging young people to increase the impact of interventions. Investments in capacity building are essential for strengthening institutions, supporting communities and enhancing resilience. Grappling with the challenge of reaching remote areas with limited connectivity compelled us to turn to innovative solutions, including the power of the radio and mass media for disseminating information. Where internet access exists, digital solutions emerged as the best way forward for everything from communications and coordination to cash transfers. The value of communicating has never been clearer – both with authorities and donors to keep them abreast of developments and regularly discuss bottlenecks, as well as with staff and other partners to maintain cohesion. The year underscored the importance of partnerships with the Government, international organizations, donors, civil society, the media, the private sector, communities and key actors on the ground. These partnerships allowed the UN to identify exactly where support was most needed, and what technical assistance we are best placed to provide. The effectiveness of using existing government service delivery systems was also made clear in 2020. For instance, the efficacy of providing cash assistance through the Benazir Income Support Programme's existing system, or delivering emergency support for refugees through the Pakistan Post which, as an essential service provider, is exempt from movement restrictions.

Above all, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us precisely why we need the SDGs, in Pakistan and around the world. The principles on which the SDGs are based are key to building back better – for people, planet, peace and prosperity.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

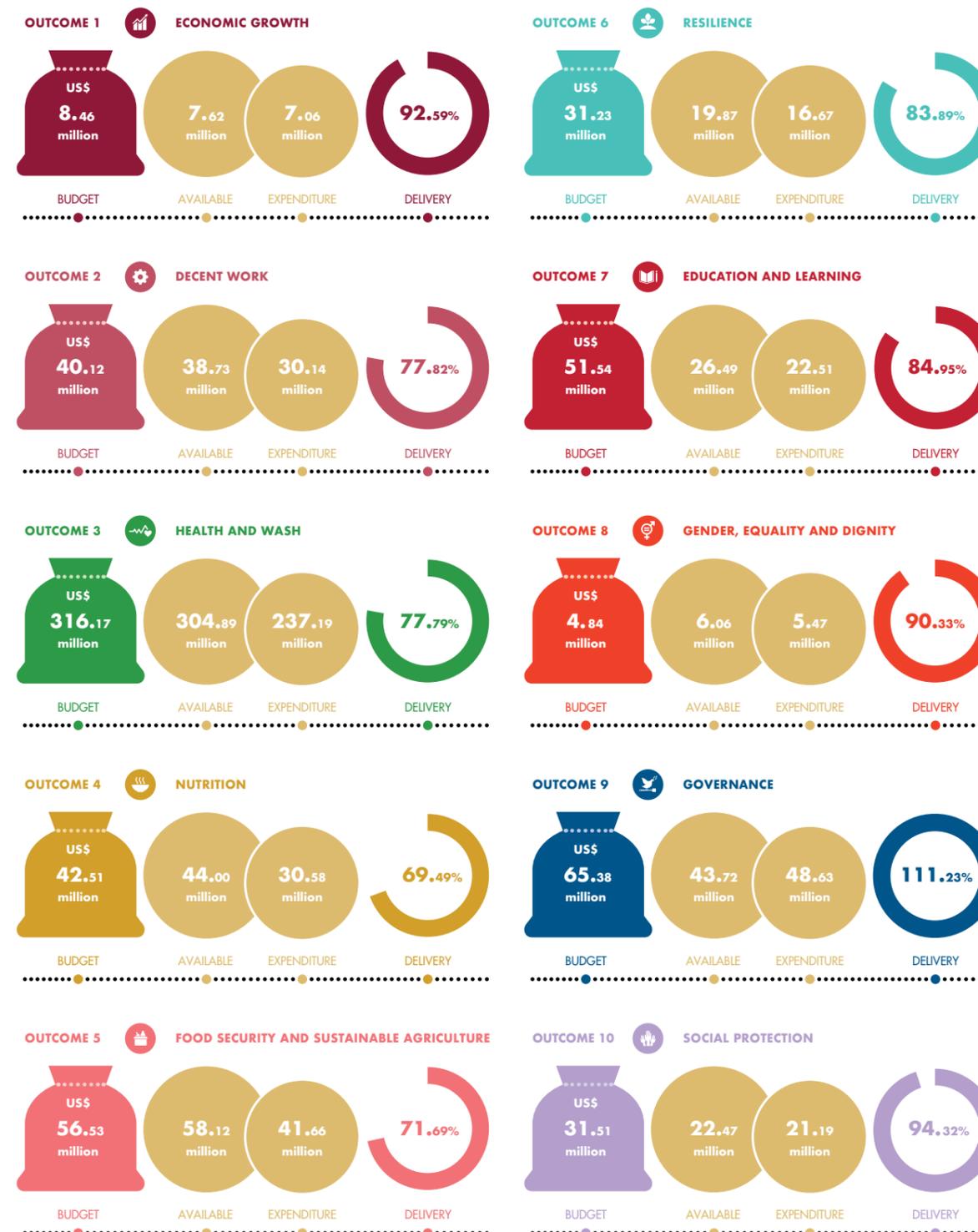


| One UN Programme III Outcome | Required resources (US\$) | Available resources (US\$) [a] | Expenditure (US\$) [e] | % Delivery [100* a/e] |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1: Economic Growth | 8,464,928.00 | 7,620,858.00 | 7,056,230.00 | 92.59% |
| 2: Decent Work | 40,117,908.11 | 38,732,110.48 | 30,140,466.48 | 77.82% |
| 3: Health and WASH | 316,167,018.15 | 304,889,098.00 | 237,188,158.00 | 77.79% |
| 4: Nutrition | 42,511,838.60 | 44,002,540.38 | 30,577,788.34 | 69.49% |
| 5: Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture | 56,527,924.61 | 58,118,870.08 | 41,662,938.53 | 71.69% |
| 6: Resilience | 31,231,301.68 | 19,868,925.43 | 16,669,024.34 | 83.89% |
| 7: Education and Learning | 51,538,374.11 | 26,494,911.94 | 22,506,467.29 | 84.95% |
| 8: Gender, Equality and Dignity | 4,484,000.00 | 6,059,557.00 | 5,473,556.00 | 90.33% |
| 9: Governance | 65,381,369.25 | 43,719,169.53 | 48,630,613.00 | 111.23% |
| 10: Social Protection | 31,514,310.10 | 22,472,870.71 | 21,196,661.72 | 94.32% |
| Total | 647,938,972.60 | 571,978,911.55 | 461,101,903.70 | 80.62% |

| UN agency in Pakistan | Required resources (US\$) | Available resources (US\$) | Expenditure (US\$) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| FAO | 21,909,107.31 | 29,720,209.31 | 21,909,107.31 |
| ILO | 5,341,731.00 | 5,341,731.00 | 2,668,854.00 |
| IOM | 5,158,817.00 | 1,600,000.00 | 1,032,000.00 |
| UN Habitat | 103,917.00 | 4,664.58 | 4,664.58 |
| UNAIDS | 150,164.00 | 150,164.00 | 95,861.00 |
| UNDP | 37,328,294.00 | 37,328,294.00 | 37,328,294.00 |
| UNESCO | 5,515,826.46 | 6,167,376.25 | 1,940,887.00 |
| UNFPA | 5,750,000.00 | 11,569,343.00 | 10,906,376.00 |
| UNHCR | 86,599,424.68 | 42,429,936.53 | 47,924,098.00 |
| UNICEF | 135,927,229.00 | 135,927,229.00 | 135,838,677.00 |
| UNIDO | 7,864,928.00 | 7,164,928.00 | 6,796,133.00 |
| UNODC | 12,676,792.00 | 5,433,220.00 | 3,939,627.00 |
| UNOPS | 29,687,335.00 | 27,570,545.00 | 23,086,408.00 |
| UN Women | 1,632,550.00 | 1,632,550.00 | 1,270,872.00 |
| WFP | 104,051,614.15 | 71,697,477.88 | 46,457,056.81 |
| WHO | 188,241,243.00 | 188,241,243.00 | 119,902,988.00 |

In 2020, the third year of the One UN Programme III's implementation in Pakistan, the UN's required budget was US\$647.94 million. Of this, US\$571.98 million was obtained, yielding a funding gap of US\$75.96 million. Total expenditure was US\$461.1 million, reflecting a strong delivery rate of 80.62% across the OP III's 10 outcome areas. In addition to these funds, a total of US\$145.8 million was requested through the *Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19*, of which US\$89.3 million (61.2%) was received, with a funding gap of US\$56.5 million (38.8%). Of the total humanitarian funds received, OCHA-managed funds include US\$11.9 million from the *Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)* and US\$9.7 million from the *Pakistan Humanitarian Pooled Fund (PHPF)*.

OP III FINANCIAL OVERVIEW BY OUTCOME



UNCT FOCUS FOR 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the implementation of the SDGs both more challenging and more urgent. For the UN in Pakistan, 2021 will be about supporting an inclusive recovery from the pandemic that accelerates action to achieve the SDGs for all of Pakistan's people.



OVERALL FOCUS FOR THE COMING YEAR

The UN will continue implementing the One UN Programme III, strengthening capacities to deliver quality services, building synergies and offering more and better technical assistance for evidence-based policy-making and implementation. We will advocate for greater accountability and equality. Above all, we will work toward the socio-economic recovery of those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, while fortifying health and disaster preparedness systems. Proactively seeking resource mobilization opportunities and supporting digitization are other key priorities.



ECONOMIC GROWTH

Key priorities include promoting green and circular economic recovery nationwide, supporting the socio-economic diagnostics of economic and structural transformation plans, and facilitating public-private partnerships for industrial development. UN initiatives will seek to build manufacturing resilience with partnerships on fourth industrial revolution initiatives, re-skilling and digital investments. To improve TVET, we will support business plans that tap into indigenous resources. Other priorities include enhancing municipal finance to promote growth and reduce poverty, as well as assisting the development of cultural heritage site management plans to boost sustainable tourism.



DECENT WORK

Key priorities include expanding the coverage and implementation of labour legislation, especially to highly vulnerable groups of workers in the informal economy. The UN will strive to enhance stakeholders' capacities for research and analysis, build the institutional capacities of tripartite constituents and partners, and provide technical assistance. Above all, our priority is to address decent work deficits for all, including Pakistani migrant workers, domestic workers, home-based workers, miners, cotton pickers and brick kiln workers, among many others.



HEALTH AND WASH

Key priorities include continued support for COVID-related WASH and IPC services in health facilities and schools, especially to support the *Clean and Green Pakistan* movement. Ensuring the continuity of essential health services will remain centre stage – essential immunization, polio eradication, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services, and the treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases – while scaling up newborn, immunization and polio services. The UN will continue strengthening capacities for COVID-19 testing, surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, IPC, risk communication and community engagement. We aim to boost coordination for the availability of supplies and knowledge sharing. Other priorities include advocating for investments in family planning and sexual and reproductive health, as well as integrating family planning in the *Universal Health Care* package.



NUTRITION

Key priorities include leveraging the *Global Action Plan for Wasting* to reinforce synergies in wasting management and addressing malnutrition. The UN will work to improve programme coverage, integration and quality, while ensuring a continuum of care in the provision of nutrition services. Joint advocacy will be undertaken to mobilize resources for better nutrition, as well as to maintain and expand interventions by sustaining and increasing allocations for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. Other priorities include greater coherence and synergies in terms of policy and strategic engagement with the Government of Pakistan.



FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Key priorities include supporting the Government's safety net implementation in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for severely food-insecure households, in coordination with the *Ehsaas* programme. The UN will assist the implementation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's *Food Security Strategy*, while helping provincial Food Departments to improve food storage and transportation, in order to reduce food losses. Emergency food assistance will continue in response to disasters, whenever this is requested by the Government. Other priorities include value chain development, policy support, backing the use of technology in climate-smart agriculture, and resilience-building.



RESILIENCE

Key priorities include strengthening disaster risk governance and the understanding of risks in order to improve disaster risk management. To advance resilience building, the UN will advocate for greater investments in disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness to enhance response, rehabilitation and reconstruction. We will work to improve understandings of the multifaceted economic, social and environmental impact of hazards, while scaling up community-based DRR/DRM programmes. Capacity building will remain a priority to bolster public officials' capacities on DRR, early warning systems and climate change adaptation.



EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Key priorities include implementing programmes funded by the Global Partnership for Education in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. UN support will continue for the design and delivery of distance learning programmes, alongside digitization and teacher training. We will pair assistance for safe school operations nationwide with a focus on community engagement to promote enrolment, boost retention and reduce dropouts, especially among girls and other vulnerable groups, such as refugees. Research is planned on COVID-19's impact on education to monitor the continuity of learning and inform decision-making. UN initiatives will strive to strengthen government school feeding and cash-based education programmes. Other priorities include expanding our focus on skills development, particularly through *Generation Unlimited*, as well as by engaging youth.



GENDER, EQUALITY AND DIGNITY

Key priorities centre on freedom from violence and the equal rights of women, girls and people of diverse gender identities. The third phase of the *Essential Services Package* joint programme will work to ensure that survivors of violence receive timely, responsive and quality services. The UN will promote decent work and the economic empowerment of women and transgender persons, especially those from rural or low-income backgrounds. We will strengthen Gender Desks and the capacities of rule of law institutions, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its Newly Merged Districts. Adolescent-responsive services will be implemented with a focus on girls, including counselling on the risks of early/child marriage. Other priorities include monitoring gender gaps in immunization programming.



GOVERNANCE

Key priorities include extending rule of law programming in Balochistan, expanding efforts in Gilgit-Baltistan and supporting local governance mechanisms in the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The UN will assist the implementation of *Rule of Law Roadmaps*, especially on gender equality and women's empowerment. Collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights will seek to promote harmonized human rights initiatives. UN efforts will strengthen media and information literacy, as well as legal literacy to improve access to justice, especially for women. We will work to enhance the operational capacity of law enforcement, while promoting community ownership to advance community-oriented policing, rights protection and gender-responsive governance. Legal aid and outreach will target refugees. Support will continue for civil registration and vital statistics systems, as well as the inclusion of the population dimension in strategies, planning and monitoring.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Key priorities include supporting the Government to improve coordination among social protection institutions, as well as to expand access to social protection mechanisms for all – including informal workers, refugees, internally displaced persons and non-nationals. Advocacy will continue on aligning the social protection system with global standards, as well as meeting the needs of vulnerable groups, such as returned Pakistani migrant workers. The UN will also support moves to develop an integrated approach to sustainable financing, to advance progress on the SDGs through social protection.



ACRONYMS

| | |
|------------|--|
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus disease 2019 |
| DRR/DRM | Disaster risk reduction/disaster risk management |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| GBV | Gender-based violence |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| IPC | Infection prevention and control |
| HIV/AIDS | Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome |
| OCHA | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| OP III | One United Nations Programme III 2018–2022 (also known as the UNSDF) |
| PKR | Pakistani Rupee |
| RCCE | Risk communication and community engagement |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children’s Fund |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UNOPS | United Nations Office for Project Services |
| UNSDF | United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan 2018–2022 (also known as the OP III) |
| UN Habitat | United Nations Human Settlement Programme |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| US\$ | United States Dollar |
| WASH | Water, sanitation and hygiene |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |



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PAKISTAN

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