



UNITED NATIONS  
PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان



# UN PAKISTAN ANNUAL REPORT 2024





© United Nations Pakistan 2025

All rights reserved. The text of this publication may be freely quoted, reproduced or translated, in part or in full, provided that the source is acknowledged.

📷 Cover photo: Sampa now collects water close to home, thanks to a new hand pump installed by IOM in her flood-affected village in Sindh  
© IOM Pakistan/Muhammad Zeeshan Siddiqui  
Photo on this page: © UNDP Pakistan/Shuja Hakim

Report written and designed by: Ruya Leghari

# CONTENTS

FOREWORD BY THE FEDERAL SECRETARY	1
MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR	1
UN COUNTRY TEAM IN PAKISTAN	2
OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS	2
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
2024 KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN PAKISTAN	3
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	
UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK	4
 OUTCOME 1 BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES	5
 OUTCOME 2 GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	11
 OUTCOME 3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	14
 OUTCOME 4 SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK	17
 OUTCOME 5 GOVERNANCE	20
SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA	23
LESSONS LEARNED	23
UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY	24
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2024	26
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	
LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025	27
ACRONYMS	28



# MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

This annual report is proof positive that development works. It shows how the UN in Pakistan, together with our many partners, changed lives for the better in 2024. In words, numbers and images, this report outlines how our solutions for sustainable development sought to deliver the greatest impact for people in the greatest need.

This year, UN efforts on **basic social services** worked to ensure that more people in Pakistan are healthy, better nourished, food-secure, and have access to clean water and safe sanitation. Our initiatives sought to help more children attain a quality education and to enable more people to be covered by social protection. To advance **gender equality**, the UN championed the rights of women, girls and transgender people, fostering conditions in which they can live free from violence, prosper economically, participate in society, and thrive at all levels, including as leaders. The UN assisted Pakistan to take action to mitigate the effects of **climate change and protect the environment**, including through the Living Indus Initiative. Progress is afoot on reducing disaster risks, restoring forest landscapes, using renewable energy, reducing industrial pollution, and

improving the management of water, natural resources and waste. UN support for **economic growth and decent work** contributed to sustainable livelihoods and decent jobs for vulnerable groups, including women, young people and food-insecure communities. Our efforts fostered an enabling environment for entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), safer workplaces, and an end to labour exploitation. By strengthening **governance** capacities, the UN aimed to make justice systems and law enforcement more accessible and responsive.

These achievements are the fruit of **strong partnerships and collaboration**. I am proud to report that the UN Country Team and our partners worked together more cohesively and effectively than ever in 2024. As One UN, our agencies coordinated their work to increase its coherence, multiply its positive impact, and address the intertwined facets of development simultaneously. Hand in hand with Pakistan's federal and provincial governments, civil society, donors, international financial institutions, the private sector, academia and communities, the UN family rallied to move sustainable development forward, for all.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the **real life stories** you will find in this report. From Ayesha, the polio survivor who has dedicated her life to protecting children from paralytic polio, to Ghazala, the advocate helping survivors of domestic violence get access to justice. These stories testify to the resilience of Pakistan's people, and the incredible potential that is unleashed when we work together towards a common goal: leaving no one behind and reaching those farthest behind first. On behalf of the whole UN Country Team, I am grateful to all our partners in the Government, across the development community, and amongst the people of Pakistan, for making these achievements possible.

But as welcome as these successes are, we must acknowledge the challenges facing Pakistan.

 Mohamed Yahya, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan © UN Pakistan  
Top right: Dr Kazim Niaz, Federal Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs © Government of Pakistan

# FOREWORD BY THE FEDERAL SECRETARY



In 2024, the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations completed another year of close collaboration to accelerate sustainable development. The UN system has continued to be Pakistan's trusted partner to improve lives and living standards across the country, in pursuit of the outcomes agreed in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027. Our close collaboration and the priorities of the UNSDCF are fully aligned with Pakistan's development priorities. The five-year framework reflects our collective resolve to work together and build a more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable future for the country.

Our partnership has helped Pakistan deliver improved access to social services such as health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, and social protection. It has also helped the country progress towards gender equality, address climate change, foster economic growth and jobs, and deliver more efficient governance.

Despite being confronted with formidable challenges, the Government has implemented decisive reforms to build a robust foundation that will support economic stabilization and growth. In 2024, the results of these efforts became evident, with the economy demonstrating resilience and renewed potential.

The Government of Pakistan remains committed to nurturing our partnership with the United Nations as we undertake a transformative journey towards a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future for all the people of Pakistan.

**Dr Kazim Niaz**  
Federal Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs,  
Government of Pakistan

The second year of implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027 was a difficult one economically, socially and in security terms. Pakistan made progress on macroeconomic stabilization, but its debt and liabilities remain colossal. Debt servicing costs the Government over half of its annual budget, leaving little room for investments in development priorities. The global climate crisis only adds to this burden; like so many countries in the Global South, Pakistan is obliged to take on more debt to recover from, and build resilience to, climate-related disasters caused by consumption patterns in rich industrialized states. Every dollar allocated to debt repayment is a dollar denied to improving healthcare, building schools, or mitigating climate risks.

As a result, the financing gap for achieving the SDGs in Pakistan is staggering, at \$60 billion per year. In the absence of adequate financing, the country is not on-track to achieve the Global Goals by 2030. This means its most vulnerable people are at very real risk of being left behind – low-income families, women, children, people living with disabilities, minorities, and those in remote areas. Bold solutions are needed to bridge the SDG financing gap. I have argued for a six-year standstill on the Government's external debt repayments as one compelling option. Short of a full standstill, a break on interest payments, or debt for development swap arrangements, could also be considered.

We must heed the **UN Pact for the Future's** call to align financing with the needs of developing nations. We cannot allow the Sustainable Development Goals to slip out of Pakistan's reach. Let us work together to re-energize the Goals in Pakistan, invest in its people, and achieve a brighter future for all.

“

This report testifies to the incredible potential that is unleashed when we work together towards a common goal: leaving no one behind, and reaching those farthest behind first.

**Mohamed Yahya**  
United Nations Resident and  
Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan

# UN COUNTRY TEAM IN PAKISTAN



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Labour  
Organization



UN  
MIGRATION



International  
Trade  
Centre



OCHA



UNAIDS



UNDSS

UN  
environment  
programme

unesco



UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency



unicef



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



UNOPS



UN VOLUNTEERS



World Food  
Programme



World Health  
Organization

The **United Nations Country Team (UNCT)** in Pakistan is composed of the heads of all the UN agencies, funds and programmes active in the country. Working together as one, the UNCT leads the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027, guided by a Joint UN-National Oversight Committee chaired by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division and the UN Resident Coordinator.

**20**  
UN agencies

are signatories of the UN  
Sustainable Development  
Cooperation Framework  
2023–2027 in Pakistan

**95%**

are resident entities,  
physically present in  
Pakistan (all UNSDCF  
signatories except the UN  
Environment Programme)

## OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The UN's work in Pakistan is made possible by the support of our partners, including the Government of Pakistan at the federal and provincial levels, international development organizations and financial institutions, donor governments and development agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, the media and, above all, the people of Pakistan. We are grateful to the many generous donors who supported UN efforts in 2024, both financially and in-kind, as well as to our dedicated staff and implementing partners. Special thanks are due to our government partners, including the Prime Minister's

Office, the Economic Affairs Division, Federal Ministries (of Climate Change, Federal Education and Professional Training, Finance, Human Rights, 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 and regional Governments of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan, National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities and Commissions on the Status of Women, among many others.

To all of you, from all of us at the UN in Pakistan,  
**THANK YOU**

### DONOR GOVERNMENTS



Australia



Belgium



Canada



China



Denmark



European Union



France



Germany



Ireland



Italy



Japan



Republic of Korea



Kuwait



Netherlands



New Zealand



Norway



Pakistan



Saudi Arabia



Sweden



Switzerland



United Kingdom



United States  
of America

### FUNDS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



ADAPTATION FUND



EDUCATION  
CANNOT  
WAIT



Gavi  
The Vaccine Alliance



global  
environment  
facility  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



IsDB  
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية  
Islamic Development Bank

The Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children



Transforming  
Education



GLOBAL  
ERADICATION  
INITIATIVE



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

INDITEX



KfW  
Bank aus Verantwortung



Multilateral Fund  
for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol



NUTRITION  
INTERNATIONAL  
Nourish Life



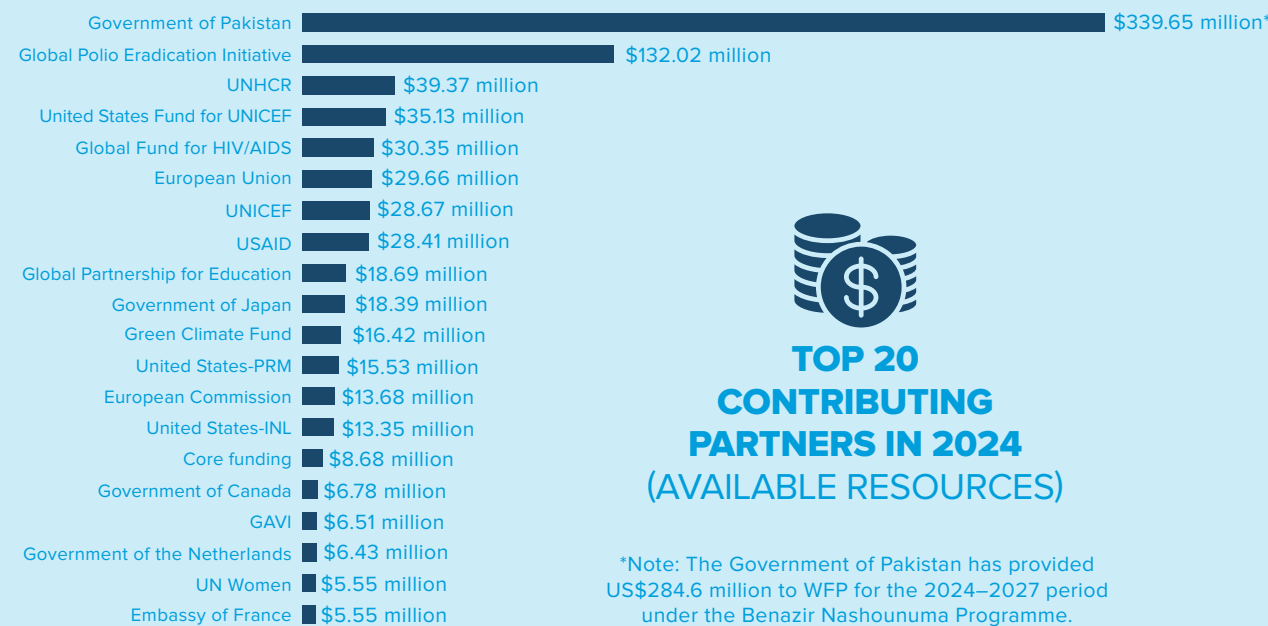
OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS



reckitt



The Global Fund  
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



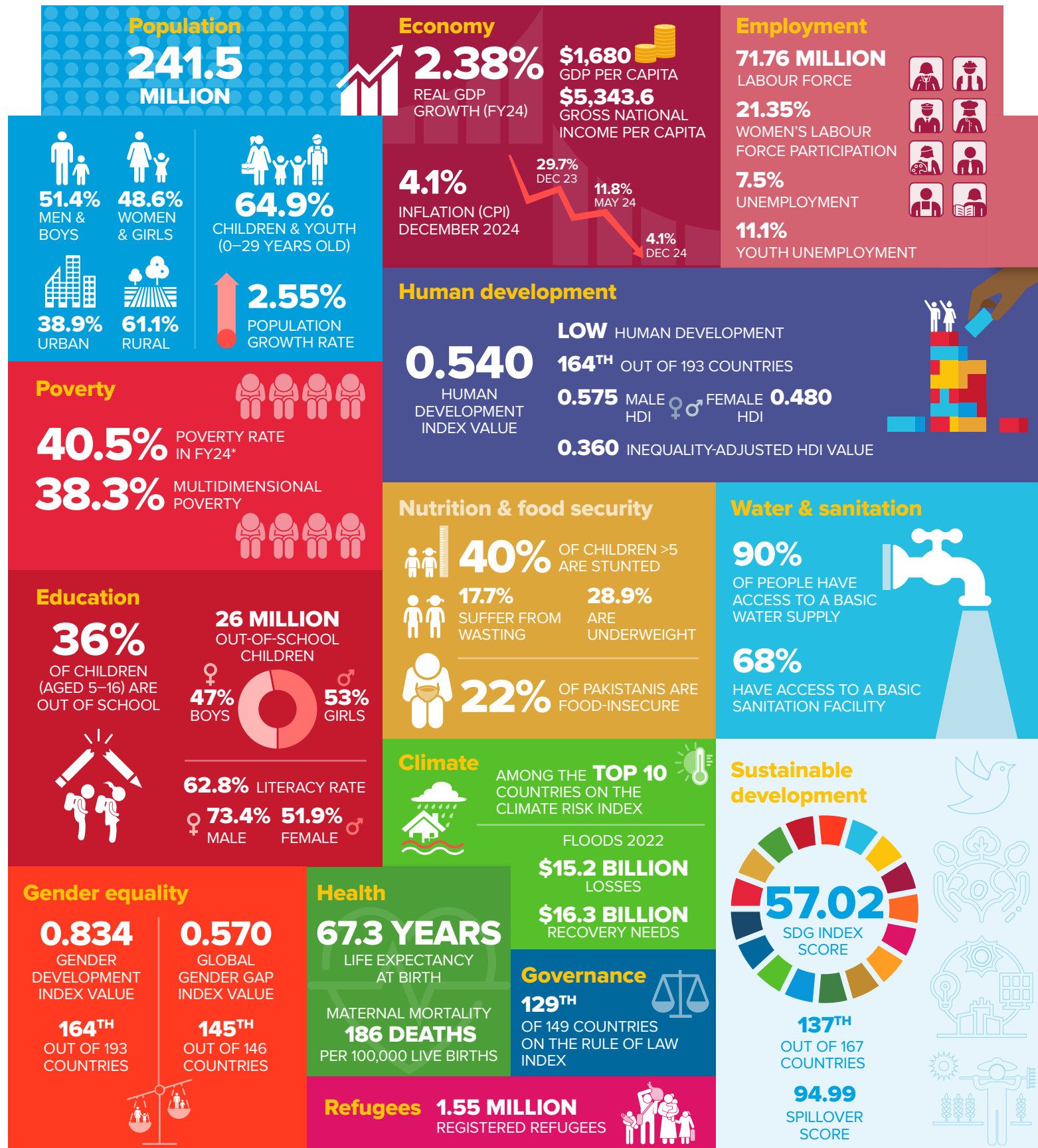
  
**TOP 20  
CONTRIBUTING  
PARTNERS IN 2024  
(AVAILABLE RESOURCES)**

\*Note: The Government of Pakistan has provided US\$284.6 million to WFP for the 2024–2027 period under the Benazir Nashounuma Programme.



## CHAPTER 1

# 2024 KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN PAKISTAN



Two years on from catastrophic floods and the onset of economic crisis, Pakistan is on the path to recovery. In 2024, the country turned the tide by bringing its macroeconomic indicators under control. The economic landscape is cautiously optimistic, driven by steady GDP growth, rising agricultural production, and a substantial reduction in the current account deficit. To stabilize its economy, Pakistan secured a US\$7 billion extended fund facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in September, following the completion of a US\$3 billion stand-by arrangement in April. The Government is implementing a series of reforms, including tightening fiscal policies and curbing inflation. By the end of 2024, inflation dropped to a six-year low, offering much-needed relief to consumers. Central to these reform efforts is [Uraan Pakistan](#). This economic transformation plan aims for sustainable, inclusive GDP growth of 6% by 2028 by prioritizing "five Es" – exports, e-Pakistan through digitalization, the environment, energy and infrastructure, and equity and empowerment. Uraan's launch in 2024 reflects how the Government is taking the lead in addressing the economic and social challenges that Pakistan faces.

These challenges are legion. Pakistan has the fifth largest population in the world, which is growing at a rapid rate. People are moving to urban areas faster than in any other South Asian country. It is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change, manifest in increasingly frequent, severe natural disasters and alarming

water scarcity. Human development gains are literally washed away by the effects of climate change on a regular basis. One in four people live in poverty, and one in four children suffer from malnutrition (stunted growth). Pakistan is home to 10% of the world's out-of-school children, and nearly half of the women in the country cannot read or write. The economy is recovering, but it is still not growing fast enough to absorb the millions of young people who enter the job market every year. Despite impressive progress on access to water and sanitation, millions of Pakistanis do not have clean water close to home, and almost one-third lack a decent toilet. Population pressures, climate vulnerability, economic hurdles and governance challenges make it very difficult to improve living standards, reduce inequalities and reach everyone with basic services. Available resources are not sufficient to meet existing demands. The financing gap for achieving the SDGs in Pakistan is a staggering US\$60 billion annually – 16% of GDP.

Hope lies in new government frameworks which, if fully implemented, can mitigate the impact of multiple crises, invest in Pakistan's human capital, and pave the way towards sustainable development for all. Alongside Uraan Pakistan, these include the [Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework \(4RF\)](#) to guide an inclusive recovery from the 2022 floods, and the [Living Indus Initiative](#) to drive climate-resilient growth through the ecological restoration of the Indus River Basin.



**SOURCES:** **Population:** Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 7th Population and Housing Census, 2023; WHO, "World Health Organization Data: Pakistan", 2023; estimates of population growth by WHO and the World Bank are lower at 1.5-1.6%. **Economy:** Finance Division, Highlights: Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24, 2024; State Bank of Pakistan, Inflation Monitor December 2024, 2024; World Bank, "GNI per capita, PPP (constant 2021 international \$): Pakistan", 2023. **Employment:** Finance Division, Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24, 2024; IMF, "Unemployment rate: Pakistan", October 2024. **Human development:** UNDP, Human Development Report 2023/2024: Breaking the Gridlock, 2024. **Poverty:** \*This is the lower-middle income poverty rate (US\$3.65/day 2017 PPP) estimated by the World Bank, Pakistan Development Update: The Dynamics of Power Sector and Distribution Reforms, October 2024; UNDP and OPHI, Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024, 2024. **Nutrition & food security:** Pakistan Nutrition Cluster and Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Pakistan Nutrition Sector Bulletin, 2024. **Water & sanitation:** UN Water, UNICEF and WHO, SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Studies: Pakistan, 2022 and What Progress Looks Like: Pakistan Sanitation (SDG Target 6.2), 2023. **Education:** Pak Alliance for Maths and Science, The Missing Third of Pakistan, 2024; UNICEF, Pakistan Country Office Annual Report 2023, 2024; Finance Division, Highlights: Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24, 2024. **Climate:** GermanWatch, Climate Risk Index 2025, 2025; Government of Pakistan, Asian Development Bank, European Union and UNDP, Pakistan Floods 2022: Post-disaster Needs Assessment, 2022. **Sustainable development:** SDSN, SDG Index, 2024. The SDG Index score can be interpreted as the percentage of SDG achievement. Pakistan's high spillover score means that it causes few negative spillover effects on other countries' abilities to achieve the SDGs. **Gender:** UNDP, Human Development Report 2023/2024: Breaking the Gridlock, 2024; World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap 2024: Insight Report, 2024. **Health:** Finance Division, Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24, 2024. **Governance:** World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index 2024, 2024. **Refugees:** UNHCR, Pakistan Overview of Refugee and Asylum-Seekers, 31 December 2024.

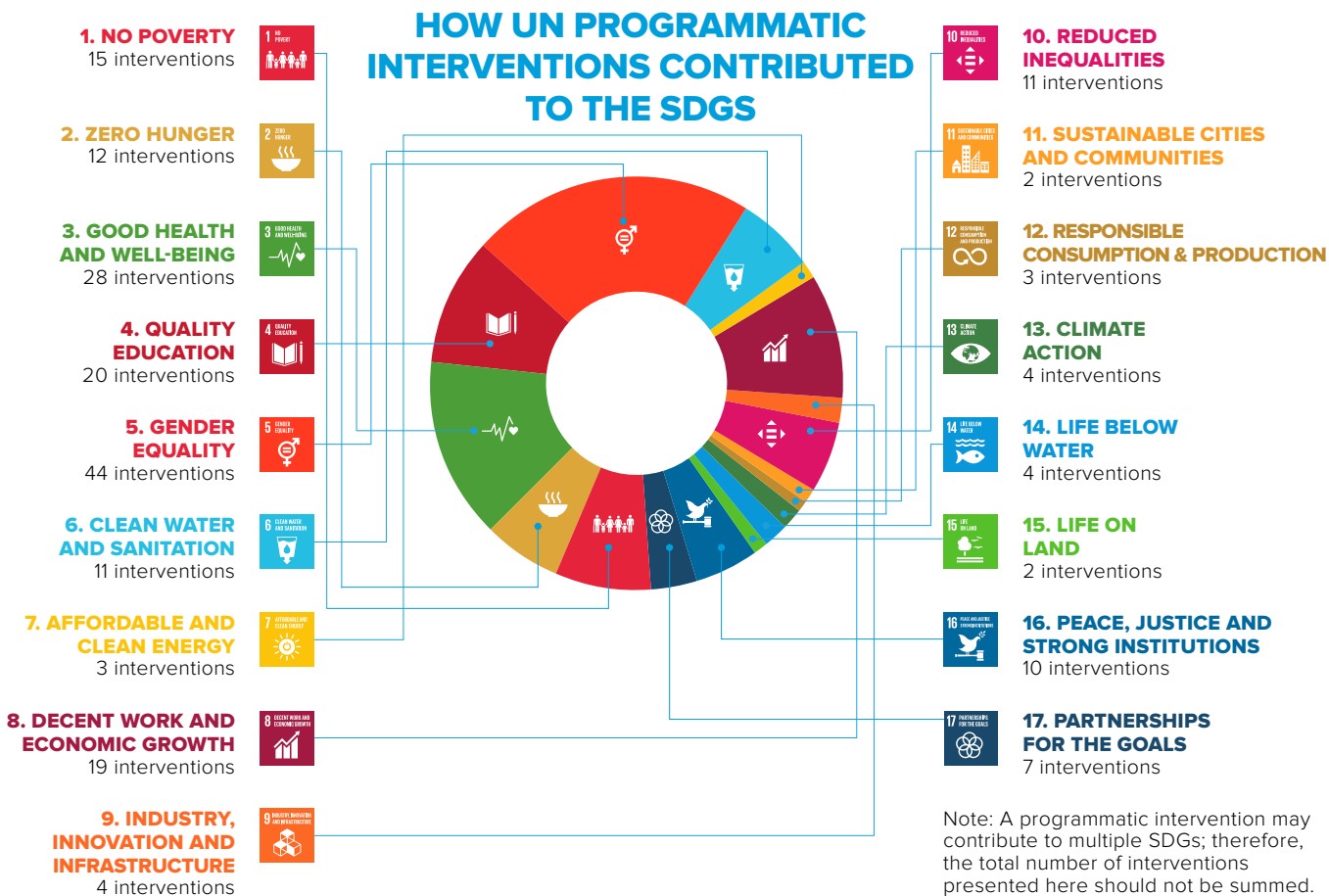


CHAPTER 2

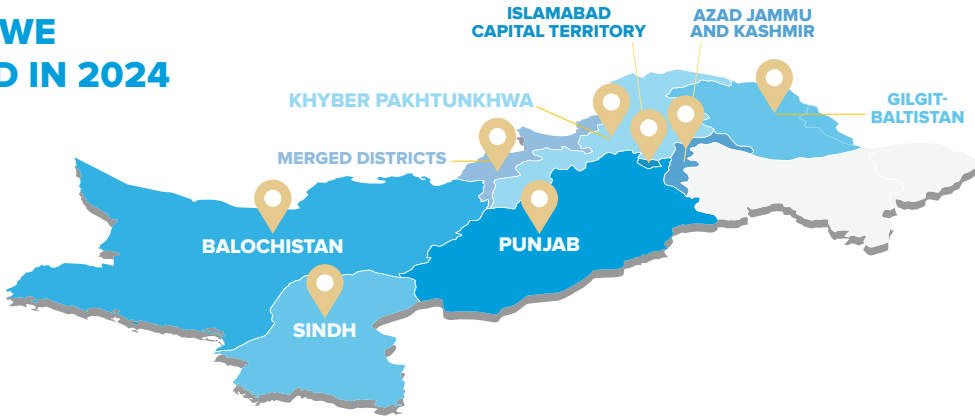
UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027 is the nationally-owned framework for cooperation between the UN and the Government of Pakistan. It outlines how the UN will support Pakistan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by focusing on five interlinked and mutually reinforcing outcomes.

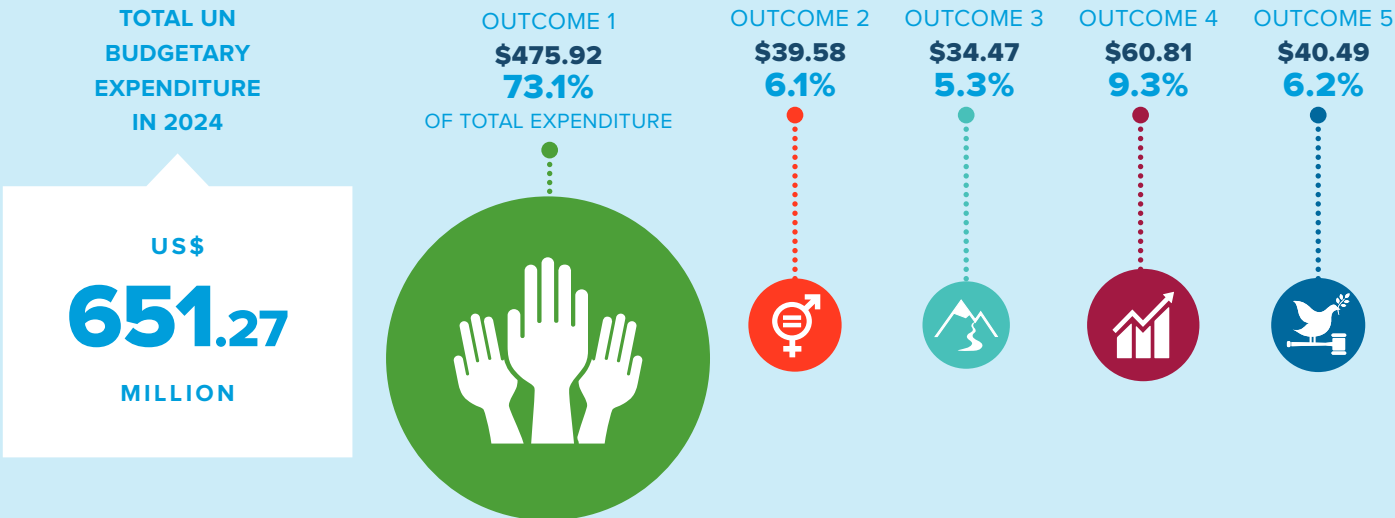
The Cooperation Framework aims to ensure the coherent, integrated and streamlined achievement of results by UN agencies – working together as one under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team – in partnership with the Government of Pakistan, development partners, donors, civil society, academia and, most of all, the people of Pakistan.



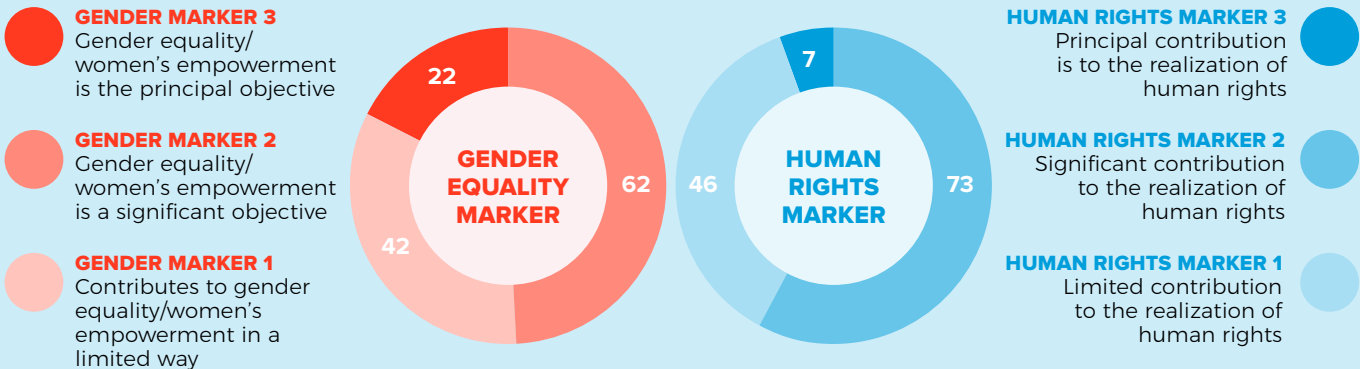
WHERE WE WORKED IN 2024



EXPENDITURE IN 2024



HOW UN INTERVENTIONS SUPPORTED GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2024





1

OUTCOME



# BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

AGENCIES

Outcome 1 is coordinated by **UNICEF**, bringing together the efforts of **FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP** and **WHO**

KEY SDGS



In 2024, the UN worked to make Pakistan's health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, and social protection systems and services more efficient, inclusive, gender-responsive and climate-resilient.

## Strengthening healthcare

The UN supported the Government of Pakistan to strengthen health systems and advance universal health coverage (UHC). The SDG 3 Global Action Plan assessment mission facilitated dialogue on UHC implementation. A new National Health Financing Framework will enhance

the sustainability of healthcare investments. Data-driven decision-making improved as 78 districts adopted the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS 2), and social behaviour change communication data collection was integrated into the Integrated Disease Information Management System. Vulnerable populations benefitted from restored healthcare access as UN initiatives rehabilitated 109 facilities destroyed by the 2022 floods, repaired 14 basic health units in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, refurbished 16 health facilities in Charsadda, Kotli and Islamabad, and provided medical equipment to 45 primary healthcare centres.

### Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

# 44.8

million children

under 5 years old were vaccinated against polio



# 5

million pregnant & breastfeeding women

benefitted from the Home-based Newborn Care initiative across 66 districts

# 78

districts adopted the District Health Information System 2, boosting data-driven decision-making

# 109

health facilities

destroyed by the 2022 floods were rehabilitated, restoring healthcare access



# 11,300

Lady Health Workers

were trained to improve maternal and child health outcomes, benefitting



# 0.9

million women &

# 1.7

million children

Mass and social media campaigns on immunization engaged

# 49

million people



# 241,467

newborns

were vaccinated through the 24/7 birth dose initiative



## REAL LIVES AYESHA RAZA'S STORY

### The polio survivor protecting Pakistan's children from disability

Polio eradication is a personal mission for [Ayesha Raza](#), a Pakistani polio survivor and health worker. Her remarkable commitment earned her global recognition at the Golden Jubilee Ceremony of the Islamic Development Bank – a polio eradication donor – which took place in Saudi Arabia in 2024. Every year, Ayesha is one of the 400,000 vaccinators who go door-to-door across Pakistan to implement massive government-led vaccination campaigns, supported by WHO and partners, to protect over 45 million children against paralytic polio.

Ayesha was only two years old when she contracted polio in the 1990s, when Pakistan did not have a dedicated polio programme. Since then, vaccinators like Ayesha have been vital to reducing the number of polio cases by 99.7%. With her left leg paralyzed, making it difficult to walk, she endured a challenging childhood. But she refused to let this define her. She turned to a career as a health worker, while also volunteering for the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme.

Ayesha works as a vaccinator and social mobilizer in Lahore, transforming her struggles into a powerful example to convince hesitant parents to vaccinate their children and protect them from lifelong disability. "It's not easy for me to walk during polio campaigns due to my limited mobility, but I cannot miss the chance to bring hope and resilience to the children of Pakistan," says Ayesha.



# “

I eagerly await the day when polio is completely eradicated, bringing a brighter future for our nation and the world.”

- Ayesha, health worker and polio survivor





📷 Above: Little Meesum, held by his mother Safia, enjoys the specialized nutritious food provided by the Benazir Nashonuma Programme with UN support, to help him recover from malnutrition in Sindh © WFP/Anam Abbas  
Below: Trainees at the ILO-HSA Nursing Leadership Bootcamp in Islamabad © ILO

REAL LIVES ZAHRA'S STORY

Empowering Pakistan's health workers

“We have met so many professionals through the bootcamp who talked to us about their journeys and how to exercise our rights – rights as workers, rights as humans,” says Zahra. She is one of the nurses who took part in the Nursing Leadership Bootcamp, organized by the ILO’s Working for Health Programme and Pakistan’s Health Services Academy (HSA). Nursing personnel, most of whom are women, are the backbone of Pakistan’s healthcare system. But their vital contributions are undervalued. The bootcamp gives them tools and guidance to challenge discrimination and push for improved working conditions. The pilot is due to be integrated across the curricula of nursing and midwifery schools, to empower health workers nationwide.

“The bootcamp has instilled confidence in me and other girls,” reflects Zahra. “The concept of social dialogue introduced to us and the right to organize has helped us think collectively about issues of abuse and violence, over time, under payment, lack of training, and gender parity in the workplace.” She is already putting her skills to good use. “One day, a junior nurse came to me, overwhelmed by the stress of her responsibilities at work and home,” Zahra explains. “Using the techniques I had learned during the bootcamp, we devised a plan to better manage her workload and coordinated with our colleagues to support her. It was incredibly rewarding to see her regain confidence and focus.” Zahra’s journey illustrates how targeted training can transform healthcare professionals into change-makers.



“

Every day, I see the ripple effect of the skills I gained. I used to feel invisible, but now I know I have the power to make a difference.”

- Zahra, nurse, Islamabad

Installing solar power systems in 16 public health facilities, including three major hospitals, made services more resilient, benefitting 8 million people. To promote disability-inclusive healthcare, the UN mobilized US\$5 million for glasses and hearing aids for children, and supported the development of Pakistan’s first Road Safety Bill.

UN support enhanced **infectious disease control** with vaccination efforts, monitoring, training and community engagement. Over 44.8 million children under-5 were vaccinated against polio through eight supplementary immunization activities – including three National Immunization Days – bolstered by the provision of 295 million doses of bivalent oral polio vaccine and 2 million doses of inactivated polio vaccine. Robust surveillance sites monitored 22,108 acute flaccid paralysis cases. Initiatives mapped 1.91 million migrant children under-5, and leveraged influencers to boost vaccine demand. Delivering health, nutrition and WASH services in 110 high-risk union councils addressed polio and broader health needs. Pakistan eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus in Sindh, a major public health achievement. The Big Catch-Up campaign achieved another milestone by addressing COVID-19-related vaccination gaps. Evening and weekend vaccination sessions reached 41,322 zero-dose children – 64% of district targets – in seven mega cities. The 24/7 birth dose initiative enhanced immunization by vaccinating 241,467 newborns at birth. Vaccine refusals were overcome by 4,905 Communication Network (COMNet) staff, resulting in 86.7% coverage among initially missed children. Mass and social media campaigns engaged 49 million people, while 3,858 trained frontline workers (76% women) spearheaded community outreach. A survey of 550 high-risk union councils identified vaccination misconceptions among 7% of the population, informing social and behaviour change solutions that engaged school children and health reporters in social mobilization. A mapping of interventions identified opportunities to enhance human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for adolescent girls.

Cold storage capacity improved with two new warehouses, upgrades of cold chain facilities and training for 559 workers on eco-friendly waste management. Health screenings benefitted 91,696 people, and 54,870 migrants were vaccinated in line with receiving countries’ protocols. Expanding drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) treatment services improved TB control, with TB notification rates rising from 47% in 2020 to 73% in 2024. With UN assistance, 259,868 children were treated for diarrhoea and pneumonia, while innovative malaria and dengue control measures combatted vector-borne diseases, such as drone-based larvicide spraying in 15 high-burden sites. The Technology-Driven Health Solutions initiative leveraged precision agricultural technology for vector control in vulnerable communities.

UN support for **maternal, newborn, child, adolescent and reproductive health** improved access to life-saving healthcare for vulnerable groups. Strengthening preventive and curative care – including immunization, mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening, antenatal and postnatal care – improved maternal and child health outcomes in underserved areas. Expanding integrated services in slums secured daily wage earners’ access to services. The Home-based Newborn Care initiative reached 5 million pregnant and breastfeeding women across 66 districts. With UN support, 29,271 pregnant women received iron folate supplements, 564 received safe delivery kits, 31,528 accessed antenatal care, and 50,283 were vaccinated against tetanus and diphtheria. Over 1 million 2–5-year-olds were de-wormed during Mother and Child Week campaigns. Capacity building and infrastructure support improved healthcare at the community level. Training 11,300 Lady Health Workers benefitted 905,000 women and 1.7 million children, while 2 million children benefitted from training for 8,790 Lady Health Supervisors and 10,194 healthcare providers on the integrated management of childhood illnesses. Health and hygiene improved in vulnerable communities following capacity building for 47 master trainers, 217 health committee members and 306 health workers.

■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

2.5 million children benefitted from oxygen supplies provided to 85 health facilities



155,818 women and girls (7% with disabilities) accessed SRH, GBV and mental health support services



125,384 people living with HIV/AIDS accessed anti-retroviral therapy

HIV prevention services expanded from 16 sites to 53 sites



## ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**2.9**

**million mothers & caregivers** were reached with nutrition messages



**1.2**

**million children & women** received nutrition support services



**565,049**

**children** were treated for severe acute malnutrition



**259,868**

**children** were treated for diarrhoea and pneumonia



Over 100,000 newborns benefitted from 62 Sick Newborn Care Units, paired with training for 550 paediatricians and neonatologists, while 65 Kangaroo Mother Care Units treated 18,800 pre-term babies. Upgrading 89 health facilities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enabled them to provide emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) to 181,810 women and children. Assessments of 94 healthcare facilities informed training on EmONC protocols. Mobile health units and telemedicine services extended reproductive healthcare to 15,227 women in remote areas. Three telehealth paediatric emergency centres in Azad Jammu and Kashmir facilitated 2,964 consultations. Enhanced ultrasound-based care in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral improved pregnancy monitoring and reduced complications among 2,468 women. Over 2.5 million children benefitted from oxygen supplies provided to 85 health facilities, alongside training for 5,000 health workers on oxygen management guidelines. The Fistula Campaign improved early detection and referrals through 711 community workshops, treated 135 fistula cases and trained 25 surgeons. Progress on midwifery education gained pace with the finalization of the National Midwifery Strategic Framework and the launch of the BS Midwifery programme. To enhance family planning, the UN tracked contraceptive supply chains and aligned Family Planning Action Plans with SDG and FP2030 targets. Setting up 65 Women- and Girl-Friendly Spaces in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa expanded access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender-based violence (GBV) and mental health services for 155,818 women and girls, including 11,285 with disabilities. Integrating Anti-Harassment Guidelines into frontline workers' training made workplaces safer.

The National Action Framework on **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** provided a roadmap to address NCDs. The UN HEARTS Initiative enhanced early detection and management by integrating NCD screening and prevention into primary healthcare. The Mental Health Gap Action Programme strengthened mental health services within primary care by training healthcare providers.

Partnering with the Pakistan Girl Guides' Association helped integrate mental health support into adolescent health services, while collaboration with universities raised mental health awareness. UN-supported mobile medical teams provided mental health services, primary healthcare and nutrition assessments to 145,049 people. In Sukkur, Khairpur, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Swat and Charsadda, 2,491 flood-affected women and girls accessed mental health services through 30 Women Community Centres.

With UN support, national and provincial **AIDS** Control Programmes delivered anti-retroviral therapy (ART) to 125,384 people (31% women) and expanded HIV prevention services from 16 to 53 sites. HIV self-testing kits improved early diagnosis, while Pakistan's first HIV treatment manual and ART training modules enhanced service delivery. To reduce HIV transmission among high-risk populations, the UN trained 27 police officials, 76 prison staff and 87 prisoners as peer educators in Karachi and Faisalabad. Over 5,000 students (50% girls) were sensitized at HIV prevention sessions, and 16 youth- and women-led organizations were trained to raise community awareness of HIV prevention, SRHR and GBV. Capacity building for 165 professionals enhanced **drug treatment** services, as did refresher trainings for the International Certified Addiction Professionals examination, resulting in 81 globally accredited professionals.

## Improving nutrition

With UN support, Pakistan **enhanced nutrition frameworks**. Key achievements include the endorsement of the costed multisectoral National Nutrition Action Plan, the passage of Sindh's Breast Milk Substitutes Act, and the launch of Punjab's Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy. The nationwide roll-out of the DHIS 2 Nutrition Module strengthened the nutrition information system, facilitating monitoring and decision-making. The UN helped integrate nutrition into social protection, education and health systems, and advocated for increased investment in Benazir Nashonuma, the national flagship initiative to reduce stunting.




## REAL LIVES ANWAR'S STORY

### Nourishing futures with the Central Kitchen model

How do you provide cooked nutritious meals to primary school children in a remote part of Pakistan? Build a kitchen! This is what a WFP feasibility study in Balochistan concluded, and the provincial government agreed. The **Central Kitchen model** offers many advantages – better controls over safety and quality, only one kitchen to monitor, being able to procure fresh local ingredients in bulk, and a readily available workforce.

*"Every day, we face new challenges, but knowing that our efforts are making a difference in these children's lives keeps us going,"* says Anwar, one of the kitchen's cooks. He is part of the dedicated kitchen team of 200 workers who work 24 hours a day, divided into three shifts, so that the cycle of food preparation and cleaning – a seamless cycle of nourishment and care – is uninterrupted. Collaborating with the Balochistan Food Authority, and deploying WFP's Food Safety and Quality unit has ensured that meals reach schools on time and that no child has gotten ill from a meal. During the first 3-month pilot in 2024, the central kitchen distributed 548,000 meals in lunchboxes, containing an average of 410 kcal per day. This is the only reliable source of nutrition for many children, making it crucial for their well-being and academic performance. One six-year-old student puts it best: *"I love coming to school because I know I will get a tasty meal. It helps me focus on my studies and play with my friends,"* she says. *"I want to become a teacher one day and help other children like me."*

 Above: The Central Kitchen team in Balochistan, set up with WFP's support, prepare nutritious meals for school children every day © WFP  
Below: A school boy in Balochistan enjoys a hot prepared by the Central Kitchen team © WFP



“

We are not just preparing food, we are nurturing dreams and hopes.”

- Anwar, central kitchen cook, Balochistan





📷 Above: The new hand pump in Musa Jasser, installed by UNICEF and the Japanese Government, provides clean water for all 40 households in the village © UNICEF/Saiyna Bashir  
Below: Farzana is back in school after a four-year absence © UNICEF/Saiyna Bashir

## REAL LIVES FARZANA'S STORY

### Clean water gives girls the freedom to learn

"The water source used to be very far away. Whenever I used to go to fetch water it was exhausting. I used to feel hurt when I saw my friends going to school," says 12-year-old **Farzana**. A lack of safe drinking water in the dusty village of Musa Jasser in Umerkot, Sindh, meant that Farzana would walk 7 kilometres with her mother to the nearest clean water source, up to three times a day, to collect water for her family. This left no time for school – for four long years. When the floods of 2022 hit, things only got worse. "Our houses collapsed, and all our belongings were swept away," Farzana explains. "We barely managed to save our lives and get out."

Farzana's family are among the 189,000 people in flood-affected Sindh and Balochistan supported by UNICEF and its partners, with funding from the Government of Japan, to access safe water and sanitation. The new hand pump installed in Musa Jasser provides villagers with fresh, clean water every day. The pump was built on a raised platform to withstand future climate shocks. "I'm happy," beams Farzana, who walks just five minutes from her home to the new pump to collect clean water for her family. "It saves time and now I can go to school and be with my friends. I like games, playing football and learning Sindhi." Her teacher, Mr Hassan, never gave up hope of her returning. "When she came back, she had forgotten everything, even her ABCs, but we worked hard to get her back on track, and she passed grade 2," he says. "It's important for girls to be educated. If they're educated, the whole society progresses."



“

I'm happy. [The new pump] saves time and now I can go to school and be with my friends. I like games, playing football and learning Sindhi.”

- Farzana, student in Umerkot, Sindh

UN advocacy contributed to keeping nutrition high on the Government's agenda, providing a strong foundation for increased financing. This is reflected in the Uraan Pakistan “five Es” plan prioritizing “Nutrition and Child Development”, and the Prime Minister's Office chairing a high-level nutrition meeting with the target of halving stunting by 2035.

The UN mobilized global resources to complement domestic funding for nutrition commodities to address **malnutrition in children and women**. Over 1.2 million children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women, received nutrition support, with 565,049 children treated for severe acute malnutrition. Multiple micronutrient supplementation for 1 million mothers improved nutrition outcomes, as did supplements and counselling for 227,159 women and children with moderate acute malnutrition. MUAC screenings of 90,046 children led to the referral of 8,812 malnutrition cases. Across 158 districts, 570 Benazir Nashonuma facilitation centres benefitted 2.7 million households. Training and infrastructure development expanded access to high-impact nutrition interventions, such as training 49,915 personnel on infant and young child feeding, and establishing 13 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres of Excellence. The proportion of health facilities strengthened to provide nutrition services rose from 30% in 2022 to 47% in 2024. Integrating community engagement, ECD, gender-responsiveness and climate resilience into nutrition initiatives enhanced service delivery. ECD services expanded to 130 districts, nutrition messages reached 2.9 million caregivers, and the Parwarish campaign promoted better nutrition practices among 22.9 million people. Targeted efforts prevented adolescent malnutrition, such as iron and folic acid supplementation for 794,447 girls, health education and cash stipends for 71,000 girls, and research on the drivers of malnutrition.

UN efforts advanced **food security**, including by deploying staff to aid government food fortification initiatives. Assistance for 87 companies in the SUN Business Network

accelerated food fortification and strengthened fortification alliances. The *Chakki* Project expanded from 50 to 150 mills, improving community food security by fortifying 20,234 metric tonnes of wheat flour. Integrated nutrition and livelihood initiatives made ultra-poor households, smallholder farmers and fisherfolk more food-secure by pairing capacity building with short-term loans, food banks and modern tools. Training 20,596 officials to respond to climate-related shocks further enhanced resilience.

### 🚰 Expanding water and sanitation

The UN supported national and provincial governments to make **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems and services more accessible and climate-resilient**. Key initiatives include revising WASH policies to incorporate climate considerations, and partnerships under the Adaptation Fund to secure financing for climate-resilient WASH services. Climate-resilient WASH infrastructure was institutionalized within Public Health Engineering Departments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh.

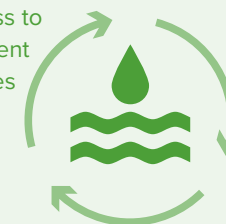
Millions benefitted from **improved WASH access** with UN support. Over 1.79 million people (51% women and girls) gained access to gender-sensitive water services, and 924,446 to climate-resilient water services. Infrastructure initiatives increased water safety, such as water quality laboratories set up in five districts. Installing 68 hand pumps provided clean drinking water to 16,444 people. Surveys at 140 sites in 31 informal settlements assessed the feasibility of installing filtration systems. Resource mapping in 43 refugee villages prioritized water schemes and chlorinated 509 communal water sources to provide safe drinking water. Over 1.72 million people benefitted as 774 villages were certified “open defecation-free”, while 417,226 people gained access to basic sanitation and 196,386 to climate-resilient sanitation infrastructure. Hygiene promotion engaged 2.59 million people, and hygiene kits reduced disease prevalence.

### ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**1.79**  
million people  
(51% women & girls)  
gained access to  
gender-sensitive  
water services



**0.92**  
million people  
gained access to  
climate-resilient  
water services



The Chakki Project expanded  
from 50 to 150 mills, fortifying  
**20,234 MT**  
of wheat flour

Iron and folic acid supplements  
prevented malnutrition among  
**794,447**  
adolescent girls



## ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**1.72**

**million people** benefitted as 774 villages were certified “open defecation-free”



**745,775**

**people** benefitted from climate-resilient WASH facilities at schools and health centres



Temporary learning centres ensured learning continuity for

**152,652**

**out-of-school children** (44% girls)



**99,433**

**children** accessed quality early childhood education (51% girls)



Menstrual hygiene management interventions benefitted 103,390 girls through awareness raising and facilities, alongside training and soap distribution for 8,231 girls. Quick impact projects addressed the urgent WASH needs of 33,515 people (55% women and girls). Sanitation solutions for vulnerable groups included providing housing with integrated WASH facilities for 379 flood-affected households, building 670 pour-flush latrines for 7,442 people, and renovating facilities in 24 refugee village schools. Equipping 302 schools and 71 health centres with climate-resilient WASH facilities benefitted 745,775 people. Scores more will benefit from solar-powered water systems in 15 health facilities and 39 communities. Emergency WASH initiatives in refugee and disaster-affected areas protected public health, such as distributing 82,686 mosquito repellent lotions and 26,124 insecticide-treated nets, and planting 40,000 fruit trees. An assessment of 11 districts will guide investments in durable WASH services for refugees. Investments in the sanitation sector reduced environmental and health risks, while improving occupational safety and waste management. Rehabilitating wastewater drains secured sanitary conditions for 217,000 people in refugee villages and informal settlements, as did six solid waste collection points for 1,371 people. An Integrated Resource Recovery Centre pioneered a circular economy approach by recycling and reusing solid waste. UN initiatives also spearheaded nature-based solutions like rainwater harvesting and floating wetlands for wastewater treatment.

## Enhancing education

UN efforts **strengthened Pakistan's education systems**, accelerating progress on quality education for all. Advocacy contributed to the Prime Minister declaring a “national education emergency”, acknowledging the urgent need to address out-of-school children and poor learning outcomes. The UN worked with the Ministry of Federal Education, provincial Education Departments, and development partners on roadmaps to address the emergency, while mobilizing US\$61 million for 2025–2029. An SDG 4 review

expanded data coverage and led to the creation of an SDG 4 Cell at the Pakistan Institute of Education.

UN initiatives expanded **access to education**, including collaboration with provincial education departments on pre-primary and foundational learning. Establishing 1,969 classrooms and training 1,964 teachers enabled 99,433 children (51% girls) to access quality early childhood education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. Another 433,652 children (49% girls) accessed quality primary education, including 43,292 out-of-school children (52% girls) reintegrated through Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) centres. Setting up 1,696 temporary learning centres, training teachers and providing mental health support ensured the continuity of learning for 152,652 out-of-school children (44% girls) in flood-affected areas. Remedial education and summer camps improved 93,941 children's literacy and numeracy skills in Punjab and Balochistan. Nationwide, 191 community engagement sessions promoted girls' education. Providing 122 WASH facilities in Kohistan, Swat, Mohmand, Muzaffargarh and Tharparkar kept 4,991 girls in school, as did financial support for 9,625 girls' education. Cash stipends linked to school attendance shored up food security and prevented dropouts among 30,000 adolescent girls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its Merged Districts. A School Meals Programme in Balochistan improved retention and nutrition by providing daily hot meals to 13,300 primary students, and quarterly cash stipends to their mothers to reinforce household commitment to education. UN efforts facilitated education for marginalized groups, including 54,454 students (42% girls) at 142 refugee village schools, and displaced children at 55 ALP centres. Support for 27 public schools fostered integration between refugees and host communities. Training on interpersonal and vocational skills empowered 136 transgender students and 16 teachers, culminating in an exhibition that generated PKR 125,000.

UN support continued to enhance the **quality of education**. For example, teacher training programmes strengthened the competencies of 260 educators at 200 schools.



## REAL LIVES NAIMATULLAH'S STORY

### First generation of learners, next generation of empowered youth

“I used to collect paper to support my family,” says 14-year-old **Naimatullah**, who is one of 13 siblings. “I would work from 8 am until 1 pm each day and bring home around 200–250 rupees (US\$0.70–0.90).” Gruelling work left no time for learning. His fortunes changed when his elder brothers started working in construction and financial pressure on his family eased. An Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) Centre was set up in his area, with the support of the Government and people of Norway, together with UNICEF. “I started coming to school,” Naimatullah explains. “I enjoy learning about biology, especially viruses and bacteria,” he adds, giving an impressive demonstration of handwashing techniques.

Naimatullah is the first generation of his family to go to school. “Many communities in Quetta are facing all kinds of hardships, poverty, illiteracy and lack of opportunities. This cycle continues across different generations if there is no access to education to break this chain,” says Mohammad Waseem, ALP Focal Person at the Balochistan Education Support Programme. The ALP is designed to help children catch up on learning so they can re-enter the formal education system. Education is the great equalizer. The sky is the limit for children like Naimatullah when they have the opportunity to learn and break the barriers their parents faced. He hopes that his sisters will have a chance to learn like him one day, when education programmes are expanded to keep up with demand.

Above: Aqsa (centre) and her classmates at their new Transitional School Structure in Balochistan's Lasbela district, built with GPE and UNICEF's support © UNICEF/Sami Malik Below: Naimatullah is accessing education for the first time thanks to the Accelerated Learning Programme © UNICEF/Shahzaib



“

Women and girls have the right to be independent. They can earn their own money. They can be teachers and doctors, so of course they need an education.”

- Naimatullah, student in Quetta, Balochistan





## REAL LIVES AYESHA'S STORY

### How schoolchildren are learning to outsmart tsunamis

Above: Students pose in front of their school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which is now powered by solar energy (solarized) with UNOPS' support © UNOPS  
 Below: Students in Gwadar, Balochistan, evacuate during a tsunami drill organized with UNESCO's support © UNESCO

A siren pierces the air, signalling the start of a **tsunami drill** – one that, one day, will save lives. Students at the Government Girls High School Gwadar and Government Boys High School Jadeed Gwadar – 180 girls and 150 boys – get to their feet. Gripping their backpacks tightly, they follow their teachers' instructions to evacuate. Pakistan's coastline is highly vulnerable to tsunamis. *"By preparing now, we ensure that if the time comes, these children and their families know exactly what to do,"* explains a UNESCO official. That is why UNESCO organized this drill with Balochistan's Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Gwadar's local government, and the Rural Community Development Council.

For Gwadar's children, living in coastal communities vulnerable to disasters, the drill was an eye-opening experience. *"I learned how to run to higher ground and help my friends,"* says eight-year-old Ayesha. *"Now, I know what to do if there's a tsunami."* The drill is part of the UNESCO-IOC's UNESCAP-funded project, Enhancing Tsunami Early Warning Capabilities in the North-West Indian Ocean Region – Phase 2C, to strengthen preparedness and early warning systems across Pakistan. *"These children are the future, and by empowering them with knowledge and training, we're creating safer communities,"* says a representative from Balochistan's PDMA. As they race towards safety, their footsteps symbolize a giant leap toward a more prepared future.



“

I learned how to run to higher ground and help my friends. Now, I know what to do if there's a tsunami.”

- Ayesha, student in Gwadar, Balochistan

Capacity building honed 1,800 teachers' (50% women) skills on education in emergencies. Transportation allowances for 30 teachers ensured qualified educators in remote areas. Training 919 educators improved the quality of refugee village schools, as did LED screens and digital learning tools. Smart classrooms in 40 girls' public schools in Azad Jammu and Kashmir expanded digital learning opportunities for 1,348 girls and 807 boys, paired with ICT training for 176 teachers, and the digitization of 470 resources. UN initiatives made learning environments disaster-resilient by retrofitting 106 schools in all four provinces, rehabilitating nine flood-damaged schools in Mianwali and Kohat, repairing 227 latrines and 107 water connections, and restoring the multipurpose hall at Quetta's Sardar Bahadur Khan University. Life skills-based education (LSBE) advanced with a new LSBE curriculum for grades 9–12 that integrates HIV prevention education, and LSBE textbooks piloted at 100 schools in Islamabad.

## Advancing social protection

With UN support, legislative reforms in Punjab and Sindh expanded **labour and social protection** to previously excluded groups, including domestic, contractual and informal economy workers. The registration of five unions in the agriculture, domestic work and sanitation sectors enabled 300 people to access social welfare programmes like Sehat Sahulat. Support for the National Committee on SME Formalization helped link small businesses and workers to social protection. With UN assistance, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finalized its Social Protection Strategy. Developing an interoperable socio-economic registry, enhancing the management information system, and facilitating the creation of Social Protection Authority laid the foundation for a coordinated, data-driven provincial social protection framework. As a pathfinder country of the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection, Pakistan pledged to integrate social protection into national strategies. To inform evidence-based policies, the UN

partnered with the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives on vital research. This yielded the National Poverty and Inequality Report, the updated Multidimensional Poverty Index, the National Responsible Business Framework, and a stock take of progress on the SDGs. Public Expenditure Reviews in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa supported data-driven decision-making, while nine workshops enhanced 577 stakeholders' capacities on adaptive social protection systems. The Punjab Social Protection Policy Forum engaged 110 stakeholders to increase social protection coverage. Technical assistance for the Hybrid Social Protection System streamlined data management for efficient and transparent service delivery.

UN support contributed to **protection services for vulnerable populations**, such as by training 342 border officials and NGOs on core protection principles, and 1,890 stakeholders on human rights. Social protection programmes were expanded to include adolescent girls, and health insurance programmes implemented for refugees. Community-based protection mechanisms enabled 2,445 Afghan nationals to access assistance, including GBV response services. Community assessments estimated the presence and needs of Afghans across Pakistan to shape responsive programming. Cash-for-work interventions engaged refugee youths in community development, fostering social cohesion between refugees and host communities. To advance **food security**, 26,480 households received US\$2.46 million in cash assistance. Vegetable seeds were provided to 9,000 women, poultry to 6,000 women, crop inputs to 5,000 households and animal feed to 12,000 households. Fodder crop cultivation, kitchen garden training, land rehabilitation, and animal shelters shored up food security. Cash transfers for 2,460 households in Sindh (39% women-headed) aided agri-enterprise development. Installing six automatic weather stations, forming 24 Community Emergency Response Teams, and training 595 officials on anticipatory action set the stage for mitigating food security shocks.

### ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**433,652**  
children

(49% girls) accessed quality primary education, including

**43,292**  
out-of-school children



**26,480**  
households

received cash assistance to bolster food security, totalling

**\$2.46**  
million



**577 stakeholders'**  
capacities were enhanced on adaptive social protection systems



Community-based protection mechanisms were accessed by  
**2,445**  
Afghan nationals





# GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

AGENCIES

Outcome 2 is coordinated by **UN Women**, bringing together the efforts of **FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, WFP** and **WHO**

KEY SDGS

4

5

8

10

16

17

In 2024, the UN supported gender equality efforts across Pakistan, with the aim of enabling women, girls and transgender persons to thrive socially, politically and economically in an environment, free from violence.

Achieving Pakistan’s commitments to gender equality

The UN supported the Government of Pakistan to **strengthen its policy framework for gender equality, and monitor the implementation of national and international commitments**, through the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data.

A database set up at the Ombudsperson Office tracked cases of workplace harassment and women’s property rights, facilitating the resolution of 80% of the 163 harassment cases and 37% of the 2,224 property cases received. Linking a web-based monitoring system with SDG 5 enabled national and provincial health authorities to upload data on all indicators disaggregated by sex and age, and informed a monitoring report on universal health coverage. An administrative database system for women’s shelters and GBV helplines facilitated the use of data to improve service delivery and inform resource allocations. A gender data management roadmap will support justice institutions to integrate gender into policies and budgets.

■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

25

million adolescent girls and boys

were sensitized about the risks of bullying and online child sexual exploitation

238,000

women

gained economic resilience skills through outreach by adaptive social protection coordinators trained by the Digital Financial Literacy initiative

49 departments

were trained to improve data collection and reporting across the National Gender Data Portal’s indicators

727,291

people

(52% women and girls) were sensitized on child protection through community-based awareness raising campaigns

500 girls

were engaged to develop a collective vision for girls’ empowerment

10 police stations

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were made into gender-friendly facilities

190 gender focal points and media fellows

were trained on gender equality and child rights

REAL LIVES

GUL’S STORY

Ending child marriage, changing the future

In the remote mountains of Mohmand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, life is shaped by tradition. **Yasmin Gul’s**\* daughters – Meena\*, Fatima\* and Ayesha\* – dreamed of going to school, and some day, teaching other girls. But Meena’s and Fatima’s dreams were cut short when they turned 14 and 15. Their marriages were arranged, as tradition demanded. *“I tried to comfort them,”* says Gul, who was married early herself. *“I told them this was the way things had always been, that they would adapt, that they would be fine. But deep in my heart, I knew they were not ready. No daughter, no mother, is ever ready for such a life.”*

Gul’s concerns are well-founded. Marriage at such a young age comes with grave risks: abuse, complications in childbirth, and a lifetime of lost opportunities. In September 2024, Gul and her husband learned more about the adverse effects of child marriage at awareness sessions in their village, organized by UN Women, FAO and USAID. With her husband’s support, Gul decided that their youngest daughter, Ayesha, would not be married before the age of 18. With that decision, Gul set change in motion. She became a beacon of hope for others who want better futures for their daughters. After awareness raising sessions reached 1,732 villagers in her community, change began, slowly but surely. More girls are now attending school, and more women like Gul are taking action for a brighter future.

*\*Names changed to protect the respondents’ anonymity.*



Above: A woman Research Officer conducts water quality testing at the UNOPS-upgraded laboratory at PCRWR, Islamabad @UNOPS  
 Below: Yasmin Gul, pictured with her daughters and granddaughter, has taken a stand against child marriage © UN Women

“

I couldn’t change the past, but I could change the future. Ayesha would be allowed to grow, learn, be free.”

- Yasmin Gul\* from Mohmand

4

5



## REAL LIVES ERUM'S STORY

### Breaking barriers: Empowering girls through sports

"It became my dream to establish a hockey academy so that girls who wanted to play would not find themselves in situations like those that I faced," explains [Erum Baloch](#). Growing up in Jacobabad, an impoverished, conservative district in Sindh, Erum has overcome a great deal. As a child, she lost her father and, in 2015, her brother was killed in an extremist attack. At just 21 years old, Erum became the family breadwinner. She found comfort in her lifelong passion – hockey.

In 2017, Erum founded the Stars Women Sports Academy, Jacobabad's first women's sports club. With her mother's unwavering support, Erum set out to create a safe space for young female athletes. The journey wasn't easy. Erum and her friends faced societal resistance and even threats. They struggled to find a place to practice and initially used their own savings to keep the academy afloat. But they persevered. Small donations started to trickle in and the academy's impact grew. During the COVID-19 lockdown, a UN Women-supported video on Erum's journey became so popular on social media that it caught the eye of the provincial government. Moved by her story, they helped Erum establish the district's first hockey ground for girls. Today, young women from all over Pakistan come together at the academy, and its players compete at the provincial and national levels. Inspired by Erum's example, women in other districts are opening their own coaching centres, creating more safe spaces for women and girls to thrive.



“People were not mentally prepared for girls to play, so they started creating hurdles. Many also threatened us. But we didn't stop.”

- Erum, founder, Stars Women Sports Academy

Above: Azima Zaidi, UNDP Project Assistant - Disability and Inclusion, whose work champions the inclusion of underrepresented groups © UNDP  
Below: Erum Baloch, pioneering founder of the Stars Women Sports Academy in Jacobabad, Sindh © UN Women

Capacity building equipped government officials to collect and use gender-disaggregated data more effectively, such as training representatives of 49 departments, including all four Provincial Bureaus of Statistics, on data collection and reporting across 163 indicators of the National Gender Data Portal. The Pathways to Equality initiative honed the capacities of 90 government gender focal points and 100 media fellows on gender equality and child rights, in partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights and National Commission on the Status of Women.

UN research provided evidence to strengthen equality frameworks and their enforcement, including reports on the gender pay gap, and on tackling poverty, institutional and financing challenges for gender equality. Gender parity reports for Islamabad Capital Territory and Balochistan will serve as a baseline for federal and provincial parity initiatives. National conferences reinforced commitments to women's empowerment, including by the National Commission for Human Rights. The UN also supported the Government to mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.

## Responsive policies and financing

UN assistance contributed to progress on **gender-responsive policies, programmes and financing**. Provincial labour codes in Punjab and Sindh are now aligned with the Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100) and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Rule of Law Roadmap was aligned with its Women's Empowerment Policy. Public and private financing for gender equality is expected to increase with the ESG Sustain dashboard at the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan by enabling investors and policymakers to make decisions based on environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations. Collaborating with the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) on the Digital Financial Literacy initiative strengthened the capacities of 679 adaptive

social protection coordinators (75% women) and 37 master trainers on economic resilience and financial inclusion. Their community outreach equipped 238,000 women BISP beneficiaries with skills to boost economic resilience. A gender-responsive needs assessment of workers in small and medium-sized enterprises' (SME) supply chains informed capacity building for 120 government officials, equipping them to implement gender-responsive programmes for SME formalization.

## Ending gender-based violence

UN initiatives accelerated **action to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV)**. Advocacy and technical support strengthened legal frameworks to address child marriage, including the development of federal and provincial Child Marriage Restraint Bills. National and provincial Sexual Violence Response Frameworks, and the Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Framework, laid the foundation for a more effective response to GBV. Research provided evidence to inform further policy action, including assessments of the accessibility of GBV response services, a costing study of these services, and a comparative analysis of service delivery models. GBV case management manuals were institutionalized within social work, psychology and gender studies curricula at the Lahore College for Women, and gender was integrated into the training curriculum for peacekeepers. UN efforts mainstreamed GBV risk mitigation, including through a joint GBV Needs Assessment in the context of the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan.

Communication campaigns during the 16 Days of Activism challenged discriminatory gender norms and promoted practices to respond to GBV and child marriage, while a male engagement strategy encouraged the media to report on these issues responsibly. Awareness raising on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse benefitted refugees, as did improved reporting mechanisms and support for survivors.

### Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**2,868**  
civil society and  
community volunteers  
(46% women) were trained to  
facilitate refugees' access to  
GBV response services



**2,000**  
marginalized  
women, girls and  
transgender  
persons  
benefitted from  
capacity building  
initiatives



**900 women**  
assumed leadership roles in  
agriculture and enterprises  
following empowerment initiatives

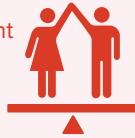
**100 consultations**  
engaged women and men in  
developing the Climate-Resilient  
Settlement Development Plan



## ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**2 million people**

were sensitized on the Women's Empowerment Principles to advance women's economic participation



**200+ employers**

voluntarily adopted the EFP's Code of Conduct for Domestic Workers



**6,736**

**Afghan and host community members**

were trained on women's leadership, contributing to resilience and social cohesion



**1,363**

**women farmers**

benefitted from skills and financial literacy training



Communities across Pakistan gained a better understanding of child protection, including 727,291 people (52% women and girls) reached through community-based campaigns on risks, referrals and helplines. Over 25 million adolescents learned of the risks of bullying and online child sexual exploitation via a digital campaign with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. The Parwarish campaign and adolescent-led consultations promoted positive parenting.

Access to services for survivors of GBV – including women and girls with disabilities – improved with UN support for GBV helplines, Women's Protection Centres, the Women Safety digital application, and Anti-Rape Crisis Cells in health facilities in Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. Transforming 10 police stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa into gender-friendly facilities made them more responsive to women's needs. Capacity building enhanced GBV response services, such as training 317 Lady Health Workers, community support workers and frontline responders. Training 200 health service providers enhanced gender-responsive primary healthcare and psychosocial support, while capacity building for provincial committees and civil society bolstered protection for survivors of human trafficking. Steering committees fostered harassment-free environments and workplaces, complemented by training for 369 stakeholders (10% women), 60 officials at the Auditor General's Office, and 100 stakeholders (65% women) in Gilgit-Baltistan. Refugees gained greater access to shelters, justice, referrals, healthcare and psychosocial support following training for 2,868 civil society and community volunteers (46% women) through the Outreach Volunteers programme.



### Promoting participation and leadership

UN efforts championed **women's participation in all spheres**. Over 900 women assumed leadership roles in agriculture and enterprises after empowerment initiatives. More than 100 community consultations engaged women and men in developing the Climate Resilient Settlement Development Plan.

With UN support, the Employers Federation of Pakistan and the Pakistan United Workers' Federation promoted dialogue on workers' rights, including women's leadership. Efforts with the Ministry of Climate Change fostered youth engagement at COP29. With the Ministry of Human Rights and the Pakistan Girl Guides Association, the UN engaged 500 girls to develop a vision for girls' empowerment. Strengthening federal and provincial Women's Parliamentary Caucuses led to a sustained focus on women's rights. With UN assistance, the caucus in Gilgit-Baltistan reviewed seven laws in order to advance women's empowerment, focusing on property, inheritance, GBV, breastfeeding and day care facilities. Rules for the operationalization of Punjab's Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act will facilitate inclusive participation in public life. The She Can Lead Network connected Afghan women with Pakistani parliamentarians and local governments, promoting the integration of their voices into community development. Capacity building benefitted 2,000 marginalized women, girls and transgender persons, while training 6,736 Afghan and host community members on women's leadership contributed to resilience.



### Supporting economic empowerment

A campaign on the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) reached 2 million people, galvanizing support for **women's economic participation**. Over 200 employers adopted the Employers' Federation of Pakistan's Code of Conduct for Domestic Workers, developed with UN assistance – a major step towards decent work in the informal economy. Capacity building expanded women's access to markets, such as training 1,363 women farmers on skills and financial literacy, and digital literacy modules for women-owned businesses. Informal savings and loan groups expanded financial access for Afghan and Pakistani host communities. Recovery and livelihood support benefitted 9,832 Afghan and host community women, youth and men. Learn more about UN support for women's economic empowerment under Outcome 4.



## REAL LIVES NAZO'S STORY

### From hardship to hope: A journey of economic empowerment

In the district of Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, **Nazo's** life used to be defined by financial hardship. Her husband, a daily wage labourer, barely earned enough to meet their basic needs. As their family grew to have six children, so did the strain. *"I felt scared and lost,"* recalls Nazo. *"I knew I had to fight to save my family."* Determined to do so, Nazo attended a local NGO's basic stitching training course. She began stitching clothes from home, earning PKR 300 per suit. As her work gained recognition, her income grew to PKR 15,000 per month. *"When I started earning, something changed,"* says Nazo. *"The hopelessness faded."*

In May 2024, Nazo learned about a village bank in Nowshera – set up by UNDP and the Sarhad Rural Support Programme, with USAID's support – offering interest-free microfinance loans to women-led enterprises. She applied for an interest-free loan of PKR 50,000, repayable in ten easy instalments. With this injection of finance, Nazo launched two home-based ventures – a cosmetics shop, and a room with a desktop computer to provide digital content in the village, where internet access is limited. Both ventures are thriving. With her growing income, Nazo has enrolled her children in private schools, renovated her flood-damaged home, and gained a stronger voice in household decisions. She plans to found a vocational training centre for girls so that they too can learn stitching and life skills to become financially independent themselves.

Above: A woman worker at a textile factory in Karachi, Sindh © ILO/Human Design Studios  
Below: Nazo's home-based microbusinesses are going from strength to strength in the district of Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa © UNDP/Tauseef Ahmad



“

I will always be grateful to USAID, UNDP and SRSP for giving me the chance to rewrite my story. Without their support, I would never have known the strength I carry within me.”

- Nazo from Gilgit-Baltistan



# CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

AGENCIES

Outcome 3 is coordinated by **FAO**, bringing together the efforts of **IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, UNV, WFP** and **WHO**

KEY SDGS

2 ZERO HUNGER

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

In 2024, UN efforts strengthened environmental sustainability, climate resilience and ecosystem conservation across Pakistan, ensuring long-term economic and environmental benefits for communities in the Indus Basin and beyond.

**Strengthening systems to reduce environmental degradation and accelerate climate action**

UN support for **climate-resilient settlement planning and disaster risk reduction** boosted resilience to climate change. Multi-hazard vulnerability assessments

informed data-driven disaster preparedness in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Nowshera. In Sindh, flood-resilient reconstruction helped communities recover from, and develop resilience to, natural disasters. A Disaster Risk Finance Study strengthened national funding for climate resilience, while climate risk profiles for 16 districts in Balochistan guided adaptation strategies.

UN initiatives contributed to more **sustainable industrial practices and reduced carbon emissions**. A carbon emission reduction strategy implemented in Karachi’s informal settlements incorporated solar lighting, water filtration and low-emission construction materials.

## Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

4,000 young people

were engaged in climate advocacy, influencing Pakistan’s commitment to the Children, Youth and Climate Action Declaration at COP29

287 government officials

were trained on water-efficient agriculture and rangeland management

16 district climate risk profiles

guided adaptation strategies in Balochistan

65 tannery units

in Sialkot adopted environmentally-compliant infrastructure

200 textile mills and tanneries

improved their management of chemicals

8 chilgoza processing units

adopted solarization to become more energy-efficient

A 640 kw solar system

at the Combined Effluent Treatment Plant in the Korangi industrial area in Karachi reduced industry’s carbon footprint

## REAL LIVES HAMEEDA'S STORY

### Fuel-efficient stoves: Protecting women, preserving nature

“As a young girl, I was cooking over a wooden fire when it suddenly flared up, burning my face,” recalls Hameeda. “The scars from that day are visible on my face till today.” These are dangers that women in her village of Staqchan, Gilgit-Baltistan, face every day. With temperatures falling well below -10°C in winter, keeping warm is an uphill struggle – one that falls on the shoulders of women and girls. Every few days, they walk for hours to collect firewood for the smoky wood burners in their poorly ventilated homes, which pose serious health and safety risks. “Our living room would fill up with smoke, forcing us to open windows and doors,” she explains. “My children would often fall ill.”

UNDP, Gilgit-Baltistan’s Environmental Protection Agency and Rural Support Programme are overcoming these challenges through green skills training, and by [distributing fuel-efficient stoves](#) as part of the global Climate Promise. These stoves protect users from hazardous smoke and open flames. They provide reliable warmth while cutting firewood consumption in half, saving women time and effort, and preserving forest ecosystems. The new stove has transformed Hameeda’s life. “I am so happy. I want to sing and dance with joy,” she beams. Her home is warm and the air is clean. She no longer worries about the risks of smoke or open flames for her children. She does not need to collect firewood every few days. This simple change has reclaimed valuable time for her, time she can spend with her family in a safer, healthier home.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5 GENDER EQUALITY

15 LIFE ON LAND

“As a young girl, I was cooking over a wooden fire when it suddenly flared up, burning my face.

- Hameeda from Gilgit-Baltistan

Above: Local guardian of an ice stupa in Gilgit-Baltistan, an indigenous nature-based solution to water scarcity and climate change supported by the GLOF II project © UNDP Below: The lives of Hameeda and her children have been transformed by their new fuel-efficient stove © UNDP/Rabiya Kamran





📷 Above: Students from Karakoram International University, and officials from GB-EPA installing an automated weather station at Shisper. © EvK2CNR  
Below: Sabrina Khan, part of UNDP's Glaciers and Students Project team in Gilgit-Baltistan © UNDP

## REAL LIVES | SABRINA'S STORY

### Protecting the third pole: Local climate action saving glaciers

"There was chaos in my village when the news reached us. One of the lakes in the Batura Glacier had overflowed, and we were told to evacuate immediately," recalls Sabrina Khan. She was a child when a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) sped towards her village of Passu, in Gilgit-Baltistan's Hunza Valley. Pakistan is home to five of the world's 14 tallest peaks, part of the "third pole" – a region across nine countries that stores more frozen water than anywhere on Earth outside the Arctic and Antarctic. As flash floods and water scarcity threaten communities, understanding glacial retreat is an urgent priority for Pakistan.

That is why UNDP's [Glaciers and Students Project](#), which Sabrina is now part of, is building local capacity for glacial monitoring. Funded by the Government of Italy and supported by the Gilgit-Baltistan Environmental Protection Agency, the project connects local students, faculty and government agencies with international expertise and training, provided by the Universities of Milan and Cagliari. It empowers communities with cutting-edge tools, skills and collaborative networks to monitor and protect Pakistan's glaciers, detect GLOFs early, minimize their impact, and ensure informed water resource management. For example, the project has installed automated weather stations (AWS) on eight glaciers, providing vital real-time data on glaciers' health. In these ways, the project is laying the foundation for a sustainable, locally rooted approach to climate action.



“Working on this project changed my perspective. I want to bring new knowledge and solutions to help protect these vital ecosystems for future generations.”  
- Sabrina, intern, [Glaciers and Students project](#)

Support for green job creation and eco-friendly masonry training improved environmental sustainability in brick kilns in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sustainable industrial practices in Sialkot, Punjab, reduced pollution, particularly within its tannery zone, where 285 industrial plots were developed and 65 tannery units adopted environmentally-compliant infrastructure. Over 200 textile mills and tanneries improved their management of chemicals and organic pollutants to minimize environmental impacts.

**Renewable energy (solarization) and climate-smart infrastructure** initiatives supported by the UN also enhanced climate resilience. These included solarized water supply schemes installed in Umerkot, Sindh, as well as solar energy solutions in schools and health facilities. In Karachi's Korangi industrial area, a 640-kW solar system was integrated into the Combined Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), advancing clean energy adoption and reducing industry's carbon footprint. Eight Chilgoza (pine nut) processing units are undergoing solarization to make their operations energy-efficient.

The UN **engaged communities in climate advocacy**, including engaging 4,000 young people who influenced Pakistan's commitment to the Children, Youth and Climate Action Declaration at COP29. Ten mass awareness campaigns in Rawalpindi and Nowshera educated communities on sustainable waste management. Gender-sensitive approaches remained a priority, including research on climate change and women's health, and advocating for mobile health units, safe shelters, and the integration of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) response services within climate policies.

### Protecting natural habitats

UN support for **forest landscape restoration and climate-smart agriculture** is paving the way for protecting natural habitats and ecosystems. For example, in 2024, the UN trained 287 government officials on water-efficient

agriculture and rangeland management, and helped set up 60 assisted natural regeneration sites over 480 hectares. Around 11 million seedlings have been emerged in these sites, revitalizing mountain ecosystems, forestation and the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes. Over 103,000 fruit tree seedlings were planted with UN support across Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, covering 237 hectares. Introducing sustainable harvesting practices reduced tree damage by 25%.

Fuel-efficient stoves and alternative fuel sources reduced the burden on forests, preventing deforestation. The Forest Landscape Restoration National Action Plan developed with UN support will guide large-scale reforestation and conservation efforts, as will Chilgoza Forest Multi-Functional Management Plans for three districts in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

### Sustainable resource management

With UN assistance, progress on **water security and sustainable resource management** gained pace. These include the development of an Integrated Water Policy in Balochistan and a National Action Plan to control pesticide residues in food crops. Installing 1,030 rainwater harvesting units in Rawalpindi, Punjab, and Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – that secured over 300,000 gallons of stored water – bolstered water efficiency and conservation. Groundwater recharge structures installed at 20 sites in Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab, addressed water scarcity in drought-prone areas, including the Cholistan Desert. Over 1.79 million people benefitted from gender-sensitive climate-resilient water services, strengthening long-term water security.


A new initiative launched with UN support will improve access to safe, clean drinking water for vulnerable communities in Sindh by improving water resource management, utilization efficiency and community access.

### ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**1,030** rainwater harvesting units

improved water conservation and efficiency in Rawalpindi and Nowshera by securing

**300,000** gallons of water




**11** million seedlings

are now growing in 60 assisted natural regeneration sites, revitalizing mountain ecosystems




**13,500** fuel-efficient stoves

were distributed, reducing pressure on forest ecosystems



**8,721** households

were supported to adopt sustainable farming techniques





#### ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**1.79**

**million people**  
benefitted from  
gender-sensitive  
climate-resilient  
water services



**8,841**

**people**  
were sensitized  
on the circular  
economy and  
plastic waste  
management



**200+** factories

improved their waste  
disposal practices,  
including recycling



**Disaster risk  
reduction workshops**

contributed to safeguarding  
cultural heritage



Cotton-producing communities adopted water-efficient practices and reduced their use of pesticides following training for 5,000 workers and their families. Industrial wastewater treatment improved with a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) in Sialkot's Tannery Zone, mitigating environmental risks. UN-backed Farmers Field, Climate and Business Schools helped 8,721 farming households adopt sustainable farming techniques, enabling them to sustainably manage natural resource, food and commodity production systems in river basins. Training and exposure visits enabled farmers, both women and men, to advance climate-smart agriculture.

UN support for waste management and the circular economy contributed to efforts to reduce environmental pollution. These included improvements in waste management systems in the cities of Karachi, Lahore and Sahiwal. Over 200 factories improved their waste disposal practices, reducing landfill waste and increasing recycling, particularly for plastics. The UN also advocated for environmentally sound landfill disposal using the Fukuoka Landfill Method. A Global Environment Facility (GEF)-supported programme significantly reduced industrial pollution in Pakistan's leather sector by establishing a common chrome recovery facility, mitigating hazardous waste discharge. Regulatory enforcement was strengthened with the establishment of an Environmental Laboratory in the Korangi industrial area, ensuring compliance with environmental protection standards.

Community-led conservation initiatives launched in 2024 transformed waste dumps into green spaces, including the revitalization of Khuda Ki Basti Park in Karachi, benefitting 85% of residents (read the story on the right of this page). Construction began on two material recovery and plastic recycling facilities in Lahore and Hyderabad, Sindh. Advocacy campaigns in Lahore and Karachi sensitized 8,841 people on the circular economy and sustainable plastic waste management.



#### Preserving marine ecosystems

UN support for marine ecosystems and fisheries conservation included assisting the development of Balochistan's Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, which will guide sustainable fisheries' management, responsible fishing practices and ecosystem conservation. The implementation of conservation plans for Drigh Lake and Keenjhar Lake safeguarded critical water bodies in the Indus Basin. Water efficiency in Pakistan's most water-stressed regions is poised to improve as a project on climate-resilient agriculture and water management, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – the fund for climate finance established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – introduced evapo-transpiration-based water management. The ship recycling industry in Gaddani, Balochistan, is taking proactive steps to reduce its environmental footprint through UN-supported waste recycling initiatives.

The implementation of conservation plans for Drigh Lake and Keenjhar Lake safeguarded critical water bodies in the Indus Basin. Water efficiency in Pakistan's most water-stressed regions is poised to improve as a project on climate-resilient agriculture and water management, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – the fund for climate finance established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – introduced evapo-transpiration-based water management. The ship recycling industry in Gaddani, Balochistan, is taking proactive steps to reduce its environmental footprint through UN-supported waste recycling initiatives.



📷 Above: Camels search for water in Balochistan. Pakistan's largest province is highly vulnerable to climate disasters, from prolonged drought to flash floods © UNDP  
Below: Khuda ki Basti Park in Karachi after its revitalization by UN Habitat and partners © UN Habitat

#### REAL LIVES

#### KHUDA KI BASTI'S STORY

#### Green public spaces bringing communities together

"We used to avoid this place due to the stench and the risk of dengue," recalls local resident Fatima, describing what Khuda ki Basti Park used to be like, in Surjani Town, Karachi. Once a neglected wasteland littered with garbage and stagnant water that bred mosquitoes, the area is now a vibrant, green public space – the cornerstone of sustainable cities and communities.

The project that revitalized the park brought together UN Habitat, the Korean Land and Housing Corporation, and local NGOs – including the Riverside Development Organization and Good Neighbour. Leveraging UN expertise in sustainable urban development, the partners transformed the area into an inclusive, environmentally sustainable oasis. Their approach was community-centric, involving residents in every step of the planning and decision-making processes to tailor the park to their needs. "This project has turned an underutilized area into a vibrant community asset," explains Mr Hussain, board member of Sindh's Planning and Development. "It showcases what can be achieved when government bodies, international organizations, and local communities collaborate effectively."

Now, 85% of residents use the park regularly, reporting improvements in their physical and mental well-being. "I never imagined we would have such a beautiful park here. It has changed our lives," says Ali, a local resident. "We finally have a safe place for our children to play, and we can come together as a community."

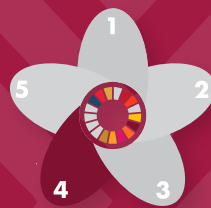


“

“We finally have a safe place for our children to play, and we can come together as a community.”

- Ali, resident of Surjani Town, Karachi





# SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK

AGENCIES

Outcome 4 is coordinated by **ILO**, bringing together the efforts of **FAO, IFAD, IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS** and **WFP**

KEY SDGS



In 2024, the UN supported economic growth in Pakistan that is more inclusive, resilient and green, with thriving enterprises and decent work for all at its core.

## Responsive macroeconomic strategies

The UN supported the development of Uraan Pakistan – the country’s 13th Five-Year Plan – which sets out a gender-responsive framework for sustainable economic growth, green and decent jobs, and climate resilience. Formulated with the private sector, trade unions, civil society and a federal task force, the plan will facilitate a just transition to a greener economy for climate-

vulnerable industries and marginalized groups, especially women and youth. With UN assistance, the Employers’ Federation of Pakistan engaged trade unions and businesses in assessing sectors at risk from climate change, to guide industries toward greener practices and foster sustainable economic transformation. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UN efforts contributed to a just transition by promoting sustainable construction and eco-tourism.

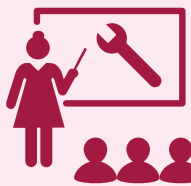
## Policies and programmes for decent work

UN technical inputs fed into the Government’s development of an inclusive national employment policy framework.

### ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

SME and micro grant windows led to contracted agreements worth

**€6 million**



**8,670** young people & microbusinesses (roughly 50% women) benefitted from training

**2,000** women benefitted from outreach on inclusive workplaces at **400** factories



**\$0.5 million**

was invested in 41 businesses by the Enterprise Development Fund, leading to the creation of **145 jobs** in the hospitality, retail, manufacturing and agribusiness sectors



**11,782** Afghan and host community members benefitted from with cash assistance and training for small business growth



**469** stakeholders were trained to address workplace harassment in Gilgit-Baltistan

**30** training events for microenterprises, women and youth boosted business acumen and sustainability




## REAL LIVES DILSHAD'S STORY

### Creating safer, healthier and more productive workplaces

“When the ILO team visited our factory, they gave us the opportunity to learn and improve how we work. The training helped us see that even small changes could make a big difference,” says Dilshad, a stitching machine operator at a garment factory in Karachi. Since his factory joined the ILO’s Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Programme, his workplace has transformed.

Through SCORE training, Dilshad and his colleagues learned practical ways to make their workflow more efficient through teamwork. Daily 10-minute meetings are one simple but powerful tool to document and resolve workers’ concerns. “We have a file where we note workplace issues, and it is shared with the management. They focus on solving problems quickly, which makes our work easier and safer,” explains Dilshad. “Now, tasks that used to take minutes can be done in seconds. The new ideas we learned during training really made a difference.”

This structured communication and problem-solving approach has improved trust between workers and managers. The factory is safer, its operations more streamlined, and productivity is soaring. Like Dilshad, 500 participants across 50 enterprises have taken part in SCORE training, positively affecting over 47,000 workers across Pakistan. Today, Dilshad crafts garments with greater confidence and efficiency, knowing that his factory is a better place to work than ever before.

 Above: Stitching machine operator Dilshad credits the SCORE programme with making his garment factory safer and more productive © ILO  
Below: Dilshad with his supervisor on the production floor © ILO

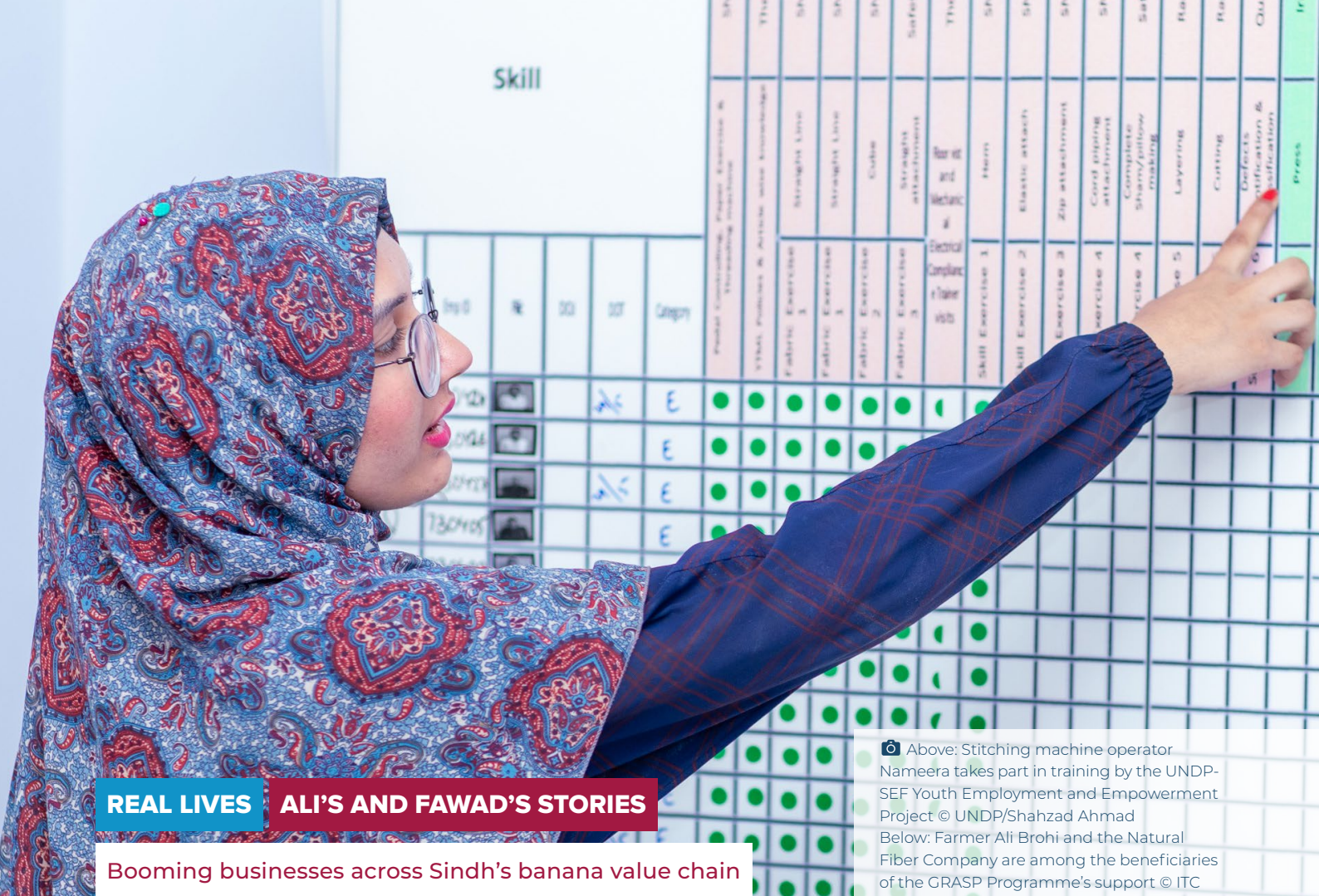


“

SCORE taught us that when workers and managers collaborate, productivity improves, workplaces become safer, and tasks become easier to manage.”

- Dilshad, garment factory worker in Karachi





**REAL LIVES** **ALI'S AND FAWAD'S STORIES**

**Booming businesses across Sindh's banana value chain**

Ali Brohi, a small-scale banana farmer in Sindh, learned of the lucrative potential of banana fibre at a Farmers' Field School. Inspired, he applied for a matching grant of PKR 0.5 million from the ITC's Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) Programme, funded by the European Union. Alongside financial support, the programme provided Ali with training and helped link him to urban buyers. He soon set up two machines, employed six workers and adopted eco-friendly, climate-smart agricultural practices – like repurposing waste into compost, and using compost and banana fibre liquid as fertilizer, maximizing his resources sustainably. Within three months, Ali had earned PKR 150,000 from banana fibre sales, mainly to textile companies. Now, he is well on the way to expanding his business.

For Muhammad Fawad Surya, Director of Sales at the Natural Fiber Company, GRASP's support propelled his ambition of expanding into eco-friendly products into a reality. With a grant of PKR 2.5 million paired with training, the company set up a plant in Khairpur, equipped with four extraction machines and a cutter, all powered by solar energy. They use the extracted fibre to produce value-added items like rope, cloth, and biodegradable loofahs, bath sponges and rugs. Since their successful outing at the Food Agriculture Exhibition, demand for their products has soared. The company now produces 1.2 tonnes of products sustainably crafted from banana fibre every month.



📷 Above: Stitching machine operator Nameera takes part in training by the UNDP-SEF Youth Employment and Empowerment Project © UNDP/Shahzad Ahmad  
Below: Farmer Ali Brohi and the Natural Fiber Company are among the beneficiaries of the GRASP Programme's support © ITC



As a pathfinder country of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection, Pakistan is integrating employment and social protection policies into its national strategy. Community-driven development plans promoted inclusive growth, access to resources, and income generation for marginalized groups. In Sindh, grant agreements with businesses generated 1,000 job opportunities, enhancing economic inclusion. Infrastructure and economic empowerment initiatives boosted connectivity, access to markets and finance, value addition, and incomes for rural communities – including farmers, fisherfolk and youth.

**Enabling business environment**

The UN worked with national partners to foster an **enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**. Stakeholders began shaping a National Plan for SME Formalization and a National Roadmap to simplify registration and compliance processes, unlocking new opportunities for businesses. A project with the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority helped enterprises transition to the formal economy, especially in the textile and automotive sectors, aided by SME Helpdesks in Karachi and Lahore. Export-oriented businesses gained improved market access by formalizing their value chains. Employers' and workers' organizations championed the principles of the MNE Declaration to strengthen Pakistan's export base. Institutionalizing the SCORE training programme with industry associations is primed to improve the productivity, sustainability and job quality of SMEs. Efforts to improve MSMEs' access to finance included training 100 stakeholders on STR certification and launching the BizHub portal in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to bridge the gap between investors and businesses. UN initiatives strengthened public-private engagement through SME and micro grant windows, leading to contracted agreements worth EUR 6 million for business expansion. Providing 70% matching grants to women-run businesses bolstered women's financial inclusion, SMEs' competitiveness and

economic resilience. The Enterprise Development Fund invested US\$0.5 million in 41 businesses, creating 145 jobs in the hospitality, retail, manufacturing and agribusiness sectors. Rice producers benefitted from support on energy efficiency, market linkages and optimizing production. Assistance for the cultural sector included economic linkages to promote the Kalash community's heritage, and enhancing conservation at the Lahore Museum with a new Master Plan.

**Enhancing skills and opportunities**

UN support for **skills development improved employability and income generation opportunities**, especially for youth, women and marginalized groups. Tailored solutions included vocational, technical and entrepreneurial training, paired with start-up support. In Sindh, 30 training events for microenterprises, women and youth enhanced business acumen and sustainability. Community resilience initiatives strengthened the livelihoods of 2,170 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts. Nationwide, 8,670 young people and microbusinesses (roughly 50% women) benefitted from training on diverse topics – from digital skills to 2D art, business incubation, and workforce development in industry and hospitality – paired with 2,000 microloans for microbusinesses owned or led by women. To foster a future-ready workforce, the UN helped the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission integrate green practices, climate resilience, and occupational safety and health into a skills anticipation exercise with 157 trade organizations. Advocacy for the recognition of prior learning and a national skills passport enhanced employability – especially of informal workers – in Pakistan and abroad by certifying their skills.

Upgrading vocational skills centres expanded skilling opportunities for youth, including refugees, in partnership with technical and vocational authorities in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Income generation prospects improved for 6,000 refugees and host community members (40% women) following technical and vocational training, as

**Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers**

The Women's Economic Empowerment Project enhanced the employability and entrepreneurship of

**11,826** women

**3,000** home-based workers in Sindh were formalized (registered as workers), securing them legal recognition and protection

**200** women artisans benefitted from support for handicraft development and market access

**59** labour inspectors were trained on enforcing laws against forced labour in Balochistan



## ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**200,000**

**workers** (13% women) benefitted from Better Work interventions



**11,500**

**women** were organized into groups, increasing their collective bargaining power



**5,000** **women**

were linked with online platforms and microfinance to boost market access



**4,375** **refugees**

benefitted from business start-up toolkits and training



well as for 11,782 Afghan and host community members who received cash assistance, vocational and financial literacy training for business growth. Internships empowered 500 refugees (21% women) with hands-on experience, while another 4,375 benefitted from business start-up toolkits and training on enterprise development. Advocacy with national authorities improved refugees' access to business registration and employment, while partnerships with financial institutions increased access to financial services. These efforts fostered entrepreneurship, sustainable livelihoods, workforce integration and self-reliance.



### Facilitating women's empowerment

UN initiatives facilitated **women's economic empowerment, inclusion and protection**. Research identified pathways to bridge the gender pay gap, enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives for gender-responsive policymaking, and mainstream gender into the National Disaster Management Authority's Disaster Management Plan. A gap assessment of the Violence and Harassment Convention (No. 190) informed labour codes and rules of business in Punjab and Sindh. Campaigns on the Convention by employers and workers raised awareness to prevent workplace violence and harassment. Outreach championed inclusive workplaces at 400 factories, benefitting 2,000 women. Training 120 government officials in Balochistan promoted gender equality, as did capacity building on the legal framework to address harassment in 469 stakeholders in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The UN supported the formalization of 3,000 home-based workers in Sindh – securing them legal recognition and protection – by setting up registration desks, a management information system, and providing IT equipment. A Council for Home-based Workers was set up in Sindh, as was a Gender Desk in Balochistan. Over 200 women artisans benefitted from end-to-end solutions for handicraft development and market access, while training 48 women to produce reusable sanitary pads and soap bolstered

menstrual hygiene management. The Women's Economic Empowerment Project enhanced the employability and entrepreneurship of 11,826 women, including through training on technical skills, digital literacy and business development. Organizing 11,500 women into groups bolstered their leadership and collective bargaining, while linking 5,000 women with microfinance institutions and online platforms expanded market access. Over 6,000 were sensitized on their legal rights, while 535 male champions were engaged to advocate for pro-women laws.



### Reducing inequalities in the world of work

Efforts to **prevent worker exploitation** included piloting a survey on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) in Sindh and Balochistan to inform evidence-based policymaking. With UN assistance, provincial strategies for FPRW in cotton supply chains were developed, tripartite dialogue strengthened, and consultations held on a national FPRW strategy. Support for the right to association led to the unionization of domestic workers in Bahawalpur, Punjab. Equipping the Pakistan Workers' Federation to develop FPRW curricula increased awareness of labour rights. Better Work Pakistan benefitted 220,000 workers (13% women), especially in the ready-made garment sector, by supporting enterprises to comply with labour laws, facilitating dialogue, and raising awareness.

Legal and institutional reforms combatted bonded and child labour, with increased penalties, better reporting, and support for victims. A national referral mechanism for child labour was activated in Islamabad, and a management information system on human trafficking was integrated into the national referral mechanism. Strengthening District Vigilance Committees in Punjab, and training 59 labour inspectors in Balochistan, improved the enforcement of laws to end forced labour.



### REAL LIVES HAJATH'S STORY

#### An empowering journey, from middlemen to market leader

"I often wondered if there was more to this [life] than just hard work," says [Hajath Meena](#). Despite toiling for 10 hours a day on her family farm in the Khyber district, selling produce through middlemen barely earned her enough to get by. "I always knew my vegetables were worth more than what I was being paid, but I did not have the knowledge or confidence to demand a fair price," she explains. The dream of turning her efforts into a profitable business seemed distant.

But the chance came when Hajath received training on entrepreneurship and agri-marketing as part of the UN Women and FAO joint Livelihood Support to Women Farmers Project, funded by USAID. She gained skills she never dreamed she could master – on grading, packing, marketing and business management. The trainers used simple, engaging methods that made the lessons accessible and enjoyable. "This training was a game-changer for me," says Hajath. "After the training, I understood my French beans' true value. Instead of selling them to middlemen for PKR 150 per kg, I now sell directly to customers for PKR 400 per kg. That's a 35% increase in profits for just one transaction!"

The confidence and skills she gained have filled her with a renewed sense of purpose. Hajath now plans to take out a loan from First Women Bank Limited to start a small dairy farming business too. With her family by her side on this entrepreneurial journey, Hajath is fast becoming a role model for women in her community.

Above: UNHCR's livelihoods programme enables host communities and refugees to engage together in growing industries, like solar systems ©UNHCR/Asif Shahzad  
Below: Hajath Meena now has a profitable farming business, after training by a joint FAO-UN Women project © UN Women

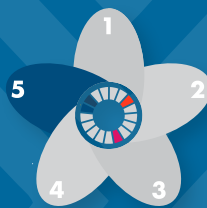


“

One day, I hope that women like me will no longer be just unpaid labourers on family farms. I want to see women become true entrepreneurs.

- Hajath, agri-entrepreneur in Khyber





# GOVERNANCE

AGENCIES

Outcome 5 is coordinated by **UNDP**, bringing together the efforts of **FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS** and **UN Women**

KEY SDGS



In 2024, the UN supported good governance in Pakistan by strengthening justice and rule of law systems, frameworks and capacities, and raising awareness of fundamental rights.



## Strengthening institutions and systems

UN support **strengthened state institutions' data governance systems and capacities**. The Data for Development Portal at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives provided centralized access to datasets and policy tools. A Data Governance Framework devised with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and provincial bureaus standardized the approach to

data collection and dissemination. The Pakistan Data Festival showcased innovations, bolstering confidence in the bureaus' capacities. A centralized Foreign Assistance Effectiveness Dashboard at the Ministry of Economic Affairs is set to transform how foreign assistance is managed and monitored. Consultations with 150 district stakeholders informed Pakistan's first Media and Information Literacy Strategy. A Disaster Management Dashboard at Sindh's Planning and Development Department contributed to coordinated disaster preparedness and response. With the Digital Convergence Initiative, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's government set up an integrated management information system for the delivery of 12 social protection schemes.

### Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

## 85

**million people** were reached by civic and voter education campaigns



## \$270,000

was mobilized for green and gender equality initiatives through private sector partnerships in Sindh



## 5,000

**law enforcement** personnel were trained to combat organized crime



## 4,500

**justice & security** officials were trained on pro-women laws



## 1,500

**law enforcement** officers were trained on refugees' rights



## 4,500

**election officials**

(22% women) were equipped with materials to serve as master trainers, enabling them to reach

## 1.05

**million polling staff**

and reduce procedural irregularities



## 95 Village Councils

in the Merged Districts were supported with

## 167

**micro projects**

to improve service delivery



## REAL LIVES

## GHAZALA'S STORY

### Championing justice: A quest to end violence against women

"I decided to become a lawyer the day we failed to seek justice for the unjust killing of my elder sister," **Ghazala Yasmin** explains. But bringing her sister's murderers to justice proved impossible in her small village in Balochistan's tehsil Bhagnari. "I didn't want anyone else to go through the same pain. I wanted to give others what we couldn't get – legal aid." Ghazala has overcome a decade-long struggle to practise law as a woman in Balochistan. In 2022, she represented a domestic violence survivor pro bono, securing her client's *khula* (dissolution of marriage) and custody of her children. Ghazala has since provided free legal aid in over 20 family cases, helping domestic violence survivors dissolve abusive marriages, gain custody of their children, and recover dowries.

The support of the Deliver Justice Project – funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNODC – has been part of her journey. Through the project, Ghazala was one of 60 women lawyers in Quetta provided with law books, and among the 250 trained in partnership with the Bar Councils of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The training was crucial in sensitizing me about the nuances of representing vulnerable clients," says Ghazala. "Before the training, I was providing legal aid but wasn't aware of many resources within our courts that could have made my job easier." As Ghazala continues her trailblazing journey, she remains a beacon of hope for women's access to justice in Balochistan.



# “

Providing legal aid to women and marginalized individuals is my redemption from a past marked by irreparable loss and missed opportunities.”

- Ghazala, advocate, Balochistan

Above: Advocate Ghazala Yasmin has benefitted from UNDP's support in her quest to provide legal aid to survivors of gender-based violence in Balochistan © UNDP/Amna Karim  
Below: As a girl, Ghazala was determined to become a lawyer © Ghazala Yasmin





📷 Above: A man casts his vote during Pakistan's 2024 General Election © UNDP  
Below: Equipping the Sindh Police to effectively serve the needs of the transgender community © UNODC

## REAL LIVES ASHIQ'S STORY

### Equipping the police to protect the transgender community

Reaching out to the police can be a daunting prospect. It is especially daunting for the transgender community. Discrimination, misrepresentation and prejudice can turn something as simple as filing a complaint into an ordeal. Police officers often lack awareness of transgender rights and their specific needs. Insensitive questioning, procedural hurdles, and even a reluctance to register complaints are all too common. Discouraged from seeking help, transgender persons are left vulnerable and isolated in the face of harassment, assault and other forms of injustice.

Recognizing this critical gap, a new **specialized training programme** – funded by the United States Embassy's Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and conducted by UNODC – is equipping police officers in Sindh with the tools and understanding needed to better serve the transgender community, including survivors of violence. *"This is the first ever training that we have been exposed to on this subject,"* explains Ashiq Ali, Sub-Inspector in Korangi. *"It has provided a unique perspective, not just for awareness, but for encouraging positive behaviours and the adoption of a process at police stations for the effective handling of complainants from the transgender community."* He is one of 49 police officers, including six women, trained by the programme in January 2024 to ensure that transgender persons who report a crime or seek assistance feel heard, respected, and protected.



“  
[The training] has provided a unique perspective, not just for awareness, but for encouraging positive behaviours.”

- Ashiq Ali, Sub-Inspector, Sindh Police

Profiles of Pakistan's 20 least-developed districts informed **SDG localization** under the SDGs Plus Programme, as did support for an SDG audit by the Auditor General's Office. The Development Plan for the Poorest Districts in South Punjab contributed to Punjab's first Integrated Financing Strategy, outlining SDG and climate financing pathways. The UN also supported government efforts to drive **economic revitalization through strategic policymaking**. Technical assistance contributed to defining the objectives of the Prime Minister's Roadmap and sectoral strategies to enhance economic discipline – critical for meeting IMF requirements. It also facilitated the launch of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's High Impact Economic Plan and the institutionalization of the Merged Districts' Electrification Programme, which promotes inclusion by connecting communities to the formal economy. UN support helped 95 Village Councils in the Merged Districts complete 167 micro projects to improve service delivery. Upgrading infrastructure at the Kharlachi border crossing facilitated trade and movement. In Sindh, private sector partnerships mobilized US\$270,000 for green and gender equality initiatives.

Leading up to the 2024 elections, the UN supported a **safe and inclusive electoral environment**. The iVerify fact-checking platform combatted misinformation and improved information integrity. Voter education campaigns engaged 85 million people, and a UN-led study recommended reforms to promote women's electoral participation. Training materials enabled 4,500 top-tier election officials (22% women) to serve as master trainers. They reached 1.05 million polling staff to reduce procedural irregularities, as noted in the Free and Fair Election Network's observation report. After training for 200 officers of the Election Commission of Pakistan (50% women), provincial election commissions reconstituted Harassment Inquiry Committees.

### Strengthening justice systems

Enhancing capacities contributed to the **rule of law and efficient justice systems**. Training 5,000 law enforcement

personnel bolstered capacities to combat transnational organized crime and improve gender-sensitive border management, as did the provision of equipment, training and the development of 16 master trainers at the Anti-Narcotics Force on digital forensics, cybercrime and crime scene investigation. Capacity building honed the skills of 200 Federal Investigation Agency personnel and 1,121 law enforcement and justice stakeholders, and equipped 1,500 law enforcement officers to uphold refugees' rights. Sessions on transgender rights promoted inclusivity, as did training on gender-related laws for 4,500 justice and security officials. Ministry of Interior and NADRA officials gained insights on anti-trafficking strategies at international forums.

Supporting the **development of policy frameworks** strengthened the rule of law, such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Police Gender Strategy, Gender-Responsive Policing Policy, standard operating procedures (SOPs) for gender-responsive desks, and implementation plans for the Rule of Law Roadmap. SOPs for Balochistan's Excise, Taxation and Anti-Narcotics Department streamlined operations. Nationwide, the UN supported the implementation of laws to address gender-based violence, child marriage and women's property rights. With UN assistance, Punjab's Women Parliamentary Caucus was notified, and Gilgit-Baltistan's Women Parliamentary Caucus reviewed seven laws. Advocacy and training for 400 officials in Gilgit-Baltistan led to government notifications requiring all public and private organizations to establish Inquiry Committees against workplace harassment. **Data-driven approaches** strengthened the justice sector, such as the Prison Management Information System implemented in 40 prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 13 in Balochistan. With UN support, the Case Management and Monitoring System in Balochistan, and the operationalization of six e-Courts in Balochistan and Sindh, facilitated the secure handling of terrorism cases. The Federal Investigation Agency institutionalized a management information system on trafficking in persons. The system, paired with UN research on human trafficking and migrant smuggling, informed action plans on victim support and adjudication processes.

### ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers





#### ■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

**1.7**

**million people** were reached by campaigns on gender and legal protection



**2,500 officials, employers & workers**

(68% women) were sensitized on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, benefitting

**12,500 people**



**400,000**

**people** in the Merged Districts were reached by radio campaigns on women's rights



**10,000**

**displaced Afghan women** accessed services after awareness campaigns



Mapping service providers informed Balochistan's first Forced Labour Survey. The judiciary in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa conducted 50,000 case hearings through 147 virtual courts and points. As a result of such innovations, 26% of people surveyed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 32% in Balochistan reported improved access to justice compared to 2021. A mid-term review highlighted a 542% increase in cases reported under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Women's Rights to Property Act since 2021. Capacity building facilitated the piloting of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system, and enabled five Population Research Centres to develop action plans on education, health and governance. New rounds of the Longitudinal Panel Study delivered data on family planning and reproductive health to support FP2030 commitments. The Pakistan 50+ Study and State of Population Report 2024 provided evidence on demographic trends, youth employment and gender gaps. To improve service delivery, Punjab's Population Policy 2024 integrated population dynamics into development planning.

UN efforts supported **access to justice for groups at risk of being left behind**. Sixteen gender-responsive infrastructure schemes in justice institutions in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – including teleconferencing facilities in GBV courts and day care services in police stations – fostered gender-responsive environments. So did a new Gender-Responsive Policing Unit at the National Police Bureau, a National Gender-Responsive Policing Framework and Action Plan endorsed by all of Pakistan's 13 police forces, and 15 gender desks in Quetta. IT systems in nine smart police stations in Balochistan modernized community policing, while a Victim Reception and Facilitation Centre linked 2,700 trafficking survivors with recovery and reintegration services. Building five model police stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts enhanced service delivery, as did five court-annexed mediation centres in Balochistan, benefitting 3.2 million people (47% women). Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centres in Balochistan and Punjab helped 3,000 people, while five model Anti-Rape Crisis Centres provided services to 439 survivors (49% are under 18 years old).

An action plan on transgender rights was developed for criminal justice institutions, as was a helpline for transgender persons. A pilot National Referral Mechanism in Islamabad linked child labour survivors with support. UN-backed Advice and Legal Aid Centres assisted 87,000 refugees and asylum seekers. A pilot in Balochistan with the Benazir Income Support Programme will advance inclusion by integrating birth registration with social protection.



#### Promoting and upholding rights

UN advocacy helped people **understand and exercise their rights**. Sensitizing 1,000 workers on the ILO Chemicals Convention raised awareness of occupational safety and health, as did training for 200 sanitation workers. With UN support, the Pakistan Workers' Federation developed a national training curriculum, trained 500 workers and promoted unionization, while the Employers' Federation of Pakistan engaged 250 informal economy employers. Over 2,500 government officials, employers, farmers and workers (68% women) were sensitized on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, indirectly benefitting 12,500 people. A Human Rights Due Diligence Framework will safeguard rights in the textile sector. The Child Marriage Card campaign reached out to 34.1 million people, receiving the Cannes Lions Award for creative excellence. Advocacy sensitized 150 change-makers in Balochistan and Sindh on gender equality, and 185 journalists and media leaders on forced labour. Outreach campaigns on gender and legal protection engaged 1.7 million people. GBV awareness raising in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa sensitized 5,000 community members directly, and 30,000 indirectly. Radio campaigns on women's rights reached 400,000 people in the Merged Districts, while 82 community sessions with 1,060 people (58% women) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa strengthened social ties between Afghan refugees and host communities. Awareness raising also helped 10,000 Afghan women access services and information. In aid of community stabilization, 400 people (50% women) were trained on psychosocial skills in Khyber, and 5,000 people were sensitized to prevent violent extremism.



#### REAL LIVES ANWAR'S STORY

#### Bringing communities together, fostering social cohesion

Born in Pakistan to Afghan parents, **Muhammad Anwar's** talent earned him a place on Afghanistan's Under-19 national cricket team. "I was an ordinary Afghan kid from Peshawar. My world changed overnight, representing Afghanistan and travelling to places I had only dreamed of," he says. But when his career was cut short by a severe leg injury, Anwar's life changed again. He re-entered the sport as a coach, transforming his love for cricket into a microbusiness coaching diverse aspiring cricketers in Peshawar. With the support of IOM Pakistan's Individual Livelihood Assistance Programme, his business is going from strength to strength. Anwar has received support packages and vital business development service training. With these new skills and financial support, he has expanded his coaching business and opened a small shop selling sports equipment and accessories.

But Anwar is doing much more than growing a business. He is sowing the seeds of unity and understanding. Today, he coaches 118 young cricketers of Afghan and Pakistani origin. He has formed a local sports team, enabling his players to compete in regional leagues. "There is immense cricket talent in our region, but many never get the chance to shine due to a lack of resources and exposure. I want to change that," says Anwar. Above all, he is passionate about uniting youth through cricket. Anwar's small business is not just fostering cricket talent; it is nurturing social cohesion between Afghan and host communities in Pakistan.



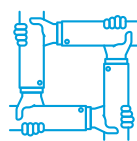
“

Cricket, a sport beloved in our region, has the power to bring people from different backgrounds together. On the field, we are all one.

- Anwar, cricket coach in Peshawar



# SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA



In 2024, the UN in Pakistan scaled up its role as a trusted partner in convening strategic actors, supporting national leadership and unlocking catalytic financing to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) mobilized the full breadth of the UN system to support policy innovation, strategic dialogue, and joint programming across government, civil society, the private sector and parliament.



Strong partnerships with the **Government of Pakistan** at the federal and provincial levels remained centre stage. This included close collaboration with the Economic Affairs Division and Planning Commission on national oversight committee and provincial steering committee meetings to guide the effective implementation of the Cooperation Framework. Strategic engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strengthened UN-Government collaboration and enabled key operational advancements across the UN system in Pakistan. The UN worked more closely than ever with provincial governments in 2024, propelling progress on SDG localization and development solutions tailored to diverse local contexts.



The UN maintained steadfast collaboration with **development partners**, continuing longstanding partnerships while also actively engaging with new partners. Through monthly meetings of the Development Partners Group (DGP), and quarterly Member State briefings, the RCO positioned the UN as a convenor of critical platforms on all issues relevant to sustainable development in Pakistan – running the gamut from reducing poverty and inequality to advancing inclusive economic growth, expanding essential services, bolstering climate resilience, and supporting governance reform. In 2024, the Development Partners Group gained renewed momentum under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, who helped elevate the platform's role as a space for strategic and coordinated development dialogue. In a notable first, one Development Partners Group meeting was held at the provincial level in Sindh, hosted by the Chief Minister – demonstrating growing interest in decentralized dialogue. Building on this success, the UN plans to convene similar engagements in other provinces in 2025. Partnering with media platforms was another priority in 2024, contributing to amplifying UN messages, including through the large-scale celebration of UN Day.



Recognizing the scale of Pakistan's development financing gap, the Resident Coordinator has

called for a more comprehensive and forward-looking approach to **financing the SDGs**. This includes strengthening collaboration with international financial institutions, and advancing strategies that combine official aid, domestic resource mobilization, economic growth, and responsible debt management. New instruments – such as climate-linked debt relief or blended finance models – will be key to expanding Pakistan's fiscal space and sustaining progress on the 2030 Agenda.

The year marked a major milestone in Pakistan's journey to transform **food systems**. With coordination led by the RCO, Pakistan secured its first-ever allocation from the Joint SDG Fund to advance a nationally owned, systems-based approach to food security. The programme – implemented under FAO's technical leadership – will focus on enhancing agricultural resilience, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable rural livelihoods, with a strong focus on cross-sectoral engagement.

In the **energy** domain, the UN supported ongoing dialogue between the Government of Pakistan and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) to explore the development of a consolidated Energy Transition and Investment Plan (ETIP). Coordination led by the RCO, the UN has facilitated technical discussions aimed at aligning Pakistan's renewable energy aspirations with its broader development objectives. The proposed plan has the potential to serve as a basis for future international engagement and financing once formally adopted by the Government.

**Climate action** remained at the core of UN engagement in 2024. The Living Indus Initiative continued to serve as Pakistan's flagship nature-based resilience programme, gaining recognition as a model for integrated climate action. To further elevate its impact, the RCO – together with the Dawn Media Group – supported the planning of Breathe Pakistan, a high-profile South Asia regional conference scheduled for 2025. The event is expected to convene senior government leaders, UN representatives and regional stakeholders to spotlight climate resilience solutions, including a dedicated focus on the Living Indus. In preparation for the gathering, a pro bono media partnership with Dawn has already generated approximately US\$400,000 in advertising value. This has helped to amplify national and UN messages on climate priorities, while building national momentum for climate action.



UN partnerships include a focus on supporting climate-resilient agriculture, food security and sustainable livelihoods © FAO



In support of the **digital transition**, the UN actively supported the Government to advance a national digital public infrastructure agenda. Following high-level engagements with the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, the UN convened technical partners to provide coordinated support around key policy and implementation areas. These include the rollout of 5G, the development of a National Artificial Intelligence Policy, and the Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP). A multi-agency taskforce led by UNDP is providing integrated expertise, reinforcing the UN's role as a responsive, trusted partner in Pakistan's digital transformation.



In response to escalating climate and humanitarian risks, the UN launched the Climate Resilience and Humanitarian Response (CRHR) component under the BRAVE programme. This GBP 30 million consortium – comprising IOM, UNICEF, FAO, ACTED, CARE and Islamic Relief – will directly benefit over 1.6 million people across climate-vulnerable areas of Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. The initiative blends short-term disaster response with long-term resilience-building, including scalable model interventions on climate-smart livelihoods, inclusive protection and disaster risk governance.



In addition to executive partnerships, 2024 also marked a milestone in parliamentary engagement. With the SDGs Secretariat at the National Assembly, the RCO organized an intensive capacity-building series for the National Parliamentary Taskforce on



the SDGs, structured around the “5Ps” of People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. These sessions enabled Members of Parliament to explore progress on the SDGs, data gaps, and policy recommendations across multiple sectors.

Collectively, these partnerships reflect the UN's evolving value proposition in Pakistan – one that is grounded in country ownership, focused on delivering results at scale, and committed to unlocking investments and innovations to accelerate the 2030 Agenda.

## LESSONS LEARNED



In addition to the importance of partnerships, lessons learned in 2024 include the pivotal role of coordination in amplifying the UN's impact on the ground, and the benefits of adapting approaches in response to evolving local contexts. Experiences throughout the year highlighted the urgent need to expand innovative financing models to ensure the sustainability and scalability of initiatives. Efforts like the Digital Financial Literacy initiative reinforced the importance of bridging knowledge gaps among vulnerable populations, while digital innovations like the Hybrid Social Protection System demonstrated how digital solutions can enhance efficiency and accountability. Working with local implementing partners helped mitigate the challenge of reaching remote and underserved areas, while sustained capacity building addressed the challenge of high levels of government staff turnover.



# UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

The UN in Pakistan has been **delivering as one** since 2007, in line with UN system reforms. In 2024, the UN continued to streamline interventions, improve joint programming among agencies at the country level, reduce business costs, foster coherence and accountability, enhance national ownership of initiatives, and communicate consistently.

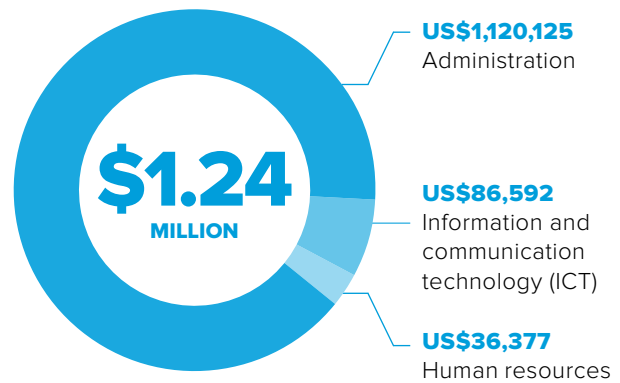


## Business efficiencies

The UN in Pakistan delivered on the global UN Efficiency Agenda by implementing the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 in 2024. This improved UN operational efficiency through shared services and greater coordination among agencies, while eliminating duplication and maximizing economies of scale. The UN introduced disability inclusion measures, such as accessibility assessments and policy updates, and brought procurement processes into compliance with standards on safeguarding and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Common services and inter-agency service contracts gained wider acceptance, with agencies increasingly relying on long-term agreements (LTA) for air travel, transport, premises management, and security services. Shared contracts for fuel supplies, internet services and mobile phone services reduced duplication while enhancing service quality.

The fourth annual BOS review informed changes that respond to the evolving needs of UN agencies, with new services introduced and others discontinued. Four new common services were introduced in 2024: two premises' management services, fuel management, and vehicle maintenance. Common UN premises proved a particularly high-impact area in terms of reducing overhead costs. Services that were phased out include macro-assessments, common applications and banking services for cash disbursement. These measures led to significant cost savings of US\$1.25 million – a 10.8% year-on-year (YOY) increase compared to 2023. Business efficiency priorities for 2025 include finalizing LTAs for event management, courier services and janitorial services, alongside enhancing digital accessibility, disability inclusion and PSEA compliance.

## COST AVOIDANCE REPORTED IN 2024



## Communicating as one

Communicating as one ensured coherent messaging and brought the public closer to the UN's work in Pakistan. Major events drew diverse participants together, leveraging international days to raise awareness of sustainable development priorities and how the UN is supporting Pakistan to achieve them. Chief among these events was the celebration of UN Day in Islamabad. Over 12,000 participants took part in the day's events, which included a photo exhibition and stalls set up by UN agencies to showcase key initiatives. Two events on World Environment Day, organized in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation, highlighted climate-related UN efforts and awarded dedicated "climate champions". Joint events sensitized people nationwide on gender-based violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, paired with online engagement. Videos and social media posts drew attention to the plight of people affected by crises on World Humanitarian Day. A panel discussion at the Lahore Literary Festival shone a light on the Living Indus Initiative and environmental concerns – from glacier melt and glacier lake outburst floods, to smog and pollution.

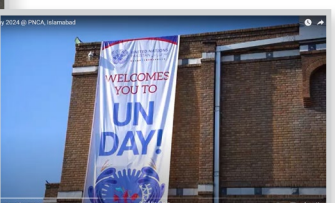
Proactive media engagement enhanced outreach through regular press releases, briefings and [opinion pieces \(op-eds\)](#) by the Resident Coordinator and UNCT members. To mark UN Day, the UN held a dedicated press conference with journalists and an op-ed by the Resident Coordinator – "[We are all the United Nations](#)" – was published in prominent news outlets. Quarterly Member States' briefings kept partners informed of UN efforts, while audiovisual materials and social media engagement sensitized the public. For example, a short video entitled "UN in Pakistan" featured footage from different agencies to show how the UN works as one across Pakistan, from the mountains to the sea. A series of six "I am the UN" videos – one in each of Pakistan's four provinces and two administrative regions – showed viewers a day in the life of UN staff members. The UN Communications Group (UNCG) oversaw coherent communications and contributed to enhanced efficiency, including the development of a Disability Inclusion Strategy.



**12,000** people  
learned about the UN's work in  
Pakistan at UN Day celebrations

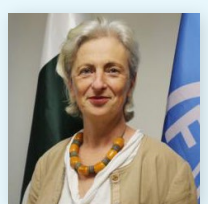


Videos on UN Day and an interview with the Resident Coordinator



Above: UN Day 2024 celebrations in Islamabad © UNIC Pakistan  
Below: Event held as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign © UN Women; "Play for Peace" football match organized with NACTA and the Danish Embassy © UNODC

# THE RESULTS OF WORKING BETTER TOGETHER IN THE WORDS OF THE UNCT



Florence Rolle,  
FAO  
Representative  
in Pakistan



Following FAO's strong advocacy on the importance of livestock investment, particularly post-floods, it is encouraging to see significant investments in the sector at both federal and provincial levels. FAO has also stepped up its work in the livestock sector with a project dedicated to small ruminants in Balochistan and projects on dairy for smallholder farmers in Punjab and Sindh."



Fernanda Thomaz  
Da Rocha,  
Country Director,  
IFAD



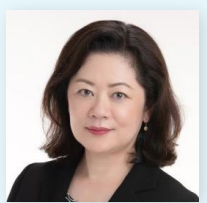
IFAD in Pakistan invests in the first mile - equipping small-scale farmers and rural communities, especially women and youth, with climate-resilient technologies, improved water management, access to finance and better market access. Our work advances sustainable agriculture, builds climate resilience and ensures food and nutrition security for the rural people."



Geir Thomas  
Tonstol,  
Country Director,  
ILO



In 2024, ILO deepened its work across key sectors of the economy in Pakistan – from cotton fields and textile factories to railways, mines, fisheries and construction work – strengthening attention to labour rights, social protection and workplace safety. Through social dialogue, we supported Pakistan's ratification of key ILO labour standards, and strengthened our engagement with government, employer and worker constituents."



Mio Sato,  
Chief of Mission,  
IOM



Pakistan stands at the crossroads of migration, both as a country of origin and destination for migrants. IOM remains committed to supporting the Government of Pakistan and collaborating with partners to harness the full potential of migration while addressing the challenges of irregular migration. Together, we can work towards a future where migration is a choice made safely, with dignity, and through regular pathways."

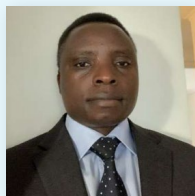




**Carlos Geha,**  
Head of Office,  
OCHA Pakistan

“

Disasters don't wait – neither should we. Anticipatory action turns early warnings into early solutions, saving lives before crises escalate. OCHA stands with partners to make preparedness the new frontline of humanitarian response.”



**Trouble Chikoko,**  
UNAIDS Country  
Director for  
Pakistan and  
Afghanistan

“

As the Joint UN programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) we stand in solidarity with all communities of people living with HIV and at higher risk of HIV. We hope to see a society free of HIV stigma where everyone can access and utilize the services they need. We cannot turn away from solidarity when there is a growing epidemic, requiring our utmost care and compassion.”



**Abdullah Fadil,**  
UNICEF  
Representative  
in Pakistan

“

UNICEF is committed to advancing the rights of every child in Pakistan. In 2024, we made significant strides, improving access to essential services such as health, education, safe water, nutrition, protection and climate-responsive programming, empowering children, youth and communities, but much remains to be done. By elevating the voices of young people, strengthening partnerships and innovation, we can create a world where every child thrives.”



**Nadia Aftab,**  
Country  
Representative,  
UNIDO

“

UNIDO in Pakistan is advancing sustainable industrial development by fostering innovation, strengthening value chains, and promoting clean energy. Our efforts empower communities, enhance competitiveness, and contribute to a greener, more resilient future.”



**Dr Samuel Rizk,**  
Resident  
Representative,  
UNDP

“

In 2024, UNDP accompanied national partners to strengthen governance and reform, to access justice and uphold rights, to recover from climate crises and build resilience, while also championing a digital social contract to expand opportunities through technology. Our public-private collaborations improved livelihoods and access to finance and built skills for future entrepreneurs. Our vision: a prosperous, climate-secure Pakistan where youth lead sustainable progress. Together, we are not just adapting to a changing world – we are shaping it.”



**Dechen Tsering,**  
Director,  
Regional Office  
of Asia Pacific,  
UNEP

“

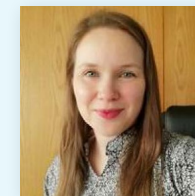
The UNCT, with financial support by the United Nations Environment Programme, developed a policy and analytical brief to inform the 2024 update of the UN Common Country Analysis. The brief aims to inform policy discussions and decision-making by policymakers, financial institutions and development partners to support Pakistan's transition towards climate resilience and sustainable financing solutions.”



**Troels Vester,**  
UNODC  
Representative  
in Pakistan

“

UNODC aligned its programming to support national and provincial priorities for combating crime, drugs, and terrorism. In response to evolving challenges, we placed strategic emphasis on youth engagement and public-private partnerships while promoting human rights and gender responsiveness through our technical assistance initiatives.”



**Jennifer Ankrom,**  
Country  
Manager,  
UNOPS Pakistan

“

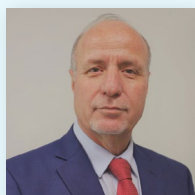
In 2024, UNOPS Pakistan continued to play a vital role in supporting the country's development priorities, particularly in the areas of health, waste management, circular economy, disaster recovery and resilient infrastructure. We worked closely with our partners including the Government of Pakistan, UNHCR, WHO, KOICA and INL, to deliver impactful projects that directly benefitted communities.”



**Antony Kar Hung Tam,**  
Officer-in-Charge,  
UNESCO Office  
in Pakistan

“

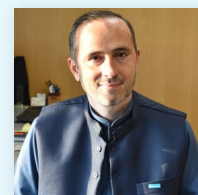
UNESCO provides technical assistance, policy advice, capacity and systems strengthening, and provision of essential services in education, culture, sciences, and access to information. UNESCO will continue its efforts to embrace equity and social cohesion, advance science, technology and digital transformation, and enhance climate change resilience through a rights-based and inclusive approach.”



**Dr Luay Shabaneh,**  
Representative,  
UNFPA Pakistan

“

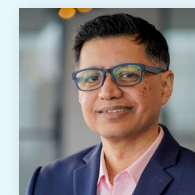
In 2024 UNFPA was able to elevate the population agenda to a higher political level and opened the conversation about high-level upstream issues such as the National Finance Commission. We focused on improving reproductive health services, maintaining protection and response mechanisms for survivors of gender-based violence, producing vital evidence and research on demographic issues and promoting life-skills based education.”



**Waseem Ashraf,**  
Country  
Coordinator,  
UN Volunteers

“

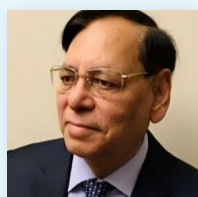
In 2024, UNV Pakistan achieved a milestone with 166 UN Volunteers – a 43% rise from 2023 across 175 assignments with 14 UN agencies. With an average deployment of 11.65 days, among the fastest globally, we ensured swift placements. In 2025, we remain committed to impactful partnerships, mobilizing skilled volunteers to drive sustainable development in Pakistan.”



**Jamshed M. Kazi,**  
Country  
Representative,  
UN Women

“

Through strategic partnerships and impactful interventions, UN Women Pakistan is advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring that no one is left behind. I extend my deepest gratitude to our allies and, most importantly, to the resilient women and girls of Pakistan who continue to inspire progress and create ripple effects. Together, we are steadily building a more equal future.”



**Jawed Ali Khan,**  
Senior Advisor/  
Habitat  
Programme  
Manager,  
UN Habitat

“

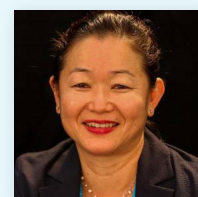
UN Habitat is working in Pakistan on building climate change adaptation capacity at national, provincial and local levels, disaster resilient school infrastructure, improving living conditions in slums and developed a climate resilient settlement plan for flood affected settlements. UN Habitat envisions to make the cities and human settlements livable, resilient, inclusive and sustainable.”



**Philippa Candler,**  
UNHCR  
Representative

“

2024 was a year of progress in Pakistan, with key achievements in education, self-reliance, and community empowerment for refugees and host communities. From solarizing public facilities to supporting Afghan students in higher education, UNHCR remains committed to unlocking potential and exploring sustainable solutions in partnership with the Government of Pakistan and the international community.”



**Coco Ushiyama,**  
Country  
Director,  
WFP

“

Driven by its vision for a food and nutrition secure future for all, WFP continued to work in partnership with the Government to strengthen national social protection programmes, build resilient food systems, and foster long-term community climate resilience. In 2024, WFP supported 3.2 million people including through the expanded Benazir Nashonuma Programme, community livelihood support and the launch of a school meals pilot.”



**Dr Dapeng Luo,**  
Representative,  
WHO

“

WHO is standing side by side with Pakistan to provide high-quality technical and operational support to advance the goal of delivering health for all. Achieving health for all is crucial to accelerate the 2030 Agenda and all SDGs. To achieve sustainable development, we need healthy populations, healthy mothers and newborns, healthy elders, healthy workers, healthy families, and healthy communities.”



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2024

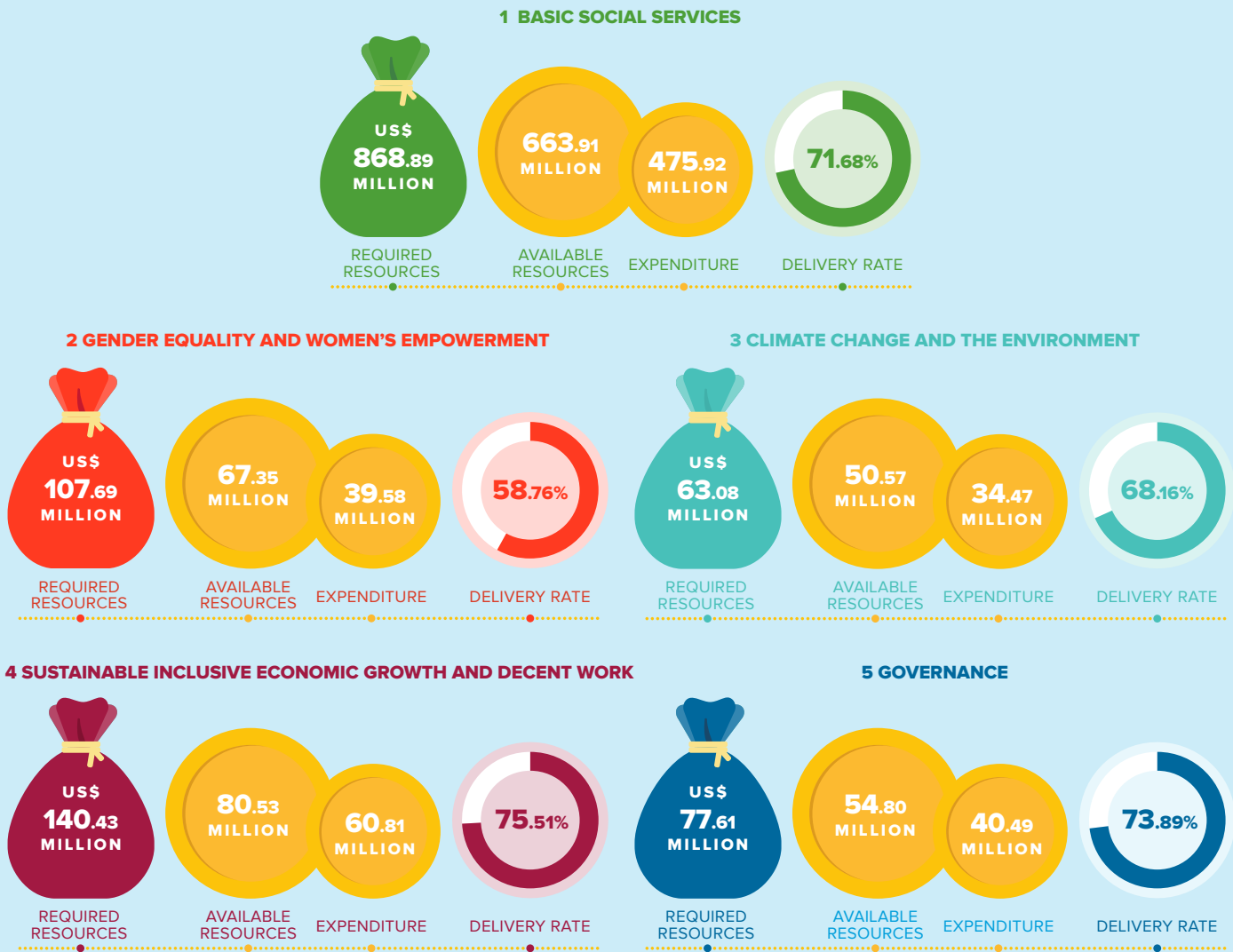


In 2024, the second year of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework's (2023–2027) implementation in Pakistan, the UN's required budget was approximately US\$1.25 billion. Available resources of US\$917.16 million were obtained, and expenditure totalled US\$651.27 million, reflecting an overall delivery rate of 71.01%.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) managed a separate humanitarian budget from different funding streams, with funds disbursed to UN agencies and NGOs for humanitarian action in 2024. Those humanitarian funds are not included in this section.

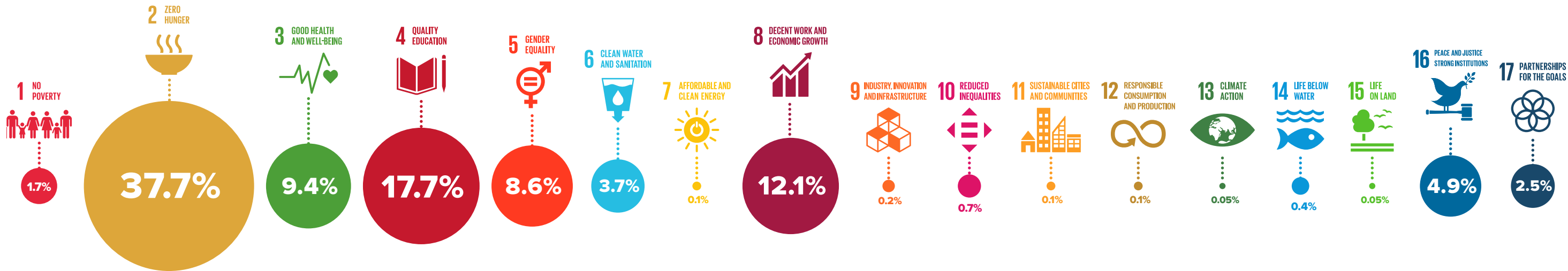
UNSDCF outcome	Required resources/ budget (US\$)	Available resources (US\$) [a]	Expenditure (US\$) [e]	Delivery rate [100*e/a]
1 Basic Social Services	868,899,387	663,905,821	475,920,648	71.68%
2 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	107,688,805	67,350,836	39,577,620	58.76%
3 Climate Change and the Environment	63,075,395	50,568,425	34,469,621	68.16%
4 Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work	140,430,509	80,530,692	60,810,934	75.51%
5 Governance	77,610,449	54,804,523	40,494,624	73.89%
Total	1,257,704,545	917,160,297	651,273,447	71.01%

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW BY UNSDCF OUTCOMES IN 2024



## BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE BY SDG

HOW THE UN CHANNELLED \$651.27 MILLION INTO PAKISTAN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN 2024

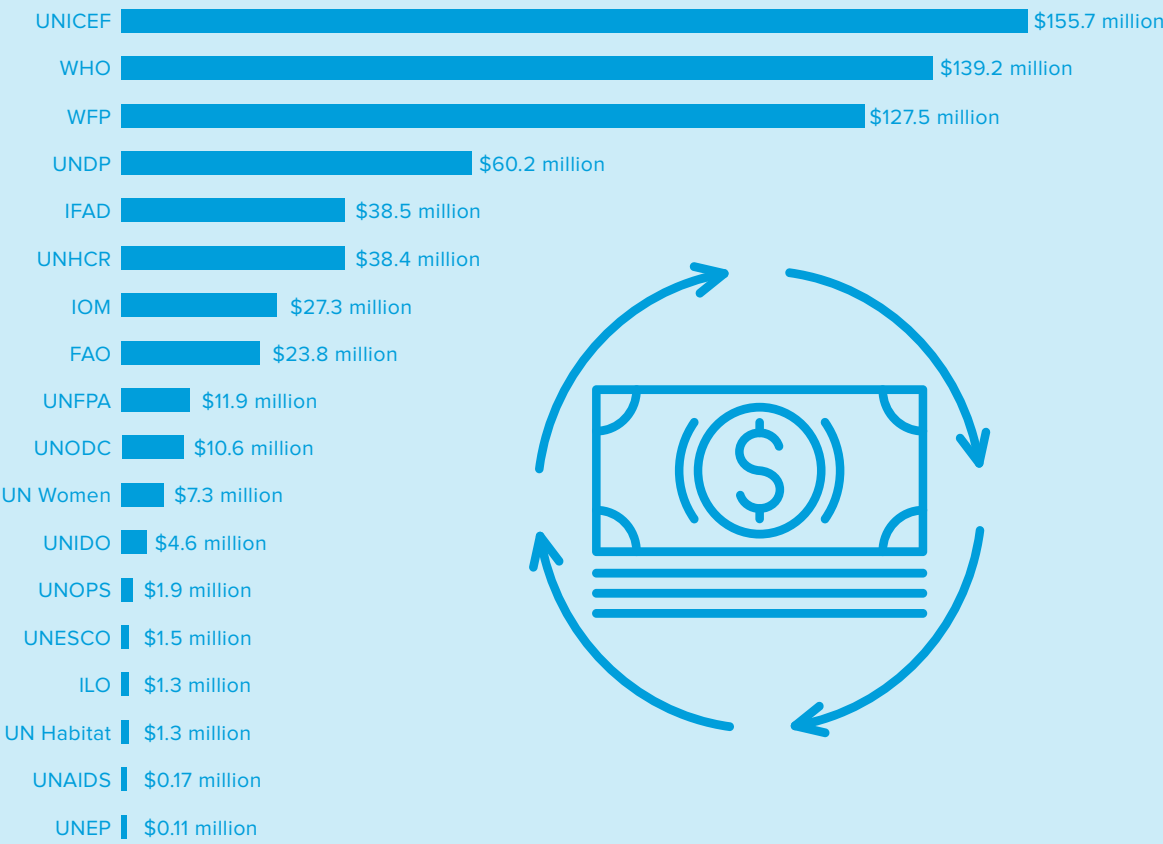




FINANCIAL OVERVIEW BY UN AGENCY IN 2024

UN agency in Pakistan	Required resources (US\$)	Available resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)
FAO	35,682,776	32,114,499	23,829,491
IFAD	40,352,744	38,959,022	38,454,984
ILO	9,194,776	1,380,400	1,330,000
IOM	99,966,546	30,379,373	27,305,418
UNAIDS	1,671,606	585,081	170,410
UNDP	128,563,720	86,166,230	60,193,536
UNEP	468,250	468,250	108,747
UNESCO	3,671,282	2,299,968	1,483,965
UNFPA	21,779,092	12,096,092	11,852,092
UN Habitat	9,962,268	6,328,512	1,287,752
UNHCR	104,876,977	45,733,544	38,428,139
UNICEF	223,970,387	155,708,790	155,708,761
UNIDO	7,707,736	7,707,736	4,552,736
UNODC	27,896,631	24,070,507	10,636,842
UNOPS	6,364,959	5,874,684	1,969,841
UN Women	8,169,894	7,702,499	7,258,799
WFP	346,663,459	319,631,329	127,468,284
WHO	180,517,842	139,767,405	139,233,650

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE BY UN AGENCY



CHAPTER 3

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

In 2025, the priority of the UN in Pakistan is to provide dedicated support to accelerate the sustainable development agenda in the country. As One UN, we will work with our partners in the Government and beyond, providing technical expertise, people-centred solutions, and participatory approaches that deliver results under all five outcomes of our Cooperation Framework – from basic services (health, nutrition and food security, water and sanitation, education, and social protection), to gender equality, climate resilience, decent work, sustainable economic growth, and good governance.

Mid-point of our Cooperation Framework

2025 will mark the mid-point of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework’s (UNSDCF 2023–2027) implementation in Pakistan. This coincides with radical change in the funding environment of UN programmes. The Resident Coordinator is leading efforts, together with members of the development community, to review how to finance the development agenda in Pakistan and bridge the large SDG financing gap.

Introducing the Funding Compact is a key priority for 2025, with the objective of establishing a Pooled Fund through which Official Development Assistance can be allocated to programmes that accelerate progress on the SDGs. As part of this Funding Compact, the UN is committed to further intensify efficiency initiatives. By the end of 2025, we aim to have set up a Common Back Office, and to take concrete steps towards establishing new common premises for the UN in Pakistan.

Policy progress

Strong policy frameworks, systems and institutional mechanisms are the foundation from which actions flow – by the Government, but also by businesses, civil society and development partners. In 2025, the UN is committed to working with the Government to contribute to the objectives of its new 5-year development plan, Uraan Pakistan, which envisions economic transformation through the implementation of “five Es”. Policy areas that will be addressed through joint-up UN support are: energy transition, social protection and jobs, climate change, food systems, and digital transformation.

As capacity building is the engine of sustainable development, the UN will continue strengthening capacities across Pakistan at every level, from the highest levels of government to the local level of communities, to enhance and maintain the capabilities needed to achieve Pakistan’s development priorities.

Data for development

Policy progress can only happen when reliable, disaggregated, up-to-date data is available to inform decisions that respond to people’s needs. In 2024, UN research and assistance for Pakistan’s data systems provided crucial evidence for informed policymaking and initiatives on the ground. In 2025, the UN will ramp up research and support for data collection, analysis and management, especially through digital solutions. We will do so in collaboration with national and provincial stakeholders like Bureaus of Statistics, alongside academia, civil society, international development and financial institutions.

Communicating for change

Data alone cannot unlock resources or spur change; that power belongs to communication. Communicating effectively makes complex issues understandable, raises awareness and, inspires action. Communication will be a UN priority in 2025, especially communicating to bring the UN closer to the people of Pakistan through consultations, events and community engagement. Matching the large UN Day celebration in Islamabad, UN Day will be celebrated in Lahore 2025 as one of many opportunities to bring together partners and stakeholders from across Pakistan, amplify our common agenda, and reaffirm our joint commitment to sustainable development for all.

Climate resilience

Climate resilience and disaster preparedness will be at the forefront of UN efforts in Pakistan in 2025. Our goal is to ensure that stakeholders nationwide have the capacities to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to the effects of the changing climate, growing water scarcity and potential natural disasters. Reversing environmental degradation and deforestation, while protecting ecosystems and biodiversity on land and under water, will be key to safeguarding the vital Indus Basin on which so many lives and livelihoods depend. The UN has designated 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, an issue of critical importance to Pakistan, which is home to the most glaciers in the world outside of the Arctic and Antarctic. This will be an opportunity to position glacier preservation at the heart of Pakistan’s climate agenda, particularly to prevent glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and address water scarcity in remote communities. Another priority will be supporting the Government to submit its third-generation Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0) under the Paris Agreement, in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in November 2025.



## Gender equality and inclusion

Women and girls are half of Pakistan's population and half of its potential. To ensure that they thrive, the UN will intensify support for their health and education, empowerment in the economy, and safety from gender-based violence in private and public spaces, including workplaces. 2025 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30), the globally agreed blueprint for achieving gender equality. With gender equality and women's empowerment under pressure around the world, the year will be a key juncture for Pakistan to take stock of the progress made so far, recognize the immense challenges of that remain, and to redouble efforts to overcome these challenges to empower all women and girls in the country.

To make development truly sustainable and inclusive, the UN will also prioritize other groups at risk of being left behind – persons living with disabilities, transgender persons, refugees and minorities. Within the UN system itself, the UN in Pakistan will work to enhance protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH), including improved country level coordination on PSEAH.

## Population growth

Pakistan's large population is growing rapidly, putting pressure on basic services, natural resources, and the economy's ability to absorb new entrants into the labour market. To create an environment where every person in Pakistan has the opportunity to thrive, it is vital to effectively manage population growth, striking a balance between population size and available resources. This will contribute to enhancing living standards, alleviating poverty, and safeguarding the environment.

This was the message delivered by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on World Population Day in 2024, and it will be one of the key priorities of UN support in 2025. Youth empowerment will remain another firm focus, in order to enable Pakistan's young people to lead the way towards a better future.

In 2025, the UN in Pakistan will continue working towards the outcomes of the UNSDCF



Photos (left to right): © UNICEF/Fahad Ahmed; UN Women; UNDP; ILO/Human Design Studios; UNDP

## ACRONYMS

<b>ALAC</b>	Advice and Legal Aid Centre
<b>COVID-19</b>	coronavirus disease 2019
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GBV</b>	gender-based violence
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PKR</b>	Pakistani rupee
<b>PSEAH</b>	protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment
<b>RC/HC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator
<b>RCO</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SRHR</b>	sexual and reproductive health and rights
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>US\$</b>	United States dollar
<b>WASH</b>	water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization





UNITED NATIONS  
PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان  
.....

# UN PAKISTAN ANNUAL REPORT 2024

United Nations Pakistan  
Office of the Resident Coordinator  
Serena Business Complex, Khayaban-e-Suhrwardy  
Sector G-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan  
<https://pakistan.un.org>

