



United Nations
اقوام متحدہ



ONE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME III 2018-2022

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR PAKISTAN

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Declaration of Commitment

The United Nations is committed to working with the Government of Pakistan, and the people of Pakistan, to make a lasting contribution to national development priorities; to take forward the principle of 'leaving no one behind'; and to improve the living conditions of all the people in the country.

Building on the results achieved under the Pakistan One UN Programme II (2013-2017), the Government of Pakistan shall guide the UN system in jointly pursuing the national priorities enshrined in Pakistan's *Vision 2025* and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), framed by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The United Nations in Pakistan will fully implement the 'Delivering as One' approach in support of the Government's vision for a more prosperous, inclusive, equitable and developed nation.



This United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan (UNSDF), also known as the **Pakistan One United Nations Programme III (OP III) 2018-2022**, is a medium-term strategic planning document that articulates the collective vision and response of the UN system to Pakistan's national development priorities. It highlights activities to be implemented in partnership with the Government of Pakistan, as well as in close cooperation with international and national partners and civil society.

The UNSDF/OP III's planned results focus on ten key outcome areas that respond to Pakistan's development priorities and harness the powerful force of the United Nations' comparative advantage in these areas. These were identified through an intensive consultation process with national and provincial authorities, alongside other implementing partners and stakeholders in the country.

These key outcomes and their anticipated results serve as a framework for taking stock of progress, and of the effectiveness of the collaborative work carried out by the United Nations and the Government of Pakistan. They are expected to provide the people of Pakistan with a fuller range of choices and opportunities, promoting their human development and – in the words of Agenda 2030 – helping them to fulfil “their potential in dignity, equality and in a healthy environment.”

Our collective endeavour is to work together to foster a more just, prosperous society – marked by social and economic progress, with better standards of living for all, and in which no one is ‘left behind’. In pursuing these goals, we are committed to the transparent and accountable use of the resources made available to us for this purpose. **Our ultimate aim is to achieve development objectives that are equitably attained in line with Pakistan's rich potential, so that the fruits of development fully benefit all the people of Pakistan.**

Government of Pakistan



Ghazanfar Abbas Jilani
Secretary, Economic Affairs Division
Government of Pakistan

United Nations Country Team



Neil Buhne
United Nations
Resident Coordinator

Signatures

By signing hereunder, the members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Pakistan endorse this United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan (UNSDF), also known as the One UN Programme III (OP III) 2018–2022, and underscore their joint commitment to its results areas, strategies and expected outcomes, as outlined in this document’s Legal Annexes.

We, the United Nations Country Team in Pakistan, while representing each organization’s mandate, competencies and decision-making processes, pledge our commitment to this UNSDF/OP III as a means of fostering cooperation and coordination, while advancing UN coherence in the spirit of ‘Delivering as One’, so as to enhance the impact of our joint response to Pakistan’s development priorities.



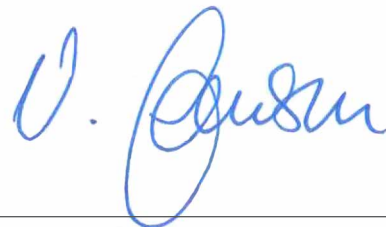
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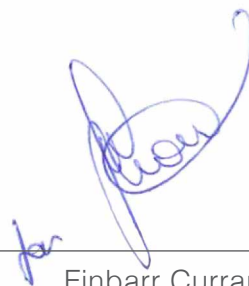
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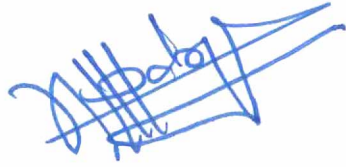
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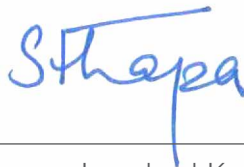


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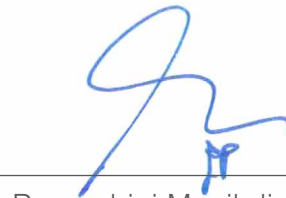
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UNOPS

UN Environment

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CCA	Common Country Assessment
DaO	Delivering as One
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DRM/DRR	Disaster Risk Management/Disaster Risk Reduction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoP	Government of Pakistan
HDI	Human Development Index
ILO	International Labour Organization
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LFS	Labour Force Survey
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OP I	Pakistan One United Nations Programme I (2009-2012)
OP II	Pakistan One United Nations Programme II (2013-2017)
OP III	Pakistan One United Nations Programme III (2018-2022) (UNSDf)
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority

PSLMS	Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement Survey
SME	Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprise
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade & Development
UNSD	United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan (OP III)
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

This **United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan (UNSDF)**, also known as the **Pakistan One United Nations Programme III (OP III)**, articulates the strategic programme planning framework for collaboration between the UN system and the Government of Pakistan for the 2018-2022 period. It is closely aligned with Pakistan's national development plan, *Vision 2025*, and reflects Pakistan's commitment to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as one of the first countries in the world to take up their pledge – to transform lives and protect the planet.

The UN system's dedicated partnership with Pakistan is built around a shared purpose: **'Delivering as One' to achieve the SDGs**, in line with the Government's priorities. The UNSDF/OP III reaffirms this partnership, outlining our collective aspirations for a new reality for Pakistan – a reality free from poverty and deprivation, in which the fruits of development are equitably shared, and in which the environment is protected. A reality in which development is measured both by the richness of the economy and by the richness of human lives.

The groups who are most in need in Pakistan, especially those who suffer under the weight of multi-dimensional poverty, will be at the forefront of UN efforts in support of the Government – ensuring that their requirements guide all programmes and policies, so that their burdens are alleviated, their needs met and their potential fulfilled in dignity and equality. The principle of 'leaving no one behind' will be the cornerstone of our work.

Pakistan's Outlook Towards 2030

The provisional results of the 2017 Census, the first in two decades, tell us that Pakistan's current population is 207.8 million. By 2030, it will rise to a projected 350 million. Over half of its people will be 'urban'. Millions of young women and men will enter the labour market every year. Climate change will gain pace, bringing with it more frequent and severe natural disasters – a serious concern for a country already among the most susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Its demographic composition will have important effects – among countries in Asia, Pakistan is an outlier in terms of demographic transition due to the slow onset of fertility decline.

Now is the time for action. Only by acting now can we keep these trends from placing untold stress on Pakistan's economy, society, environment and the provision of basic services – from health care, to energy and water. The country needs annual GDP growth of 6-10% to meet the demands of its rapidly growing and urbanizing population, while absorbing the millions of youths joining the workforce, year on year.

Pakistan needs innovative, sustainable solutions to meet these aims and overcome the challenges it faces. Simply put, it needs to achieve progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government has already taken the lead in adopting the 2030 Agenda and its 17 ambitious SDGs. For the SDGs to be met in Pakistan, the UN is working in close collaboration with the Government to integrate the SDGs into national and provincial plans – in line with the Government's priorities – so that the global goals are localized to fit the Pakistani context.

Harnessing the power of 'Delivering as One', the UN will support Pakistan by adapting lessons from the successes of other countries in similar situations, coupled with lessons learned in Pakistan itself.

Pakistan's UNSDF/OP III 2018-2022

The OP III focuses on supporting Pakistan's strong potential for inclusive socio-economic development while addressing gaps, surmounting challenges and fostering greater social justice. By 2022, it envisions that the country will be firmly on the path towards achieving the SDGs. Its ten key outcomes reflect a range of priority development areas with strategic potential – areas in which the UN can work with Pakistan's federal, provincial and district governments, alongside other jointly identified key partners, in support of sustainable development. By delivering 'as one', UN agencies in Pakistan will seek to strengthen national and sub-national capacities; provide high-quality policy advice and technical assistance; support the collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and focus on overcoming bottlenecks and barriers to ensure that development reaches key populations.

The OP III provides the framework for UN support for Pakistan's pursuit of the SDGs. Leveraging its key roles – as a convenor of diverse stakeholders, an advisor on development, a promoter of international best practice and an advocate for leaving no one behind – the UN system in Pakistan will work to influence change, and to partner with the Government and a range of key stakeholders. Planned results are 'national' in scope at the 'outcome level', in order to capture prominent trends and priority areas across the country. At the 'output level', the OP III will respond to specific provincial and local priorities, which will be articulated in separate Joint Work Plans. These will be based on individual UN agency programming, developed within the context of the OP III. Essentially, the OP III's outcomes and their expected results serve as a framework for taking stock of the progress, and the effectiveness, of collaborative work carried out by the UN and the Government of Pakistan.

The development of the OP III builds on the UN's current and past experience in Pakistan, as well as in-depth analysis of Pakistan's broader country context and current trends. Its legal basis is outlined in detail in Section 5.1, Annex A: Legal Annex and Basis of Relationship. Details of the OP III's methodological approach are presented in Annex C.

UNSDF/OP III Outcomes and Cross-Cutting Issues

The OP III encompasses ten outcome areas around which the UN system will develop its Joint Work Plans for the 2018-2022 period. Each outcome reflects priorities jointly identified by the UN and the Government of Pakistan, based on areas in which the UN has a strong comparative advantage. These are areas in which it can leverage its expertise, resources and global experience in support of national and provincial stakeholders. Each outcome is closely aligned with Pakistan's *Vision 2025* and the SDGs, placing a particular emphasis on improving the lives of the poorest and those most in need.

These ten outcomes are the foundation of the OP III:



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



Decent Work (Outcome 2): By 2022, the people in Pakistan, especially women and youth, have improved access to productive livelihoods, income opportunities and decent work.



Health and WASH (Outcome 3): By 2022, the people in Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have access to, and benefit from, improved universal health coverage, including sexual and reproductive health, and equitable WASH services.



Nutrition (Outcome 4): By 2022, children, adolescent girls and boys, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and persons with disabilities have improved dietary intake, feeding and care practices, resulting in improved nutritional status, while reducing stunting and other forms of undernutrition.



Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture (Outcome 5): By 2022, the people of Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, have improved availability of, access to, and consumption of safe, nutritious and sufficient food, while promoting sustainable agriculture to achieve zero hunger.



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



Education and Learning (Outcome 7): By 2022, children and youth will have enhanced, equitable and inclusive access to, and benefit from, quality learning opportunities.



Gender, Equality and Dignity (Outcome 8): By 2022, government institutions will have increased accountability towards gender equality commitments and social, economic, cultural and political rights.



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



Social Protection (Outcome 10): By 2022, improved and effective social protection systems will be available for all, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Alongside these ten key outcome areas, a number of cross-cutting issues underpin the OP III. These include the United Nations' key normative programming principles, alongside key issues of particular relevance for Pakistan – such as youth/adolescents, population trends, urbanization, culture and data.

As Pakistan's provinces have their own inter-related, but ultimately independent, development strategies and plans, these rich, nuanced provincial and regional frameworks have substantively influenced the UN's prioritization of key issues. Accordingly, the OP III's outcomes pay special attention to development needs at the provincial, regional and district levels.

Challenge-Informed Programming

Achieving the development outcomes at the heart of the OP III requires a clear understanding of potential challenges, coupled with an active commitment to mitigating these concerns in pursuit of better results for all the people of Pakistan. To ensure that the UN is able to respond strategically – so that programmes are implemented effectively, on time, within existing resources, and according to Agenda 2030's focus on 'challenges to sustainable development' – the UN adopted a 'challenge-informed programming approach' when developing the OP III.

Pakistan faces external and internal challenges that may affect the OP III's implementation. While it is not possible for the UN to directly prevent or avoid these, each outcome outlines approaches to minimize and manage their potential effects. As such, challenges and assumptions have been incorporated into the UN's underlying analysis of the OP III's ten key outcomes at each stage of the framework's elaboration.

Management, Coordination and Working Arrangements

In light of the intricate linkages between the SDGs, Pakistan will require more inter-institutional cohesion and coordination at all levels. It is clear that no one agency, authority or sector can deliver on any of the 17 SDGs if it acts alone. The OP III will guide the UN's support for the Government's pursuit of these goals, particularly by localizing SDG targets, and by gathering critical data to establish baselines for monitoring progress against the SDGs. This will also involve technical assistance to enhance indicators and tools for collecting and analysing data.

In line with the UN's commitment to national ownership, the OP III's management and coordination arrangements maximize the use of national systems and all available UN competencies and resources. These are grounded in the international norms and standards upheld by the UN system – particularly the principles of partnership, national government ownership and UN coherence. Effective implementation will require that all UN agencies operate in a manner that promotes coherence, ensuring that the UN's core integrated programming principles and approaches to development are fully applied under the unifying principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

The coordination and management arrangements of the OP III are based on lessons learned from the previous One UN Programme cycles (I and II), as well as on current needs, in order to strengthen UN development cooperation in Pakistan. The detailed working arrangements and the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the OP III's coordination mechanisms will be jointly prepared by the UN and the Government of Pakistan. Every effort has been made to align the OP III's implementation arrangements to existing national coordination mechanisms, in order to avoid duplication, to keep transaction costs to a minimum, and to ensure national ownership.

The OP III's management structure is characterized by strong national leadership through the Joint UN-National Oversight Committee, alongside the stronger role of provincial stakeholders in oversight through Provincial Steering Committees. More focused Outcome (Results) Groups – in line with the OP III's ten outcomes – will allow for improved coordination and joint programming. Joint UN-Government oversight is one of the key features of 'Delivering as One' (DaO), enabling national ownership of initiatives supported by the UN. For the OP III, these functions will be formally exercised by the Oversight Committee (OC) and Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs).

Each Outcome Group will produce Joint Work Plans, which will be signed by the Government of Pakistan through the Economic Affairs Division. These will include output level priorities and key activities at both the national and provincial levels. The Joint Work Plans will be the key documents used by the Oversight Committee and Provincial Steering Committees to review progress, identify resource gaps and foster stronger partnerships in order to achieve the OP III's outcomes by 2022.

The OPIII's overall results framework is an outcome-level framework, reflecting the basis of the UN's support for the achievement of the OP III's joint outcomes. This framework is fully aligned with the SDGs, drawing inputs from the SDGs' localization process in Pakistan at the federal and provincial levels, and informed by the SDG data gap analysis undertaken by the Planning Commission of Pakistan, with UN support.

Implementing the OP III, with its strengthened focus on policy advocacy, will require an even closer link between the programmatic and communication strategies covered in the OP III. As part of 'One Voice', a key pillar of the DaO framework, a communications strategy will be developed for the OP III. This will promote the UN system in Pakistan as a family that speaks with 'one voice'; raise awareness of national development priorities; engage Pakistani counterparts in communicating these priorities; and keep the donor community informed of the OP III's achievements.

Throughout the OP III, the UN will continue to work closely with a range of partners – federal and provincial governments; donors; international and national investor; development partners; international NGOs; local civil society; academia; the media; and communities. Crucially, it will deploy the UN system's globally acknowledged convening role – bringing stakeholders together to address national priorities, while jointly mobilizing resources in service of Pakistan's achievement of the SDGs – for people, planet and prosperity.

This UNSDF/OPIII is for the duration of the 2018-2022 period and can be reviewed at any time by the Government and the UN Country Team (UNCT) if the need arises due to evolving discussions around the repositioning of the UN Development System.



1. Introduction

The UN's partnership with Pakistan is built around a shared purpose: 'Delivering as One' to achieve the SDGs.

Pakistan has taken the lead in adopting the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), becoming one of the first countries in the world to take up their pledge¹ to transform lives and protect the planet.² The United Nations (UN) system's dedicated partnership with Pakistan is built around a shared purpose: **'Delivering as One' to achieve the SDGs.**

This document reaffirms the partnership between the Government of Pakistan and the UN, outlining our collective aspirations for a new reality for Pakistan – a reality free from poverty and deprivation, in which no one is left behind and in which the environment is protected. A reality in which development is measured both by the richness of the economy and by the richness of human lives. Ours is a shared vision of a Pakistan in which economic growth is inclusive and benefits all people; in which social development is equitable; and in which women and men, transgender people, boys and girls, both old and young, can *all* fulfil their potential with dignity and equality of opportunity. A reality in which all people have access to quality services; natural and cultural resources are safeguarded; good governance is supreme and the rule of law presides; and in which development is not just about today, but also about meeting the needs of future generations.

Our shared vision for a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and developed nation is at the heart of this **United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan (UNSDF)**, also known as the **One United Nations Programme III (OP III)**. It articulates the strategic programme planning framework for collaboration between the UN system and the Government of Pakistan for the 2018–2022 period.

The OP III is closely aligned with Pakistan's national development priorities – enshrined in *Vision 2025* – as well as with the SDGs and the overall aims of Agenda 2030. Its ten key outcomes are priority areas for Pakistan – economic growth; decent work; health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); nutrition; food security and sustainable agriculture; resilience; education and learning; gender, equality and dignity; governance; and social protection.

1 Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform (2014) *Pakistan 2025: One Nation – One Vision*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <http://fics.seecs.edu.pk/Vision/Vision-2025/Pakistan-Vision-2025.pdf>

2 United Nations (2014) *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet. Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda*. New York: United Nations. Available: http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/reports/SG_Synthesis_Report_Road_to_Dignity_by_2030.pdf

Working hand in hand with partners across Pakistan – federal, provincial and local governments, donors, development partners, the private sector, civil society, the media, academia and communities – the OP III’s implementation will witness renewed UN efforts to support legislative reforms and policies; to strengthen national and sub-national capacities; to provide high-quality policy advice and technical assistance; to engage in evidence-based advocacy; to assist the collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and to overcome bottlenecks and barriers, in order to ensure that the gains of development reach the poorest and those most in need. These key populations, especially those who suffer under the weight of multi-dimensional poverty, will be at the forefront of UN efforts in partnership with the Government – making sure that their needs guide all programmes and policies, that their burdens are alleviated, and their dignity is maintained. The principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ will be the cornerstone of our work.

Now is the time for action. The provisional results of the 2017 Census, the first in two decades, tell us that Pakistan’s current population is 207.8 million.³ By 2030, it will rise to a projected 350 million.⁴ Over half of its people will be ‘urban’.⁵ Millions of young women and men will enter the labour market every year.⁶ The effects of climate change will gain pace, bringing with them the likelihood of more frequent and increasingly severe natural disasters – a serious concern for a country already considered among the most affected by the impacts of climate change.⁷

The principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ will be the cornerstone of our work.

Among countries in Asia, Pakistan is an outlier in terms of its demographic transition, caused by the slow onset of fertility decline. This delay has resulted in a high population growth rate, a higher growth rate of its ‘school-age’ population and a less favourable age structure for short-term economic development, since a smaller share of its population is of working age. Rapid urbanization adds to these complexities, making sustainable urban management and service delivery frontline issues.

3 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan (2017) *Provisional Summary Results of 6th Population and Housing Census 2017*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/provisional-summary-results-6th-population-and-housing-census-2017-0>

4 United Nations Population Division (2015) *World Population Prospects: Key Findings. 2015 Revision*. New York: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Available: https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/Key_Findings_WPP_2015.pdf

5 Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform (2014) *Pakistan 2025: One Nation – One Vision*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

6 UNDP (forthcoming) “Pakistan’s Demographic Transition: Young Adults, Human Capital and Jobs”, *National Human Development Report (NHDR 2017)*; Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) (2014) *Pakistan’s Youth Bulge: Human Resource Development (HRD) Challenges*. Available: <http://www.ipripak.org/pakistans-youth-bulge-human-resource-development-hrd-challenges>

7 Germanwatch (2016) *Global Climate Risk Index 2017*. Bonn: Germanwatch. Available: <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/16411.pdf>

Pakistan needs innovative, sustainable solutions to meet its aims and overcome challenges. Simply put, it needs to achieve progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

If we do not act now, these trends will place additional stress on Pakistan's economy, society, environment and the provision of basic services – from health to energy and water. Pakistan needs annual GDP growth of 6-10% to meet the demands of its rapidly growing and urbanizing population⁸, while absorbing the millions of youths joining the workforce, year on year. This kind of growth can only be achieved if its population is healthy and well-nourished, skilled and well-educated, and free to innovate and realize its full potential. It can only occur when the environment is protected, so that the vital natural assets on which humanity depends – clean air, water, fertile land and rich biodiversity – can flourish. All of this requires governance that is more accountable, inclusive and responsive to people's needs. It also means working together to achieve sustainable human development, so that all people in Pakistan are safeguarded from job loss, hunger, disease and natural disasters.

Pakistan needs innovative, sustainable solutions to meet these aims and overcome the challenges it faces. Simply put, it needs to achieve progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. For the SDGs to be met in Pakistan, the UN is working in close collaboration with the Government to integrate the SDGs into national and provincial plans, ensuring that these global goals are localized to fit the Pakistani context. Harnessing the power of 'Delivering as One' (DaO), the UN will support Pakistan by adapting lessons from the successes of other countries in similar situations, coupled with lessons learned in Pakistan itself. As envisaged in the country's national development framework, *Vision 2025*, the UN will support South-South cooperation and Pakistan's efforts to develop a competitive knowledge economy through value addition, alongside its aspirations to become a regional trade hub.

Building on the successes and lessons learned of its predecessor, the One UN Programme II (2013-2017), the OP III moves towards a greater focus on partnership between the UN system and the Government of Pakistan. Formulating this strategic framework was an inclusive, participatory process – one which prioritized collaboration with all tiers of government, alongside consultation with civil society, the private sector, donors and development partners.⁹ As the international landscape changes, the UN in Pakistan is committed to adapting its programme focus to achieving a greater impact with relatively fewer resources.

8 United Nations Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Common Country Assessment (CCA): An SDG Baseline Analysis*. Islamabad: United Nations Pakistan.

9 Details on the process of developing the OP III are included in Annex C.

1.1 Pakistan Country Context

1947

Pakistan became a UN Member

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

0.550 HDI score



Human Development Index
147th of 188
countries HDI ranking¹⁰

0.742 GDI score



Gender Development Index
147th of 188
countries GDI ranking¹¹

GEOGRAPHY



Karachi

largest city (est. population)
13-20 million



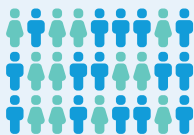
30% arable land

3% forested

DEMOGRAPHICS

207.8 million

population¹²



49% women
51% men¹⁴

96% muslim¹⁴

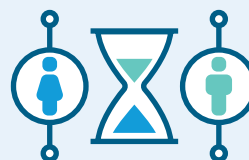


93% sunni
7% shia

4%
Christian, Hindu,
Ahmadis, etc.

66 years

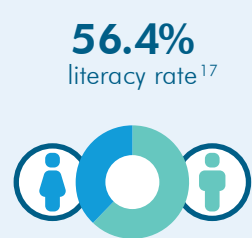
life expectancy
at birth¹⁵



67
years for
women
65.44
years for men¹⁶

5.1 years

mean years
of schooling¹⁹



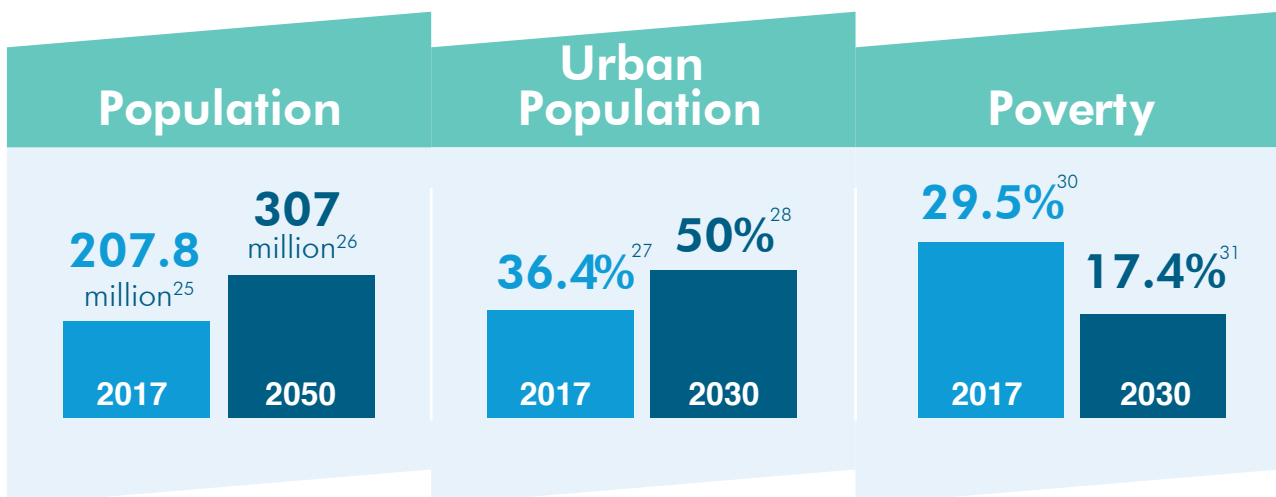
56.4%
literacy rate¹⁷
42.7% for women
69.5% for men¹⁸

10 UNDP (2016) *Human Development Report (HDR) 2016*. New York: UNDP. Available http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf
11 UNDP (2018) *Gender Development Index (GDI)*. New York: UNDP. Available: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GDI>
12 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan (2017) *Provisional Summary Results of 6th Population and Housing Census 2017*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.
13 Ibid.
14 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (n.d.) *Population by Religion*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/population-religion>
15 World Bank (2015) *Life expectancy at birth, total (years)*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
16 World Bank (2015) *Life expectancy at birth, female (years)*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
17 UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2015) *Pakistan: General Information*. Paris: UNESCO. Available: <http://en.unesco.org/countries/pakistan>
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ECONOMY



PROJECTIONS



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21 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 1: Overview of the Economy", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/overview_2016-17.pdf

22 World Bank (2016) *GDP growth (annual %)*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

23 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2015) *Labour Force Survey 2014-15: Annual Report*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/labour-force-survey-2014-15-annual-report>

24 Ibid

25 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan (2017) *Provisional Summary Results of 6th Population and Housing Census 2017*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

26 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: Key Findings & Advanced Tables. 2017 Revision*. Available: https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/Files/WPP2017_KeyFindings.pdf

27 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan (2017) *Provisional Summary Results of 6th Population and Housing Census 2017*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

28 Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform (2014) *Pakistan 2025: One Nation – One Vision*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

29 Finance Division, Government of Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Economic Survey, 2016-2017*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan; Finance Division, Government of Pakistan (2016) "Chapter 16: Poverty (Annexure III)", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2015-16*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_16/Annexure_III_Poverty.pdf

30 Pardee Center for International Futures (2017) *International Futures (IFS) forecasting system: Pakistan*. Denver: IFS, Pardee Center, University of Denver; UN Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Vision 2030 Note*. Islamabad: UN Pakistan.

1.1.2 Pakistan's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

There has been significant political ownership of the SDGs in Pakistan. This was clearly reflected in October 2015, when the country became one of the first in the world to adopt the SDGs as its own 'National Development Goals'. In February 2016, the National Assembly unanimously adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The Speaker of the National Assembly established a Parliamentary Task Force at the federal level to oversee and facilitate legislation related to the SDGs, alongside an SDG Secretariat to aid this process.

Vision 2025 highlights several SDGs as especially relevant for Pakistan. The process of prioritizing the SDGs is being further refined, particularly at the provincial level, where much of the country's development funding is allocated and spent. With the UN's support, the Government of Pakistan is taking steps to localize the SDGs. To date, this has included commitments to impressive cost-sharing. The Government's resolve to achieve the SDGs is also apparent in its growing emphasis on strengthening data systems, in line with the data imperatives highlighted in Agenda 2030 and the goals themselves. This recognition of data's centrality is important – Pakistan requires concerted efforts and investment to establish credible baselines for the SDGs, while enacting evidence-based policies to achieve their targets.

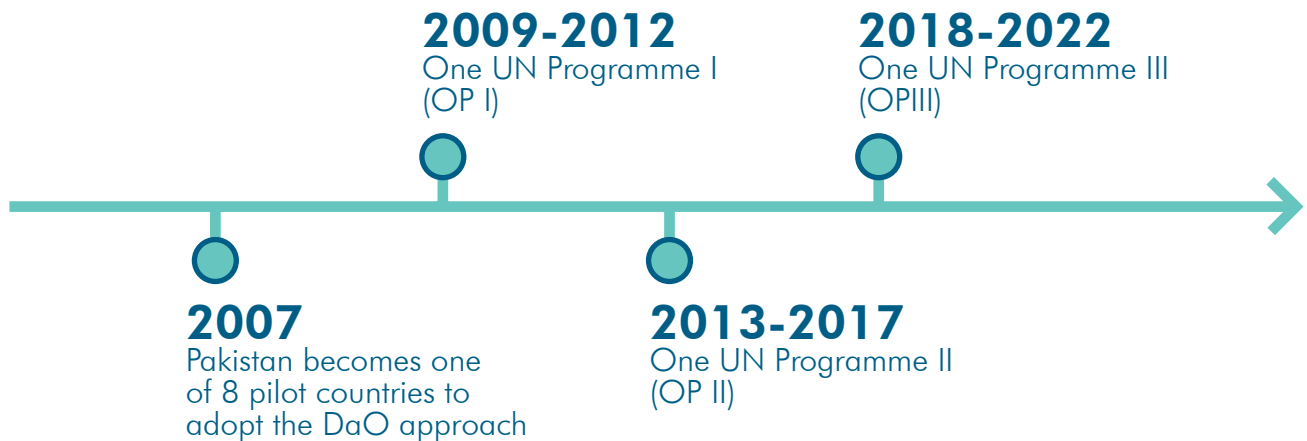
With the UN's support, the Government of Pakistan is taking steps to localize the SDGs.

1.2 Lessons Learned from the OP II 2013-2017: Findings & Recommendations

The One UN Programme II (OP II) 2013-2017, under the framework of 'delivering together as one', led to actions that were more efficient, and results that were more sustainable than ever before. The benefits of the OP II included enhanced inter-agency cooperation under the proactive leadership of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

As the OP II progressed, its approach became more results-oriented, participatory and inclusive. This approach will be taken forward under the OP III, with an even greater emphasis on partnership; on offering high-level, high-quality, evidence-based policy advice; and on providing capacity development and technical support, especially at the provincial and regional levels.

Timeline of the UN’s “Delivering as One” approach in Pakistan



The comparative strength of the UN system in Pakistan was showcased throughout the OP II period. The following factual lessons were learned from the OP II’s implementation, from which a range of recommendations have been drawn:

LESSONS LEARNED	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>UN engagement with all three tiers of governance (federal, provincial and district) yields enhanced results in terms of supporting social service delivery.</p>	<p>Both national and sub-national ownership of UN support should be secured, as this is critical for effective internalization and Government buy-in. Engagement is needed at all levels for the social sector – federal, provincial, district and municipal.</p> <p>In the long run, it is important to work through government systems, rather than investing in parallel mechanisms. Every effort should be made to work through the public sector, albeit without excluding the possibility of private sector involvement. At the very least, a strategy should be in place to handover initiatives to the public sector. In tandem, it will be important to engage creatively with the private sector to fill gaps in service provision.</p>

LESSONS LEARNED	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Adherence to the One UN approach allows optimal demonstration of the UN's four key roles – as an advisor to the Government; as a convenor of stakeholders; as a provider of technical expertise; and as a service provider. This also leverages UN strategic positioning at the national and sub-national levels.</p>	<p>The UN should further leverage its potential by forging inter-agency efforts across the full range of upstream work – e.g. legislation and policy formulation, work plan development, regulation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). This should be based on international norms and standards, alongside the UN's expertise and competencies, and must be fully aligned to local contexts.</p> <p>An integrated UN response to the SDGs is required to provide coherent support to the Government in terms of the localization and implementation of the SDGs.</p>
<p>The UN's demonstrated results within integrated policy interventions under the OP II successfully aligned with national goals and priorities.</p>	<p>The UN should take forward the overall Joint Programming Framework of the One UN Programme, as joint programmes and other joint initiatives have demonstrated solid results.</p> <p>The UN should strive to consider the full gamut of Pakistan's development needs. As such, interventions should aim to be holistic – addressing all aspects of development. Sustained collaboration with the Government and private sector are needed to avoid duplication and to ensure that as many needs as possible are addressed.</p>
<p>Multi-sector programming is an effective approach to address needs in different sectors – e.g. health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, HIV, etc. Tackling these issues together leads to more positive impacts.</p>	<p>The UN should continue its focus on multi-sectoral development programming, taking cross-cutting themes into account.</p> <p>Joint UN efforts are required in areas where intersectorality is established. This will be especially useful in the context of the SDGs, given their interrelated nature.</p>

LESSONS LEARNED	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Rapid population growth poses a challenge to Pakistan's pursuit of the SDGs. However, it is often accorded insufficient attention in policies and interventions.</p>	<p>Given Pakistan's population dynamics, urbanization, population and development discourses should inform UN programming.</p>
<p>For Pakistan to meet Agenda 2030's key commitment – to a reality in which all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity, equality and in a healthy environment – capacities and systems need to be strengthened nationwide.</p>	<p>The UN support should focus on capacity development for national stakeholders, in order to ensure that the principle of 'leaving no one behind' is fully upheld.</p>

Lessons learned in terms of the OP II's implementation and management arrangements have informed the arrangements put in place by the OP III. For instance, the lesson that 'Outcome (Results) Groups' or Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs) which combine several issues have proven less effective, and elicited less agency participation, than those SPAs focused on more narrow issues. Thus, the OP III has opted for ten outcomes to permit a greater focus on specific themes and sectors. Moreover, lessons surrounding the importance of focusing on 'upstream' policy are now reflected in each OP III outcome.

2. Pakistan One UN Programme III 2018–2022

The UNDSF/OP III is the UN system's national programme framework for Pakistan. It focuses on supporting Pakistan's strong potential for inclusive socio-economic development, while addressing current challenges. By 2022, it envisions that the country will be firmly on the path towards achieving the SDGs.

Its ten key outcomes reflect a range of priority development areas with strategic potential. These are areas in which the UN can work with federal, provincial and district governments, alongside other key local and jointly identified partners, in support of sustainable development in Pakistan. By delivering 'as one', as discussed above, UN agencies will seek to strengthen national and sub-national capacities; to provide high-quality policy advice and technical assistance; to support the collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and to overcome bottlenecks and barriers, so that sustainable development benefits those most in need.

The OP III will place greater emphasis on *Joint Work Plans*, including at the provincial/regional level, to respond more effectively to the need for capacity strengthening, while facilitating enhanced intra-UN collaboration by agencies present in the provinces. SDGs within the 'People' category will require special attention by the UN, in order to tackle root causes which could constrain Pakistan's pursuit of the SDGs. For instance, challenges associated with nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education.

The OP III provides the broader framework for UN support for the Government's pursuit of the SDGs. Leveraging its key roles – as a convenor of diverse stakeholders, an advisor on development, a promoter of international best practice, and an advocate for leaving no one behind – the UN system in Pakistan will work to influence change and partner with a range of stakeholders to spur progress on the OP III's ten outcomes.

The UNDSF/OP III is the UN system's national programme framework for Pakistan. By 2022, it envisions that the country will be firmly on the path towards achieving the SDGs.

Planned results are ‘national’ in scope at the ‘outcome level’ in order to capture key trends and priority areas across the country. At the ‘output level’, the OP III will respond to specific provincial and local priorities. In keeping with the UNDG’s *Guidance on United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks*³¹, the OP III’s Results Matrix at the outcome level has been developed in this document. Annual results and activities will be specified in *Joint Work Plans*. As per the *Guidance on UNDAF Legal Annexes*, a UNSDF/OP III Action Plan does not have to be developed.³²

2.1 Challenge-Informed Programming

Achieving the development outcomes at the heart of the OP III requires a clear understanding of potential challenges and an active commitment to mitigating these hurdles in pursuit of better results for all the people of Pakistan. For this reason, the UN adopted a ‘challenge-informed programming approach’ when developing the OP III. At each stage of the framework’s elaboration, challenges and assumptions were analysed and incorporated into the UN’s underlying analysis of the OP III’s ten key outcomes.

External and Internal Challenges

Pakistan faces a number of **external and internal challenges** that will affect the OP III’s implementation. While it is not possible for the UN to directly prevent or avoid these challenges, these have been analysed and incorporated into the OP III’s programming approach. As such, each outcome outlines approaches to minimize and manage their potential effects. These evidenced-based approaches are based on UN agencies’ detailed analysis of Pakistan’s context. Mitigation measures covering all major foreseen concerns are outlined below (see Section 2.2.1). The Government’s explicit acknowledgment of these issues in Vision 2025 is an immense asset. By clearly assessing the challenges ahead, Pakistan is in a strong position to overcome these concerns and achieve the SDGs.

Due to its geo-strategic location, Pakistan is susceptible to **external challenges** shared with other countries, including the possibility of economic fluctuations, regional tensions and uncertainties regarding future levels of international cooperation and foreign investment. Current regional investment initiatives like the *China Pakistan Economic Corridor* (CPEC) agreement – encompassing a 3,218 km route between the two countries – offer momentous opportunities for economic growth and for bridging Pakistan’s energy shortfall.

As described in Vision 2025, Pakistan faces **internal socio-economic and environmental challenges** that could affect the country’s pursuit of the SDGs. Above all, Pakistan is prone to the effects of natural disasters – spanning earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and droughts. It is also affected by the accelerating impacts of climate change and rising pressure on terrestrial and marine resources; rapid population growth and urbanization; significant internal migration, especially towards urban centres which lack the infrastructure to cope with this influx of new residents; a burgeoning population of youths without adequate education or employment opportunities; and variations in the pace and quality of economic growth.

31 UNDG (2017) *United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidance*. New York: UNDG. Available: https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-UNDAF_Guidance_01-May-2017.pdf

32 UNDG (2015) *Legal Annex to UNDAFs. Supplement to the Guidance Notes “How to Prepare an UNDAF”*. New York: UNDG, p. 3. Available: <https://undg.org/document/undaf-legal-annex/>

Concerns also exist in terms of the use of natural and human resources; levels of investment in education, health care, nutrition, water and renewable energy; and socio-economic inequalities, which take an especially pronounced toll on the poorest people in the country.

While Pakistan has strengthened its democratic institutions, certain challenges remain. The devolution process initiated in 2010 by the 18th Constitutional Amendment is a positive development, as is the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, hailed as a step towards federalism. Nevertheless, decentralization itself entails concerns, particularly linked to evolving implementation capacity and efficient spending. To date, most provincial and regional governments have been unable to effectively spend the funds designated to them. On average, some 50% of funds allocated by the Public Sector Development Plan (PSDP)/Annual Development Plan (ADP) are spent by the provinces. The rest are returned, year after year, to the Federal Treasury to cover deficits in other sectors.

In the context of rapid urbanization, implementation bottlenecks tend to arise at the municipal level. This makes it all the more necessary to strengthen municipal level capacities, in order to improve service delivery and cement the sustainable management of cities. Positive developments that are currently underway should continue to be built upon to further improve governance and accountability.

Regions like the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) require a specific focus. Given that over 90% of temporarily dislocated people have returned to the region, there is a need to integrate short-term assistance, recovery and rehabilitation projects into a comprehensive framework for medium- and long-term development. The historic package of FATA Reforms – adopted in March 2017, centring on FATA's integration within the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) – requires concerted support to facilitate the extension of governance structures to the region. There is a need to spearhead a truly integrated approach – one which addresses challenges and encompasses well-focused, contextually-sensitive development efforts.

Certain internal **institutional issues** may also affect OP III's implementation. Foremost among these is funding for UN agency programmes and activities in Pakistan. Evidently, sustained funding will be essential for generating the outputs needed to achieve the OP III's outcomes. However, the funding landscape for UN interventions is poised to shift. Although this may provide opportunities for government-led development, it is worth noting that a number of donors are reducing their support for Pakistan, or may do so over the coming years.

Achieving the development outcomes at the heart of the OP III requires a clear understanding of potential challenges.

In part, this is tied to Pakistan’s newfound ‘Middle Income Country’ status, which makes it less of a priority for the donors that support the UN’s work. It is also linked to Pakistan’s decreasing need for humanitarian aid, which formed a significant proportion of UN assistance during the previous OP II period. As Pakistan’s policy-makers become increasingly capable of planning for and managing challenges, the need for international humanitarian assistance has declined. As a result, it will be especially necessary to mobilize domestic resources to achieve development aims and cope with small- or medium-scale disasters. Nevertheless, humanitarian assistance may still be required in the event of a major natural disaster.

2.1.1 Cross-Cutting Strategies

By using a ‘challenge-informed programming approach’ to develop the OP III’s outcomes, the UN has integrated cross-cutting strategies for prevention, mitigation and response into its programming. In essence, these strategies include:

1. An increasing **shift from a project approach to a programme approach** by most UN agencies. This will include a greater **focus on upstream policy work** and on ensuring that UN programming is adapted as needed.
2. An **integrated programming approach that** harmonizes humanitarian and development support; that focuses on **impacts**; and that bolsters **national ownership**, including through co-financing, leveraging domestic resources and engaging creatively with a wide range of stakeholders – from governments to the private sector and civil society.
3. A growing **focus on strengthening government planning and budgeting modalities**, in order to improve the allocation, targeting and efficiency of national and provincial investments aimed at implementing the SDGs. This will encompass a focus on all tiers of governance, from the federal level to the provincial, district and municipal levels, in order to support change on the ground.
4. Enhanced **technical capacity development** for key stakeholders, including government bodies and other national institutions. As overcoming challenges will ultimately depend on strengthened local capacities, the UN will prioritize efforts to bolster the human resource, preparedness, response and adaptation capacities of Disaster Management institutions, line departments and communities across Pakistan. Capacity development initiatives will also focus on promoting strengthened institutions at all levels.
5. Using the **UN’s convening power to strengthen dialogue and collaboration** between key players in the government, civil society and the private sector. This will be particularly significant for enhancing a focus on decent work, inclusive growth and strengthened institutions.
6. Further **support for the Government’s collection and analysis of data** relevant to the SDGs in order to inform evidence-based policy-making. Above all, this entails data on the poorest and most in need.
7. An emphasis on **raising awareness and enhancing the knowledge of communities and households**, in order to increase the demand for, and use of, effective social services.

2.2 Outcomes and Cross-Cutting Themes

The OP III encompasses ten outcome areas around which the UN system will develop its framework for action for the 2018-2022 period. Each outcome reflects priorities jointly identified by the UN and the Government of Pakistan. These are areas in which the UN has a strong comparative advantage and will be able to leverage its considerable expertise, resources and global experience in support of national and provincial stakeholders across Pakistan.

Each outcome is closely aligned to Pakistan's *Vision 2025* and the SDGs, placing a particular emphasis on improving the lives of key populations most in need. These outcomes are the foundation of the One UN Programme III.



As noted above, the OP III sets out two levels of results expected from this collaboration – ‘outcome level results’, which are described in detail in this document; and ‘output level results’, which will be articulated in separate *Joint Work Plans*. The **legal basis** for the UNSDF/OP III 2018-2022 is outlined in detail in Section 5.1, *Annex A: Legal Annexes and Basis of Relationship*.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Alongside its ten key outcome areas, cross-cutting issues of particular strategic relevance for Pakistan include youth/adolescents, population trends, urbanization, culture and data.

As these issues ‘cut across’ different sectors, they need to be addressed in an integrated manner. Youth will play a pivotal role in Pakistan’s ‘demographic dividend’ over the coming decades. Thus, a great deal depends on how effectively their tremendous potential is harnessed in pursuit of sustainable development.

Population growth will have to be controlled more effectively in order to reap the full benefits of such development. While urbanization offers opportunities for economic growth and connectivity, it also poses challenges by placing greater strain on basic services and natural resources. Culture is both an enabler and a driver of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. There is also a need to take forward Pakistan's recent progress on data availability. Data disaggregated by sex, age and other socio-economic factors is vital for setting credible baselines and monitoring progress on the SDGs. As such, UN programming across the OP III's ten outcomes will factor in these cross-cutting issues.

2.3 Alignment to Pakistan's Vision 2025 and the SDGs

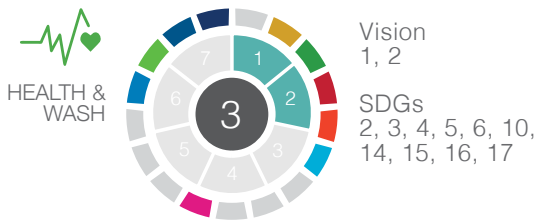
The OP III is closely aligned with *Vision 2025*, Pakistan's principal national planning instrument. Each of the OP III's outcomes is linked with the national priorities outlined by *Vision 2025*, sharing its aspirations for a prosperous, developed and resilient Pakistan.³³ As Pakistan's provinces have their own inter-related, but ultimately independent, development strategies and plans, these rich, nuanced provincial and regional frameworks have also substantively influenced the UN's prioritization of key issues. Accordingly, the OP III's outcomes pay special attention to development needs at the provincial, regional and district levels. Both the OP III and *Vision 2025* are aligned with, and contribute towards achieving, the SDGs.

	Vision 2025 Pillars	Linkages with the SDGs
1	People First: Developing social and human capital, and empowering women	SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender) and SDG 8 (Decent Work)
2	Growth: Sustained, indigenous and inclusive growth	The target is virtually identical to SDG 8 (Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work). It is also aligned with SDG 10 (Inequalities), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 14 (Oceans) and SDG 15 (Terrestrial Ecosystems)
3	Governance: Democratic governance, institutional reform and public sector modernization	The language is similar to SDG 16 (Peaceful Society)
4	Security: Energy, water and food security	SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Water Security), SDG 7 (Energy Security) and SDG 11 (Urbanization)
5	Entrepreneurship: Private sector and entrepreneurship-led growth	SDG 9 (Innovation and Industrialization)
6	Knowledge economy: Developing a competitive knowledge economy through value addition	SDG 9 (Innovation) and SDG 4 (Education)
7	Connectivity: Modernizing transport infrastructure and regional connectivity	SDG 9 (Infrastructure) and SDG 17 (Partnerships)

Source: Government of Pakistan (2014) *Vision 2025*, p. 10.

33 Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform (2014) *Pakistan 2025: One Nation – One Vision*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

Links between the OP III's Outcomes, *Vision 2025* and the SDGs





3. Key Outcomes of the UNSDF/OP III

3.1 Economic Growth

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Outcome 1:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

UNIDO, UNV, UN Habitat, FAO, UNESCO, ILO, IOM and UNCTAD

CONTRIBUTING TO VISION 2025 AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth), 3 (Governance), 4 (Security), 5 (Entrepreneurship), 6 (Knowledge Economy), 7 (Connectivity)

SDGs

1 (Poverty), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 5 (Gender), 7 (Energy), 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), 9 (Infrastructure & Innovation), 10 (Inequalities), 11 (Cities), 12 (Consumption & Production), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions), 17 (Partnerships)

What is sustainable, inclusive economic growth?

Sustainable, inclusive economic growth is about expanding national economies while ensuring that the benefits of development reach the entire population – including key populations most in need. It requires conditions that allow people to have quality jobs which stimulate the economy, and that safeguard the environment. Although multiple definitions of such growth exist, they share the understanding that:

- Growth is **sustainable** when it balances current needs with the needs of future generations.
- Growth is **inclusive** when it takes place in sectors, areas and spheres of production where the poorest, or those most in need, are concentrated. Inclusive growth ensures that people are effective contributors to, and beneficiaries of, the growth process.³⁴

34 UNDP (2015) *What does inclusive economic growth actually mean in practice?* New York: UNDP and the Sustainable Development Goals Fund. Available: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2015/7/31/What-does-inclusive-economic-growth-actually-mean-in-practice-.html>

Vision and Rationale

Why does sustainable economic growth matter for Pakistan?

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth is necessary for achieving sustainable development. A thriving, diverse economy whose benefits are shared equitably by all members of society is an indispensable pathway to prosperity *for all*. Such prosperity, in turn, is a vital precursor to the well-being of a country's people and the protection of its environment.

The consolidation of a strong macroeconomic framework – including appropriate monetary policy measures, alongside increased trade and investment flows – is the key to a strong economy. Pakistan's focus on sustainable, inclusive growth will be essential for addressing the challenges of a rapidly growing and urbanizing population, as well as for overcoming energy deficiencies. Harnessing Pakistan's rich potential to make progress on all the SDGs will require GDP growth of 6-10% per year³⁵ – for which it needs a healthy, properly nourished, educated and skilled workforce. Equally essential are sustained efforts to protect the environment, to create further opportunities for women's participation in the work force, to curb malnutrition and to eliminate the gap between the supply of energy and burgeoning demand.

Ultimately, sustainable development will depend on strengthened national capacities to attain a strong, diversified and inclusive economy characterized by increased domestic and foreign investment; stimulated by the development of value-chains and competitive trade; and marked by the availability of sufficient renewable and non-renewable energy.

Recent years have witnessed great strides in macroeconomic stability and economic progress in Pakistan.

Current Context

Recent years have witnessed great strides in macroeconomic stability and economic progress in Pakistan. GDP growth has risen steadily for four consecutive years, reaching 5.28% in 2016/17.³⁶ Yet, a growing body of evidence reveals that Pakistan's pattern of economic growth is not commensurate with its population growth rate.³⁷

35 United Nations Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Common Country Assessment (CCA): An SDG Baseline Analysis*. Islamabad: United Nations Pakistan.

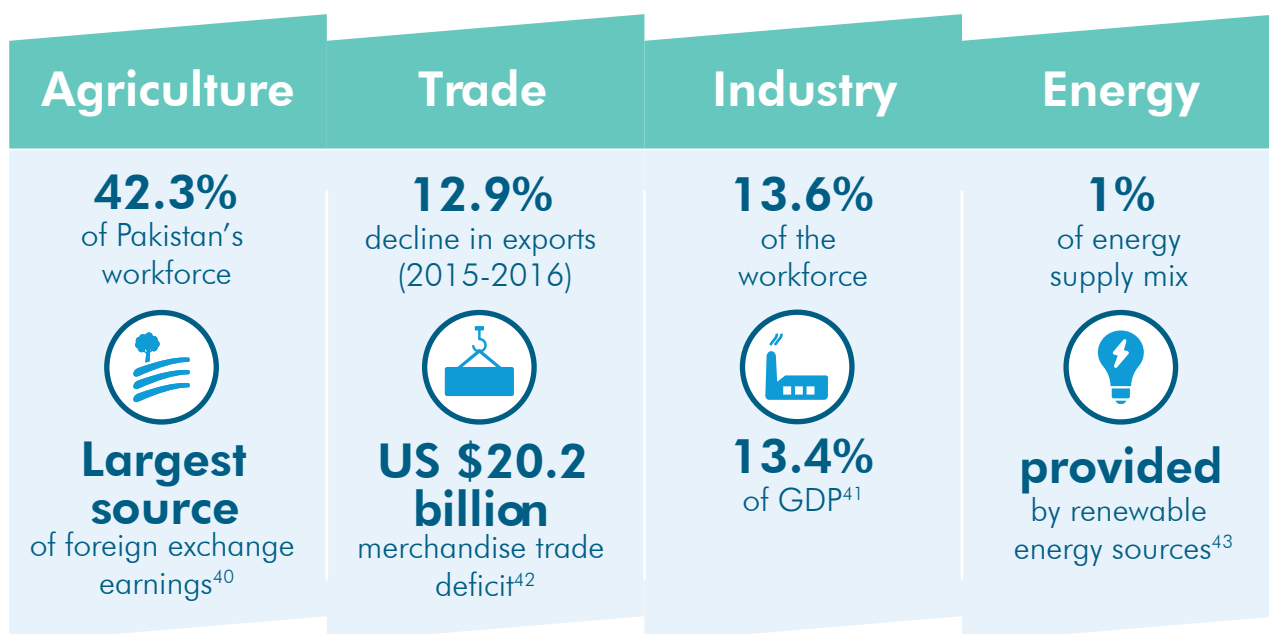
36 Finance Division (2017) "Overview of the Economy", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

37 Pakistan's population is growing by 2% each year – forecast to rise from 207.8 million in 2017 to an estimated 350 million by 2050 according to the projections by the UN Population Division. This means that the overall GDP growth rate of over 4% will translate into a mere 2% of GDP growth per capita and thus struggle to keep pace with the needs of the expanding population.

To fulfil the Government's commitment to an efficient, effective and globally competitive business environment, capable of facilitating greater investments – as envisaged in *Vision 2025* – continued work is needed. Key issues include the current policy environment and the gender gap in Pakistan's labour force. At present, women's labour force participation rate remains low (23.4%)³⁸ and most women workers are concentrated in the informal sector.

Pakistan has made significant advances in terms of economic growth that provides opportunities for the poor. Multi-dimensional poverty fell from 55% in 2004 to 38.8% in 2015.³⁹ Challenges are posed, however, by Pakistan's patterns of growth and investment. These tend to be concentrated in 'low-value added' service sectors, which restricts the employability of university graduates. This is essentially a 'demand side' issue, whereby the private sector has been unable to create quality jobs aligned to available skills.

There is a pressing need to diversify Pakistan's economic base in four key areas: **agriculture, industry, trade and energy.**



38 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2015) *Labour Force Survey 2014-15: Annual Report*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/labour-force-survey-2014-15-annual-report>

39 UNDP (2016) *Pakistan's New Poverty Index: Multidimensional Poverty*. Press Release, 20 June 2016. Available: <http://ophi.org.uk/pakistan-signs-agreement-to-develop-a-national-multidimensional-poverty-index/>

40 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 2: Agriculture", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/02-Agriculture.pdf

41 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 3: Manufacturing and Mining", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/03-Manufacturing.pdf

42 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2017), quoted in <https://www.dawn.com/news/1319932>

43 Shaikh, M. (2010) *Energy and Renewable Energy Scenario of Pakistan*. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews; Yazdanie, M. and Rutherford, T (2010). *Renewable Energy in Pakistan: Policy Strengths, Challenges & the Path Forward*.

While most of Pakistan's economic sectors have experienced moderate growth, the critical **agricultural** sector is lagging behind. The sector's growth rate declined from 2.53% in 2015 to negative growth of 0.19% in the 2016 fiscal year, largely due to a decline in the production of cotton and other staple crops.⁴⁴ Pakistan's diverse industrial work force includes workers engaged in industrial or artisanal manufacturing – such as the cutlery or textile industries – many of whom live below the poverty line.

Trade has been identified as an important instrument for poverty alleviation, as export-led growth can increase household incomes and expand employment opportunities. In recent years, Pakistan's foreign trade has declined and exports of goods and services have fallen, while the trade deficit has risen. The country's current account deficit reached US\$ 6.1 billion (2% of its GDP) during July-March of the 2017 fiscal year, chiefly sparked by a 33.1% rise in its trade deficit, which reached US\$ 17.8 billion.⁴⁵ Nonetheless, trade in several key areas is thriving. For instance, Pakistan's total exports of cultural goods grew from US\$ 60 million in 2004 to US\$ 437 million in 2013. Cultural employment now accounts for some 8% of jobs. In light of the country's rich cultural heritage, *Vision 2025* recognizes culture as a vibrant sector for economic development.

As a developing country, Pakistan's **energy requirements will continue to grow**. While its first energy policy – the *Development of Renewable Energy for Power Generation* (2006) – was a promising step, levels of investment in, and the use of, renewable energy remain low. According to the National Energy Conservation Centre (ENERCON), annual energy savings of up to 25% are possible in all sectors with the use of renewable energy – totalling US\$ 3 billion – alongside a 51% reduction in oil imports.⁴⁶ Moving towards a more indigenous, resource-efficient economy – including clean technology solutions – will yield a manifold dividend in terms of energy availability and environmental sustainability.

Moving towards a more indigenous, resource-efficient economy will yield a manifold dividend in terms of energy availability and environmental sustainability.

44 Finance Division (2016) "Chapter 2: Agriculture", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2015-16*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_16/02_Agriculture.pdf

45 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 8: Trade and Payments", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/08-Trade.pdf

46 Government of Pakistan and UNDP (2014) *Sustainable Energy for All: Rapid Assessment Gap Analysis Pakistan*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan and UNDP. Available: http://www.se4all.org/sites/default/files/Pakistan_RAGA_EN_Released.pdf

UN Response: Spearheading Sustainable Economic Growth by 2022

The UN has ample experience of supporting the holistic approaches required to spur sustainable, inclusive growth. These approaches advance sustained, equitable economic development – marked by greater productivity and competitiveness – through a stronger institutional governance environment and improved capacity among the public and private sectors. Pooling its experience, resources and expertise, the UN will support sustainable, inclusive economic growth in Pakistan through:

- **Stronger Partnerships:** The UN will work closely with a range of key players – including federal and provincial governments, the private sector, entrepreneurs, civil society and communities – providing **technical assistance** and **strengthening capacity** for equitable economic development. Priority will also be given to bolstering public-private partnerships across the country.

- **Technical Assistance:** To diversify Pakistan's economic base and enable all segments of Pakistan's population – particularly women and other key populations – to tap into, and benefit from, local, regional and international markets, the UN will support diversification in four key areas: agriculture, industry, trade and energy, as described below.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** In each of these areas, the UN's contribution to economic growth will focus on strengthening capacities to attain a strong, diversified, sustainable and inclusive economy, characterized by increased domestic and foreign investment; stimulated by the development of value-chains and competitive trade; and marked by greater access to energy resources. This will include enabling stakeholders in Pakistan to obtain the knowledge needed for attaining international and regional competitiveness – especially in areas where the country has a comparative advantage, such as its textile industry. To this end, we will promote investments in innovation and 'learning by doing'.

- **Policy Advocacy:** To overcome the challenges facing Pakistan's economy, the UN will support efforts to create a favourable investment climate – one that promotes growth through a focus on increased productivity and value addition – while helping to ensure that the country's growth strategy remains inclusive and 'pro-poor'. UN support will also cover climate change adaptation, the reduction of pollution and environmentally-friendly initiatives. These will centre on aiding the Government's efforts to achieve its aspirations of effective economic growth and sustainable development.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- For **agriculture**, the OP III's strategic response will focus on strengthening agricultural production through the rehabilitation of infrastructure; spearheading new technologies and modern production methods; providing inputs and services; and fostering the development of value chains, as well as linking these to local and international markets. This will bolster sustainable returns and increase the sustainability of livelihoods.

- With respect to **industry**, the UN will aim to improve industrial competitiveness, in line with *Vision 2025*, by enhancing the integration of locally-produced goods into global marketing chains. A focus will be placed on improving quality and expanding manufactured, high value-added exports. Public-private partnerships will be strengthened to promote balanced approaches for industrial development and high quality services. Increasing women's participation in industry, especially in the formal sector, will be an important element of this drive – pursued through advocacy, capacity building and a focus on cross-cutting areas. These include areas like education, particularly secondary education for girls, as well as moves to overcome discrimination and promote the implementation of labour and gender equality laws. This will require collaboration with a broad spectrum of partners in the public and private sectors.

- The UN will use its comparative advantage to mobilize the **cultural and creative industries** by linking the conservation of cultural sites with the livelihoods of local craftsmen, architects and educators. By supporting the Government to strengthen capacities and raise awareness, the UN will facilitate its efforts to enhance the role of communities in safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage, as well as in promoting tourism. It will also support the Government's work to strengthen the institutional capacities needed to implement cultural conventions, to develop appropriate policies and to roll-out site-specific management plans.

- The UN will support volunteerism in communities as a potential means of advancing economic gains, given the significant indirect benefits offered by the generation of social capital through volunteer initiatives.

- To enhance fair **trade** – and, specifically, the impact of industrialization and trade on the poor – the UN's approach will build on past successes⁴⁷, while recognizing that 'poverty traps' are multi-dimensional, inter-generational and can prevent trade from improving economic opportunities. Therefore, the UN will support government efforts to overcome poverty through trade, with a focus on harnessing synergies wherever possible. Specifically, the OP III will focus on the trade-poverty reduction nexus with a two-pronged approach:

- First, the UN will provide policy recommendations to improve Pakistan's trade and investment environment in ways that encourage equitable fair trade practices.

Pooling its experience, resources and expertise, the UN will support sustainable, inclusive economic growth in Pakistan.

⁴⁷ Under the OP II (2013-2017), the UN's technical assistance helped to increase SMEs' productive capacity, while linking small-scale farmers and fishermen to lucrative markets. This has had positive implications for poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods.

- Second, the UN will propose measures to improve productivity and the compliance of goods with international standards and principles – such as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, food safety standards and quality management systems. These recommendations will be proposed for consideration by the Government and experts, with a view to improving quality and Pakistan’s integration into global value chains.
- The UN will support renewable **energy** technologies – for both ‘off grid’ and ‘on grid’ solutions, including for the industrial sector – to bolster on-going work on eliminating the Pakistan’s energy gap while promoting environmentally-friendly energy solutions. This will involve:
 - Strengthening the capacities of public and private sector entities to implement policies and plans in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy.
 - Promoting new mechanisms for advancing renewable energy technologies, in line with the Government’s priorities, including by introducing business-to-business (B2B) models in the private sector.
 - Supporting home-grown, clean technology innovations by entrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including by improving their access to finance. Innovative solutions in solar power, biogas, biomass, waste-to-energy, energy efficiency and water efficiency will be the focus of this drive. This should involve the creation of ‘green jobs’, which compare favourably to jobs in other sectors as they require more skills, increase the demand for new kinds of expertise and offer better pay and conditions – thus benefitting the workforce. These innovations also contribute to development priorities, such as access to sustainable, affordable energy; clean water; climate-resilient agriculture; environmental protection; and off-grid electricity for rural areas.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

Certain potential challenges and underlying assumptions are important to analyse in order to ensure that the UN is able to respond strategically, so that Outcome 1 is implemented effectively, on time and within existing resources. These include the possibility that short-term economic gains may take precedence over long-term sustainable development, or that the benefits of economic growth may not be equitably distributed, thus failing to reach key populations. It is possible that the regulatory environment for ‘doing business’ in Pakistan may not become sufficiently conducive to attract international investors. Other concerns include the possibility that investments in renewable energy could be eschewed in favour of continuing reliance on fossil fuels; a potential lack of fiscal consolidation, a rise in the fiscal deficit or reduced international reserves.

In order for Outcome 1 to be successfully achieved, it is assumed that adequate resources will be committed for the pursuit of inclusive, sustainable economic growth. Further key assumptions include the Government’s effective implementation of policies to equitably distribute the benefits of economic growth; to simplify the regulatory conditions that govern the business environment; and to promote renewable energy. It is also assumed that Pakistan’s macroeconomic stability will be maintained and that further progress will be made in terms of structural reforms.

3.2 Decent Work

DECENT WORK

Outcome 2:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

ILO, UN Women, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO and IOM

CONTRIBUTING
TO VISION
2025
AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth), 3 (Governance),
5 (Entrepreneurship), 6 (Knowledge Economy)

SDGs

1 (Poverty), 3 (Health), 4 (Education),
5 (Gender), 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth),
9 (Infrastructure & Innovation), 10 (Inequalities),
12 (Consumption & Production), 13 (Climate),
14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land),
16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions),
17 (Partnerships)

What is decent work?

At its core, the decent work agenda is about job creation, workers' rights, social protection and social dialogue. According to the ILO, **decent work** means work that:

- Is productive and delivers a fair income;
- Ensures security in the workplace;
- Provides social protection for workers and their families;
- Offers better prospects for personal development;
- Entails the freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives; and
- Guarantees equality of opportunity and treatment for all workers, of all genders.⁴⁸

48 ILO (n.d.) *Decent Work*. Geneva: ILO. Available: <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang--en/index.htm>

Vision and Rationale

Why does decent work matter for Pakistan?

Per capita income in Pakistan has risen in recent years to US\$ 1,629 per annum.

Creating quality jobs that are stable and well-paid is essential for eradicating poverty and ensuring that all people can share in progress. Given Pakistan's rapidly growing population, there is an urgent need to create new jobs to absorb the millions of young workers entering the labour market each year. It is equally imperative to continue to improve conditions for the millions of Pakistani women and men who are already working, enabling them to lift themselves out of poverty.

Productive livelihoods, meaningful opportunities for income generation and decent work are key to achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development in Pakistan, and around the world. Ensuring decent employment for all of the country's workers will yield an immense dividend for the country's economic growth, human development and environmental sustainability.

Current Context

While per capita income in Pakistan has risen in recent years to US\$ 1,629 per annum⁴⁹, **wages** remain low in various sectors of the economy. The country's overall rates of unemployment (5.9%)⁵⁰ are not high by international standards. Disparities exist, however, most notably between men (5%) and women (9%).⁵¹

Overall, relatively higher levels of **unemployment** and under-employment are evident among women and youths.⁵² The female labour force participation rate (23.4% for women over the age of 15) is far below the rate for men (48.1%).⁵³ Most women workers are concentrated in the informal sector, particularly in agriculture and domestic work. Poverty and limited opportunities can oblige those in need to accept almost any kind of work – no matter how poorly paid or insecure.

The underlying causes of both unemployment and under-employment include a skills mismatch between qualifications and industries; insufficient job opportunities; and inadequate guidance to help graduates' navigate their school-to-work transition.

49 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 1: Overview of the Economy", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/01-Growth.pdf

50 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2015) *Labour Force Survey 2014-15: Annual Report*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/labour-force-survey-2014-15-annual-report>

51 Ibid.

52 Ibid.

53 Ibid.

Low levels of interest in **entrepreneurship** and self-employment are also underpinned by a lack of access to quality education, work experience and resources, as well as gender inequalities, discrimination and power imbalances.

Young people are an exceptionally important segment of Pakistan's labour force. This is principally because the country is experiencing a demographic transition in which the share of the population who are of working age – especially the proportion of its 'youth' – is increasing relative to other age brackets. This entails both opportunities and challenges. If Pakistan harnesses these opportunities, it will reap substantial benefits. If it does not, challenges may ensue, especially for young workers.

To fully reap the benefits of Pakistan's recent economic growth through decent work, while fostering further progress, a number of **concerns need to be tackled in parallel**. Chief among these are challenges in education and health; a multi-dimensional poverty rate of 38.8%; unemployment and under-employment; exploitative labour practices, such as child labour and bonded labour; unregulated, unpaid domestic labour and family work; workplace harassment, particularly of women workers; and perceptions about the costs of compliance with labour laws.

Young people are an exceptionally important segment of Pakistan's labour force.

Important **measures needed to champion decent work** include coherent national and provincial labour market policies; improved wages; better occupational safety and health (OSH) conditions at workplaces; and greater awareness of labour regulations and the benefits of compliance with such standards. For instance, despite perceptions about the high cost of compliance, the returns generated by decent work and operational safety and health are high – estimated to be US\$ 2.5 for every dollar invested.⁵⁴

UN Response: Securing Decent Work by 2022

In light of its extensive experience of promoting decent work, the UN is well-equipped to support better quality employment, greater opportunities and the development of a skilled, educated and healthy workforce, capable of achieving inclusive growth targets. The UN's comparative advantages in this area include global knowledge and technical prowess in labour market policies and regulations, institutional mechanisms and the improvement of working conditions; expertise in community-based rural and

54 Aga Khan University (2016) *Research by AKU, GIZ set to boost Pakistan's leading export industry*. Available: https://www.aku.edu/news/pages/News_Details.aspx?nid=NEWS-000227

agricultural planning, vital for improving the livelihoods of those most in need; and know-how on women's economic empowerment, ethical business practices, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and cross-cutting issues central to the decent work agenda. With a particular focus on youth, women and those most in need, this outcome will leverage the UN's comparative advantage to promote decent work in Pakistan through:

- **Stronger Partnerships:** Working hand in hand with federal, provincial and local governments, alongside other partners – including the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, entrepreneurs, civil society and workers themselves – the UN will provide **technical assistance** and **strengthen capacities** to expand decent work and income-generation opportunities *for all*.

- **Technical Assistance:** The UN will support duty bearers in improving livelihoods and income-generation opportunities, especially for women and youth, through advice and technical support for the development of policies and frameworks to create new and better quality jobs. This will involve assisting the Government, employers' and workers' organizations, and other stakeholders to develop mechanisms that facilitate decent work, operational safety and health (OSH) and improved working conditions.

These aims will be achieved via technical advice, capacity development, research, analysis and the facilitation of social dialogue and tripartism. We will provide technical assistance in aid of the Government's efforts to reduce poverty, especially among women, youth and the rural poor.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** In addition to strengthening the capacities of duty bearers to enact frameworks around decent work, the UN will facilitate the development of value chains; enhance the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations; and foster second-tier leadership to aid the organization of workers in the informal economy. We will strengthen the capacities of NGO partners to undertake community-based interventions, with the active participation of local women and men. A focus will be placed on promoting women's and youth entrepreneurship in productive sectors, including in 'green jobs' and the cultural and creative industries.

This will entail building their capacities; improving their access to sustainable livelihoods and income-generation programmes; and linking them to local markets.

- **Policy Advocacy:** Promoting decent work requires raising awareness of its importance, alongside awareness of the need to curb exploitative labour practices. The UN will offer advice on improved practices and technologies linked to critical points of the supply chain, with a view to increasing competitiveness and enhancing quality standards.

We will also support efforts to strengthen compliance with International Labour Standards (ILS), while promoting dialogue between stakeholders – the Government, employers' and workers' organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and the media – on improved working conditions. Promoting the *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* will be a cross-cutting priority. By collaborating closely with the private sector, including through corporate social responsibility (CSR) and other initiatives, the UN will advocate for private sector action, especially to benefit women and young workers.

Generating **data and analysis** will be another core component of UN actions, particularly in terms of:

- Strengthening national capacity to collect, analyse and use labour market data;
- Undertaking analysis to identify bottlenecks that impede value chain development;
- Enhancing understanding of the creative economy through thematic studies on Pakistan's cultural and creative sector in the context of economic development. By highlighting emerging opportunities, these efforts will help institutions to develop appropriate, well-informed policies for fostering creativity and innovation, while tangibly supporting young entrepreneurs.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Supporting the Government to develop and implement policies, frameworks and mechanisms to promote decent work;
- Strengthening the capacities of employers' and workers' organizations, including to facilitate efforts to organize employers and workers in the informal economy;
- Capacity building for women and young entrepreneurs, including rural and urban women engaged in traditional and contemporary arts, as well as in the cultural and creative industries;
- Linking entrepreneurs to markets and income-generation programmes;
- Fostering dialogue between stakeholders on decent employment conditions;
- Gathering and analysing data on the labour market, value chain development and the creative economy; and
- Mainstreaming gender and protection guidelines in formal and informal employment.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

In order to successfully achieve Outcome 2's aims of decent work for all the people in Pakistan, it is assumed that stakeholders will continue to demonstrate political will around decent work – including governments, the private sector and other national or provincial entities. It is also assumed that both key stakeholders and the public at large will develop a better understanding of how important decent work is for Pakistan's prosperity, and how harmful poor employment conditions are for society and sustainable development.

Potential challenges that may affect the achievement of this outcome include a potential lack of consensus among stakeholders around employment and labour reforms; the limited prioritization of issues central to the decent work agenda; and the possibility of an economic downturn or recession, which could reduce opportunities for quality employment.

3.3 Health and WASH

HEALTH AND WASH

Outcome 3:

By 2022, the people in Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have access to, and benefit from, improved universal health coverage, including sexual and reproductive health, and equitable WASH services

CONTRIBUTING TO VISION 2025 AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth), 4 (Security)

SDGs

2 (Hunger), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 5 (Gender), 6 (WASH), 10 (Inequalities), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions), 17 (Partnerships)

Contributing UN Agencies:

UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNODC, UN Habitat, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and WHO

What is universal health coverage?

Universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people can access quality health services that meet their needs – whether promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative or palliative – without being exposed to financial hardship.⁵⁵ To achieve universal health coverage, a country needs:

- **Preconditions** like evidence- and equity-based policies; data on the needs of key populations and gaps in policies; capacity building and the sensitization of policy-makers; and inter-sectoral coordination.
- **Health system building blocks**, like leadership and accountable governance; health financing; skilled health workers; a robust health information system that includes the private sector; integrated health service delivery, including immunization, with community involvement; technologies and essential medicines.
- **Enabling factors**, such as a focus on equity; people-centered policies and service packages; well-staffed and stocked facilities; health education and awareness among both providers and patients.

55 World Health Organization (2010) *World Health Report (WHR)*. Geneva: WHO. Available: http://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/financing/healthreport/whr_background/en

What is WASH?

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are cornerstones of good health. Clean water, basic toilets and sanitation facilities, coupled with good hygiene practices, enable survival and development, particularly among children.

Vision and Rationale

Why do health and WASH matter for Pakistan?

Good health and clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are the bedrock of sustainable development. Diseases, high rates of mortality and morbidity hold back well-being and productivity. Simply put, poor health hampers economic growth, poverty reduction and equality.

Improving WASH would mean curbing the scourge of diarrhoeal diseases – a leading cause of death among children under 5 in Pakistan⁵⁶ – reducing stunting and improving maternal and newborn health. WASH facilities in schools would be a boon to attendance, performance and enrolment, particularly for adolescent girls. By making progress on health and WASH Pakistan can achieve progress on all other SDGs; enhance development outcomes; and harness the vast productive potential of its human capital.

Current Context

Pakistan's health indicators have improved significantly over the past decade. Although Pakistan is one of only three countries in the world where polio persists, immense progress has been made – the country is now on the cusp of eradicating the disease.⁵⁷ The **causes of most health problems** are linked to poverty; poor nutrition; illiteracy and a lack of education and awareness, particularly among women and caregivers; unhealthy lifestyles; gender inequality; and a lack of clean water and sanitation. For example, polio and other vaccine preventable diseases spread rapidly in areas rife with poverty, malnutrition, limited awareness and poor WASH services. Communicable diseases are equally related to the need for better coverage and quality of health services – including routine immunization coverage – alongside systemic improvements and the prioritization of health in policy-making.

Health problems are linked to poverty; poor nutrition and water and sanitation; illiteracy and a lack of education and awareness; unhealthy lifestyles; and gender inequality.

56 WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) (2015) *Estimates of child cause of death, diarrhoea 2015*. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO). Available: <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.ghe2002015-PAK?lang=en>

57 End Polio (2018) *Polio in Pakistan*. Islamabad: National Emergency Operation Center, WHO and UNICEF. Available: <http://www.endpolio.com.pk/polioin-pakistan>

Children and mothers tend to die from largely preventable cause.

Recent years have witnessed improvements in **child and infant mortality**. Nonetheless, Pakistan is among the five countries in the world which collectively account for over half of all neonatal deaths.⁵⁸ Pakistan's neonatal mortality rate – of 46 deaths among children under 1 month old, for every 1,000 live births⁵⁹ – warrants increased quality services for this crucial segment. More boys than girls die after the neonatal period – the child mortality rate for girls is 77 compared to 85 for boys.⁶⁰

While Pakistan did not reach its MDG target of fewer than 130 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, there has been an impressive of 59% decline in the country's **maternal mortality** ratio (MMR) since 1990.⁶¹ Further efforts are urgently needed, as some 8,000 women die each year from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, with rates varying widely between provinces.⁶²

Children and mothers tend to die from largely preventable causes – premature births, low birth weight and asphyxia among newborns; infections like sepsis and pneumonia, malnutrition and diarrhoea among children under 5; and haemorrhages and puerperal infections among mothers.⁶³ Only 54% of children under the age of 2 (51.5% of girls and 56% of boys) receive all their basic vaccinations, indicating the need for better access to quality immunization services.⁶⁴ Some 42% of children suffering from Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs) receive antibiotics, while 38% receive Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and zinc to combat diarrhoea.⁶⁵ Good WASH practices are an important factor in reversing high morbidity rates, which can often be prevented through simple hygiene practices like hand-washing with soap.

58 UNICEF (2017) *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality*. New York: UNICEF. Available: https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Child_Mortality_Report_2017.pdf

59 UNICEF (2015) *Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities: Pakistan*. Islamabad: UNICEF. Available: https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Pakistan/country%20profile_PAK.pdf

60 UNICEF (2018) *Key Demographic Indicators: Pakistan*. Islamabad: UNICEF. Available: <https://data.unicef.org/country/pak>

61 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank and United Nations Population Division (2015) *Maternal Mortality in 1990-2015: Pakistan*. Geneva and New York: Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group. Available: http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/pak.pdf

62 Ibid.

63 UNICEF (2015) *Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities: Pakistan*. Islamabad: UNICEF. Available: https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Pakistan/country%20profile_PAK.pdf

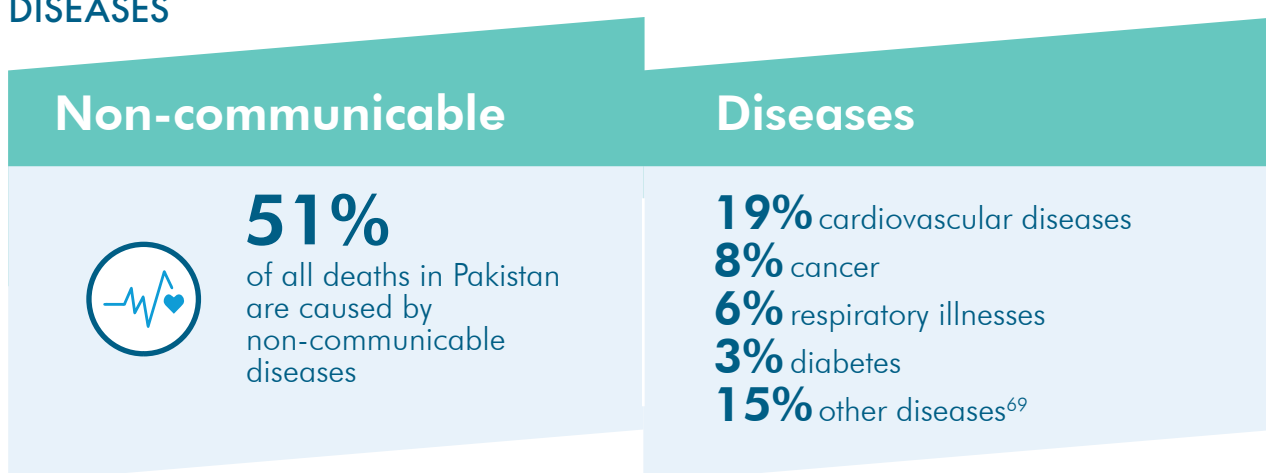
64 National Institute of Population Studies (2013) *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-2013*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/fr290/fr290.pdf>

65 National Institute of Population Studies (2013) *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-2013*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/fr290/fr290.pdf>

Adolescent health is another area which requires greater political commitment and investments. A focus on young women is especially vital as they tend to marry at a younger age than men – 14% of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are married, compared to 2% of boys.⁶⁶ Limited access to, and use of, **sexual and reproductive health** (SRH) services is prevalent across Pakistan, particularly among young people who lack accurate information and life skills education.

On average, one in every three Pakistan women has reported an unmet need for family planning services.⁶⁷ Early child bearing, coupled with limited awareness of SRH, puts millions of lives at risk. While teenage fertility remains high, positive trends are afoot – teenage fertility rates have fallen to 8% among 15-19 year olds, half the rate (16%) in 1990/1991.⁶⁸

DISEASES



While the rate of **communicable disease** is high in Pakistan – with Hepatitis B and C affecting 7.6% of the population⁷⁰, the resurgence of malaria⁷¹ and the fifth highest tuberculosis rate in the world⁷² – it has been overtaken by **non-communicable diseases** (NCDs). This warrants a greater focus on preventing and curbing NCDs, often associated with behavioural risk factors – such as tobacco use, an unhealthy diet and physical inactivity. Tobacco use is on the rise, particularly among young men.⁷³ Expanded services for people with disabilities are needed given Pakistan's high incidence of disability. Injuries account for over 11% of the total burden of disease, linked to growing road traffic, urbanization and disasters.⁷⁴

66 Ibid.

67 United Nations Pakistan (2016) *ONE UN Annual Report 2015*. Islamabad: UN Pakistan. Available: http://www.un.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/UN_report_2015_web.pdf

68 National Institute of Population Studies (2013) *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-2013*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

69 WHO (2014) *Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) Country Profiles: Pakistan*. Islamabad: WHO. Available: http://www.who.int/nmh/countries/pak_en.pdf

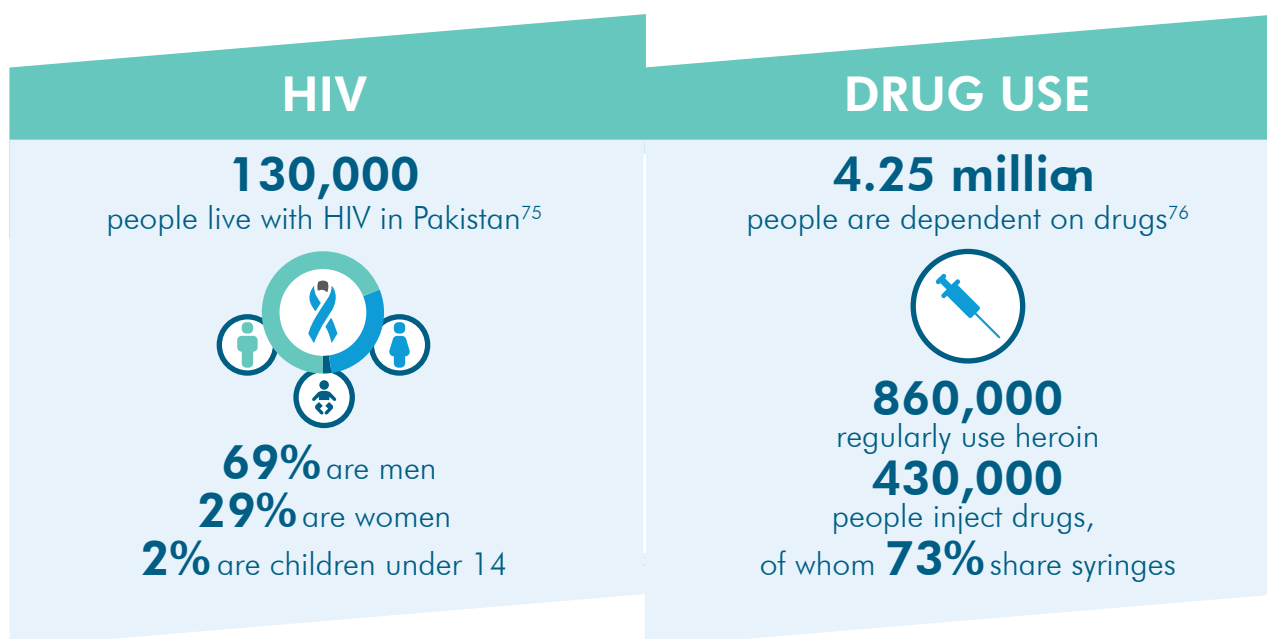
70 Qureshi, H., Bile, K.M., Jooma, R., Alam, S.E. and Afridi, H.U. (2010) "Prevalence of Hepatitis B and C viral infections in Pakistan: Findings of a national survey appealing for effective prevention and control measures", *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*; 16 (Supplement), S15-S23.

71 WHO (2015) *Roll Back Malaria: Pakistan*. Available: <http://www.emro.who.int/pak/programmes/roll-back-malaria.html>

72 WHO (2015) *Stop Tuberculosis: Pakistan*. Available: <http://www.emro.who.int/pak/programmes/stop-tuberculosis.html>

73 WHO (2013) *Global Youth Tobacco Survey*. Available: <http://www.emro.who.int/tobacco/gtss-youth-survey/gtss-factsheetsreports.html>

74 WHO (2016) *Country Cooperation Strategy at a Glance: Pakistan*. Islamabad: WHO. Available: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/136607/1/ccsbrief_pak_en.pdf



Pakistan is among four countries in the Asia Pacific region where the estimated number of new **HIV** infections has increased, year on year, since 1990.⁷⁷ Vulnerability to HIV is multi-layered and closely linked to stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as to drug use. Every year, over 2,400 women are in need of services to prevent parent-to-child HIV transmission (PPTCT).⁷⁸

Drug dependence, a chronic health disorder⁷⁹, is associated with high risk of diseases, physical ailments and mental health problems. There is a need to expand Pakistan's capacity to provide treatment for drug users, as the latest estimates indicate that services have the capacity for only 1,990 patients, with low threshold services able to cater for 26,550.⁸⁰ This would be bolstered by integrating drug treatment services into the health care system.

Disparities exist in **health service delivery** across Pakistan, particularly in immunization coverage. Following devolution, further efforts are needed to enhance service delivery at the provincial and local levels. Positive trends include a steady increase in the rate of deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendants since 2008, as well as a rise in the contraceptive prevalence rate – from 14.5% in 1990 to 35.4% in 2013.⁸¹

75 UNAIDS *Pakistan (2018) Country Factsheets Pakistan: HIV and AIDS estimates (2016)*. Available: <http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/pakistan>

76 Narcotics Control Division, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, Government of Pakistan and UNODC (2013) *Drug use in Pakistan 2013*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan and UNODC.

77 UNAIDS (2016) *Global AIDS Update*. Geneva: UNAIDS. Available: <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2016/Global-AIDS-update-2016>; UNAIDS (2010) *Global Report: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*. Geneva: UNAIDS. Available: http://www.unaids.org/globalreport/documents/20101123_GlobalReport_full_en.pdf

78 National AIDS Control Program (2015) *Pakistan Global AIDS Response Progress Report (GARPR) 2015: Country Progress Report Pakistan*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/PAK_narrative_report_2015.pdf

79 UNODC and WHO (2009) *Principles of Drug Dependence Treatment. Discussion Paper*. Vienna and Geneva: UNODC and WHO.

80 UNODC and Narcotics Control Division, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, Pakistan (2013) *Drug use in Pakistan 2013*. Islamabad: UNODC and Government of Pakistan.

81 Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2017) *Contraceptive Performance Report 2015-2016*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.statistics.gov.pk/assets/publications/6_contraceptive_2015-16.pdf; National Institute of Population Studies (2013) *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-2013*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/fr290/fr290.pdf>

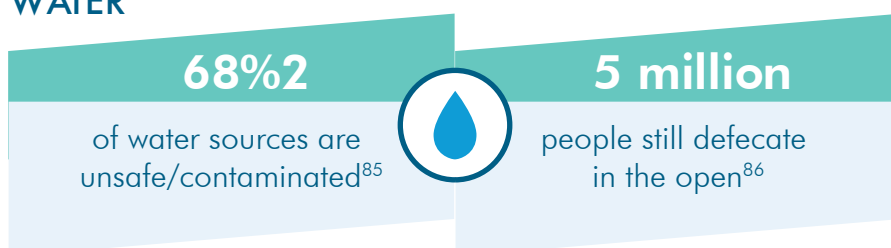
Birth spacing – one of the most effective means of improving child survival – needs to be promoted more widely. While vaccination coverage has fallen slightly in Sindh and Balochistan and plateaued in KP, Punjab has been able to sustain an increasing vaccination coverage rate.⁸²

To meet the needs of a growing population and secure progress on the SDGs, there is a need to increase overall **investment in health**, currently 0.76% of GDP.⁸³ This represents national expenditure of PKR 133.9 billion, with almost 90% at the provincial levels. In 2016, Punjab and Sindh spent PKR 59.7 billion and PKR 35 billion, respectively, while spending totalled PKR 14.5 billion in KP and PKR 9.4 billion in Balochistan.⁸⁴ This has positive implications for increased government funds and the prioritization of health care.

It is worth noting, however, that within existing resources, there is a tendency to focus government and donor attention on the formal health system – e.g. on doctors and hospitals – rather than preventive health care. There is also a pressing need to cater for the survivors of gender-based violence, which health facilities often struggle to do.

There is a need to increase overall investment in health, currently 0.76% of GDP.

WATER



Recent years have witnessed significant improvements in access to WASH services in Pakistan – 91% of the population now has access to improved drinking water sources.⁸⁷ While continued efforts are required in urban centres, progress is especially needed in rural areas – 83% of the urban population has access to improved sanitation, compared to 51% of rural residents.⁸⁸

82 National Institute of Population Studies (2013) *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-2013*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

83 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 1: Overview of the Economy", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

84 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 11: Health and Nutrition", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_16/11_Health.pdf

85 Pakistan Council of Research on Water Resources. *National Water Quality Monitoring Programme*. Islamabad: PCRWR.

86 UNICEF and WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) (2015) *25 Years: Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water. 2015 Update and MDG Assessment*. New York and Geneva: UNICEF and WHO. Available: https://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf

87 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015) *Improved water source (% of population with access)*. Geneva: WHO.

88 Ibid.

UN Response: Achieving Better Health and WASH by 2022

Leveraging the expertise and resources of UN agencies in the fields of health and WASH, the UN will place a 'leaving no one behind' approach at the heart of its support for universal health care coverage and improved WASH services in Pakistan. In line with *Vision 2025* and the SDGs, the UN will support equitable access to, and the sustainable management of, quality health care, water and sanitation, especially for key populations, through:

- **Stronger Partnerships:** The UN will foster new partnerships and enhance existing collaboration with government stakeholders and key players in the health sector, in pursuit of better health and WASH outcomes for all the people in Pakistan. Support will centre on **technical assistance** and **strengthening stakeholder capacity** to raise the quality and reach of health and WASH services.

- **Technical Assistance:** The UN will provide technical support in line with the Government's resolve to ensure universal health coverage for all segments of the population, with a focus on maternal health; newborn and child health, including immunization; adolescent health; sexual and reproductive health; and the health of people with special needs – including the elderly, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, drug users, transgender individuals, etc. The integration of WASH services in health facilities and community-based health care will be prioritized, as will efforts to expand access to equitable WASH services via capacity strengthening, support for policy frameworks and data generation.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** As reproductive health is vital for keeping mothers and children healthy – both integral concerns for basic health services – the UN will seek to enhance national and sub-national capacities to improve maternal, newborn and child health (MNCAH), including via routine immunization; as well as to use disaggregated population data to inform policy-making. Capacities will also be strengthened for developing and implementing specialist health services – such as services to address HIV/AIDS, drug use, tuberculosis, hepatitis and gender-based violence (GBV).

Honing stakeholder capacity to enhance equitable WASH service delivery will be equally key. By supporting government efforts to promote social awareness and behavioural change, communities will be empowered to take collective action towards improved hygiene and sanitation practices, as well as to advocate for better WASH services.

- **Policy Advocacy:** The UN will work with the Government to promote universal access to health information, care and services, including on communicable and non-communicable diseases; sexual and reproductive health; and maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health. Alongside a focus on averting vaccine preventable diseases, and curbing communicable and non-communicable diseases, efforts will be made to enhance the overall resilience of the health system. Cross-sectoral action will be explored to address the interlinked social, economic and environmental determinants of health.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Supporting the Government to ensure **universal health coverage** for all segments of the population – with a special focus on newborns, children, women, adolescents, the elderly and people with disabilities; on strengthening health systems; on reducing the incidence of communicable diseases, including eradicating polio and vaccine preventable diseases; on reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases; and on promoting early childhood development (see Outcome 7 for details), mental health and environmental health. Throughout, a focus will consistently be placed on WASH, as well as on improving emergency preparedness and response;
- Assisting government efforts to expand **equitable access to WASH services**, with a focus on eradicating open defecation; better quality drinking water sources; WASH in schools and health facilities; and streamlining Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in WASH sector planning and financing. This will involve supporting national and provincial stakeholders to legislate, plan and budget for safe, gender-responsive WASH services, alongside capacity development and community empowerment;
- Improving national and sub-national capacities to deliver quality **integrated health services** – including integrated maternal, newborn and child health services; SRH services and family planning information; immunization coverage; and WASH services – while promoting health awareness within communities. This will involve support for community health workers, such as Lady Health Workers; for local medical centers and public hospitals; and for affordable, accessible and adolescent-friendly SRH services;
- Strengthening national **capacity to generate and use disaggregated data** to inform evidence-based policy-making, planning, budgeting and monitoring of the SDGs, particularly SDGs 3 and 6. One sustainable approach could involve integrating SDG indicators into existing national surveys such as the *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey* (PDHS);
- Promoting the **integration of specialized services into the health care system** to cater for those with special needs – such as people living with HIV/AIDS, including children; people who use drugs; transgender individuals; the elderly; people with disabilities; those suffering from tuberculosis and/or hepatitis; and GBV survivors. This should involve needs-based prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services like counseling and psychosocial support;

The UN will support equitable access to, and the sustainable management of, quality health care, water and sanitation, especially for key populations.

The the UN will place a 'leaving no one behind' approach at the heart of its support for universal health care coverage and improved WASH services in Pakistan.

- Backing efforts and policies to curb **gender-based violence**, while improving access to quality care, support and treatment services, alongside safe public spaces, for survivors;
- Promoting evidence-based services and policies to treat and prevent **HIV** and **drug abuse** via capacity development. This will involve integrating such policies and services into the health system; assisting Government actions to achieve the 'three 90s'⁸⁹; and expanding access to, and the uptake of, HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services with high-impact, community-led programming. Key populations who will be targeted target include injecting drug users, both women and men; transgender people; adolescents; and groups with high-risk behaviours;
- Preventing **communicable diseases** by introducing hepatitis B birth dose vaccination; vaccinating at-risk children and adults; and ensuring blood safety, infection control and injection safety. Efforts will be made to scale-up accessible, affordable diagnosis and treatment for key populations; and
- Promoting control and prevention measures to tackle **non-communicable diseases** within primary health care, while raising awareness to reduce NCD-related risk factors.


Potential Challenges and Assumptions

In order to achieve Outcome 3's aims around good health and WASH, it is assumed that the Government will remain committed to its plans for strengthening health care; ensuring universal health coverage; and expanding WASH service delivery – including through significantly greater financial investments in the health and WASH sectors.

Additional assumptions include the Government's continuing willingness to support pro-poor health financing sources, and the regulation of WASH sector actors, both public and private. It is also assumed that communities will be receptive to behavioural change interventions and adopt sustained positive health seeking behaviours. Concerns include the possibility that coordination challenges among stakeholders may limit health service coverage, and the possibility that communities may prove reluctant to change their health seeking behaviours as a result of entrenched social norms.

89 That is, by 2020, i) 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; ii) 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV will receive anti-retroviral therapy; and iii) 90% of all people receiving anti-retroviral therapy will experience viral suppression.

3.4 Nutrition

NUTRITION


Outcome 4:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

WFP, WHO, UNICEF and FAO

CONTRIBUTING
TO VISION
2025
AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth), 4 (Security)

SDGs

1 (Poverty), 2 (Hunger), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 5 (Gender), 6 (WASH), 10 (Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions), 17 (Partnerships)

What is good nutrition?

Nutrition refers to the intake of food, considered in relation to the body's dietary needs. **Good nutrition**, i.e. an adequate, well balanced and nutritious diet, is a cornerstone of good health. It involves adequate access to nutritious foods; affordable food prices; good feeding practices, including exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a child's life; and proper sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices.

Poor nutrition is caused by the lack of these vital elements. Over time, poor nutrition can lead to reduced immunity, increased susceptibility to disease, impaired physical and mental development, and lower productivity.⁹⁰

Vision and Rationale

Why does nutrition matter for Pakistan?

Good nutrition is an indispensable part of sustainable development. A lack of safe, sufficient nutritious food means less productive individuals, who are more prone to disease, unable to improve their livelihoods and are held back from contributing to prosperity.

90 WHO (n.d.) *Nutrition*. Geneva: WHO, Available: <http://www.who.int/topics/nutrition/en/>

Good nutrition and 'zero hunger' will be a boon to Pakistan's economy, health, education, equality, development and its achievement of all 17 SDGs.

Even where the effects of malnutrition are not easily observable – for example when diets lack necessary vitamins or minerals – it can negatively affect brain development in young children. By contrast, good nutrition boosts health and well-being, learning achievement and productivity, thereby reducing inequalities – making it far easier to eliminate poverty, secure economic growth and achieve sustainable development.

By tackling malnutrition and its root causes, Pakistan's development outlook would benefit greatly. Estimates suggest that malnutrition costs the country 3-4% of its GDP each year.⁹¹ Good nutrition and 'zero hunger' will be a boon to Pakistan's economy, health, education, equality, development and its achievement of all 17 SDGs.

Current Context

In recent years, the Government has taken steps to curb the serious challenge of malnutrition in Pakistan. Further efforts are needed to fully address its scale and complexity. Although the country produces sufficient food to feed its population, malnutrition is prevalent – the most recent data available reveals that 22% of Pakistanis are undernourished.⁹²

In both rural and urban settings, challenges exist in terms of the quality of the population's diet (nutrition security) and the adequacy of the food they consume (food security). A lack of affordable nutritious food is one of the root causes of malnutrition, preventing the adequate intake of nutrients – a major cause of stunting and maternal malnutrition – or prompting households to opt for cheap, high calorie foods, which provoke obesity.

Great swathes of Pakistan's population, especially children, suffer from **micronutrient deficiencies**.⁹³ This means that they lack an adequate intake of all the vitamins and minerals necessary for optimal growth and survival.

91 WFP (2017) *The Economic Consequences of Undernutrition in Pakistan: An Assessment of Losses*. Islamabad: Pakistan Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat and World Food Programme (WFP).

92 FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015) *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015*. Rome: FAO, p. 46. Available: <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/2015/en/>

93 UNICEF (2015) *Stop Stunting: Progress Report 2013-2015*. Islamabad: UNICEF. Available: https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/Stop_Stunting.pdf

Chronic malnutrition, known as ‘stunting’ (43.7%) is at ‘emergency levels’.⁹⁴ This is a physical manifestation of insufficient, poor quality diets, repeated infections and poor feeding practices, over extended periods of time. Disaggregating this average reveals that half of all stunting in Pakistan is severe.⁹⁵

Pakistan’s level of **acute malnutrition** (15.1%) also constitutes an ‘emergency’ by international standards.⁹⁶ While acute malnutrition is partly caused by arid conditions and occasional drought in some areas, it is more broadly a manifestation of poverty; the limited availability of nutritious food; a lack of knowledge and awareness of good nutrition; maternal under-nutrition; repeated pregnancies and limited birth spacing; low birth weight among children; a lack of exclusive breast feeding; poor infant feeding practices; the delayed initiation of complementary feeding; repeated infections; and food insecurity. Acute malnutrition takes a particular toll on the poor, whether or not they reside in regions suffering from drought.

Obesity is becoming a problem in Pakistan, affecting 4.8% of the population.⁹⁷ This may be linked to the long-term effects of stunting, but is also related to limited access to affordable nutritious foods, scarce awareness of the importance of balanced diets and physical inactivity.⁹⁸

Nutritional disparities are also related to a lack of knowledge and awareness, including gender-based discrimination in food distribution that particularly affects adolescent girls and women. The nutritional status of mothers is inextricably linked to the nutritional status of their children. Pervasive nutritional deficiencies among children are unsurprising given that women suffer from high-levels of anaemia and deficiencies in calcium, Vitamin D, zinc, iron and folic acid.⁹⁹

Child health and nutritional status depends on feeding and care practices; household food security; and access to health services and sanitation, among other factors. Practices that are strong determinants of children’s nutritional status include:

- Care practices among pregnant and lactating women, including antenatal care;

Although Pakistan produces sufficient food to feed its population, malnutrition is prevalent – 22% of Pakistanis are undernourished.

94 UNICEF (2015) *Stop Stunting: Progress Report 2013-2015*. Islamabad: UNICEF; Aga Khan University, Pakistan Medical Research Council, Government of Pakistan and UNICEF (2011) *National Nutritional Survey Pakistan 2011 (NNS)*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

95 UNICEF (2015) *Stop Stunting: Progress Report 2013-2015*. Islamabad: UNICEF.

96 Ibid; Aga Khan University, Pakistan Medical Research Council, Government of Pakistan and UNICEF (2011) *National Nutritional Survey Pakistan 2011 (NNS)*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

97 World Health Organization (2016) *Pakistan: Diabetes country profiles, 2016*. Islamabad: WHO. Available: http://www.who.int/diabetes/country-profiles/pak_en.pdf

98 WHO (2018) *Double burden of malnutrition*. Geneva: WHO. Available: <http://www.who.int/nutrition/double-burden-malnutrition/en>

99 UNICEF (2015) *Stop Stunting: Progress Report 2013-2015*. Islamabad: UNICEF. Available: https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/Stop_Stunting.pdf

Pakistan is moving towards a response that addresses the root causes of malnutrition while alleviating its symptoms.

- Breastfeeding and young child feeding;
- Reproductive health;
- Good child health practices, including immunization, regular de-worming and feeding during illnesses;
- Psychosocial care for children;
- Adequate food availability, distribution, storage and preparation; and
- Household hygiene and sanitation (WASH) practices.

Ultimately, these practices depend on the **resources available to caregivers** at the household level. Specifically, their education, knowledge and awareness around child care; good health and nutrition among caregivers themselves; mental health, minimal stress and self-confidence; the availability of, and control over, resources; intra-household resource and food distribution; time usage and a reasonable workload; the number of children in a family and the mother's age at the time of her marriage; access to family planning and health care services; and family/community support.¹⁰⁰

Pakistan is beginning to move away from a **nutrition response** solely focused on treating acutely malnourished children, towards a more comprehensive response that addresses the root causes of malnutrition while alleviating its symptoms. The process of rolling out *Multi-Sectorial Nutrition Strategies* is underway across all provinces and regions, while the *Scaling Up Nutrition* (SUN) initiative's coordination mechanisms are poised to help operationalize these multi-sectorial frameworks. As such, nutritional governance will become more effective by pairing it with a focus on food security, WASH, agriculture, education, health, population welfare and women's empowerment.

UN Response: Enhancing Nutrition by 2022

The UN has extensive national and global expertise in tackling the manifestations and root causes of malnutrition – including insufficient food; household food insecurity; a lack of dietary diversity; micronutrient deficiencies; maternal malnutrition; limited access to maternal and child health services; poor care seeking behaviors; insufficient breastfeeding; poor complementary feeding practices; a lack of simple household hygiene and sanitation; and unsafe drinking water. Drawing on its experience, resources and expertise, the UN will support the Government to improve nutrition in Pakistan through:

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

- **Stronger Partnerships:** Hand in hand with partners across the country, particularly federal and provincial governments, the momentum of SUN activities will be taken forward, along with other sustained efforts to achieve ‘zero hunger’ (SDG 2). This will involve **technical assistance** and **capacity strengthening** for a range of stakeholders. Team work and synergies will be prioritized at all levels, requiring UN agencies to work holistically and maximize each agency’s strengths to help Pakistan achieve optimal nutrition.

- **Technical Assistance:** Based upon current Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategies, the UN will promote the development and implementation of *Multi-Sector Plans of Action* for each province and region, alongside an overall Country Plan. Through SUN and other government initiatives, elaborating and enacting these plans will draw together all relevant stakeholders – federal and provincial governments, UN agencies, parliamentarians, the private sector, civil society, academia, the media and communities. By analysing what actions have been effective in the short-, medium- and long-term, we will identify gaps and opportunities, pinpointing where existing capacity and financing can be harnessed, and where these need to be further developed. Such analysis will be indispensable for multi-sectoral action around good nutrition. Nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions will be prioritized, particularly to curb stunting, with a focus on those most in need. Support will also be provided to bolster coordination mechanisms at the federal, provincial and district levels, in order to effectively monitor and evaluate nutrition programmes.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** The UN will support capacity strengthening for all relevant nutrition sectors, including federal, provincial and district Departments of Health; allied hospitals; municipal health facilities; rural health care centres and basic health units; provincial and district Education Departments and teachers; and provincial and district Departments of Food, Agriculture, Livestock, Water and Sanitation (WASH), Social Welfare and Women’s Development.

- **Policy Advocacy:** The UN will continue to support the Government’s adoption of multi-sectoral nutrition and food fortification strategies, aligned with federal and provincial priorities. We will focus on encouraging quality implementation; scaling up interventions; strong monitoring and evaluation; and offering advice on legislation to protect and promote good nutrition for all Pakistanis, especially key populations.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Supporting the development and implementation of an integrated, **multi-sectoral National Nutrition Policy/Strategy**, aligned with federal and provincial priorities. Support will be based on *Provincial Nutrition Guidance Notes and Provincial Nutrition Strategies*;

- Aiding the **implementation of current Multi-Sector Nutrition Strategies** to improve dietary intake, feeding and care practices among those most in need – including children, adolescent girls and boys, pregnant and lactating women, mothers, the elderly persons with disabilities and those with specific health concerns;

- Continuing the momentum of the **Scaling up Nutrition** (SUN) initiative and other government interventions. This will entail clear plans at the federal and provincial levels to support multi-sectoral strategies and promote public financial allocations for nutrition;

Drawing on our experience, resources and expertise, the UN will support the Government to improve nutrition across Pakistan.

- Assisting **nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions**, with a focus on preventing and treating stunting, acute malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and maternal malnutrition. These will also address issues across the life cycle – such as ante-natal and postnatal care (ANC and PNC); maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH); the early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding; infant and young child feeding (IYCF); school nutrition; adolescent health; WASH; and household food security interventions. A dual approach will continue to be spearheaded, pairing nutrition specific-and nutrition-sensitive action with efforts to tackle under-nutrition nutrition and its root causes;
- Assisting improvements in federal, provincial and regional **coordination mechanisms** to effectively monitor and evaluate nutrition programmes;
- **Strengthening the capacities** of federal, provincial and district authorities to enhance nutrition through a multi-sectoral approach – including stakeholders responsible for health care, education, agriculture, WASH, social welfare, women’s empowerment, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency response; and
- **Assisting** federal and provincial government efforts to generate and analyse evidence on innovative, scalable and sustainable nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

In order to achieve Outcome 4’s aims of good nutrition for all the people in Pakistan, it is assumed that the Government will continue to prioritize nutrition as a critical priority area, including by allocating significant funds to nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions. It is also assumed that communities will be responsive to interventions which promote improved feeding and care practices. Potential challenges include the possibility that stakeholders’ multi-sectoral response to nutrition challenges may be limited, particularly in terms of collaboration with other sectors, or that nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific plans may not be fully implemented or sustained. The possibility that environmental or climate-related emergencies could compound food insecurity – thus limiting opportunities to foster lasting nutritional change – represents a serious concern.

3.5 Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

FOOD SECURITY & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Outcome 5:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

WFP, FAO, UNIDO and IFAD

CONTRIBUTING
TO VISION
2025
AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth), 4 (Security),

SDGs

1 (Poverty), 2 (Hunger), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 5 (Gender), 6 (WASH), 9 (Infrastructure & Innovation), 10 (Inequalities), 12 (Consumption & Production), 13 (Climate), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions), 17 (Partnerships)

What is food security?

Food security exists when “all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”¹⁰¹ Its dimensions include:

- **Availability** – sufficient quantities of quality, nutritious food physically available in local markets; produced on local farms or in home gardens; obtained via imports; strategic grain reserves; world food supplies; and food aid or gifts.
- **Access** – households’ and individuals’ capacity to attain nutritious food.¹⁰² This involves physical, social and economic access¹⁰³ and is influenced by people’s purchasing power.
- **Utilization** – the way in which the body makes the most of nutrients in the food it consumes. Sufficient nutrient intake is the result of feeding and care practices; food preparation; diet diversity; and intra-household food distribution – all of which depend on knowledge and practices around nutritious food.

Sustainable agriculture is about providing nutritious food for all and generating decent incomes, while supporting people-centred rural development and protecting the environment.

¹⁰¹ FAO (2002) *State of Food Insecurity in the World 2001*. Rome: FAO.

¹⁰² Sen, A. K. (1982) *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*. New York: Clarendon Press.

¹⁰³ Physical access entails well-functioning, accessible markets and farmers’ access to improved technology and financing. Social access involves affordability and intra-household food allocation. Economic access refers to asset ownership and livelihood opportunities, especially for women.

Vision and Rationale

Why do food security and sustainable agriculture matter for Pakistan?

60% of the population faces food insecurity, with a particularly severe toll on the poorest people in the country.

Food security is a key building block of a better future for all. Rural development and investments in sustainable agriculture – whether in crop production, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – are powerful tools to end poverty and hunger. Low crop and livestock productivity, a rise in the cost of fertilizer and seeds, and changes in land use patterns – due to desertification, salinity or climate change – constrain the availability of food while driving up prices. Ultimately, this limits opportunities for millions of people to lift themselves out of poverty.

The monumental task of feeding a growing population can only be achieved by transforming food systems and agriculture. Sustainable agriculture, with its focus on improved productivity, mitigates poverty and improves access to food – making it central to lasting food security. In turn, achieving food security would have an immense, positive impact on Pakistan's economy, health, education, equality and development outcomes – in essence, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Current Context

With its rich agricultural resources, Pakistan is largely self-sufficient in major food crops.¹⁰⁴ Efforts to cement food security are gaining pace – a major issue since 60% of the population faces **food insecurity**¹⁰⁵, which takes a particularly severe toll on the poorest people in the country.

Economic access is among the most prominent '**limiting factors**' that affect Pakistan's food security. Poverty rates, coupled with rising food prices, increase pressure on the population. Market prices play a major role in determining economic access to food, particularly the rising prices of staple goods like wheat and fresh milk. Poor families also face difficulties in securing year-long access to fresh, organic vegetables, poultry, eggs, meat, milk and dairy products.

Improvements are needed in terms of physical access, most notably in remote rural areas around Pakistan, including within GB, PAK, Balochistan, KP and Sindh.¹⁰⁶

104 Aga Khan University, Pakistan Medical Research Council, Government of Pakistan and UNICEF (2011) *National Nutritional Survey Pakistan 2011 (NNS)*.

105 WFP (2018) *Where we work: Pakistan*. Islamabad: WFP. Available: <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/pakistan>

106 WFP (2017) *Pakistan Food Security Bulletin: Issue 6 (January-June 2017)*. Islamabad: WFP. Available: <https://www.wfp.org/content/pakistan-food-security-bulletins-2017>

The adequate utilization of food is affected by a lack of awareness of appropriate dietary intake, underlining the need for awareness raising, especially in rural areas. Food security is linked to adequate WASH, education and health service delivery. Challenges related to WASH are particularly important given that, for instance, Pakistan has the third largest number of people in the world who practice open defecation.¹⁰⁷

Maintaining food production and keeping up with demand may be challenging in light of Pakistan's **growing population** and adverse **climatic conditions**, most notably transient but recurring environmental phenomena – such as floods, droughts and earthquakes. These trends will have important implications for the critical agricultural sector. Contributing 19.8% of Pakistan's GDP¹⁰⁸ and employing nearly half of the workforce, agriculture is central to the livelihoods of millions.

Challenges to agriculture mean challenges for food security and poverty reduction. Concerning trends are afoot, as wheat availability per capita from local production sources has been decreasing¹⁰⁹, as has the production of pulses and vegetables – reducing crucial sources of protein, minerals and vitamins. Nevertheless, the production of other products has fared better. For instance, the per capita availability of locally produced milk increased by 3% in 2016.¹¹⁰

Challenges to agriculture mean challenges for food security and poverty reduction.

As prospects for expanding agricultural land are uncertain – since this would deplete natural resources – **new technologies and practices** could facilitate production on existing agricultural terrain. In the face of extreme weather conditions and natural disasters, there is an impetus to help communities become more resilient and better able to manage risks to both agriculture and food security.

As **gender** cuts across issues of food security – particularly in emergencies, where women and men are affected differently and are subject to differences in household food allocation – a gender-responsive approach to food security is vital.

107 UNICEF (2016) *Stop Open Defecation: South Asia Headline Results - 2016 Progress Report*. Kathmandu: UNICEF South Asia. Available: <http://www.unicefrosa-progressreport.org/opendefecation.html>

108 Finance Division (2016) "Chapter 2: Agriculture", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2015-16*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_16/02_Agriculture.pdf

109 Finance Division (2016) "Chapter 2: Agriculture", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2015-16*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan ; Janjua, P.Z., Samad. G. and Khan, N.U. (2010) "Impact of Climate Change on Wheat Production: A Case Study of Pakistan", Paper presented at the *26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists*. Islamabad: PSDE. Available: <http://www.pide.org.pk/psde/pdf/agm26/Day3/Pervez%20Zamurad%20Janjua.pdf>

110 Finance Division (2016) "Chapter 2: Agriculture", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2015-16*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

The Government of Pakistan's Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), which addresses both agriculture and food security, is finalizing its *National Agriculture and Food Security Policy*. This is an important step, encompassing a set of actions on federal and inter-provincial issues around agriculture and food security. These issues are related to international and domestic coordination; upstream and strategic research; minimum standards for food safety; seed certification; pest control; and the surveillance of animal health.

The National Agriculture and Food Security Policy is an important step.

UN Response: Improving Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture by 2022

The UN has a long record of working on food security and agriculture, within Pakistan and around the world. Several specialized agencies have the resources, coupled with the financial and technical expertise, to aid the design of comprehensive strategies for food security and sustainable agricultural development. Drawing on our experience, resources and expertise, the UN will focus on improving food security and sustainable agriculture in Pakistan through:

- **Stronger Partnerships:** Strengthening partnerships with federal and provincial governments, civil society and other stakeholders will be the main vehicle by which the UN contributes to improved food security and sustainable agriculture. This will principally be achieved by providing **technical assistance** and **strengthening capacities**, especially the capacity of government agencies and policy-makers to improve policies and programmes on these two interlinked issues. We will also support the Government's community-based livelihood initiatives, which enable people on the ground to design and pilot scalable models.

- **Technical Assistance:** The UN will capitalize on Pakistan's establishment of a coherent, coordinated sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) system.

We will support the Government's application of food safety controls, as well as efforts to strengthen the federally-coordinated SPS Management System and its provincial arms. Initiatives will also support the diversification of agricultural production, improved agricultural practices and enhanced value chain development.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** The UN will support government efforts to achieve the goals of the ‘zero hunger’ initiative at the federal and provincial levels. This will include developing the capacity of small-holder farmers to produce sufficient food; to employ technology and modern agricultural practices; and to benefit from improved access to land, water, agriculture extension services, inputs, technologies and financing.

It will also entail honing the capacity of stakeholders to strengthen food systems via an integrated approach at all levels; to ensure ‘value addition’ in food products; to undertake food security analysis; and to establish a *Food Security Monitoring System*. By gathering and analysing data, such a system will enhance preparedness, early warning and timely response to food security issues. In tandem, we will continue to work with federal and provincial government departments, building capacities for tackling disasters that affect food security, particularly through ‘climate-smart agriculture’.

- **Policy Advocacy:** The UN will support and advise the Government on the development and implementation of food security and sustainable agriculture policies, strategies and plans. These are vital for improving the availability of, and access to, adequate nutritious food among the poorest and most vulnerable groups in Pakistan. Specifically, we will continue to support government efforts to create and enact a *National Food Security Policy*. We will also work closely government partners to strengthen institutional and policy frameworks at all levels, so as to better address Pakistan’s agricultural and food security needs.

At the systematic level, a **three-pronged approach** will be adopted to tackle food insecurity:

- i. First, an approach which prioritizes better quality food by supporting the Government’s monitoring efforts to ensure compliance with food safety and standards and SPS mechanisms through quality assurance procedures;
- ii. Second, an approach based on strengthening government data management systems through the provision of technical expertise to track and monitor commitments on food security and sustainable agriculture; and
- iii. Third, an approach that seeks to strengthen government initiatives aimed at collaboration between the public and private sectors, with a view to diversifying the approaches used for basic service delivery in food and agriculture.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Promoting the Government’s approval and implementation of a **National Agriculture and Food Security Policy**, alongside the implementation of a *National Action Plan* to achieve ‘zero hunger’;
- Supporting the **SPS management system** across the country;
- Supporting government efforts to increase **investments in sustainable agriculture** and livestock, as well as agricultural markets, in order to lay a solid foundation for food security;
- Boosting stakeholder capacity to undertake gender-responsive food security analysis and set-up an effective **Food Security Monitoring System**;

The UN has a long record of working on food security and agriculture, within Pakistan and around the world.

- Working with the Government to **raise awareness of improved dietary feeding and care practices**, especially among those most in need, while enhancing access to quality agricultural inputs, modern technologies, services and financing linked to food security and sustainable agriculture;
- Rebuilding livelihoods through the **rehabilitation of agriculture, natural resource management and food assistance**;
- Offering **food and cash assistance** in response to shocks or natural disasters, coupled with **agricultural and livestock inputs**. This will be tied to capacity strengthening for communities and authorities, enabling them to ensure food security during disaster response and recovery phases; and
- Increasing the incomes of poor, rural households in targeted areas through greater **crop and livestock productivity**. A focus will be placed on empowering women to fully participate in economic activities and engage more effectively with the market, thereby expanding their livelihood opportunities, including through conditional food and cash assistance.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

In order to achieve Outcome 5's aims on food security and sustainable agriculture across Pakistan, it is expected that the Government will assume increased ownership for improving agriculture, cementing food security and safety, and improving nutrition. It is also assumed that national institutions and key stakeholders will take responsibility for improved service delivery and ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all. Potential challenges include the possibility that relevant action plans may not be fully implemented, alongside changing donor preferences in terms of supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition.

3.6 Resilience

RESILIENCE



Outcome 6:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UN Habitat, IOM, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, UN Environment and UN Women

CONTRIBUTING
TO VISION
2025
AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth), 4 (Security)

SDGs

5 (Gender), 6 (WASH), 7 (Energy), 12 (Consumption & Production), 13 (Climate), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 17 (Partnerships)

What is resilience?

Resilience means reducing risks and the damage wrought by disasters – i.e. the loss of lives and assets – as well as the ability to bounce back quickly.¹¹¹ Resilience is not an issue confined to one sector alone. Priorities for achieving it include:

- Understanding disaster risks;
- Strengthening disaster risk governance for the management of these risks;
- Understanding the economic, social, health, education, environmental and cultural heritage impacts of hazards;
- Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); and
- Enhancing disaster preparedness to improve response, rehabilitation and reconstruction.¹¹²

¹¹¹ UN Habitat (n.d.) *Resilience*. Nairobi: UN Habitat. Available: <https://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/resilience/>

¹¹² United Nations (2015) *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. New York: United Nations. Available: http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

Pakistan is among the ten countries in the world most affected by the impacts of climate change.

VISION AND RATIONALE

Why does resilience matter for Pakistan?

Human life depends on the earth for sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80% of our diets, allowing people to rely on agriculture as an economic resource and means of development. Diverse ecosystems and biodiversity are irreplaceable sources of clean air and water, as well as being crucial for combating climate change. Pakistan's wealth of tangible and intangible cultural resources are also core components of lives and livelihoods – resources of immeasurable value for sustainable development.

Protecting these resources, while guarding against challenges linked to increasingly frequent disasters, is essential for Pakistan – whether environmental degradation, climate change, or natural disasters. A focus on resilience will help to safeguard natural and cultural resources; enable communities to prevent, mitigate and recover from disasters; and cement hard-won development gains.

Current Context

Pakistan has made strides towards greater resilience, with national and provincial authorities increasingly capable of planning for, managing and responding to disaster risks. This is a welcome trend, as the country is highly susceptible to the effects of **natural disasters, seismic activity and environmental degradation**¹¹³ due to its geographical location, topography, hydrological configuration, tectonic plates and low levels of development.

Disasters exacerbate the stresses of poverty and the demands of sustainable development. Key populations are hardest hit – most notably the poor, those in rural or remote areas, women, children and others unable to prevent or prepare for risks. As urban planning in Pakistan often lacks provisions for disaster management, urban areas also face challenges.

Pakistan is also among the ten countries in the world most affected by the impacts of **climate change**, ranking 7th of 181 countries on the *Global Climate Risk Index 2017*.¹¹⁴ Recent years have already witnessed frequent extreme weather variability, such as droughts and glacial lake outburst floods. This has serious implications for several socio-economic sectors, including health; agriculture, food and nutrition security; energy; and natural resource management.

¹¹³ UN Habitat (2014) *Cities and Climate change initiative-Abridged report: Pakistan Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment*. Islamabad: UN Habitat. Available: <https://unhabitat.org/books/islamabad-pakistan-climate-change-vulnerability-assessment/>

¹¹⁴ Germanwatch (2016) *Global Climate Risk Index 2017*. Bonn: Germanwatch. Available: <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/16411.pdf>

Challenges related to service delivery, food security and hunger may arise as Pakistan's population rapidly grows and urbanizes, while extreme weather affect water supplies, potentially causing agricultural yields to decline.

More generally, Pakistan's **natural resources** are under strain. Ecosystems, biodiversity, land and water resources, soil fertility and other natural assets are affected by environmental degradation, spurred by rapid, unplanned urbanization, pollution, soil erosion and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.¹¹⁵

Indigenous knowledge and practices on sustainably managing natural resources are beginning to wane in the wake of rising urbanization.¹¹⁶ Since natural assets are the cornerstone of the livelihoods of millions of people, strains on these assets will have to be handled effectively to enable Pakistan to achieve the SDGs.

As the environmental challenges that Pakistan faces have certain common causes, they can be addressed by **common solutions**. These include greater investments in natural resource management; according economic value to natural resources; proper planning in relation to natural resources; and reversing soil and land degradation, as well as water pollution, caused by industrial expansion and climate patterns. Adapting to climate change, enacting new policy frameworks and continuing to improve the enforcement of existing regulations will also be crucial.

As the environmental challenges that Pakistan faces have certain common causes, they can be addressed by common solutions.

UN Response: Bolstering Resilience and Sustainable Resource Management by 2022

Uncertainties spawned by climate change, environmental concerns and natural hazards call for strengthened UN support for risk management and resilience in Pakistan. Experience confirms that fragmented approaches cannot address such concerns. Thus, the UN will continue to harness its technical expertise, experience and resources to boost Pakistan's ability to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters; adapt to climate change; and manage natural and cultural resources sustainably through:

115 Government of Pakistan, AICAS, CCRD, IISD and UNDP (2017) *The Vulnerability of Pakistan's Water Sector to the Impacts of Climate Change: Identification of gaps and recommendations for action*. Islamabad: UNDP. Available: http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/library/environment_energy/PakistanWaterSectorReport.html

116 UN Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Common Country Assessment: Meta Analysis*. Islamabad: UN Pakistan.

- **Stronger Partnerships:** The UN will assist the Government to mainstream its priorities on risk management and resilience across all government bodies, ministries and departments, at all levels. Collaboration will centre on consolidating Pakistan's gains and lessons learned from managing and mitigating natural disasters, while supporting the transition to an 'integrated risk management and resilience approach'.

This is an approach that is aware of the 'stressors' that underlie existing challenges and is capable of mitigating, managing and adapting accordingly. We will also partner with the Government to institutionalize environment sustainability and climate change adaptation. These efforts will be based upon concerted **technical assistance** and **capacity strengthening** for stakeholders at all levels, in both rural and urban areas.

- **Technical Assistance:** The UN will provide upstream support coupled with assistance for mainstreaming resilience and risk management across the Government's priority areas. To enhance planning and decision-making, good practice models will be highlighted in the sphere of service delivery. These will be based on research, innovation, knowledge management and multi-hazard risk assessments. They will focus on the areas outlined below, namely 'absorptive' capacity, encompassing preparedness and response; 'adaptive' strengths; and 'transformative' capacities.

We will also assist government efforts around community-based protection systems, including health care, especially for key populations; as well as revitalizing the productive capacities and employment opportunities of communities affected by natural hazards and disasters.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** UN support for the Government and people of Pakistan – both urban and rural – will centre on strengthening capacities to prepare for, mitigate and absorb the impacts of natural disasters and extreme climatic events on livelihoods and basic needs; to adapt to climate change; and to transform practices to better achieve development results.

A focus will be placed on supporting the Government to bolster capacities around risk management and resilience, particularly among Disaster Management Authorities (DMAs) at all levels, while mainstreaming DRR into the work of all government bodies and line ministries. Making communities more resilient will hinge on creating livelihoods and employment opportunities, while improving coping mechanisms. Given the particular requirements of urban areas, we will support specific multi-sectoral 'urban' approaches to make urban centres more resilient.

- **Policy Advocacy:** The UN will offer advice on the context-specific replication and creation of workable models across Pakistan's provinces and regions. These will be based on strong protection standards around preparedness, relief, risk management, recovery, reconstruction and resilience. A focus will also be placed on assisting government efforts to raise awareness of, and to promote, environmentally sustainable practices – including by engaging the private sector, the public sector, civil society, academia, the media and communities. We will also support the Government to undertake research on urban risk management and resilience.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Supporting the **implementation of key national frameworks** for risk management and resilience – particularly Pakistan’s *National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2012)* and *National Disaster Management Plan 2016-2030* – while assisting the development of innovative new strategies, including for urban resilience;

- **Pursuing an approach to resilience with a three-pronged focus:**

- **First, building absorptive capacity**, i.e. the ability of the Government and people of Pakistan to prepare for, mitigate and overcome the impacts of natural disasters and extreme climatic events on their lives and livelihoods. This will include resilience building among affected communities in urban and rural areas; risk awareness; Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and prevention measures to mitigate the impact of sudden on-set events; coping strategies; and capacities to preserve and restore basic services.

For instance, cash savings, reserve food stocks, access to social safety nets and the diversification of livelihoods. This will be coupled with action to safeguard Pakistan’s natural and cultural environment, including traditional knowledge and practices around resource management;

- **Second, improving adaptive strengths**, i.e. ability of Pakistan’s Government and people to adjust to the impacts natural disasters and extreme climatic events; to mitigate and reduce potential damage; and to take advantage of opportunities as they emerge.

In both urban and rural settings, this will include diversifying livelihoods and promoting alternative income generation opportunities; creating storage facilities; improving the efficiency of energy consumption; advising on codes for the construction of buildings and other structures; assisting government efforts to encourage the private sector and NGOs to share in the delivery of basic services; encouraging improved farming techniques and practices; designing and sharing replicable DRR livelihood models; and introducing climate resistant crops.

- **Third, strengthening the transformative capacity** of institutions responsible for weather and climate forecasting systems, natural resource management and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at the national, provincial, district and municipal levels.

Uncertainties spawned by climate change, environmental concerns and natural hazards call for strengthened UN support for risk management and resilience in Pakistan.

The UN will boost Pakistan's ability to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters; adapt to climate change; and manage resources sustainably.

Specifically, this will entail building capacities around contingency and policy planning; mainstreaming climate change into sectoral strategies; DRR and DRM, including support for government efforts to promote *Community-Based Disaster Risk Management* (CBDRM); school safety; climate hazard and climate vulnerability mapping; early warning systems; technology transfer; multi-hazard DRM planning; and supporting relevant authorities to mainstream DRR into urban management.

We will also assist the Government to boost the capacities of law enforcement agencies to respond to, and assist with, emergencies and transition planning. This will facilitate an effective shift from preparedness to response and early recovery; and

- Supporting **environmental sustainability**, with a focus on **climate change adaptation and mitigation** strategies. Interventions will be tailored to needs and challenges at the provincial, regional, district and municipal levels, guided by certain core efforts:

- Bolstering national and provincial capacity to reduce climate vulnerabilities;
- Supporting the Federal Government in its climate adaptation endeavours;
- Supporting government stakeholders through capacity building and involving communities in the sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity, including forests, wildlife and fisheries' resources; and
- Assisting government efforts to raise awareness and disseminate information on environmentally sustainable practices, including with the help of the private sector, civil society, academia and the media.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

In order to achieve Outcome 6's aims around greater resilience, it is assumed that communities will become more aware of the importance of resilience and risk management, especially to mitigate the impact of shocks on livelihoods and basic needs.

Additional assumptions include the Government's continued commitment to mainstreaming a resilience and risk management agenda in its work, as well as its willingness to invest in adaptation and transformation to address the effects of climate change and natural hazards, in both rural and urban areas. Potential challenges may arise in terms of coordination between federal, provincial and local stakeholders, coupled with capacity gaps.

3.7 Education and Learning

EDUCATION AND LEARNING



Outcome 7:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV, WFP and ILO

CONTRIBUTING
TO VISION
2025
AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth),
6 (Knowledge Economy)

SDGs

2 (Hunger), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 5 (Gender),
6 (WASH), 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth),
12 (Consumption & Production), 16 (Peace,
Justice & Institutions), 17 (Partnerships)

What is quality education?

While education is often defined quantitatively, filling schools with children does not address development objectives if no real learning occurs. Thus, the quality of education is essential.

Quality education is education which equitably provides all learners with the capabilities they require to become economically productive, to develop sustainable livelihoods, to contribute to societies and to enhance individual well-being. **Pre-conditions** for achieving quality education include:

- The availability of budgetary resources;
- Capacity building for duty bearers;
- Education Sector Plans inclusive of all SDG 4 targets;
- Implementing existing education policies and laws at all levels;
- Improved inter-sectoral coordination (e.g. with sectors such as employment, nutrition, health and culture); and
- Synergies between teachers' professional development, curricula, textbooks and learning assessment.

Vision and Rationale

Why do education and learning matter for Pakistan?

Inclusive, quality education is one of the most powerful proven vehicles for sustainable development. When people are able to attain quality education, they can break cycles of poverty and inequality. Education empowers them to live more healthy and sustainable lives, and to build more developed and equitable societies.

Investment in the education sector is rising, reaching 2.3% of GDP in 2017.

An educated, skilled workforce is the basis of a thriving economy, just as an educated population is the foundation for a prosperous country. Pakistan stands to gain immeasurably – now and in the future – by expanding and ensuring quality education for all of its children and youths.

Current Context

Recent years have witnessed significant advancements in the **promotion of education** in Pakistan. Most notably, the promulgation of Article 25A of the Constitution in 2010 made education compulsory for all girls and boys between the ages of 5 and 16, upholding international commitments such as the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

Provincial and regional governments are making headway – for instance, by developing Education Sector Plans to guide their education reform agendas. To develop **localized targets and indicators for SDG 4** ('Quality Education'), provincial *SDG 4 Roadmaps* are being prepared. The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training's SDG 4 Cell is setting targets and indicators to monitor progress towards SDG 4's implementation.

Investment in the education sector is rising, reaching 2.3% of GDP in 2017.¹¹⁷ Following the 18th Constitutional Amendment, which devolved responsibility for education to the provinces, provincial governments have considerably increased resource allocations for education in their annual budgets. The overall national education budget has increased by 27% since 2010, underscored by positive provincial trends.¹¹⁸

117 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 10: Education", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/10-Education.pdf

118 Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (2016) *Public Financing of Education in Pakistan: 2010-2011 to 2015-2016*. Islamabad: I-SAPS. Available: <http://www.i-saps.org/publications>

To capitalize on such progress, resources will have to be used more efficiently. At present, provinces return funds earmarked for education each year to the Federal Treasury.¹¹⁹ Structurally, better implementation and enforcement of education legislation and policies is required.

Positive developments need to be taken forward in order to continue tackling challenges to quality education and learning for all. **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** requires greater attention, as it lays the foundation for effective learning and holistic growth. Some 9.7 million children in Pakistan were enrolled in primary schools in 2015/16, meaning that pre-school enrolment was roughly 40% nationwide.¹²⁰ Significantly higher rates are apparent in urban areas (58%).¹²¹ The *National Education Policy (NEP) 2009* recognizes the importance of ECE. While the policy actions identified by the NEP have yet to be fully implemented, its forthcoming revision is a welcome move towards a stronger focus on ECE.

Primary education coverage is increasing, thanks to rising investments and government action, supported by the UN. Addressing access issues would immeasurably improve coverage. Government statistics indicate that an estimated 22.6 million children, aged 5-16, are out-of-school – 44% of all children in this age group.¹²² Pakistan has the second-highest number of out-of-school children (OOSC) at the primary level in South Asia, over half of whom are girls.¹²³

A growing number of higher education facilities across the country, including in smaller urban centres, are helping to expand access to **secondary and tertiary education**. Nonetheless, access issues exist, particularly for girls.¹²⁴ To equitably enable all children to acquire basic skills, greater access to **vocational training and skills development** is needed. Strong partnerships do not yet exist between educational establishments and the private sector, which ultimately has the greatest interest in the development of a well-trained labour force.

Article 25A of the Constitution made education compulsory for all girls and boys between the ages of 5 and 16.

119 UN Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Common Country Assessment: Meta Analysis*. Islamabad: UN Pakistan.

120 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 10: Education", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*.

121 Finance Division (2015) "Chapter 10: Education", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2014-15*. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_15/10_Education.pdf

122 National Education Management System (2016) *Pakistan Education Statistics 2015–2016*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <http://library.aepam.edu.pk/Books/Pakistan%20Education%20Statistics%202015-16.pdf>

123 UNICEF and UNESCO (2014) *Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children: South Asia Regional Study Covering Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka*. Kathmandu: UNICEF Regional Office South Asia. Available: https://www.unicef.org/education/files/SouthAsia_OOSCI_Study_Executive_Summary_26Jan_14Final.pdf

124 Ibid.

The UN's long-standing partnership with Pakistan places a special focus on education and learning.

Across all grades, **retention rates** are low. Only 60% of enrolled students complete their primary education.¹²⁵ Completion rates are 46% at the 'lower secondary' and 36% at the 'higher secondary' levels.¹²⁶ Beyond enrolment, **learning outcomes** are also a concern. Education in Pakistan tends to be of low quality. For instance, the 2016 *Annual Status of Education Report* (ASER) found that 48% of Class 5 pupils in both public and private schools could not read a Class 2 story in Urdu, while 52% could not divide a two-digit sum.¹²⁷

There is a need to improve the quality of education, including by addressing institutional bottlenecks, teacher absenteeism and social norms. The need for **life skills education**, a focus of SDG 4, is reflected in Pakistan's *National Education Policy* and both national and provincial *Youth Policies*. Thus, it is important to integrate such programmes into school curricula.

Gender disparities persist in the availability of education in Pakistan. This is tied to access issues – given the distances that children, especially girls, have to travel to attend school, coupled with limited transportation options – as well as a lack of school WASH facilities, poverty and food insecurity.¹²⁸

This highlights the importance of addressing access constraints, while raising community awareness of education's importance and sensitizing duty bearers. It is also vital to recall the challenges that natural disasters pose to education, given their toll on vital infrastructure like schools, human resources and transportation.

UN Response: Enhancing Education and Learning by 2022

The UN's long-standing partnership with Pakistan places a special focus on education and learning. Expanding access to all forms of quality education will be at the apex of UN efforts under the OP III. Our initiatives will focus on those key populations most in need, with an emphasis on improving all facets of learning – spanning formal schooling, non-formal schooling, alternative learning programmes, vocational training and life skills education.

125 UNICEF (2015) *Primary Education: Current Status & Progress*. New York: UNICEF. Available: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/education/primary-education/>

126 UNICEF (2015) *Secondary Education: Current Status & Progress*. New York: UNICEF. Available: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/education/secondary-education/>

127 ASER (2016) *Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Pakistan 2016*. Islamabad: ASER. Available: <http://aserpakistan.org/index.php>

128 Ministry of Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education of Educational Planning and Management Islamabad (2014) *Pakistan Education for All 2015 National Review*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002297/229718E.pdf>

Leveraging our experience, resources and expertise, we will focus on supporting the Government to enhance education and learning in Pakistan through:

- **Stronger Partnerships:** The UN will collaborate with the Government to expand access to all levels of education, as well as to enhance the quality of education and learning. Our focus will be on improving educational opportunities and quality in under-served areas for children and adolescents, particularly for girls and young women. Bolstering access to, and the quality of, education, vocational training and life skills education will also be pursued to promote good health and resilience. Provincial governments will be supported to provide missing facilities in schools, making these attractive places for quality learning. These efforts will rest on the solid foundation of UN **technical assistance** and **capacity strengthening** for all relevant stakeholders.

- **Technical Assistance:** The UN will support the application of innovative education practices; learning technologies; alternative pathways for learning; distance learning; Early Childhood Education (ECE); life skills education; school feeding; and Disaster Risk Reduction.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** To promote the principles of 'leaving no one behind' and gender equality, the UN will support government efforts to strengthen national capacities for designing and implementing alternative learning programmes, as well as gender-responsive community- and school-based life skills education. Priority will be given to boosting stakeholder capacity to improve the quality of public education at all levels.

As education outcomes are intimately linked with a range of other issues, we will support the Government in strengthening capacities at the household and community levels, so that people are able to manage key elements of well-being – including health, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene. We will also foment capacities for gathering, analysing and using data, particularly on expanded access to education and the quality of learning.

- **Policy Advocacy:** The UN will continue to offer evidence-based advice to ensure that those most in need are able to receive free and compulsory education; to promote the integration of key elements of sustainable development into school curricula; to create a policy environment that promotes life skills education; to empower youth; to raise awareness of the importance of education with a view to bolstering enrolment, retention and completion rates; and to improve quality teaching.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Supporting improved **access** to, and the **quality** of, education across Pakistan, particularly to ensure that as many children, youths and adults as possible – both girls and boys, women and men – achieve literacy and numeracy;

- Assisting government efforts to strengthen **education sector planning**, in order to raise the quality and reach of education and learning programmes. This will include support for increased and sustained financing for quality education;

- Promoting the expansion of **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** and **alternative forms of education**. The latter will involve improving education – including education on science – in *madrassas* and other institutions, thereby expanding access to quality education;
- Introducing **innovative practices**, such as the use of learning technologies; flexible, alternative pathways to learning, including accelerated learning or distance education for adolescents; school feeding and cash-based transfers for primary school students and adolescent girls; and improving preparedness and response to natural disasters and extreme climatic events through DRR;
- Ensuring that, as part of quality education, learners also acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and awareness to **promote key elements of sustainable development**, such as inter-cultural understanding, tolerance and respect.
- Strengthening **skills and knowledge at the family and community levels**, equipping key players to manage health, nutrition, sanitation and other aspects of human development. It will also be important for school curricula to focus on these issues;
- Supporting national capacity to design and implement community- and school-based **life skills education programmes** which are age-appropriate and gender-responsive;
- Creating an enabling environment for **youth empowerment** by supporting the provision of life skills training, as well as increasing community schools and volunteer-driven, non-formal education facilities;
- Promoting **volunteerism** as a powerful means of improving education by engaging civil society, volunteers and the corporate sector in widening the scope for educational facilities;
- Advocating for efforts to raise funds for the inclusion of **school meals** in education policy frameworks, coupled with budgetary allocations and inter-sectoral linkages for long-term impact and sustainability; and
- Strengthening government efforts to protect Pakistan's rich **cultural heritage** through education and by engaging students, given culture's contributions to national identity, poverty reduction and economic growth.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

In order to achieve Outcome 7's aims on education and learning, it is assumed that the Government will provide greater and more equitable resource allocations for education; that evidence-based quality education programmes will be designed and implemented; that accountability will be enhanced for the implementation of education policies; and that teacher management and development strategies will be improved. Further assumptions include support from development partners, the private sector, the media and all other relevant stakeholders; the engagement of rights holders in programme design; and fully functional feedback mechanisms for communities. Potential challenges may include the lack of any, or a variety of, these elements.

3.8 Gender, Equality and Dignity

**GENDER
EQUALITY
AND DIGNITY**



Outcome 8:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

UN Women, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNESCO, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, ILO and UNDP

CONTRIBUTING
TO VISION
2025
AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth),
5 (Entrepreneurship),

SDGs

1 (Poverty), 2 (Hunger), 3 (Health), 4 (Education),
5 (Gender), 6 (WASH), 7 (Energy),
8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth),
9 (Infrastructure & Innovation), 10 (Inequalities),
11 (Cities), 12 (Consumption & Production),
13 (Climate), 14 (Life Below Water),
15 (Life on Land),
16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions),
17 (Partnerships)

What is gender equality?

Gender equality means the equal opportunities and responsibilities of all people, of all genders – whether women, men or transgender individuals. This isn't to say that they will become the *same* – rather, it is about all people enjoying the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. It means that the interests, needs and priorities of all people are considered.¹²⁹

Vision and Rationale

Why do gender, equality and dignity matter for Pakistan?

Enabling all people to fulfil their potential in dignity, equality and in a healthy environment is the common thread that runs across Agenda 2030. All people – whether women, men or transgender individuals – are entitled to live with dignity, with freedom from want and from fear. Only by guaranteeing equal opportunities, while committing to 'leaving no one behind', can this be achieved. Providing all the people in Pakistan with equal opportunities and access to services – i.e. to decent work, health care, good nutrition, education, participation in socio-cultural life, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes – will fuel a sustainable economy, create a more prosperous society, and cement progress on the SDGs.

¹²⁹ UN Women Training Centre (n.d.) *Glossary: Gender Equality*. Santo Domingo: UN Women Training Centre. Available: <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36&mode=letter&hook=G&sortkey=&sortorder=>

Ending discrimination and ensuring the enjoyment of basic rights are essential to achieve growth, development and prosperity. For instance, women and girls represent half of Pakistan's population and therefore half of its potential. Women's participation in the labour force would add percentage points to the economy, while the full participation of all the people in Pakistan would be a boon to sustainable development.

Gender disparities are evident across sectors and key indicators. This highlights the fact that gender is a critical, cross-cutting issue.

Current Context

In terms of **institutional commitments**, Pakistan is doing well. It has ratified a range of international frameworks on human rights and gender equality.¹³⁰ In the wake of devolution, provincial policies and plans are seeking to localize international and national commitments. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is now operational and the *National Plan of Action on Human Rights* (2016) will guide the elaboration of provincial human rights strategies.

Pakistan has specifically affirmed its dedication to women's rights through its *National Plan of Action for Women* (1998); the *National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women* (2002); the establishment of the National Commission on the Status of Women; and the creation of national and provincial Women's Parliamentary Caucuses in 2009. Following a landmark Supreme Court ruling in the same year, the transgender community has been accorded greater legal protection – with Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) reflecting their gender identity and the 2017 Census counting the transgender population for the first time.¹³¹

Seminal national and provincial legislation reflects the Government's strong commitment to addressing **gender inequality**. Nonetheless, gender disparities are evident across sectors and key indicators – poverty; health; education; employment; access to resources; food and nutrition security; legal rights; social and political affairs; and decision-making within households, work places and communities. This highlights the fact that gender is a critical, cross-cutting issue on which work must continue. Pakistan ranks 147th of 188 countries on the UN's *Gender Development Index*¹³² and 143rd of the 144 countries rated by the World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Index*.¹³³

130 These include the *Beijing Platform for Action* (1995); the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (ratified in 1996); the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (ratified in 1990); and the *Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination* (CRD) (ratified in 1966).

131 UNCT (2017) *Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Pakistan 2017*. Islamabad: UNCT, p. 3.

132 UNDP (2018) *Gender Development Index (GDI)*. New York: UNDP. Available: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GDI>

133 World Economic Forum (2018) Country Profile: Pakistan. Cologny: WEF. Available: <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/economies/#economy=PAK>

With respect to **economic activity**, women's labour force participation (23.4%) is significantly lower than that of men (48.1%).¹³⁴ Women workers tend to be concentrated in the informal sector, in agriculture and in home-based work. They face specific challenges, including workplace harassment and difficulties in accessing social protection.¹³⁵

Socially, the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) across Pakistan is a serious concern. It is reported to be the highest in Punjab, yet the conviction rate for such crimes is very low, at only 1%-2.5%.¹³⁶ Violence against transgender individuals is also rife, but often remains unreported. Social norms and discriminatory practices, such as forced or early marriages, exacerbate the situation.

These trends underline the need to change **attitudes, behaviours and entrenched social norms** around gender in Pakistan. For example, women and children – particularly girls – face greater risks of ill-health in the wake of disasters.¹³⁷ As women tend not to be included in community consultations and decision-making processes – both before and after disasters – their needs are often not met. In many parts of Pakistan, women have limited access to cultural activities, whether due to transport or other constraints, which restricts their participation in social life.¹³⁸

The prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) across Pakistan is a serious concern.

Further progress at the **institutional level** would help to address many of the root causes of these challenges. Increasing the administrative and budgetary capacities of women's institutions would be an important step – including of the National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women (NCSW and PCSWs), Gender and Child Cells in Disaster Management Authorities, Women Protection Cells, Women Development Departments (WDD), Women Parliamentary Caucuses and an Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group on Women Development. There is also a need for better coordination between women's machineries, alongside collaboration with line departments, to mainstream gender equality across Pakistan.

134 Ibid.

135 UN Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Common Country Assessment: Meta Analysis*. Islamabad: UN Pakistan; Hassan, S. M. (2015) "Making an impact? Analysis of Social Protection Programs in Pakistan," *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan (JRSP)*, Vol. 52, No. 1, January-June, 2015.

136 Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) (2016). According to the HRCP, women and girls in rural areas are more likely to have experienced physical violence than their urban counterparts (34% vs. 28%).

137 UNDP (2013) *Gender and disaster risk reduction*. New York: UNDP. Available: <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/PB3-AP-Gender-and-disaster-risk-reduction.pdf>

138 UN Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Common Country Assessment: Meta Analysis*. Islamabad: UN Pakistan

UN Response: Advancing Gender Equality and Dignity by 2022

Upholding gender, equality and dignity – cross-cutting elements of Agenda 2030 and the explicit aims of SDGs 5 and 10 – requires concerted, well-coordinated action by all duty bearers, institutions and communities. Building on the progress Pakistan has made to date, the UN will leverage its experience, resources and expertise to bolster the government’s efforts to promote gender equality and dignity through:

- **Stronger Partnerships:** The UN will establish or reinforce strategic alliances with key actors to strengthen institutional mechanisms for upholding human dignity, human rights and gender equality. These key players include Federal Government Ministries of Human Rights, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Education, Health Services Regulation, and Planning, Development & Reform; the Employers’ Federation of Pakistan; Women’s Development Departments; Commissions on the Status of Women; Planning Commissions; civil society, including women’s groups; academia; the media; religious leaders; and the private sector. The Ministry of Finance will be an indispensable partner in increasing budgets for gender-sensitive programmes. Throughout, a focus will be placed on **technical assistance** and **strengthening stakeholders’ capacities**.

- **Technical Assistance:** The UN will continue to support Pakistan’s institutions and government efforts to enact and operationalize policies, laws and programmes that are gender-sensitive and gender-responsive, particularly in areas like sexual and reproductive health; gender-based violence; HIV/AIDS; drug dependence; and discrimination against women, girls and transgender individuals. We will also devise systems and benchmarks to generate data on gender-related SDG indicators.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** The UN will work to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of a range of key players – including decision-makers, opinion leaders, law enforcement agencies and criminal justice institutions – on rights-based legislation, policies and protection; promoting gender equality; and addressing gender-based violence. Enhancing leadership and management skills will be essential for promoting equitable, dignified access to education, health and good nutrition; overcoming discrimination; and meeting the needs of women, transgender people and other key populations.

- **Policy Advocacy:** The UN will focus on promoting equitable, cross-sectoral policies that mainstream human rights and gender equality, in order to promote opportunities and further the social, economic, legal and political cultural empowerment of all the people in Pakistan – whether women, men or transgender individuals. Moreover, we will support government efforts to monitor gender-responsive frameworks which enhance the availability of relevant data for effective decision-making.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Strengthening **institutional mechanisms** for gender equality and human dignity, while advocating for a specific mechanism – within and among government departments – to accelerate progress on these cross-cutting issues in each socio-economic sector;
- Supporting **legal and policy reforms by the Government**, which **are gender-sensitive and gender-responsive**;

- Facilitating efforts to mainstream women's **participation in decision-making at all levels**, alongside civic engagement and socio-cultural expression;
- Promoting a coordinated, effective response to **gender-based violence** across all sectors, including the justice and health systems. We will also support initiatives to prevent and address GBV and discrimination against women, girls and transgender persons;
- Strengthening the **knowledge and capacities** of law enforcement agencies, criminal justice institutions, decision-makers and multiple service delivery sectors – particularly in the spheres of health, WASH, nutrition and education – on gender mainstreaming.
- Working with the Government to promote **positive, public narratives** around gender equality in order to elicit and sustain positive behavioural change. This will involve addressing prevalent social norms around gender and gender stereotyping; and
- Developing systems, benchmarks and research to generate **data** on gender and related SDG indicators.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

In order to achieve Outcome 8's aims on gender equality, it is assumed that key actors – across all tiers of government, civil society and the public at large – will be willing to take collective action towards gender equality. It is also assumed that societal attitudes can be changed to become more equitable and sensitive to gender issues through awareness raising and engagement.

Certain potential challenges are important to analyse in order to ensure that the UN is able to respond strategically. These include the possibility that gender, equality and dignity may not be prioritized across all social and economic sectors, thus limiting progress and cross-sectoral coordination. Further challenges may include the overlapping mandates of institutions responsible for gender and rights issues, which could potentially dissuade any single entity from leading on gender equality. It is also worth noting that low levels of implementation capacity may reduce the impact of frameworks on gender equality, dignity, gender-based violence and constitutional rights.

Upholding gender equality and dignity requires concerted, well-coordinated action.

3.9 Governance

GOVERNANCE



Outcome 9:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

UNFPA, UNODC, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, IOM and UNESCO

CONTRIBUTING
TO VISION
2025
AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth), 3 (Governance), 4 (Security), 5 (Entrepreneurship), 7 (Connectivity)

SDGs

1 (Poverty), 2 (Hunger), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 5 (Gender), 6 (WASH), 7 (Energy), 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), 9 (Infrastructure & Innovation), 10 (Inequalities), 11 (Cities), 12 (Consumption & Production), 13 (Climate), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions), 17 (Partnerships)

What is effective governance?

Governance refers to the processes of decision-making and of implementing these decisions. **Good governance** means that these processes are participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective, efficient, equitable, inclusive, and abide by the rule of law.¹³⁹ Governance is **effective** when a state's institutional mechanisms discharge all of their core functions; abide by the law; are accountable to the populace; safeguard human dignity and rights; operate transparently; enable access to reliable information and freedom of expression; and are responsive to, and inclusive of, people's different needs.

The **rule of law** is a principle of governance in which all persons and entities – public and private, including the state itself – are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated; equally enforced; independently adjudicated; and applied consistently with international obligations.¹⁴⁰ Upholding the rule of law is the basis of **justice**, an ideal of accountability and fairness, sworn to protect rights, while preventing or penalizing wrongs. Its administration involves formal judicial and informal/traditional mechanisms.¹⁴¹

139 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (n.d.) *What Is Good Governance?* Bangkok: UNESCAP. Available: <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/good-governance.pdf>

140 United Nations (2004) *Report of the Secretary-General: The rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies* (S/2004/616). New York: UN.

141 United Nations (2008) *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: UN Approach to Rule of Law Assistance*. New York: UN.

Vision and Rationale

Why does governance matter for Pakistan?

Effective governance is a central building block of prosperous societies in which sustainable development can flourish. At the heart of such societies are governance institutions that function efficiently, in accordance with equitable, inclusive laws.

These are vital for delivering public services to *all*, acting as a bulwark against arbitrariness by securing transparency and accountability. By guaranteeing access to justice, they offer protection and meaningful redress.

Upholding the rule of law – i.e. the principles of the supremacy of the law; equality before the law; accountability to the law; fairness in the application of the law; the separation of powers; participation in decision-making; legal certainty; avoidance of arbitrariness; and procedural and legal transparency – alongside access to information builds a relationship of trust between citizens and the state, creating the conditions for inclusive growth and human development. By moving towards more effective and efficient governance, Pakistan's institutions will set the stage for truly sustainable development and prosperity for all.

The 18th Constitutional Amendment is a step towards a more participatory and representative system of governance.

Current Context

As the *Bertelsmann Transformation Index* (BTI) notes, political participation has improved in Pakistan, hand in hand with improvements in its democratic institutions.¹⁴² The 18th Constitutional Amendment (2010) is a step towards a more participatory and representative system of governance. By devolving significant legislative, administrative, fiscal and budgetary authority to the provinces, this Amendment seeks to make decision-making and service delivery more effective and responsive to people's needs.¹⁴³

Taking forward positive trends will be vital for further strengthening governance, transparency, accountability and the rule of law in Pakistan. Enhancing **institutional capacity** – especially at the sub-national level – will enable the benefits of the 18th Amendment to reach people on the ground.

142 Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index (2016) *Pakistan Country Report*. Gütersloh: BTI. Available: <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-reports/detail/itc/pak>

143 The 18th Amendment covers issues like local governance, human rights, social welfare, education, the environment, health, labour, sports, women's development and youth affairs.

Issues of capacity affect the availability of rapid, affordable access to justice.

Reliable data to inform targeted policies, alongside engagement between citizens and the state, will help to make governance more ‘citizen-focused’. The promotion of policy and legal coherence will also be essential in the context of the devolution of powers, so that all domestic laws – whether federal, provincial or local – uphold Pakistan’s commitment to international standards of good governance.

Issues of capacity affect the availability of rapid, affordable access to **justice**, such as a deficit of trained judges and lawyers, and particularly of women professionals. This has particular implications for marginalized and vulnerable groups, who are often unable to understand legal remedies or navigate the process of litigation.

As police work on the frontline, interacting with citizens, their performance often determines the delivery of justice as a whole. Thus, strengthening their capacity is especially important, particularly in the area of prosecution services and prosecutor-police cooperation. The pace of Pakistan’s justice system has led to overcrowding in prisons – the most recent data available indicates that the country’s prisons had the capacity for 45,587 prisoners in 2013, yet held 77,504, the bulk of whom were awaiting trial.¹⁴⁴

Reliable data – both official and unofficial – on people’s experiences of governance and the formal legal system would help to redress gaps between real grievances and reforms. A lack of data proved challenging to Pakistan’s pursuit of the MDGs. Alongside data, greater financial, human and infrastructure-related resources are needed to advance the effectiveness of administrative institutions, law enforcement agencies and state legislature.

Progress on **transparency** has been made in many areas, most notably the higher judiciary and the Election Commission of Pakistan.¹⁴⁵ Similarly, progress is being made in terms of aligning legal frameworks with international norms.

Greater levels of **accountability** are also apparent. Devolution promises significant opportunities to reaffirm public trust in governance bodies, law enforcement and justice systems. Improved accountability owes a great deal to Pakistan’s increasingly diverse and vibrant media landscape and ever greater access to information.¹⁴⁶

144 National Academy for Prisons Administration (NAPA), Ministry of Interior (2013) *Province-wise Statement of Prisons*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan.

145 UN Pakistan (2017) *Pakistan Common Country Assessment: Meta Analysis*. Islamabad: UN Pakistan.

146 Ibid.

The **media's engagement** with a plethora of political, social and economic concerns has helped to foster greater accountability within state institutions responsible for these issues. This is aided by growing opportunities for people to voice their concerns through informal channels.

UN Response: Strengthening Governance by 2022

The UN has a wealth of experience working with state institutions to enhance public service delivery, governance and accountability at all levels. This will be leveraged to support government efforts to ensure that all the people in Pakistan have access to an accountable, transparent and effective governance system. To this end, we will adopt a holistic approach – one which strengthens the entire process of governance, from policies to strategies, implementation, delivery and access at all administrative levels. Leveraging our experience, resources and expertise, the UN will further support effective governance in Pakistan through:

- **Stronger Partnerships:** Working with all tiers of government, the UN will provide **technical assistance** and **strengthen institutional capacities** to foster more efficient governance mechanisms and institutions at the federal and provincial levels. Specifically, we will work with ministries, departments, law enforcement agencies and criminal justice bodies to strengthen the delivery of services.

- **Technical Assistance:** The UN will support efforts by state institutions to improve service delivery, transparency and accountability. At its core, this will involve assistance for government policies around existing legal mechanisms; for the development and enforcement of new legislation; for efforts to enhance the performance of the justice system, as well as the case management and referral system for the protection of women and children; and for enacting mechanisms that create the space needed to incorporate citizens' and civil society's voices into governance.

A focus will be placed on supporting the Government's efforts to boost coordination at all levels; to update legislation and operating procedures; and to aid electronic record keeping. It will also entail improving the collection and management of data, while identifying gaps in disaggregated data. Baseline data will be collected to better understand the interests, capacities and needs of stakeholders, with a view to informing evidence-based programming in areas where the UN can best support government initiatives.

The media's engagement with political, social and economic concerns has helped to foster greater accountability.

The UN will work with the Government to strengthen the capacity of state institutions to perform their core functions efficiently and effectively.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** The UN will work with the Government to strengthen the capacity of state institutions to perform their core functions efficiently and effectively, while enabling the public's participation and representation. Priority will be given to institutional capacities, systems for data management and the enforcement of legislation.

These issues are the key to enacting evidence-based national and provincial development strategies; the local implementation of these strategies; needs-based service delivery; monitoring and reporting on progress against the SDGs; and guiding reforms that advance transparency and accountability. The capacities of key elements of the justice system – the police, prosecutors, the judiciary and prison staff – will also be strengthened in collaboration with the Government.

- **Policy Advocacy:** We will assist government efforts to facilitate access to governance and legal mechanisms, especially for key populations. In tandem, we will support the collection, and use, of disaggregated data to guide evidence-based policies, plans and service delivery at the national, provincial and local levels.

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Developing **evidence-based programmes** based on empirical data for 'best fit' governance approaches;
- Bolstering the **capacities of institutions** – including government bodies, parliaments, law enforcement agencies, information and media entities, planning and development agencies, the Election Commission (ECP), and other justice and rule of law institutions – to better perform their core functions, with greater transparency and accountability;
- Supporting state bodies to establish and institutionalize processes that **improve service delivery** and expand **people's access to governance mechanisms**, rule of law institutions and relevant administrative mechanisms, as well as to **provide durable solutions** for refugees, returning temporarily displaced persons (TDPs) and migrants. Existing legal mechanisms will be primarily enhanced at the level of service delivery, where there is a need to focus on human security concerns, including drug trafficking, transnational crime, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, border management and money laundering, especially in Pakistan's poorest regions;

- Providing state bodies and rule of law institutions with access to knowledge and **international good practice and networks** to inform their responses to existing and emerging issues;
- Assisting government efforts to improve the **performance of key elements of the criminal justice system** – the police, prosecutors, judiciary and prison systems. Above all, this will encompass improved service delivery and greater coordination between law enforcement and justice institutions. It will specifically include:
 - Strengthening investigation systems, mechanisms and techniques, including crime scene protection and the scientific and forensic capacities of the justice chain;
 - Boosting the management capacity of police and prison staff, and improving operating policies;
 - Enhancing the ability of prosecutors, the judiciary and courts to reduce case backlogs and coordinate productively with all criminal justice actors; and
 - Employing e-learning on a wide scale using different technical solutions: (i) on-line LMS, (ii) off-line training centres and (iii) Mobile Training Units;
- Working with the Government to strengthen existing engagement mechanisms, in order to foster accountability by incorporating the **voice of citizens and civil society** into governance systems;
- Strengthening institutional capacities to modernize **data collection**, management and analysis. In this way, quality, timely disaggregated data can inform collaboration between all tiers of governance and all rule of law institutions, while enabling monitoring and reporting on the SDGs; and
- Identifying **data gaps**, particularly through research and analysis, with a focus on key populations – including women and youth – to stimulate evidence-based service delivery related to governance concerns.

Timely disaggregated data can inform collaboration between all tiers of governance, while enabling monitoring and reporting on the SDGs.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

To achieve Outcome 10's aims on governance, it is assumed that there will be significant political will for more transparent and accountable institutions, as well as the will to devise or reform policies. Other assumptions include the availability of disaggregated population data, alongside data to monitor progress towards the SDGs. Potential challenges include the possibility that resources may not be sufficient for the timely collection, verification and dissemination of quality disaggregated data related to governance.

3.10 Social Protection

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Outcome 10:

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

Contributing UN Agencies:

UNAIDS, WFP, UNHCR, ILO, IOM and WHO

CONTRIBUTING
TO VISION
2025
AND SDGS



Vision 2025 Pillars

1 (People First), 2 (Growth),
6 (Knowledge Economy)

SDGs

1 (Poverty), 2 (Hunger), 3 (Health),
4 (Education), 5 (Gender), 6 (WASH),
10 (Inequalities)

What is social protection?

Pakistan's *National Social Protection Policy Framework* defines **social protection** as a set of provisions – policies, interventions, systems, benefits and guarantees – that aim to ensure a minimum living standard for the poor. It prioritizes those most in need, enabling them to cope with challenges. In tandem, it builds their capacity to participate in, and benefit from, opportunities to exit poverty and mitigate challenges, while preventing people from falling into poverty.

Universal social protection includes:

- Adequate cash transfers for all who need them across the life cycle, especially for children;
- Benefits and support for people of working age in case of maternity, disability, injury or unemployment; and
- Pensions for all older persons.

Social protection can be provided through social insurance, tax-funded social benefits, social assistance services, public works programmes, or other schemes which guarantee basic income security and a reasonable standard of living.¹⁴⁷

147 ILO (2015) *A joint mission and plan of action: Universal social protection to ensure that no one is left behind*. Geneva: ILO. Available: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_378984/lang-en/index.htm

Vision and Rationale

Why does social protection matter for Pakistan?

Social safety nets help to build more resilient societies. Robust social protection systems mitigate the impacts of economic challenges and natural disasters. They help people lift themselves out of poverty, overcome inequality, achieve development and spur inclusive growth.

By expanding social protection, Pakistan will be able to prevent the poorest and those most in need from being 'left behind'. Such protection can play a pivotal role in tackling malnutrition, improving health outcomes, education, learning, risk management and community resilience. With effective social protection systems in place, the country will reap the rewards of a population that can better contribute to, and benefit from, economic progress and sustainable development.

Current Context

Pakistan's Constitution guarantees citizens' the right to **social security** and the basic necessities of life (Article 38). With the advent of the *Benazir Income Support Programme* (BISP) – Pakistan's largest social safety net – and the recent drive of provincial governments to prioritize social protection, the country has made notable progress on this front. Expenditures in pro-poor sectors rose from 7.7% of GDP in 2014/15 to 9.3% in 2015/16.¹⁴⁸

To take this momentum forward, further fiscal, technical and operational capacities are needed, as are greater investments specifically in social protection schemes. The Asian Development Bank accords Pakistan a score of 0.046 on the *Social Protection Index* (SPI), below the regional average of 0.061.¹⁴⁹

The most recent data available suggests that social safety protection covers 10-11% of Pakistan's population.¹⁵⁰ Yet, far more people are in need of protection. 38.8% of the population is multi-dimensionally poor and 29.5% are affected by absolute **poverty**.¹⁵¹

By expanding social protection, Pakistan will be able to prevent the poorest and those most in need from being 'left behind'.

148 Finance Division (2017) "Chapter 15: Social Safety Nets", *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17*. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available: http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/15-Social_Safety_Nets.pdf

149 Asia Development Bank (ADB) (2016) *Social Protection Index 2016*. Mandaluyong: ADB. Available: <https://www.adb.org/themes/social-development/social-protection/index>

150 Ministry of Labour & Manpower (2009) The Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research reported that, out of a total labour force of over 50 million, only 6.62 million people benefited from social protection schemes in 2008.

151 UNDP, OPHI and Government of Pakistan (2015) *Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)*. Islamabad: UNDP.

38.8% of the population is multi-dimensionally poor and 29.5% are affected by absolute poverty.

Many others experience **'transitory' poverty** if they lose their jobs or fall ill – especially informal workers, most of whom are women. Given the 'transitory' nature of their predicament, coupled with the informal nature of their employment, they find it difficult to access social security benefits related to employment, health, or education. There is also an acute need for social protection for other key populations, including people living with HIV and survivors of gender-based violence.

Pakistan's social protection system comprises a **range of programmes and schemes** which fall into three categories: social insurance; social assistance; and labour market programmes. Federal and provincial governments have initiated various short- and long-term social protection initiatives offering different kinds of benefits. Poverty-oriented schemes, including social safety nets, encompass *Zakat*, a form of religious alms-giving; *Bait-ul Maal*, an autonomous body which offers assistance to the 'destitute, widows, orphans and others in need'; and the BISP.

Public awareness of such programmes is low, largely due to limited communication. Many social protection initiatives require improved **capacity, coordination and cooperation** among service providers. Their full impact is constrained by a lack of consistently efficient service delivery; appropriate service packages; proper monitoring; and graduation mechanisms.

Effectiveness is also affected by procedural complexities; the low value of transfers; and the costs beneficiaries incur when accessing benefits. The design and targeting of programmes requires improvement. For example, in 2012, 32% of cash benefits distributed through the BISP¹⁵² and *Zakat* accrued to non-poor households.¹⁵³

Recent reforms mark a welcome move to improve targeting, such as the BISP's introduction of a socio-economic registry; an assets-based *Poverty Score Card*; and a food and nutrition security lens. *Ad hoc* initiatives like the *Kissan* package are beginning to use social protection as a means of strengthening disaster response – a promising trend that could strengthen resilience manifold.

152 The First Impact Evaluation Report of the BISP by the Oxford Policy Management Institute, published in 2014, identified targeting efficiency of 68%.

153 World Bank (2013) *Social Protection in Pakistan*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pakistan/brief/social-protection-in-pakistan>

As the World Bank notes¹⁵⁴, Pakistan's social protection system faces certain **challenges**:

- Many social protection initiatives are fragmented and duplicate efforts;
- Schemes are marked by limited programme coverage, outreach and access;
- Most initiatives lack a nutrition-sensitive approach, which would help to reduce malnutrition;
- While measures are afoot to improve targeting, a significant portion of social protection benefits are extended to people who are not 'poor';
- Social safety nets require better implementation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacities, particularly for conditional transfers;
- Existing safety nets have limited capacity to provide rapid assistance in the wake of natural disasters, especially in situations that require horizontal expansion;
- Institutional arrangements for the multi-sectoral orientation of the social protection agenda require strengthening; and
- A coherent, systematic approach is needed so that good practices in the sphere of social protection are replicated or scaled-up.

Many social protection initiatives require improved capacity, coordination and cooperation among service providers.

UN Response: Expanding Social Protection by 2022

To achieve national priorities and the SDGs, Pakistan needs a comprehensive, well-coordinated, cost-effective and inclusive social protection system. A holistic approach is required to address new challenges that may emerge as the population rapidly grows and urbanizes; as the country's demographic profile changes; and as climate change gains pace. Building on our expertise, experience and resources, the UN will support the Government's efforts to expand social protection through:

- **Stronger Partnerships:** The UN will work closely with federal and provincial governments and other partners – including the private sector and workers' and employers' organizations – to promote inclusive social protection policies. To this end, we will provide **technical assistance** and **capacity strengthening** for national and provincial stakeholders.

154 World Bank (2013) *Social Protection in Pakistan*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

- **Technical Assistance:** In line with *Vision 2025*, the UN will support the development of a range of strategies around social protection, including prevention, mitigation and coping mechanisms for managing challenges, such as natural disasters. We will aid government efforts to strengthen the social protection agenda so that it can address transitory poverty; generate disaggregated data on social protection; and analyse, monitor and evaluate social safety policies and programmes.

To address the issues of fragmentation in the existing social protection system, a focus will be placed on enhancing linkages and coherence with socio-economic strategies in other areas – such as economic growth, poverty reduction, school meals and cash-based transfers, among others. To harness the full potential of existing safety nets, we will assist the design and implementation of integrated pilot interventions that showcase effective models for graduation, resilience building, disaster response and nutrition-sensitive safety nets.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** The UN will strive to strengthen the capacity of federal and provincial governments to develop stronger policy frameworks for social protection; to strengthen existing schemes like the BISP; and to coordinate effectively – both across state institutions and with other partners in the private sector and civil society. This will facilitate the implementation of social protection frameworks, while enabling good practices to be replicated or scaled-up.

- **Policy Advocacy:** UN advice will centre on promoting an effective national social protection system that provides increased coverage, quality and equitable access. This will involve advocacy for universal health care; insurance and cash transfer schemes; birth registration; the issuance of *Computerized National Identity Cards* (CNICs); school meals; and integrated approaches like social protection floors.¹⁵⁵

The strategic focus of the UNSDF/OP III will be on the following areas:

- Supporting the Government, through consultation with stakeholders, to further develop a strong, needs-based **social protection framework**, while strengthening the social protection agenda to address issues like transitory poverty;
- Providing technical assistance to **sub-national governments** to improve and expand access to social protection mechanisms for the key populations, including the issuance of CNICs;
- Working with the Government to promote **universal health care, insurance schemes, birth registration, CNICs** and **cash transfers** – both conditional and unconditional;
- Fostering innovative solutions to **strengthen existing schemes**, such as the BISP and Pakistan *Bait-ul-Mal*, while working with employers' and workers' organizations;

¹⁵⁵ ILO defines 'social protection floors' as "*nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees that should ensure, as a minimum that, over the life cycle, all in need have access to essential health care and to basic income security which together secure effective access to goods and services.*"

- Supporting Government efforts to enhance **linkages between the pillars of the social protection framework**, and bolster coherence with other policy frameworks – such as strategies for socio-economic development, the labour market, poverty reduction, health, nutrition, education, DRR and climate change;
- Integrating these linkages, alongside evidence on existing and emerging challenges, as key features of **Social Protection Action Plans**. These will be the foundation for implementing Pakistan's social protection framework at the national and sub-national levels;
- Promoting **integrated approaches**, such as the development of social protection floors, health insurance, social security and protection against violence;
- Assisting government efforts to generate **disaggregated data** on social protection across Pakistan. This will improve understandings of emerging concerns – in the context of population growth, urbanization, climate change and natural disasters – offering an up-to-date 'evidence base' for social protection policies. It will be especially important to gather data on marginalized and vulnerable groups, like people living with HIV/AIDS, women and girls, persons with disabilities, the elderly and the multi-dimensionally poor;
- Supporting the analysis, and **monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** of social protection policies and programmes; and
- Providing information and policy advice on social protection policies, such as issues of social differentiation, targeted versus universal approaches and the involvement of non-state actors.

To achieve national priorities and the SDGs, Pakistan needs a comprehensive, well-coordinated, cost-effective and inclusive social protection system.

Potential Challenges and Assumptions

In order to achieve Outcome 10's aims on social protection, it is assumed that the Government will continue to be committed to effective social protection initiatives; to harmonizing such schemes; and to increasing budgetary allocations for social protection, with resources targeted in a transparent and equitable manner. It is also expected that key populations in Pakistan are actively seeking social security support. Potential challenges include the possibility of policy shifts; economic challenges leading to a high opportunity cost for social protection allocations; and a lack of monitoring, which could limit effective outreach.

4. Institutional Arrangements for Coordination, Planning, Implementation and Operational Support

4.1 Management and Coordination Structure

In line with the UN's commitment to national ownership, the UNSDF/ OP III's management and coordination arrangements maximize the use of national systems and available UN competencies and resources. Effective implementation requires that all UN agencies operate in a manner that promotes coherence; supports the Government's priorities related to the OP III's outcome areas; and ensures that the UN's core integrated programming principles are fully applied under the unifying principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

The OP III's management structure is characterized by strong country leadership.

The coordination and management arrangements of the OP III are based on lessons learned from the previous One Programme cycles (I and II), as well as on current needs to strengthen UN development cooperation in Pakistan. The detailed working arrangements and the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the OP III's coordination mechanisms will be jointly prepared by the UN and the Government of Pakistan. Every effort has been made to align the OP III's implementation arrangements to existing national coordination mechanisms, in order to avoid duplicating these mechanisms, to keep transaction costs to a minimum and to ensure national ownership and leadership.

At present, government-led coordination structures for the SDGs are being set-up at the national and provincial levels. Thus, during the OP III period, needs-led Task Forces and other ad hoc coordination arrangements will be introduced into the overall OP III management structure, in consultation with, and in support of, government efforts.

4.1.1 Overall Management Structure

The OP III's management structure is characterized by strong country leadership through the Joint UN-National Oversight Committee, alongside a greater role for provincial stakeholders in oversight via Provincial Steering Committees. More focused Outcome or Results Groups – in line with the OP III's ten outcomes – will allow for improved coordination and joint programming at the national and provincial levels.

Joint UN-National Steering Mechanism

Joint UN-Government oversight is a key feature of the 'Delivering as One' approach, ensuring national ownership of initiatives supported by the UN. For the OP III, these functions will be formally exercised by the **Oversight Committee (OC)** and **Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs)**.

Oversight Committee (OC)

The OC will provide national level oversight for the UN's work under the framework of the OP III. It will be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) – the Government's coordinating entity – and the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC). In the absence of the Secretary, the Additional Secretary EAD and the UNRC will co-chair the OC to facilitate prompt decision-making. Other stakeholders, such as the civil society and donors, may be invited on a needs-led and *ad hoc* basis for advisory support. The OC will meet at least twice a year.

The core functions of the OC will be to:

- Review the strategic direction of UN development assistance in Pakistan;
- Discuss strategic policy issues that may affect the OP III's implementation and suggest remedial actions;
- Review the *Joint Work Plans*, as well as their alignment to national priorities and the OP III's planned results;
- Review the Joint Annual Reports and undertake an annual review;
- Oversee the OP III evaluation's, including the mid-term review;
- Review follow-up on the recommendations of UN agency Portfolio Review Meetings (PRMs);
- Approve One Fund allocations;
- Oversee the progress of Provincial Steering Committees; and
- Undertake joint resource mobilization.

Joint UN-Government oversight will be exercised by the Oversight Committee (OC) and Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs).

Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs)

The PSCs will provide provincial oversight and increase sub-national ownership of the UN's work in Pakistan, as past experience has demonstrated the efficacy of such structures and their key role in promoting local ownership. The PSCs are geographically representative bodies, featuring both senior government and UN representation. These will be co-chaired by the Chairman of the Planning & Development Board/Assistant Chief Secretary for Planning & Development, alongside the Head of the UN agency 'lead' for the province in question. Its members will comprise UN agencies active in the province, provincial line departments and the Economic Affairs Division. Like the Oversight Committee, each PSC will meet at least twice a year.

The PSCs' core functions will be to:

- Provide strategic oversight and guidance for UN engagement in the province or administrative area;
- Review the UN's work in the province or administrative area, including planning and progress on reporting;
- Ensure that UN efforts in the province/area are aligned with provincial needs, priorities and development plans, as well as provincial or regional government *Annual Work Plans*; and
- Facilitate dialogue between provincial governments and the UN.

4.1.2 UN Inter Agency Management and Coordination Arrangements

United Nations Country Team (UNCT)

Internally, the OP III will be guided by the UNCT, comprising all Heads of UN agencies in Pakistan, including non-resident agencies. The UNCT, headed by the UN Resident Coordinator, will continue to be the body responsible for inter-agency coordination and joint decision-making around all aspects of the UN system in Pakistan. It will continue to be supported by the Programme Management Team (PMT), the Operations Management Team (OMT) and the UN Communications Group (UNCG). Together, they will ensure a unified UN presence and meaningful development assistance in Pakistan, in line with the 'Delivering as One' framework.

Programme Management Team (PMT)

The PMT will be responsible for ensuring UN programmatic coherence in Pakistan, acting as the key advisory body for the UNCT. The PMT's members will be the Deputy Heads of UN agencies in Pakistan, who will hold monthly meetings. The PMT will:

- Advise the UNCT on all aspects of the OP III, including:
 - Joint resource mobilization;
 - Integrated policy support;
 - Aligning UN programming with normative programming principles;
 - Maximizing programmatic synergies; and
 - Capitalizing on emerging best practices across Pakistan's provinces; and
- Advise the UNCT on harmonizing results management and supporting joint initiatives by UN agencies.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Group (PME Group)

The PMT will be supported by a dedicated PME Group, which will provide guidance and advisory support on monitoring frameworks; the development of *Joint Work Plans*; and lead the OP III's mid-term review and evaluation. The PME Group will consist of senior planning, monitoring and evaluation specialists. The UNCT will provide guidance to the PME Group to ensure that it provides relevant, accurate, timely data to inform UNCT decision-making.

Outcome Groups

The OP III's Outcome Groups (i.e. Results Groups) will be the primary conduit for UN joint programming. There will be ten Outcome Groups, each representing one of the OP III's ten outcome areas, in order to facilitate coordination and prioritization. Each of these bodies will be led by a UN convening agency. The Head of this convening agency will be accountable to the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNCT for outcome level coordination. While these Outcome Groups are principally internal UN working mechanisms to ensure a coherent UN approach, they will be open to the participation of relevant government counterparts and civil society organizations on an *ad hoc* basis, so as to provide advisory support.

Each Outcome Group will produce *Joint Work Plans* that will be signed by the Government of Pakistan through the Economic Affairs Division. These will include output level priorities and key activities at both the national and provincial levels. The *Joint Work Plans* will be the key documents used by the Oversight Committee and Provincial Steering Committees to review progress, identify resource gaps and foster stronger partnerships in order to achieve the OP III's outcomes by 2022.

Provincial Programme Teams (PPTs)

The PPTs will comprise UN programme staff based in Pakistan's provinces and administrative areas. The PPTs will report to the Programme Management Team; support the UN provincial lead agency in engaging with provincial/regional governments; and facilitate meetings of the Provincial Steering Committees. Alongside their role in planning and reporting, the PPTs will strengthen interagency integration and coordination at the provincial/regional level. They will also oversee the implementation of the OP III's *Joint Work Plans* at the provincial level.

The OP III's Outcome Groups will be the primary conduit for UN joint programming.

An OP III Communications Strategy will promote the UN system in Pakistan as a family that speaks with 'one voice'.

4.1.3 Communicating as One

Implementing the OP III, with its strengthened focus on sustainable development, will require closer links between the UN's programmatic and communications strategies. 'One Voice', as a key pillar of the 'Delivering as One' framework – particularly its objective of 'Communicating as One' – will strive to improve the coordination of communications among UN agencies in Pakistan, in support of the OP III's aims.

Communications Strategy for OP III

A **Communications Strategy** will be developed for the OP III to promote the UN system in Pakistan as a family that speaks with 'one voice'. It will aim to raise awareness of national development priorities, engage Pakistani counterparts in communicating these priorities and keep the donor community informed of the achievements of the OP III. The strategy will focus on:

- Developing common messages and policy positions;
- Strengthening the UN system's outreach by enhancing synergies among communications efforts; and
- Promoting coherent and cohesive UN communications.

Some key objectives of the Communications Strategy will include:

- Increasing stakeholder awareness and ownership of key UN achievements;
- Identifying new, creative ways to engage with the media;
- Strategizing to promote the SDGs across Pakistan;
- Ensuring awareness of the processes and vision of 'Delivering as One' among all UN staff members; and
- Strengthening partnerships and resource mobilization efforts.

The United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) – comprised of communications focal points from all resident UN agencies in Pakistan – will play a central role in championing the principles of 'Communicating as One'. Specifically, the UNCG will take the lead in supporting the UNCT to develop and implement the OP III's Communications Strategy.

Working in close collaboration with the UN Information Centre in Pakistan (UNIC), the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and all resident UN agencies, the UNCG will develop a set of comprehensive corporate communications products, as well as a Toolkit for Behavioural Change Communications, as part of efforts to strengthen the UN's identity in Pakistan.

4.1.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and reporting results will remain a UN priority under the OP III. Closely aligned to the SDGs, the UNSDF/OPIII Results Framework is an outcome level framework that reflects the basis of UN support for the achievement of the OP III's joint outcomes. It draws inputs from the process of localizing the SDGs at the federal and provincial levels in Pakistan.

The Results Framework is also informed by the SDG data gap analysis undertaken by the Planning Commission of Pakistan with UN support – an analysis that serves as the initial point for mainstreaming the SDGs. It entailed a comprehensive examination of Pakistan's data ecosystem vis-à-vis reporting needs, providing a detailed account of data and baselines – established from government databases – at the national and provincial levels. The analysis assessed data availability for each indicator, including at the disaggregated level. Following the Global Tier System, a coding system was devised for each indicator, which pinpointed efforts needed to fill data gap on the SDGs.

The OPIII Results Matrix includes 30 outcome level indicators, each with corresponding targets and baselines. Only nationally-owned data sources are used. Targets were set on the basis of a trend analysis, extrapolations and projections.

In terms of monitoring the OP III's progress, the following reporting responsibilities will apply:

- Each UN agency is responsible for reporting around its areas of intervention at the output level, according to agreed indicators and targets;
- Each agency is responsible for reporting its contributions towards the achievement of the OP III's outcomes and their respective indicators and targets;
- The PME Group is responsible for preparing common M&E and Results Frameworks, for ensuring that all baselines, targets and indicators are established appropriately, and for verifying reported data; and
- The One UN Annual Report will capture the key results of the Outcome Groups.

Monitoring and reporting will be undertaken through the UNinfo system, a web-based programme management information system developed by the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO). The system will be made available and accessible to all stakeholders, including the Government of Pakistan.

Monitoring and reporting results will remain a UN priority under the OP III.

4.1.5 Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

With the OP III, the UN's priority is to maximize the impact of available resources. As the international landscape evolves, donors will gradually reduce their financial support for Pakistan as a new 'Middle Income Country' and/or shift from development assistance to a focus on bilateral trade relations. Thus, there is a growing need to mobilize domestic resources in pursuit of development aims, as well as for overcoming small- or medium-scale natural disasters. There is also an imperative to shift from funding to financing.

To this end, the UN will act as a smart development entrepreneur, evoking a change in its business policies and engaging the Government to ensure the planning and financing needed to attain Pakistan's development aims.

By calculating financing flows, the UN will develop a 'smart' funds mobilization plan for Pakistan. The OP III's resources mobilization strategy will align finance with sustainable development. UN agencies will be required to mobilize significant additional funds from multiple sources, while international and domestic stakeholders – both in the private and public sectors – will be engaged in contributing to the OP III's outcomes through diverse investments. Pakistan's financing setting requires an integrated, holistic approach – an approach considered a good practice strategy to mobilize new partners and increase the commitment of traditional donors. Creating a ***National Strategic Plan – one which*** links financing to results at the country level in order to achieve the SDGs – will be a priority for the UNCT and the Government of Pakistan.

This 'smart' ***Integrated National Financing Framework*** (INFF) will consider a range of key issues: leadership that facilitates institutional coherence; a clear vision of results; overarching strategic financing policies for specific flows; and an enabling environment for accountability and dialogue. As we move towards implementing the SDGs, UN agencies in Pakistan will leverage innovative investment opportunities by engaging with new investors; diversifying the funding landscape; forming partnerships built on trust; reducing transaction costs; and, most importantly, working collectively.

The shift from funding to financing will be based on certain key elements. As 'One UN', the UN system in Pakistan needs to be a smart investor, capable of filling resource gaps. The UN must build financial coalitions with high-impact investors to bring about sustainable development, strengthen the policy environment and offer incentives to use funds as a unifier so that we 'deliver as one'.

Throughout the OP III period, the UN will continue to work closely with a range of partners – federal and provincial government counterparts, donors, international and national investors, development partners, international NGOs, local civil society, academia, the media and communities. Above all, we will deploy the UN system's globally acknowledged convening role – bringing stakeholders together to address shared priorities and jointly mobilizing resources, in line with the requirements of the Government of Pakistan, and in service of Pakistan's achievement of the SDGs. Working together for people, planet and prosperity, we will achieve Agenda 2030 in Pakistan, and its promise of a more equal world.



5. Annexes

5.1 Annex A: Legal Annexes and Basis of Relationship

5.1.1 Partnerships, Values and Principles

Whereas the Government of Pakistan (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a. WHEREAS the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country, Special Fund Agreement (SFA) between the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations Special Fund, which was signed by both parties on 25 February 1960. Based on Article I, paragraph 3 of the SFA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, Decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision, this UNSDF/OP III together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNSDF/OP III, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SFA. In accordance with Executive Board decision DP/2013/9, all direct costs associated with project implementation should be charged to the concerned projects. Different implementation modalities (national, direct and/or non-governmental organizations) will be used and partners will be selected on the basis of comparative advantage and capacities and with a view to building sustainable impact
- b. With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), a *Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA)* concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 24 May 1995.
- c. With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a *Country Co-operation Agreement* concluded between the Government and UNHCR on 18 September 1993.
- d. With the World Food Programme (WFP), a *Basic Agreement* concerning assistance from WFP, which was signed by the Government and WFP on 25 July 1968, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding for Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations-Pakistan (PPRO200867) signed on 30 December 2015.
- e. With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *Letters of Exchange* which note that UNFPA is governed by the UNDP SFA.
- f. With the United Nations Environment Programme, through the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UNEA’s approval of UN Environment’s *Medium Term Strategy* of 2018-2021 and 2022-2025 and related programmes of work.

- g. In respect of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), pending the conclusion of a *Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement* between the Government and UNIDO, the Government shall apply, mutatis mutandis, the provisions of the Revised Standard Agreement concluded between the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations and Specialized Agencies on 2 July 1956, at Karachi, as amended by the *Exchange of Letters* dated 9 January 1965.
- h. With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the *Agreement for the Establishment of the FAO Representation in Pakistan* on 30 May 1978.
- i. With the International Labour Organization (ILO), the *Revised Standard Agreement* concerning technical assistance signed on 2 July 1956, and the exchange of letters constituting an agreement amending the aforementioned Agreement on 9 January 1965.
- j. With the World Health Organization (WHO), the *Basic Agreement* signed with the Government of Pakistan on 20 January 1960.
- k. With the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the *United Nations Special Fund Agreement* with the Government of Pakistan and the UNDP SFA of 25 February 1960.
- l. With the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the *Letter of Agreement* signed between UNESCO and the Government of Pakistan on 25 May 1967 and the *Letter of Understanding* between both parties signed on 8 November 1992.
- m. For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures in reference to UNOPS, UNAIDS, IOM, UN Women, UN Habitat, UNCTAD, UNV and IFAD.

The UNSDF/OP III will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

5.1.2 Programme Management and Accountability Arrangements

The programme will be nationally executed under the overall coordination of the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Government of Pakistan. Government Ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities.

The UNSDF/OP III will be made operational through the development of *Joint Work Plans* (JWPs) and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources.

To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed UNSDF/OP III and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, *inter alia*, the relevant text from the UNSDF/OP III and joint or agency-specific work plans and/or project documents.

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the *Work Plans* (WPs) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in *Work Plans* (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
 - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Where cash transfers are made to the [national institution], the [national institution] shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN Implementing Partner.

A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

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

5.1.3 Resources and Resource Mobilization Strategy

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the UNSDF/OP III, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system agencies' support may be provided to Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual *Work Plans* (WPs) and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the UNSDF/OP III. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the *Work Plans* (WPs) and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN system agencies, funds not earmarked by donors to the UN system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner. UN agencies will process the payments to vendors or disburse the funds to IPs at the earliest possible upon receipt of complete and accurate request

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within. UN agencies will process the payments to vendors or disburse the funds to IPs at the earliest possible upon receipt of complete and accurate request

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

5.1.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN system agencies.
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,

3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private, external audit services. Based on the conducted macro assessment UN agencies shall avail of the SAI (AGP) as the first auditor of choice for auditing GIPs and should that not be available, private external audit services shall be used.

5.1.5 Commitment of the Government of Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this UNSDF/OP III and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Pakistan; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Pakistan to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in the first section of Annex A, on the Basis of Relationship. Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the *Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations* (the 'General Convention') or the *Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies* (the 'Specialized Agencies Convention') to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government.

In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention.

The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

[If required]: Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

(a) Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement.

(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the *Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations* of 13th February 1946, the *Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies* of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

A standard *Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures* (FACE) Report, reflecting the activity lines of the *Work Plan* (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. A FACE form requesting the release of funds should be accompanied by an Itemized Cost Estimate (ICE) to ensure that there is clarity about how the funds will be applied. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received.

The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the *Work Plans* (WPs) only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the *Work Plans* (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA] within three to six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply. Where cash received is not managed via the government financial system, Government implementing partners are to ensure that a minimum level of financial requirements are met in respect of funds received.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the *Work Plans* (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA] within three to six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from [UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA] will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by [UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA], together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed. The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and [UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA].

Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the [UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA] that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to [UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA].
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies [and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI], on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

5.2 Annex B: UNSDF/OP III Results Matrix and Common Budgetary Framework

The UNSDF/OP III **Results Matrix** encompasses carefully defined indicators (disaggregated by data as far as possible, including sex, province/region and other key elements) along with clear baselines and targets that are specific, achievable and measurable. This Results Matrix will allow the measurement of the UN system's joint accomplishments in its achievement of the OP III's ten key outcomes.

As specified by the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG) Guidance on the subject, the OP III's results matrix clearly defines indicators which strike a balance between being strategic on the one hand, and being focused enough, on the other hand, to reflect the specificities of the UN system's contribution towards Pakistan's national development priorities, based on the UN family's comparative advantage.

In terms of the OP III's **Common Budgetary Framework** (CBF), the following distinctions are important to bear in mind:

- **Resources projected to be available (A):** These are funds available from all funding sources and were already secured – including under contract – at the time of the *Common Budgetary Framework's* (CBF) preparation. These resources include both voluntary core/assessed budget funding, as well as non-core/other contributions received in-country, allocated from UN agency headquarters or the regional level and/or received through UN inter-agency pooled funds, agency-specific thematic funds or global vertical funds. They encompass confirmed non-core/other resources, as well as all pipeline funds under negotiation between UN organizations and potential contributors.
- **Resources to be mobilized (funding gap) (B):** This is the difference between resources already secured and firmly available, and the overall resources required to implement the UNSDF/OP III. This gap is based both on needs and realistic projections of additional resources that can be mobilized. These funds are estimates by UN agencies on funding needs for the first 2.5 years of the UNSDF/OP III and therefore do not constitute legal commitments with respect to these amounts specified, as these are subject to the availability of contributions by donors and other partners.

All the figures below, for the first 2.5 years of this CBF, are in United States Dollars (US\$)

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

UN Agencies: UNIDO, UNV, UN Habitat, UN Women, FAO, UNESCO, ILO, IOM and UNCTAD

Results Matrix - Outcome 1

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
1.1 Proportion of the population who primarily rely on clean fuels and technology (SDG 7.1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22% of the population relies on clean energy, e.g. hydro power and other renewable energy sources. • 45% of the population relies on clean fuels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 55% of the population uses clean fuels and technology, e.g. solar cookers, energy efficiency and IoT devices, green buildings, etc. 	Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Survey
1.2 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population (SDG 10.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average % increase in household expenditure for the bottom 40% of the population (2013-2016): 18.41% • Average % increase in household income for the bottom 40% of the population (2013-2016): 20.29% • Average % increase in household expenditure for the total population (2013-2016): 20.68% • Average % Increase in household income for the total population (2013-2016): 17.88% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the bottom 40% of the population: 44.71 % • For the total population: 38.96% <p>[These targets refer to both income and expenditure]</p>	Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES)
1.3 Growth/increase in exports of industrial and agricultural products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current exports of agricultural (US\$ 3.6 billion) and industrial products (US\$ 16.8 billion), totalling US\$ 20.4 billion (2015/16 fiscal year) 	Overall anticipated increase of 5% in exports by 2022.	Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Annual Statistics; Pakistan Economic Survey

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 1

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
UNIDO	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	Total Budget (Outcome 1) \$ 69.351 million
UNV	\$150,000	\$ 111,000	\$ 261,000	
UN HABITAT	\$ 0	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	
FAO	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 12,000,000	
UNESCO	\$ 3,300,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,300,000	
ILO	\$ 760,000	\$ 540,000	\$ 1,300,000	
IOM	\$ 29,089,575	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 41,589,575	
UNCTAD	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000	
Total	\$ 50,399,575	\$ 18,951,000	\$ 69,350,575	

DECENT WORK (Outcome 2): By 2022, the people in Pakistan, especially women and youth, have improved access to productive livelihoods, income opportunities and decent work.
UN Agencies: ILO, UN Women, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO and IOM

Results Matrix - Outcome 2

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
2.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years old) not in education, employment or training (SDG 8.6.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years old) not in education, employment or training: 30.41% (This trend is declining, with only 2% decrease since 2011/12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% (decrease by 10% in next five years) 	Pakistan Labour Force Survey (LFS)
2.2 Average earnings of women and men employees, by occupation, age and disabilities (SDG 8.5.1)	<p>Disaggregation by sex: overall – PKR 9,732; men – PKR 10,286; women – PKR 6,650</p> <p>Disaggregation by occupation (overall/men/women):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislators, senior officials and managers: PKR 22,580; PKR 21,701; PKR 28,112 Professionals: PKR 10,445; PKR 14,619; PKR 7,895 Technicians and associate professionals: PKR 13,222; PKR 13,415; PKR 11,689 Clerks: PKR 14,600; PKR 14,396; PKR 19,857 Service workers and shop and market sales workers: PKR 9,227; PKR 9,255; PKR 8,009 Skilled agricultural and fishery workers: PKR 8,641; PKR 8,708; PKR 3,800 Craft and related trade workers: PKR 10,076; PKR 10,819; PKR 4,934 Plant and machine operators and assemblers: PKR 11,340; PKR 11,442; PKR 7,046 Elementary occupations: PKR 8,712; PKR 9,287; PKR 6,134 <p>Disaggregation by age (overall/men/women):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 -19 years: PKR 8,392; PKR 8,945; PKR 5,500 20-24 years: PKR 10,646; PKR 11,187; PKR 7,505 25-29 years: PKR 13,866; PKR 14,368; PKR 10,516 30-34 years: PKR 15,329; PKR 16,077; PKR 11,075 35-39 years: PKR 16,593; PKR 17,487; PKR 11,395 40-44 years: PKR 18,618; PKR 19,727; PKR 12,432 45-49 years: PKR 20,655; PKR 22,340; PKR 11,221 50-54 years: PKR 21,705; PKR 23,348; PKR 11,835 55-59 years: PKR 21,156; PKR 21,893; PKR 14,616 60 & above: PKR 12,861; PKR 13,968; PKR 6,338 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All occupational groups earn at least the minimum wage declared by the Government, PKR 15,000 per month (2017/18) 	Pakistan Labour Force Survey (LFS)
2.3 Unemployment rate (in the formal and informal sector) by sex, age and disabilities (SDG 8.5.2)	<p>Disaggregation by sex: overall – 10.61 %; men – 9.54%; women – 13.73%</p> <p>Disaggregation by age (overall):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 -19 years: 10.11% 20-24 years: 11% 25-29 years: 6.09% 30-34 years: 3.52% 35-39 years: 1.92 % 40-44 years: 1.97% 45-49 years: 1.75% 50-54 years: 3.63 % 55-59 years: 5.78% 60 & above: 10.01% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current trends among youth are negative, with youth unemployment rising consistently since 2006/07 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least a 2% decrease in the overall youth unemployment rate, with a particular focus on young women. Reversing the trend of rising youth unemployment and achieving a 2% decline will be a significant achievement. 	Pakistan Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 2

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
ILO	\$ 4,900,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 8,000,000	
UN Women	\$ 1,666,408	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 3,166,408	
UNHCR	\$ 5,950,000	\$ 16,300,000	\$ 22,250,000	Total Budget (Outcome 2)
UNESCO	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
UNDP	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,000,000	
UNIDO	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 8,000,000	
IOM	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 4,000,000	
Total	\$ 18,516,408	\$ 28,900,000	\$ 47,416,408	\$ 47.416 million

HEALTH & WASH (Outcome 3): By 2022, the people in Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have access to, and benefit from, improved universal health coverage, including sexual and reproductive health, and equitable WASH services.

UN Agencies: UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNODC, UN Habitat, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and WHO

Results Matrix - Outcome 3

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
3.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and most disadvantaged population) (SDG 3.8.1), specifically: (i) reproductive health (contraceptive prevalence rate of any method); (ii) maternal health (skilled birth attendance); (iii) newborn health (post-natal care); (iv) child health (immunization); and (v) service capacity and access among the general population (physicians per 10,000 people – urban); and (vi) the most disadvantaged population (physicians per 10,000 people – rural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (i) Contraception prevalence rate (CPR): 35% • (ii) Skilled birth attendance (SBA) rate: 52% • (iii) Post-natal care (PNC) for newborns: 46.3% • (iv) Full immunization among children: 54% • (v) Physicians per 10,000 people – urban: 14.5 • (vi) Physicians per 10,000 people – rural: 3.6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (i) Contraception prevalence rate (CPR): 50% (CPR) • Skilled birth attendance (SBA) rate: 75% (SBA) • (iii) Post-natal care (PNC) for newborns: 75% • (iv) Full immunization among children: 85% • (v) Physicians per 10,000 people – urban: TBD • (vi) Physicians per 10,000 people – rural: TBD 	Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) (baseline data from PDHS 2012/13) for i-iv; HRH-WHO Global Atlas and Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) (baseline from PSLM 2014) for v-vi.
3.2 Under 5 and neonatal mortality rates (SDGs 3.2.1 and 3.2.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 5 mortality rate (U5MR): 89 per 1,000 live births • Neonatal mortality rate (NN): 55 per 1,000 live births 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 5 mortality rate (U5MR): 75 per 1,000 live births • Neonatal mortality rate (NN): 45 per 1,000 live births 	Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) (baseline from PDHS 2012/13)
3.3 Maternal mortality ratio (SDG 3.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal mortality ratio (MMR): 276 per 100,000 live births 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal mortality ratio (MMR): 140 per 100,000 live births 	Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) (baseline from PDHS 2006/07)

Results Matrix - Outcome 3 (continued)

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
3.4 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years old) whose need for family planning is met by modern methods (SDG 3.7.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of women who use modern family planning methods: 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of women who use modern family planning methods: 36 	Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) (baseline data from PDHS 2012/13)
3.5 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services (SDGs 6.1.1 and 6.2.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of the population using safely managed water: 31% Proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services: 0%/no data available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of the population using safely managed water: 50% Proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services: 10% 	Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM)
3.6 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 of the uninfected population by sex, age and key populations (SDG 3.3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All ages: 0.10 (0.09- 0.11) Key populations: 0.02 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce new HIV infections by 50% 	Service Statistics/ Spectrum
3.7 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial, rehabilitation and after-care services) for substance use disorders (SDG 3.5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure treatment provided to: 1,990 drug users per year Low threshold services provided to: 26,550 drug users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured treatment services to 6,000 drug users per year Low threshold services provided to: 30,000 drug users 	Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM)

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 3

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
UNFPA	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 11,500,000	
UNAIDS	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,054,600	\$ 35,104,600	
UNODC	\$ 0	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	Total Budget (Outcome 3)
UN Habitat	\$ 0	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	
UNHCR	\$ 7,480,000	\$ 11,570,000	\$ 19,050,000	\$ 413.2 million
IOM	\$ 10,794,087	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 21,794,087	
UNICEF	\$ 32,600,000	\$ 174,300,000	\$ 206,900,000	
WHO	\$ 0	\$ 107,851,250	\$ 107,851,250	
Total	\$55,924,087	\$357,275,850	\$413,199,937	

NUTRITION (Outcome 4): By 2022, children, adolescent girls and boys, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and persons with disabilities have improved dietary intake, feeding and care practices, resulting in improved nutritional status, while reducing stunting and other forms of undernutrition.

UN Agencies: WFP, WHO, UNICEF and FAO

Results Matrix - Outcome 4

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
4.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviations from the median specified by WHO's Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age (SDG 2.2.1)	• Prevalence of stunting: 43.70%	• Prevalence of stunting: 37%	National Nutrition Survey (NNS) (baseline data from NNS 2011)
4.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviations from the median specified by WHO's Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (SDG 2.2.2)	• Prevalence of malnutrition: 15%	• Prevalence of malnutrition: 7%	National Nutrition Survey (NNS) (baseline from NNS 2011)

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 4

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
WFP	\$ 0	\$ 73,000,000	\$ 73,000,000	Total Budget (Outcome 4) \$ 116.14 million
WHO	\$ 0	\$ 444,600	\$ 444,600	
UNICEF	\$ 9,700,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 34,700,000	
FAO	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 8,000,000	
Total	\$ 17,700,000	\$ 98,450,000	\$ 116,144,600	

FOOD SECURITY & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (Outcome 5): By 2022, the people of Pakistan, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, have improved availability of, access to, and consumption of safe, nutritious and sufficient food, while promoting sustainable agriculture to achieve zero hunger.

UN Agencies: WFP, FAO, UNIDO and IFAD

Results Matrix - Outcome 5

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
5.1 Prevalence of undernourishment (SDG 2.1.1)	• Prevalence of undernourishment: 18%	• Prevalence of undernourishment: below 18%	Food Security Assessment (FSA) (baseline data from FSA 2016)
5.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) (SDG 2.1.2)	• Prevalence of moderate/severe food insecurity: 21%	• Prevalence of moderate/severe food insecurity: below 21%	Food Security Assessment (FSA) (baseline from FSA 2016)

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 5

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	Total Budget (Outcome 5) \$ 98 million
WFP	\$ 0	\$ 73,000,000	\$ 73,000,000	
FAO	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,000,000	
UNIDO	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	
Total	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 78,000,000	\$ 98,000,000	

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

UN Agencies: WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UN Habitat, IOM, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, UN Environment and UN Women

Results Matrix - Outcome 6

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
6.1 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) (SDG 11.b.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% of local governments adopt and implement local DRR strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35% of local governments adopt and implement local DRR strategies 	Reports by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), provincial DMAs (PDMAs) and district DMAs (DDMAs); regular GoP reports to UNISDR on adherence to the SFDRR
6.2 Number of integrated policies/ strategies/plans that have been operationalized, thereby increasing the ability of local governments to protect the environment and the population; to adapt to, and mitigate, the adverse impacts of climate change; to foster climate resilience; and lower greenhouse gas emissions in a manner that does not threaten food production (SDG 13.2.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 national-level regulatory framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 provincial-level Integrated Sustainable Land Management Policies • 1 National Action Plan on Sustainable Energy for All • 1 piece of national legislation on the reduction and elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) 	Ministry of Climate Change and provincial Environment Protection Agencies; regular GoP reports on adherence to the COP21 Paris Agreement; Climate Change Vulnerability Index Report; National Communication Report on Climate Change Notification regarding the approval of four provincial Integrated Sustainable Land Management policies by provincial cabinets; minutes of the National Steering Committee meeting approving the National Action Plan for SE4All; cabinet notification on the enactment of legislation to reduce Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 6

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
WFP	\$ 0	\$ 49,000,000	\$ 49,000,000	
UNIDO	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	
UNDP	\$ 20,600,000	\$ 20,700,000	\$ 41,300,000	
UN Habitat	\$ 200,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,200,000	
IOM	\$ 3,350,515	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 8,350,515	
UNESCO	\$1,025,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 5,525,000	Total Budget (Outcome 6)
WHO	\$ 0	\$ 3,424,000	\$ 3,424,000	\$ 133.85 million
UNICEF	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
UNFPA	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,250,000	
FAO	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 10,000,000	
UN Environment	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	
UN Women	\$ 0	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	
Total	\$ 41,425,515	\$ 92,424,000	\$ 133,849,515	

EDUCATION & LEARNING (Outcome 7): By 2022, children and youth will have enhanced, equitable and inclusive access to, and benefit from, quality learning opportunities.

UN Agencies: UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV, WFP and ILO

Results Matrix - Outcome 7

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
7.1 Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in education (primary, lower secondary, secondary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio (ANER) in primary education (Classes: 1-5): overall – 77%; boys – 83%; girls – 71% Lower secondary/middle school (Classes: 6-8): overall – 49%; boys – 53%; girls – 45% Secondary education (Classes: 9-12): overall – 32%; boys – 36%; girls – 28% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANER in primary education: 85% Lower secondary/middle school: 55% Secondary education: 40% 	Pakistan Education Statistics (baseline data from Pakistan Education Statistics 2015/16)
7.2 Proportion of children and young people (a) at the end of primary education and (b) at the end of lower secondary education who have achieved at least a minimum level of proficiency in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex (SDG 4.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students scaled mean scores (scale 0 - 1000) for Class 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English reading score: overall – 494 (basic); boys – 470 (basic); girls – 515 (basic) English writing: overall – 290 (below basic); boys – 290 (below basic); girls – 286 (below basic) Science: overall – 433 (basic); boys – 424 (basic); girls – 443 (basic) Students scaled mean scores (scale 0 - 1000) for Class 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urdu reading: overall – 526 (basic); boys – 540 (basic); girls – 513 (basic) Urdu writing: overall – 384 (below basic); boys – 396 (below basic); girls – 325 (below basic) Mathematics : overall – 461 (basic); boys – 470 (basic); girls – 456 (basic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 4 scores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English reading: proficient (551-650) English writing: basic (401-550) Science = proficient (551- 650) Class 8 scores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urdu reading: TBD Urdu writing: TBD Mathematics: TBD 	National Education Assessment System (NEAS) (baseline from NEAS 2015)

Results Matrix - Outcome 7 (continued)

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
7.3 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex (SDG 4.3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A (data on the current participation rate is not available. However, the UN has requested that the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) include this indicator in the next Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Survey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD (by GoP) 	Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Survey

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 7

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
UNESCO	\$ 11,050,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 14,550,000	Total Budget (Outcome 7) \$ 130.742 million
UNHCR	\$ 21,870,000	\$ 26,760,000	\$ 48,630,000	
UNICEF	\$ 13,500,000	\$ 25,500,000	\$ 39,000,000	
UNFPA	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	
UNV	\$ 226,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 262,000	
WFP	\$ 0	\$ 24,000,000	\$ 24,000,000	
ILO	\$ 300,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,300,000	
Total	\$ 47,446,000	\$ 83,296,000	\$ 130,742,000	

GENDER, EQUALITY AND DIGNITY (Outcome 8): By 2022, government institutions will have increased accountability towards gender equality commitments and social, economic, cultural and political rights.

UN Agencies: UN Women, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNESCO, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, ILO and UNDP

Results Matrix - Outcome 8

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
8.1 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older who are subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence (SDG 5.2.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39% of women who are, or have been, married (aged 15-49) report experiencing physical and/or emotional violence at the hands of their spouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29% of women who are, or have been, married experience physical and/or emotional violence 	Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS); Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
8.2 Provincial governments have systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5.C.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Gender Equality Implementation Plan developed for Balochistan (2017) (ii) 7 Ministries and Departments supported in gender responsive budgeting (GRB) (2015) (iii) No integrated provincial strategies on land management exist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 3 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Provincial Action Plans/ Packages in place; (ii) 6 Ministries and Departments integrate gender responsive budgeting in public finance management systems (iii) 4 provincial Implementation Strategies related to integrated sustainable land management (forest, irrigation, agriculture, environment protection) provide for the public allocation of funds to promote gender equality and women's empowerment (iv) 15 districts (10 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 5 in KP) have gender responsive District Disaster Risk Management Plans and include principles for the allocation of public funds through their Annual Work Plans 	Women Development Departments (WDDs); Provincial Cabinets' notifications; National and Sub-National Steering Committee Minutes; Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs); Ministry of Finance; Punjab Safety Authority; Transport Department of Punjab; Project for the Improvement of Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA)

Results Matrix - Outcome 8 (continued)

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
8.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments (SDG 5.5.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total national level representation of women: 70 of 342 parliamentarians (20%) Provincial level representation of women: 158 of 822 (19.5%) Proportion of seats held by women in Balochistan's local governments: 33% Proportion of seats held by women in Punjab's local governments (urban and rural): 22% Proportion of seats held by women in Sindh's local governments (urban and rural): 22% Proportion of seats held by women in KP's local governments: 20-24% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targets will be fixed before the next local government elections, as the representation of women in Pakistan's provincial local government systems is fixed by current provincial Local Government Acts, which may or may not change during the next cycle of elections, depending on the priorities of new provincial governments. 	Pak Institute For Peace Studies (PIPS); Goethe-University of Frankfurt, Germany; all four provincial Local Government Departments
8.4 Number of legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender (SDG 5.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 national and 14 provincial* pro-women laws in place: i) <i>Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010</i>; ii) <i>Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 and Amendments 2009 and 2014</i>; iii) <i>Domestic Violence (Protection & Prevention) Act 2012 (only for ICT)</i>; iv) <i>National Commission on the Status of Women Act 2012</i>; v) <i>Dowry & Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act 1976 and Dowry & Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Rules 1976</i>; vi) <i>Acid Control & Acid Crime Prevention Act 2010 and Criminal Law Act, 2nd Amendment 2011</i>; vii) <i>Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act 2006</i>; viii) <i>Women in Distress & Detention Fund 1996 and Amendment 2011</i>; ix) Amendments in <i>Family Courts Act for Khula, etc. 2002 and Family Court Amendment Act 2015</i>; x) <i>Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Act 3rd Amendment) 2011</i>; xi) <i>Anti-Rape Laws Act 2013 and Anti-Rape Laws (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill 2014</i>; xii) <i>Torture, Custodial Death & Custodial Rape (Prevention & Punishment) Bill 2014</i>; xiii) two <i>Home-Based Workers Policies</i> (for women's socio-economic empowerment) adopted/notified in Punjab and Sindh 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 1 Bill on the protection of the rights of transgender people in Pakistan (ii) 1 National Plan of Action on Human Rights implemented and provincial strategies rolled-out (iii) Adoption and roll-out of National Guidelines and an Implementation Plan on Violence against Women (VAW) (iv) 1 national and 1 provincial Implementation Plan on gender-based violence (GBV) in place (v) Sindh Acid Crimes Bill adopted (vi) 2 Home-Based Workers Policies adopted in Balochistan and KP (vii) 4 Home-Based Workers Implementation Plans rolled-out in Balochistan, KP, Punjab and Sindh 	CEDAW Concluding Observations; Universal Periodic Review (UPR); National Assembly Statistics; Ministry of Human Rights; National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 8

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
UN Women	\$ 253,592	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,253,592	Total Budget (Outcome 8) \$ 52.281 million
UNICEF	\$ 400,000	\$ 0	\$ 400,000	
UNAIDS	\$ 56,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 211,000	
UNODC	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
UNESCO	\$ 0	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	
UNFPA	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	
WHO	\$ 0	\$ 216,500	\$ 216,500	
FAO	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000,000	
ILO	\$ 550,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,050,000	
UNDP	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 29,450,000	\$ 37,950,000	
Total	\$ 13,759,592	\$ 38,521,500	\$ 52,281,092	

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

UN Agencies: UNFPA, UNODC, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, IOM and UNESCO

Results Matrix - Outcome 9

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
9.1 Government effectiveness, rule of law and the control of corruption as measured by the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators' estimate of governance (2016) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government effectiveness: -0.63 Rule of law: -0.82 Control of corruption: -0.76 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank, Worldwide Governance Indicators' estimate of governance (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government effectiveness: -0.36 Rule of law: -0.67 Control of corruption: -0.73 	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators
9.2 In-depth (a) analysis of the population census and household surveys available for evidence-based planning, budgeting and monitoring; and (b) 100% birth registration and 80% death registration achieved (SDG 17.19.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Provisional results of the Census 2017 available and disaggregated at the provincial and district levels (only for the total population), current population: 207.77 million and annual population growth rate: 2.4% (ii) Birth registration rate: 34% (iii) Death registration rate: TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Final Census results released (ii) Birth registration rate: 60% (iii) Death registration rate: TBD 	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS); Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) (baseline birth registration data from PDHS 2012/13)
9.3 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (health, education and housing) (SDG 1.a.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government spending on health (health expenditure as a % of GDP): 0.76% Government spending on education (education expenditure as a % of GDP): 2.3% Government spending on housing (housing expenditure as a % of GDP): TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health expenditure as a % of GDP: TBD Education expenditure as a % of GDP: 4% Housing expenditure as a % of GDP: TBD 	Association for the Development of Pakistan (ADP); PIFRA; Planning Commission (PC); Planning and Development Departments (P&DD)

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 9

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
UNFPA	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,500,000	
UNODC	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 27,800,000	\$ 37,800,000	
UNDP	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 31,750,000	\$ 43,750,000	
UN HABITAT	\$ 200,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,200,000	
UNHCR	\$ 5,680,000	\$ 5,130,000	\$ 10,810,000	
UN Women	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,500,000	
UNICEF	\$ 14,800,000	\$ 3,700,000	\$ 18,500,000	
WHO	\$ 0	\$ 5,063,500	\$ 5,063,500	
IOM	\$ 1,913,701	\$ 6,195,474	\$ 8,109,175	
UNESCO	\$ 80,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 230,000	
Total	\$ 48,173,701	\$ 83,288,974	\$ 131,462,675	Total Budget (Outcome 9) \$ 131.463 million

SOCIAL PROTECTION (Outcome 10): By 2022, improved and effective social protection systems will be available for all, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations.
UN Agencies: UNAIDS, WFP, UNHCR, ILO, IOM and WHO

Common Budgetary Framework - Outcome 10

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Data Source
10.1 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions (SDG 1.2.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-dimensional Poverty Index: 38.80% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-dimensional Poverty Index: 28.02% (GoP seeks to reduce the multi-dimensional poverty Index (MPI) by half by 2025 according to Vision 2025. This entails a progressive reduction of 2.15% on a year-on-year basis, if pro-rated. This corresponds to a 10.77% reduction in MPI over the 5 year OP III period) 	Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

Results Matrix - Outcome 10

Agencies	Projected (A)	To be mobilized (B)	Total (A+ B)	
UNAIDS	\$ 5,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	Total Budget (Outcome 10) \$ 195.295 million
WFP	\$ 0	\$ 24,000,000	\$ 24,000,000	
UNHCR	\$ 48,200,000	\$ 99,020,000	\$ 147,220,000	
ILO	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,300,000	
IOM	\$ 2,976,190	\$ 17,773,810	\$ 20,750,000	
WHO	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Total	\$ 53,481,190	\$ 141,813,810	\$ 195,295,000	

Common Budgetary Framework

Total (A+B)
for all 10 outcomes

US\$ 1,387,741,802

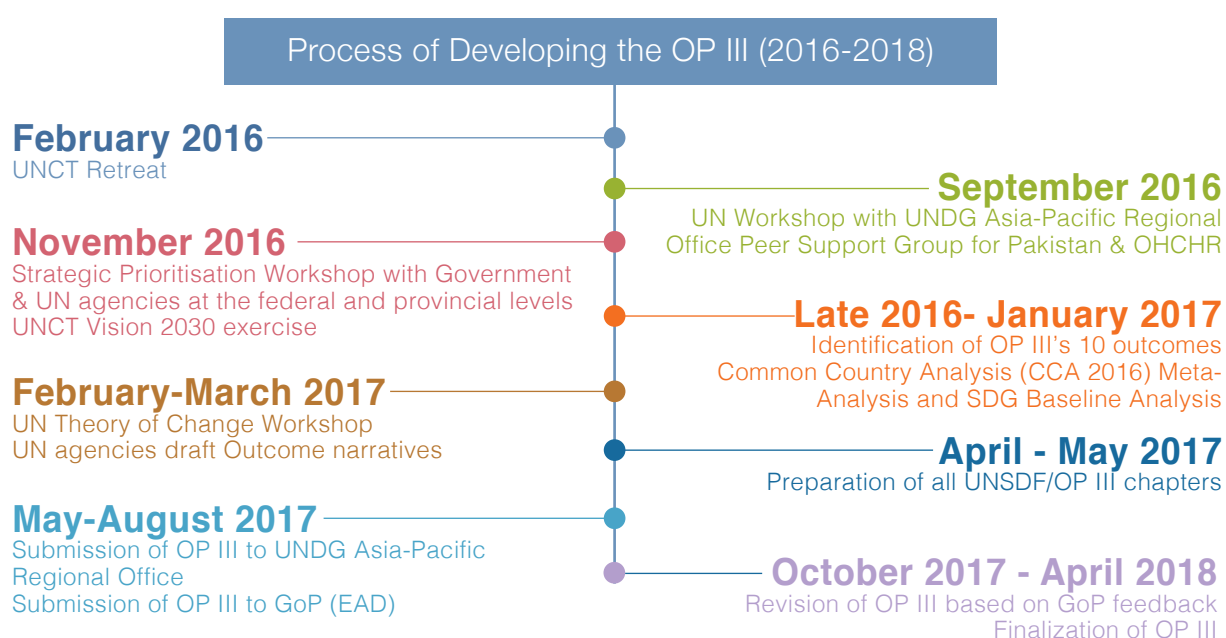
Total Budget (All Outcomes)
\$ 1.388 billion

5.3 Annex C: Methodology and Process of Developing the OP III

The UNSDF/OP III embodies the six integrated, mutually reinforcing programming approaches demanded of all *United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks* (UNDAFs).¹⁵⁶ It is also underpinned by the UN system's four key programming principles – leaving no one behind; human rights and gender equality; environmental sustainability and resilience; and accountability.¹⁵⁷

Methodological Approach

The elaboration of the One UN Programme III was guided by an approach that prioritizes collaboration and consultation, in order to ensure that the framework responds to Pakistan's national development priorities in a way that fully harnesses the UN's competitive advantage in the country. The OP III was formulated in line with the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG's) 2017 guidance for UNDAFs.¹⁵⁸ Throughout this process, the UN took particular care to work closely with government stakeholders at all levels, in order to secure strong country-ownership of the OP III. To minimize the impact of potential challenges on each outcome area, a 'challenge-informed programming approach' was applied throughout.



156 United Nations Development Group (2017) *Guidance on UN Development Assistance Frameworks*. New York: UNDG. Available: <https://undg.org/document/2017-undaf-guidance/>

157 United Nations Development Group (2017) *Principles for Integrated Programming*. New York: UNDG. Available: <https://undg.org/programme/undaf-guidance/principles-for-integrated-programming>

158 United Nations Development Group (2017) *Guidance on UN Development Assistance Frameworks*. New York: UNDG.

The elaboration of the One UN Programme III was guided by an approach that prioritizes collaboration and consultation.

Initial Steps

The UN in Pakistan began the process of developing the OP III in early 2016. Initial steps included a *UNCT Retreat* in February 2016, which reviewed the SDGs' implications for the UN's work in Pakistan in terms of national development priorities, UN areas of support to the Government and appropriate strategies for the UN.

A focus on the SDGs, and the UN's potential role in supporting the Government of Pakistan to achieve these ambitious goals, were centre stage at a workshop for over 80 UN agency staff members in September 2016. The gathering was facilitated by experts from the UNDG Asia-Pacific Regional Office Peer Support Group for Pakistan (UN Women, UNAIDS and the UNDG).

In reviewing lessons learned from the previous OP II cycle, participants reflected on how the OP III can prioritize the SDGs' underlying principles of 'leaving no one behind' and 'reaching the unreached', alongside gender equity and human rights, while strengthening the nexus between development and humanitarian approaches. The workshop also focused on how to strengthen the formulation of results in order to permit greater transparency, monitoring and evaluation in close coordination with the Government.

Defining Outcomes Collaboratively

Based on these initial steps, coupled with the analyses prepared by several UN agencies to form the basis for their next Country Programme Documents/Strategies, the UNCT reviewed a number of key trends and challenges associated with the UN's role in supporting Pakistan's pursuit of the SDGs. The UNCT's *Vision 2030 Exercise* used a 'foresight approach' – employing 'forecasting and back-casting' techniques to highlight key assumptions and opportunities around the country's socio-economic development, as well as the UN's role in the country towards 2030. This helped to contextualize UN programming in Pakistan within a longer-term perspective, aligned with Agenda 2030 and multi-year national planning.

The cumulative findings of these processes were presented to a *Strategic Prioritization Workshop* in November 2016. This event benefitted from wide-ranging participation by UN agencies at the federal level, involving over 50 staff members, alongside the UN agencies present in the provinces and the Government of Pakistan – most notably the Economic Affairs Division of the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to reviewing Pakistan's national goals, context and challenges in terms of achieving the SDGs, the *Strategic Prioritization Workshop* invited participants to propose priority areas of work for the UN within the framework of the OP III. Workshop participants proposed 108 priorities. After extensive dialogue among UN agencies, coupled with discussion and agreement with the Government of Pakistan, these were condensed into the **ten outcomes** included in the OP III. These outcomes have also been used by those UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) which were in the process of preparing formal Country Programme Documents (CPDs) for submission to their Executive Boards, as well as by other UN agencies which are in various stages of developing their own strategies and programmes without formal CPDs.

Consolidating and Finalizing the OP III

To inform the OP III, the UNCT undertook a systematic *Common Country Assessment: An SDG Baseline Analysis and Meta-Analysis* of Pakistan's economic, social, environmental and governance context in 2017.

At the UNCT's request, the current OP II Outcome Groups – referred to as Strategic Priority Area Working Groups or SPAs in Pakistan – invited all UN agencies relevant for each OP III outcome to jointly develop the outcome's analysis and narrative. This process, spanning February-March 2017, began with a Theory of Change Workshop for UN agencies to help them select the development pathways needed to achieve each outcome based on identified challenges and assumptions.

Finally, the complete draft OP III and supporting documentation was shared with the UNDG Asia-Pacific Regional Office in May 2017 for quality assurance purposes, before being formally shared with the Government of Pakistan – specifically, the Economic Affairs Division of the Ministry of Finance – for their formal review and comments. The UNSDF/OP III was finalized with the approval of the Government of Pakistan in April 2018.

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2018.

5.4 Annex D: Quality Criteria of the UNSDF/OP III

The UN system in Pakistan has striven to ensure that this United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan (UNSDF), also known as the One UN Programme III (OP III) 2018-2022, complies with *UNDG Quality Criteria for UNDAFs*.¹⁵⁹ It upholds the five quality criteria identified by the UNDG – it is relevant and strategically focused, principled, effective, efficient and sustainable. It is also aligned to good practice both in terms of the process of preparing the OP III, as well as in its content, strategic focus and structure. Specifically, the OP III:

- Supports Pakistan’s national development priorities, alongside the localization, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. It is explicitly linked to Pakistan’s national plan, *Vision 2025*, to ensure that the OP III responds to national priorities;
- Is underpinned by a theory of change based on disaggregated data and analysis, including the in-depth *Common Country Assessment: An SDG Baseline Analysis and Meta-Analysis* and evaluations from earlier programme cycles;
- Places a strong focus on joint programming;
- Engages the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) to find entry points for advocacy and communication at the outcome level;
- Identifies multi-stakeholder partnership strategies that bring in a broad set of national partners, while clearly determining the roles of the UN system and these national partners in achieving results;
- Addresses the immediate, underlying, root causes of poverty and inequalities; fosters inclusiveness; and aims to reduce inequalities and discrimination to ensure that no one is left behind;
- Upholds and mainstreams the UN system’s four integrated programming principles of leaving no one behind; human rights and gender equality; sustainability and resilience; and accountability;
- Embodies results-focused programming, challenge-informed programming, linkages between humanitarian and development approaches, coherent policy support and a commitment to partnership – thus reflecting the six integrated programming approaches advocated by the UNDG; and
- Supports the capacity development of national and sub-national institutions, civil society and other stakeholders, including entities involved in data collection and management.

¹⁵⁹ UNDG (2017) *United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidance*. New York: UNDG, p. 18; 33-36. Available: https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-UNDAF_Guidance_01-May-2017.pdf



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