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**UN PAKISTAN
ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**





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📷 Cover photo: A women finds cover from the sun in the village of Muhammad Pur Ghamand in south Punjab. © UNICEF Pakistan/Juan Haro

📷 Photo on this page: In the village of Naseer Lolai, in Sindh, Ali Gohar and his wife Bakhtawar point to the river waters where their home used to be © IOM Pakistan/Ovais Ahmed

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MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

For Pakistan and the international system as a whole, 2025 was a turbulent year. Climate shocks, economic volatility, geopolitical uncertainty and regional instability combined to put pressure on people, institutions and public finances alike. Their effects did not remain confined to one sector or one community. They rippled outward – from energy to food systems, from livelihoods to basic services – deepening vulnerability and slowing development progress. Pakistan’s latest poverty figures are a stark reminder of the scale of the challenge: according to the Planning Commission, monetary poverty rose from 21.9% in 2018–19 to 28.9% in 2024–25.

And yet, 2025 was not only a story of mounting pressure. It was also a story of resilience, adaptation and determined action. In my visits to UN-supported initiatives across the country, I saw not despair, but resolve: communities finding practical solutions, institutions strengthening under strain, and local leadership turning adversity into opportunity. I saw the enduring strengths of Pakistan – its ingenuity, resilience and untapped potential – and I saw the United Nations working alongside Pakistan to protect hard-won development gains while helping to build stronger, more resilient systems for the future.

This report tells that story. It shows how, in 2025, the United Nations stood with Pakistan – and how, together with government, communities and partners, we delivered results for people across the country. It also reflects a central lesson of the year: in a more volatile world, complex challenges cannot be met with fragmented responses. Just as the pressures Pakistan faces are interconnected, so too must be the solutions. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Pakistan 2023–2027 provides a basis for that integrated approach, bringing together our collective efforts across social services, inclusion, climate resilience, economic opportunity, governance and human rights.

In 2025, the UN supported Pakistan to strengthen the systems that matter most in people’s daily lives. Across health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and social protection, we helped expand access to essential services and improve their quality and reach. We worked with partners to advance gender equality and strengthen protection and opportunities for women, girls and transgender people. We supported climate resilience and disaster preparedness, while helping to accelerate action on environmental protection, renewable energy, and the sustainable management of water and natural resources.

We contributed to more inclusive economic development – supporting skills, livelihoods, decent work, sustainable enterprises and rural poverty graduation programmes, especially for women, young people and vulnerable groups.

At the same time, we worked to strengthen the institutions and policies that make progress durable. Through policy advice, stronger data systems and institutional capacity-building, the UN helped advance reforms that can endure beyond a single project cycle. We supported more inclusive, responsive and future-ready governance; strengthened the rule of law; improved access to justice and protection; and promoted social cohesion and human rights – especially for those most at risk of exclusion.

If 2025 underscored anything, it is that resilience must increasingly be built before the next shock arrives. Pakistan cannot control global crises, shifting markets, or changing climate patterns. But it can reduce its exposure to them. That means moving the centre of gravity from crisis response to prevention, adaptation and resilience: investing in stronger systems, tackling risks before they cascade, and pursuing more strategic, joined-up approaches to the country’s most complex challenges.

The same is true for the United Nations. In a more constrained financial environment and a more demanding geopolitical context, the UN system must continue to evolve to remain fit for purpose. In Pakistan, we are acting on that imperative. In 2025, we continued to move ahead on reform – deepening coordination across agencies, aligning more closely around national priorities, and making practical gains in efficiency through common services and co-located teams. Just as importantly, we are shifting our own model: from siloed project delivery toward more strategic partnerships and focused technical assistance that can help drive systemic transformation at scale.

None of this would have been possible without partnerships. Our achievements in 2025 were built on close collaboration with Pakistan’s federal and provincial governments, development partners, international financial institutions, civil society, academia, the private sector and communities across the country. They also reflect the growing coherence of ‘One UN’ Pakistan: agencies, funds and programmes working with greater unity of purpose to support national priorities with greater impact. The human stories throughout this report bring that impact to life. From Masood, a polio survivor who now protects children as a vaccinator, to Sumaiya, a helpline agent providing urgent support to refugees, these stories remind us that development is ultimately about people: their dignity, their choices and their futures.

As I reflect on what we achieved together in 2025, I am both encouraged and grateful – to our government counterparts, donors, partners, UN colleagues and the communities we serve.

FOREWORD BY THE FEDERAL SECRETARY

As 2025 marks the mid-point of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027, it provides a timely opportunity to reflect on progress achieved, strengthen institutional coordination, and reinforce collective efforts toward inclusive and sustainable development. This Annual Report presents the collective contribution of the United Nations Country Team in Pakistan under the UNSDCF 2023–2027. The results outlined herein demonstrate the scale and impact of joint action across the framework’s five outcome areas. Despite global economic pressures and climate-related challenges, our coordinated efforts have advanced essential social services (healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, and social protection), gender equality, climate adaptation, economic and employment growth, and improved governance.

Through integrated and system-oriented interventions, the United Nations has continued to align its support with national priorities and strengthen institutional capacities at both the federal and provincial levels. The Government of Pakistan deeply values its longstanding partnership with the United Nations and recognizes the importance of coordinated development cooperation in addressing complex and multi-dimensional development challenges. The UNSDCF 2023–2027 serves as the overarching strategic framework guiding the engagement of United Nations agencies in Pakistan, ensuring coherence, alignment, and synergy with national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Joint oversight of the framework is formally exercised through the Oversight Committee at the federal level, which reviews strategic direction and key policy matters related to UN development cooperation. Regular sharing of information on portfolio implementation matters, by the UN agencies with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, would further strengthen our partnership, avoid potential overlap of efforts with other development partners, and lead to a greater and more effective developmental impact.

The Government of Pakistan’s engagement in the implementation of the UNSDCF reflects its strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to building a more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient future for all. As we enter the second half of the Cooperation Framework period, our shared priority remains ensuring that economic stabilization translates into inclusive recovery, institutional resilience, and sustainable growth. Through continued collaboration, policy coherence, shared responsibility, and results-oriented implementation, we can collectively contribute to a more resilient and prosperous Pakistan. The Ministry of Economic Affairs reaffirms its commitment to partnership with the United Nations, grounded in trust, aligned with national priorities, and guided by the principle of *leaving no one behind*.



Muhammad Humair Karim
Federal Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Government of Pakistan



The challenges ahead remain immense. But the lesson of 2025 is clear: progress is possible when we adapt, when we work across silos, and when we keep people at the centre of our efforts. In 2026, the United Nations in Pakistan will continue to build on what works – scaling solutions, broadening partnerships, and helping to drive the resilient, inclusive transformation needed to reduce poverty and unlock Pakistan’s extraordinary potential.



Mohamed Yahya
United Nations Resident and
Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan



UN COUNTRY TEAM IN PAKISTAN



The **United Nations Country Team (UNCT)** in Pakistan includes all the United Nations (UN) entities active in the country. Working together as one under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNCT implements the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework guided by a Joint UN-National Oversight Committee, which is chaired by the Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division of the Government of Pakistan, and the UN Resident Coordinator.

20

UN agencies

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

95%

are resident entities,

physically present in Pakistan (all UNSDCF signatories except the UN Environment Programme)

📷 Landscape in Pakistan © UNDP

OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The UN in Pakistan works in close collaboration with partners to support national development priorities and institutional strengthening in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. None of the achievements presented in this report would have been possible without our partners – including the Government of Pakistan at the federal and provincial levels, international development organizations and financial institutions, donor governments and development agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, the media and, above all, the people of Pakistan. Special thanks are due to the many generous donors who supported UN initiatives in 2025, both financially and in-kind, as well as to our dedicated staff and stalwart implementing partners.

We are particularly grateful to our government partners, including the Prime Minister's Office, the Economic Affairs Division, key Federal Ministries – of Climate Change, Federal Education and Professional Training, Finance, Human Rights, National Food Security and Research, National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, and Planning, Development and Special Initiatives – the provincial and regional Governments of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir, Commissions on the Status of Women, and National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, among many others.

DONOR GOVERNMENTS



FUNDS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

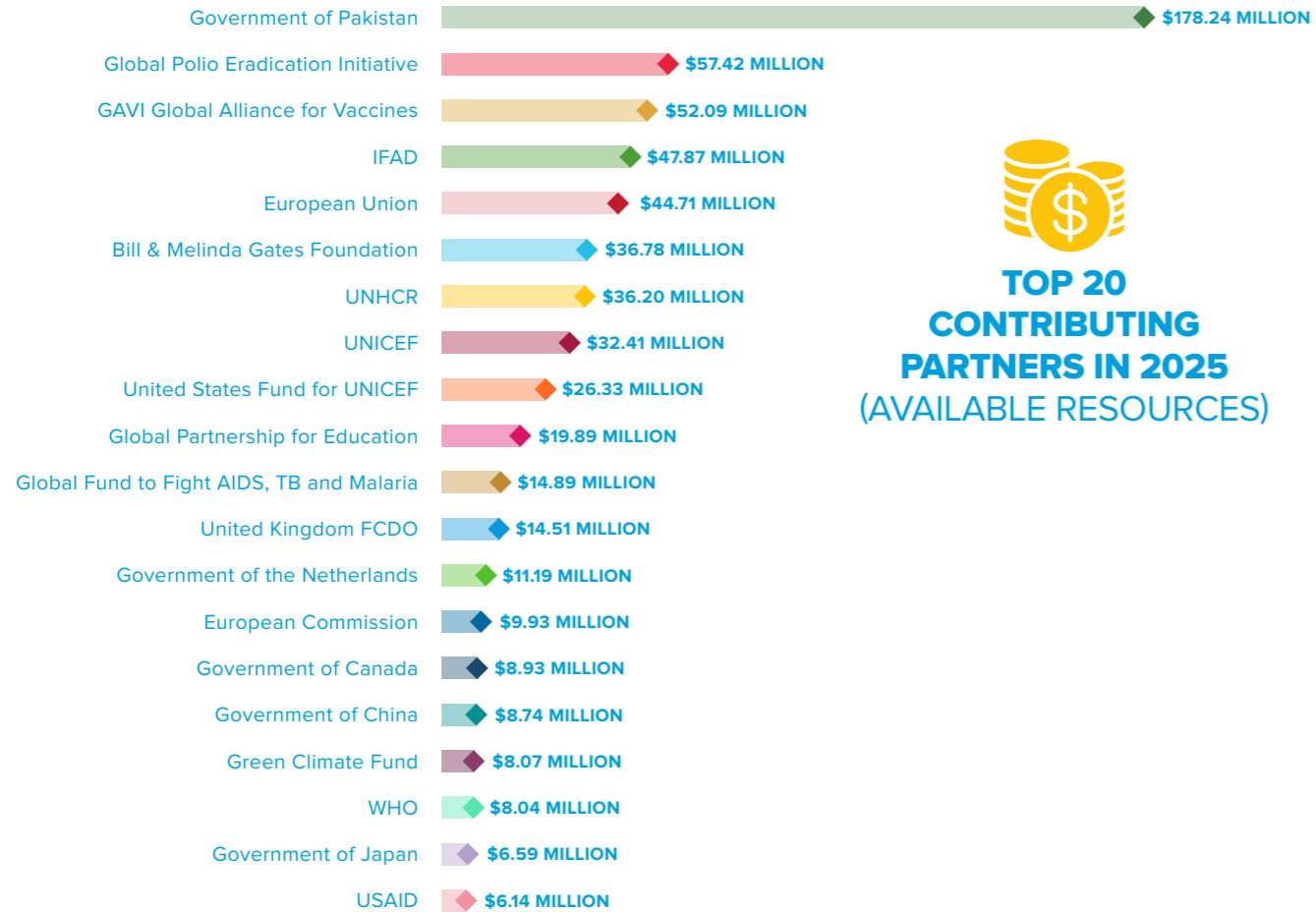


CHAPTER 1

2025 KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN PAKISTAN



TOP 20 CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN 2025 (AVAILABLE RESOURCES)



Naheed Israr, Nutrition Assistant, examines 9-month-old Usman, held by his mother. He is one of thousands of children recovering from severe acute malnutrition with the support of the UN, in partnership with the Government of Pakistan and global donors. © UNICEF/ Arsalan Butt

Pakistan made important gains in restoring **macroeconomic stability** in 2025, after a prolonged period of volatility. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rose to around 2.7% in FY2025,¹ inflation fell sharply to about 4.5% from 23.4% the previous year, the current account moved into a modest surplus, and foreign exchange reserves increased.²

However, recent data³ indicates that stabilization has not yet translated into broad-based gains in household welfare. **Poverty and inequality** have increased after several years of successive, overlapping shocks. The national poverty rate is estimated at 28.9%, up from 21.9% in 2018–19. There is a significantly higher incidence of poverty in rural areas (36.2%) and pronounced disparities across provinces, including poverty levels of around 47% in Balochistan.⁴ Inequality has also increased, with the Gini coefficient rising to about 32.7, pointing to a widening gap in income distribution.

The 2025 Human Development Report places Pakistan in the “low” human development category, with a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.544 and a rank of 168th out of 193 countries. If adjusted for inequality, Pakistan’s HDI decreases by 33.1% to 0.364, while its Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value remains unchanged from 2023/2024 levels at 0.198. There has been modest improvement in its Gender Inequality Index value (0.536) and ranking (145th of 172 countries), as well as its Gender Development Index value (0.838).⁵

From a development perspective, deterioration in poverty and inequality matters because it affects the pace and inclusiveness of progress across multiple sectors. High poverty levels weaken household resilience, reduce families’ ability to invest in education and health, and leave communities exposed to future shocks. They also reinforce geographic inequalities, particularly in rural and climate-vulnerable areas where livelihoods are closely tied to agriculture, informal labour and fragile local markets. The central challenge for Pakistan is not just restoring stability, but also ensuring that stabilization leads to recovery in incomes, services and opportunities for the most vulnerable.

Food insecurity remains one of the clearest manifestations of fragile recovery. The latest Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024–2025⁶ indicates that the share of households experiencing food insecurity has risen to 24.35%, up from 15.92% in 2018–2019. Rural households are more affected (26.72%) than urban households (20.58%). This aligns with the broader picture of rising poverty and declining purchasing power, particularly among low-income households who spend a large share of their income on food. Persistent food insecurity has implications beyond hunger: it affects nutrition, health, learning outcomes and long-term productivity, especially for children and women. An estimated 54% of children in Pakistan are at risk of poor developmental outcomes.⁷ Widespread food insecurity also highlights the need for stronger links between social protection, food systems, climate resilience and livelihood recovery.

Amidst the challenges, there is also **clear and meaningful progress** in many areas. The latest HIES shows that core **maternal and child health** indicators have improved since 2018–2019 – indicating better service availability, enhanced community health outreach and growing trust in facility-based care, all of which reflect the success of government efforts to strengthen health systems with UN support. The most pronounced gains are in early childhood survival: neonatal mortality declined from 41 to 35 per 1,000 live births, and infant mortality fell from 60 to 47 per 1,000 in 2024–2025. These trends testify to sustained high-impact interventions to expand maternal health service coverage, with the most significant shift in skilled birth attendance (which rose from 71% to 84%), alongside increased antenatal coverage and early postnatal contact. Nevertheless, the data also indicates that improvements are unlikely to be uniform, with persistent urban-rural and provincial inequalities remaining a likely driver of uneven outcomes.⁸

While HIES data shows full **immunization** coverage rising only modestly from 76% to 78% among children between 12 and 23 months old, administrative health system data reports full immunization coverage among 83% of children. This difference is due to varying data sources: the former captures population-level coverage based on caregiver recall, whereas the latter reflects reach achieved through intensive campaigns and health facility reporting.

¹ Government of Pakistan, Finance Division, *Pakistan Economic Survey 2024–25: Highlights*, 2025.

² World Bank, *Macro Poverty Outlook, April 2026: Pakistan*, 2026.

³ Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, *Preliminary Report on Poverty Estimation 2024–25*, 2026.

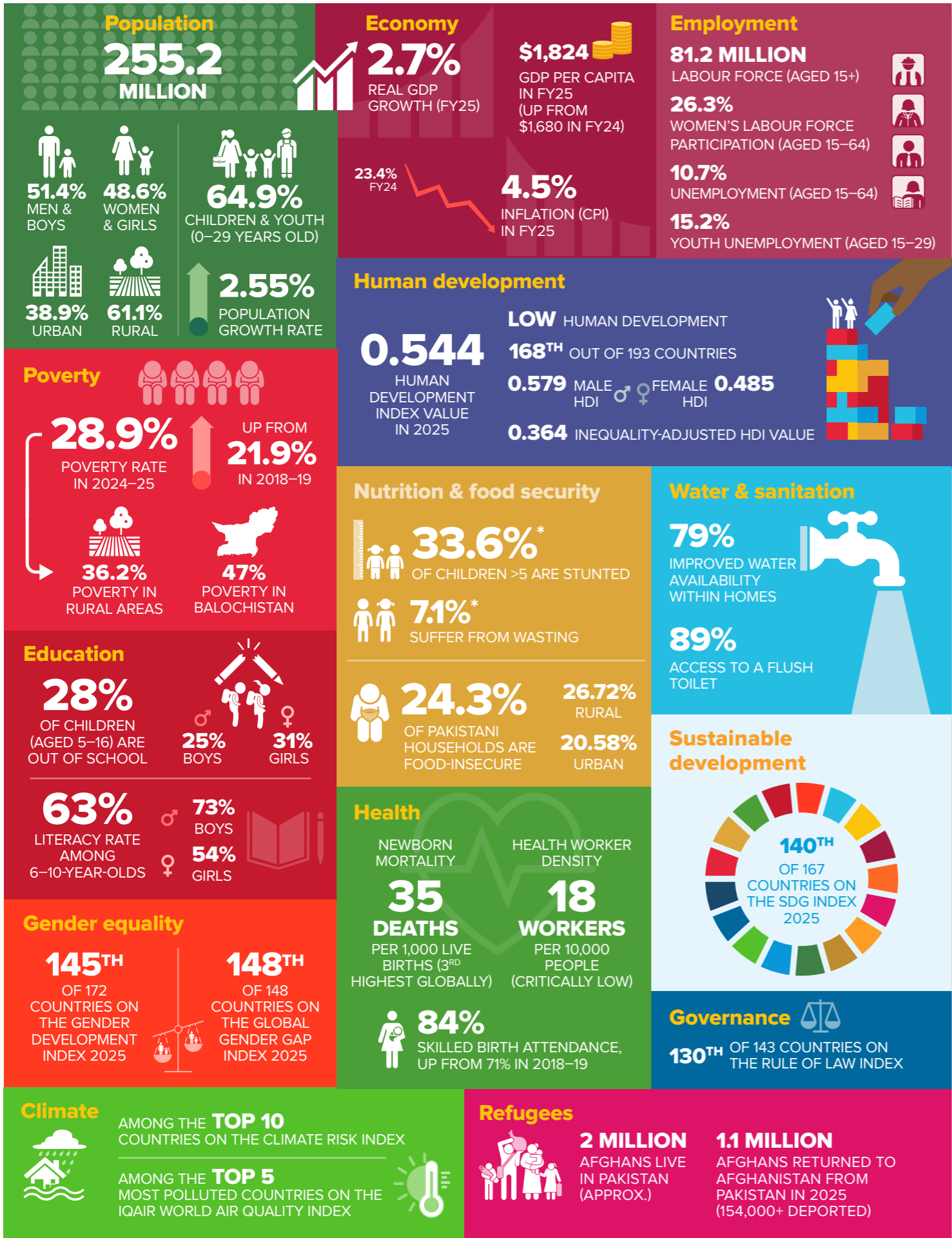
⁴ Ibid.

⁵ UNDP, “Pakistan: Human Development Progress Slows to a 35-year Low According to UNDP’s 2025 Human Development Report”, 6 May 2025.

⁶ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024–25: Final Results Presentation*, 2025.

⁷ UNICEF, *Countdown to 2030: Country Profiles on Early Childhood Development – Pakistan*, 2025.

⁸ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024–25: Final Results Presentation*, 2025.



Both measures indicate progress, but also highlight the need to accelerate routine immunization efforts to reach the target of 90% coverage. More modest gains in immunization compared to maternal health services likely reflect structural and behavioural bottlenecks – including service delivery disruption, vaccine hesitancy and persistent access barriers in hard-to-reach areas. Pakistan is also one of the world's two remaining polio-endemic countries. Progress is gaining pace on polio eradication, with 31 reported cases in 2025, down from 74 cases in 2024.⁹

Similarly, progress on **education** indicators is underway, but the pace of change remains too slow to meet SDG 4 targets. Literacy among children aged 10 and above increased from 60% in 2018–2019 to 63% in 2024–2025, the primary net enrolment rate (NER) for children aged 6–10 rose marginally from 66% to 68%, while the proportion of out-of-school children (OOSC) between 5 and 16 years old declined from 30% to 28%.¹⁵ The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for youth literacy improved from 81 to 86, and primary-level GPI from 92 to 96.

In other areas, **progress is incremental, rather than transformative**. In essence, improvements are not occurring at the speed or scale needed to achieve many Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets by 2030. Pakistan's universal health coverage (UHC) service coverage index value reached 56 (data from 2023, the latest available year),¹⁰ reflecting steady progress since 2015 (40) but remaining far off the SDG target of 80. Major health-related challenges persist.¹¹ An estimated 62 million people in Pakistan cannot afford healthcare. The country has only 18 health workers per 10,000 people – far below the recommended international threshold of 44.5. Public health investment remains under 1% of GDP. On average, households cover 47% of health-related costs.¹² Pakistan faces a high and growing burden of non-communicable diseases, as well as of communicable diseases – including the highest number of people living with Hepatitis C globally.¹³

This suggests that gender gaps are narrowing, especially at entry levels of education. Yet, despite gradual progress, the scale of unfinished business is immense.¹⁶ Given Pakistan's rapid population growth rate, the absolute number of out-of-school children (over 25.1 million)¹⁷ remains among the highest globally. Rising poverty, repeated shocks and growing inequality affect whether households can keep children in school, access essential services, or benefit from new opportunities. The data also strongly suggests that the education system continues to face deep-rooted structural constraints – from shortages of qualified teachers to low learning quality and large distances to schools. Entrenched social norms, child marriage and safety concerns create particular barriers for adolescent girls. These challenges slow the pace of large-scale, sustained gains in enrolment, retention and learning outcomes.

Improvements in **nutrition** are apparent, with the prevalence of stunting falling below 30% in Punjab, alongside gains in early childhood development. Nevertheless, Pakistan remains off track on several SDG and World Health Assembly nutrition targets. The country faces a triple burden of malnutrition, with very high rates of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency and increasing trends of people being overweight/obesity.¹⁴

At the same time, the rapid expansion of **digital access** offers an important opening for more inclusive service delivery, learning and livelihoods. Household internet access has increased to 70% (up from 34% in 2018–2019) and the share of individuals using the internet has reached 57% (up sharply from 17%). Realizing this potential, however, will require closing persistent gaps in affordability, skills, and access for women, rural populations and low-income communities, so that digital progress helps narrow inequalities rather than reinforce them.

⁹ WHO, "Pakistan, WHO Have Protected 160 Million Children and 130 Million Mothers With Life-saving Vaccines Over 5 Decades", 22 April 2026.
¹⁰ WHO, *Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2025 Global Monitoring Report*, 2025.
¹¹ WHO, *WHO Pakistan Investment Case - Act Now for Integrated Health*, March 2025.
¹² Ibid.
¹³ WHO, "Pakistan and WHO Aim to Intensify Hepatitis C Prevention to Avert 850,000 Deaths and 1 Million New Infections", 3 August 2025.
¹⁴ Government of Pakistan, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Nutrition Wing, *National Nutrition Survey 2018: Key Findings Report*, 2019.

¹⁵ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Household Integrated Economic Survey 2024-25*, 2025.
¹⁶ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024-25: Final Results Presentation*, 2025.
¹⁷ Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Pakistan Institute of Education, *Pakistan Education Statistics 2023-24*, 2024.

INFOGRAPHIC SOURCES | **Population**: UNFPA, "Pakistan Population 2025", 2025 (data on the size of the population); Government of Pakistan, Finance Division, *Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25*, 2025 (data on population growth); Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *7th Population and Housing Census*, 2023 (all other population data in the infographic). **Economy**: Government of Pakistan, Finance Division, *Highlights: Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25*, 2025; World Bank, *Macro Poverty Outlook, April 2026: Pakistan*, 2026 (inflation data). **Employment**: Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2024-25*, 2025. **Human development**: UNDP, *Human Development Report 2025: A Matter of Choice*, 2026. **Poverty**: Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, *Preliminary Report on Poverty Estimation 2024-25*, 2026. **Nutrition & food security**: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Household Integrated Economic Survey 2024-25*, 2025 (food insecurity data); FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 – Addressing High Food Price Inflation for Food Security and Nutrition*, 2025 (stunting and wasting data). Note: These are the latest UN estimates available. The last *National Nutrition Survey 2018* identified a 40.2% rate of stunting and a 17.7% rate of wasting. **Water & sanitation**: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Household Integrated Economic Survey 2024-25*, 2025. **Education**: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Household Integrated Economic Survey 2024-25*, 2025. **Health**: WHO, *WHO Pakistan Investment Case - Act Now for Integrated Health*, March 2025 (data on health workforce density); Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Household Integrated Economic Survey 2024-25*, 2025 (all other health data in the infographic). **Sustainable development**: SDSN, "SDG Index 2025: Pakistan", 2025. **Gender equality**: UNDP, *Human Development Report 2025: A Matter of Choice*, 2026 (GDI data); World Economic Forum, *Global Gender Gap Report 2025: Insight Report*, 2025 (gender gap data). **Governance**: World Justice Project, *Rule of Law Index 2025*, 2025. **Climate**: GermanWatch, *Climate Risk Index 2025: Who Suffers Most from Extreme Weather Events?*, 2025; IQAir, *World Air Quality Report 2025*, 2025. **Refugees**: UNHCR, *Pakistan Operational Update: December 2025*, 2025.

Challenges remain particularly pronounced for **vulnerable groups**, including women, children, minorities, refugees and asylum-seekers. For more than four decades, Pakistan has provided refuge to millions of Afghans. However, since the introduction of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFRP) in 2023, the safety, rights and well-being of forcibly displaced Afghans in Pakistan have become increasingly constricted.¹⁸ Over 1.9 million Afghans have returned to Afghanistan since September 2023 (1.1 million in 2025 alone), with increased reports of evictions, police harassment, arrests and deportations. Movement restrictions hamper access to services and livelihoods, resulting in serious financial strain for many households.¹⁹

Pakistan's stabilization path remains closely linked to the continuation of its International Monetary Fund (IMF)-supported **reform programme**. The 37-month Extended Fund Facility approved in September 2024 continued through 2025, with the first review completed in May 2025, alongside the approval of support under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility.

The reform agenda has helped anchor fiscal consolidation, tax reforms and energy pricing adjustments, all of which are central to restoring sustainability over the medium-term.

But these measures also come with social trade-offs. A narrow tax base, high public debt and energy sector inefficiencies continue to constrain fiscal space for development spending, making it even more important that reform is accompanied by stronger protection for low-income households and sustained investment in human development.

Pakistan's outlook also remains shaped by a **volatile global environment**. World growth is expected to remain modest, while trade and investment conditions continue to be affected by conflict, geopolitical tensions, policy uncertainty and shifting supply chains. For Pakistan, these external dynamics matter immensely. They ultimately dictate energy prices, export demand, financing conditions and overall investor confidence. Even where domestic stabilization gains are impressive, a volatile global environment can slow the pace at which recovery translates into jobs, improved household welfare and human development gains.



¹⁸ UNHCR, *Pakistan Multi-year Strategy 2025–2027*, 2025.
¹⁹ UNHCR, *Pakistan Operational Update: December 2025*, 2025.



Children play to the camera during a visit by vaccinator Aftab Hussain to their community near Lyari General Hospital, in Karachi, Sindh, where he works in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) section © UNICEF/Sayna Bashir

CHAPTER 2

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027** is the framework for cooperation between the UN and the Government of Pakistan. It outlines how the UN will support Pakistan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by focusing on five interlinked and mutually reinforcing outcomes that are fully aligned with national priorities.

The Cooperation Framework guides the coherent, integrated and streamlined achievement of results by UN agencies – who work together “as one”, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team – in partnership with the Government of Pakistan, development partners, donors, civil society, academia and, above all, the people of Pakistan.



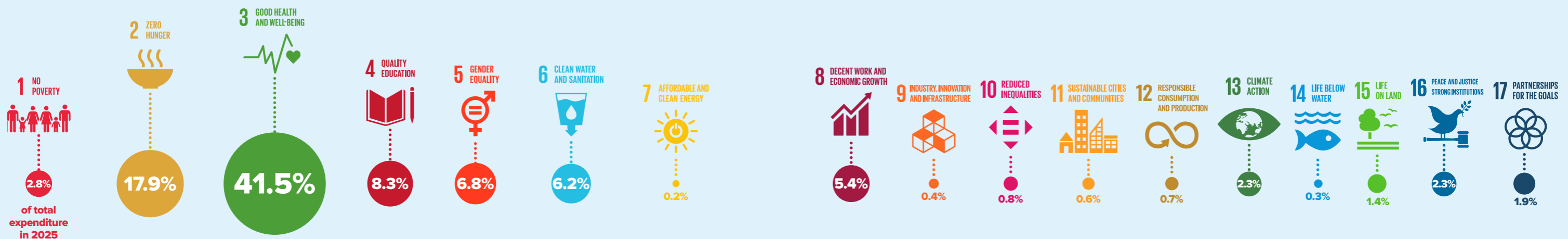
HOW UN INTERVENTIONS IN PAKISTAN CONTRIBUTED TO THE SDGS IN 2025



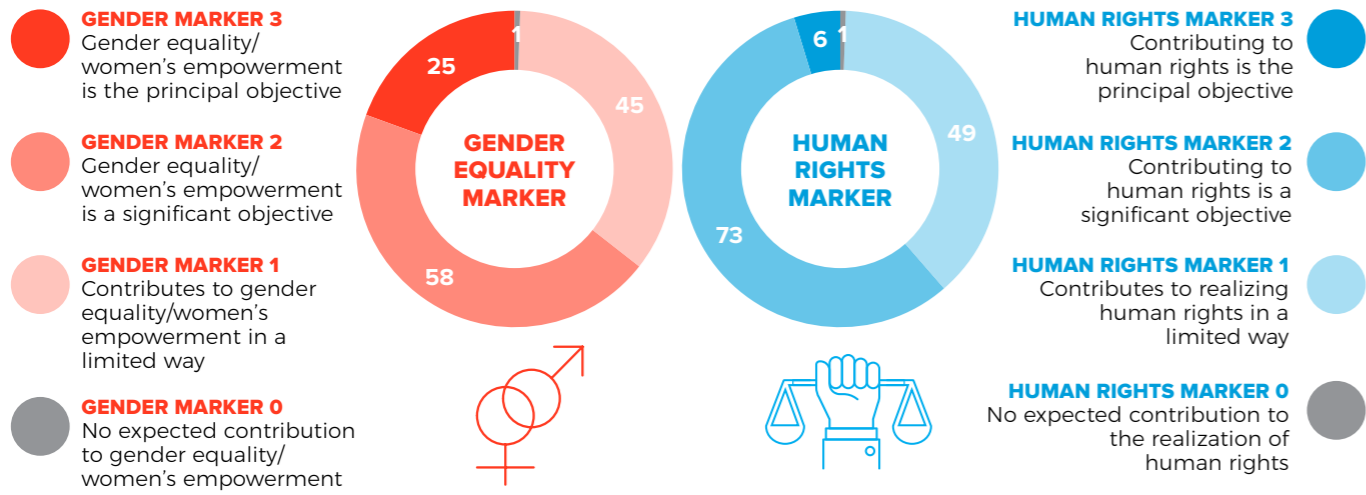
Note: A programmatic intervention may contribute to multiple SDGs. Therefore, the total number of interventions presented here should not be summed.



BREAKDOWN OF 2025 EXPENDITURE BY SDG



HOW UN INTERVENTIONS IN PAKISTAN CONTRIBUTED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2025



- GENDER MARKER 3**
Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective
- GENDER MARKER 2**
Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective
- GENDER MARKER 1**
Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way
- GENDER MARKER 0**
No expected contribution to gender equality/women's empowerment

- HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER 3**
Contributing to human rights is the principal objective
- HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER 2**
Contributing to human rights is a significant objective
- HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER 1**
Contributes to realizing human rights in a limited way
- HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER 0**
No expected contribution to the realization of human rights

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY SUPPORT

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

With our partners, the UN in Pakistan co-designs solutions that strengthen systems and amplify results. Policies are the bedrock on which strong systems are built. That is why high-impact policy support is a core part of UN efforts in Pakistan. Throughout 2025, the UN supported Pakistan's federal and provincial governments to develop evidence-based frameworks – laws, policies, strategies, plans and programmes – that accelerate progress on national priorities and lay a solid foundation for a prosperous, inclusive and resilient Pakistan in which no one is left behind.

EXAMPLES OF POLICY FRAMEWORKS DEVELOPED WITH UN SUPPORT IN 2025



HEALTH

- National Immunization Strategy
- National Behaviour Change Communication Strategy
- National Health and Population Policy
- National Vaccine Production Policy
- National HIV&AIDS Advocacy and Communication Strategy
- National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan 2.0
- National Nursing and Midwifery Framework
- Expanded Programme on Immunization-Polio Eradication Initiative (EPI-PEI) Synergy Framework
- National Resilience-Building Strategic Framework
- National Action Plan on Family Planning (extended)
- Immunization Strategies in all four provinces
- Balochistan Health Sector Transformation Plan 2026–2035
- Sindh Health Policy
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Financing Strategy
- Reproductive Health Rights Bills in Balochistan and Punjab (drafts)



WATER & SANITATION

- Punjab Climate Resilient WASH Sector Development Plan 2025–2035
- Balochistan Climate Resilient WASH Sector Plan
- Balochistan WASH Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan
- Balochistan Water Resources Management Bill (draft)
- Destination Improvement and Management Plans for Ramsar lakes in Sindh
- Gilgit-Baltistan Water Policy (draft)



EDUCATION

- Joint Education Sector Reviews
- Integration of equity, inclusion and climate resilience in draft education frameworks in Balochistan



SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Social Protection Strategy

NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

- National Strategy on Anaemia Reduction among Adolescents Girls
- Legislation promoting breastfeeding and child nutrition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh
- Institutionalization of nutrition in the National Health and Population Policy 2026–2035, the Early Childhood Development Policy and the National Disaster Management Plan
- Strategic National Action Plan to strengthen the food control system
- Strategic National Action Plan on phytosanitary measures



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- National Roadmap for the Formalization of SMEs and Workers
- Provincial plans, regulations and policies to enhance business environments and agri-business
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Labour Policy (revised)



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

- National Gender Parity Framework
- Federal Wage Reform Roadmap
- Labour code reforms in Punjab and Sindh
- Child Marriage Restraint Acts in Islamabad Capital Territory and Balochistan
- Islamabad Domestic Violence Act
- Sexual violence response frameworks in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



GOOD GOVERNANCE

- 12 sectoral roadmaps under the Prime Minister's Strategic Reforms Roadmap
- National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
- National Action Plan 2026–2030 to counter the smuggling of migrants
- National AI Strategy (draft)
- Five Criminal Justice Acts in Balochistan
- Sindh Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Reform Bill
- National Housing Policy (draft)
- Balochistan Community-led Local Governance Policy under Union Council Development Plans



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0)
- National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2025–2035
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- National Action Roadmap to Reduce Plastic Pollution
- National Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy
- Karachi Climate Action Plan
- Balochistan Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy



1 OUTCOME



BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

AGENCIES

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

KEY SDGS

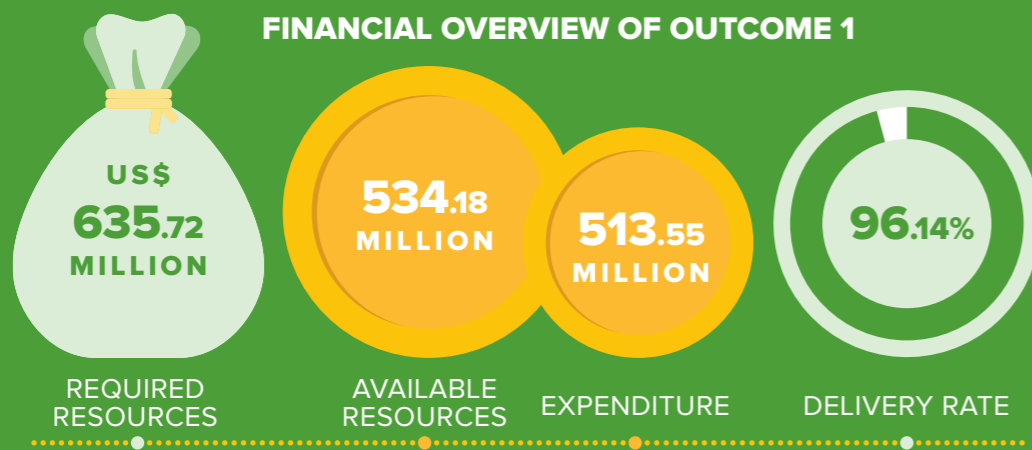


TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACTS ACHIEVED WITH UN SUPPORT

STRENGTHENED HEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES	IMPROVED NUTRITION SYSTEMS AND SERVICES	EXPANDED WASH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES	ENHANCED EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND SERVICES	SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

Photos (left to right): © UNICEF/Saiyna Bashir; © WFP/Anam Abbas; © UNICEF/Asad Zaidi; © UNDP; © UNOPS

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF OUTCOME 1



REAL LIVES MASOOD'S STORY

The unsung heroes protecting Pakistan's children from polio

"I couldn't walk because of polio, so my brother used to carry my bag to school every day. When other children were playing at school, I could only watch them and feel sad," explains Masood. "That is why I took up the vaccinator course to help protect children from this disabling disease."

Masood, from Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is one of over 14,000 vaccinators supported by WHO under the Pakistan Expanded Programme on Immunization. Vaccinators like him provide critical support to Pakistan's polio eradication goal in Peshawar – a poliovirus hotspot and hub of further transmission – and supplement the work of over 400,000 WHO-trained polio workers who, multiple times a year, go door to door to immunize over 45 million children against paralytic polio.

At the civil dispensary, Masood vaccinates about 3,000 children every year. But his role goes beyond vaccination. He also serves as a powerful advocate for immunization. When parents hesitate or refuse vaccines for their children, Masood steps in, not just as a health worker but as someone who has endured the harsh reality of a preventable lifelong disease. "I encourage parents to ensure that their children are vaccinated on time so that they can prevent these diseases. These vaccine-preventable diseases sometimes have no treatment and can result in total disability or death," he says. "I give them my example: Look at me, and the pain I endure. If you don't vaccinate, the same fate could befall your child."



“

I couldn't walk because of polio. [...] That is why I took up the vaccinator course to help protect children from this disabling disease.”

- Masood, Polio Vaccinator

Above: UN-supported polio teams vaccinate a child in Rawalpindi, Punjab, during the national vaccination campaign in October 2025 © WHO/Suzanna Masih
Below: Masood, himself a polio survivor, vaccinates a child in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, providing vital protection from the debilitating disease © WHO

IMPACT



Strengthened health systems and services

The UN supported the Government of Pakistan to **strengthen health systems** nationwide. By the end of 2025, 18 national and sub-national health policies and strategies were in place, up from two in 2021 – laying the foundation for transforming service delivery and system resilience. National milestones achieved with UN assistance this year include the development of the National Immunization Strategy, the Behaviour Change Communication Strategy the Health and Population Policy, the Vaccine Production Policy, the HIV&AIDS Advocacy and Communication Strategy, the Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan 2.0, the Nursing and Midwifery Framework, the Expanded Programme on Immunization-Polio Eradication Initiative (EPI-PEI) Synergy Framework, the Resilience-Building Strategic Framework, and the extension of the Action Plan on Family Planning. New provincial frameworks include Immunization Strategies in all four provinces, Balochistan’s Health Sector Transformation Plan 2026–2035, Sindh’s Health Policy, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Health Financing Strategy, and draft Reproductive Health Rights Bills in Balochistan and Punjab. To translate policy into practice, the UN developed evidence-based guidelines on kangaroo mother care, home-based newborn care, post-pregnancy family planning, and hypertension – advancing standardized quality of care.

Progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) continued with UN assistance for the implementation of health frameworks and benefit packages. Scaling up the District Health Information System (DHIS2) in 66 districts provided evidence to inform decision-making, as did the national SDG 3 monitoring platform and the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Monitoring Report.

Systems strengthening translated into tangible service delivery, coverage and quality gains. Pakistan registered **landmark achievements in immunization** with UN support. Full immunization coverage reached 83% according to administrative health system data, and the number of zero-dose children declined by 31% since 2019. The measles-rubella campaign vaccinated over 34 million children, while HPV vaccinations protected 9.6 million girls from cervical cancer risks. The “Big Catch-Up” campaign reached 2.3 million zero-dose children, significantly narrowing immunity gaps among previously unreached populations. Across the country, the Routine Immunization Programme successfully reached 6.8 million children, and routine and special campaigns protected a cumulative total of 49.1 million children and women. UN assistance in procurement, distribution and supply chain strengthening facilitated these gains. Key achievements include establishing 26 climate-resilient, solar-powered EPI centres, delivering comprehensive capacity building, and enhancing frontline worker mobility with 900 motorbikes.

Intensive vaccination efforts led to a **decline in wild poliovirus cases**, from 74 in 2024 to 31 in 2025, and zero cases reported in transmission hotspots like Quetta and Peshawar. The UN supported government efforts to **eradicate polio** through six large-scale campaigns, each vaccinating 45 million children (achieving almost 99% coverage), including 1.9 million children from vulnerable migrant and mobile communities. In high-risk areas, 2.02 million children received fractional inactivated polio vaccine (fIPV) doses to boost immunity, while the first-ever extended age fractional IPV campaign reached 1.3 million children between 4 months and 15 years old in Lahore. A comprehensive transit vaccination strategy vaccinated over 14.5 million people at key transit sites like airports, cross-border points and inter-provincial and inter-district transit points to reduce the risk of polio virus transmission. The UN procured and delivered 293.3 million doses of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV), with no stock-outs reported, and supported six large-scale house-to-house vaccination campaigns, two special vaccination rounds in areas bordering Afghanistan, and an integrated campaign that delivered oral polio vaccines during the national EPI-led measles and rubella vaccination campaign. These efforts were reinforced by Pakistan’s extensive polio virus surveillance network – covering 12,852 health facilities and 127 environmental sites – which systematically identified and reported suspected cases for testing, while testing sewage samples to rapidly detect and respond to outbreaks.

With UN support, integrated **primary healthcare** interventions benefitted 9.4 million women, newborns, children, adolescents and members of vulnerable groups, including in underserved areas. Nationwide, 99 districts implemented **maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH)** interventions aligned with the Essential Package of Health Services – up from no districts in 2021, reflecting the transformative expansion of service delivery across the continuum of reproductive, maternal and child healthcare. Impactful, cost-effective interventions improved MNCH outcomes, such as scaling up kangaroo mother care in 17 districts, home-base newborn care in 13 districts and newborn data systems in 19 districts. So did support for 161 healthcare facilities, which provided antenatal care to 676,000 women, ensured 100,000 safe deliveries with skilled birth attendants, and delivered postnatal care to 80,000 mothers.

In **emergency settings**, lifesaving services, medicines and supplies reached 4.82 million host community members and Afghan refugees with UN support, ensuring access to essential healthcare in some of Pakistan’s most fragile and underserved areas. Mobile health camps and units delivered services to remote, flood-affected and Afghan refugee communities. This pragmatic approach helped 7,135 refugees safely access primary healthcare. School- and community-based outreach increased health awareness and service utilization among 11,783 people (60% Afghan nationals).

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

34 million children were vaccinated by the measles-rubella campaign

49.1 million children & women were protected with vaccines via UN-supported routine and special vaccination campaigns

2.3 million zero-dose children were reached by the “Big Catch-Up” campaign

1.26 million children in Lahore were reached by the world’s first citywide fractional IPV campaign

Full immunization coverage reached **83%** according to administrative health system data

6 polio eradication campaigns supported by the UN each vaccinated **45 million children**

18 national & sub-national health policies/strategies are in place across Pakistan, up from just **2 policies** in 2021 – laying the foundation for transforming service delivery and system resilience



Rakhil, a nurse at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, cares for a child after cancer treatment. With UN support, over 8,000 children in Pakistan have gained access to free, quality-assured cancer medicines © WHO/Sara Akmal



Above: Fatima feeds her child nutritious food as part of UN-supported efforts to improve maternal and child health in Khaplu, Gilgit-Baltistan ©UNICEF/Zaib Khalid Below: Bushra, a Lady Health Worker in Khaplu, shares nutritional advice with mothers like Fatima, transforming local health outcomes © UNICEF/Zaib Khalid

REAL LIVES BUSHRA'S STORY

Health workers empowering families for a healthier tomorrow

In Gilgit-Baltistan's Khaplu Valley, villages are isolated, and healthcare is a distant luxury for many. **Bushra**, a Lady Health Worker, has been quietly transforming lives in this region for over 13 years. Every day, she visits homes in her community, offering guidance on maternal and child health, family planning and nutrition. "At least three or four pregnancy-related deaths used to occur per year," Bushra recalls about the early days of her service. "The situation was heart-breaking." Today, thanks to Lady Health Workers like her, things couldn't be more different. "Now, we have almost no maternal deaths," she says. "That is my greatest achievement in all these years."

One of the biggest challenges in the area was a lack of nutrition awareness. For years, children were given salty tea, often replacing meals. "The tea caused iron deficiency, high blood pressure and gut issues," Bushra explains. Through initiatives supported by UNICEF, the Child Investment Fund Foundation and the District Health Office, Bushra and her colleagues are empowering families to adopt healthier eating habits. "We are seeing mothers gradually understand the importance of breastfeeding, not just for the health of their babies but also for their own well-being," says Naheed Fatima, Lady Health Supervisor. Elsewhere in Pakistan, integrated approaches like HealthWISE are empowering health workers through improved working conditions and capacities, translating into better quality care for patients. With UN support across the country, health workers like Bushra are saving lives day by day.



“Our work is not just about health and nutrition; it’s about changing lives and empowering communities.”

- Bushra, Lady Health Worker

Strengthening **logistics and supply chains** enhanced the availability of essential medicines, vaccines, and maternal and newborn health commodities, complemented by the provision of cold chain equipment and the distribution of 887 metric tonnes of medical and emergency supplies. Supporting access to free, quality-assured cancer medicines secured lifesaving care for 8,000 children. Five hospitals adopted the HealthWISE tool to improve health workers' safety, working conditions and well-being, which in turn enhanced patient care. **Clean energy solutions** pioneered with UN assistance – like solarizing public health facilities and five EPI warehouses, and installing 30 PSA oxygen plants at major hospitals, replete with solar systems – ensured the uninterrupted continuity of services, even in emergencies, bolstering resilience and environmental sustainability.

Sustained investments in systems' strengthening enhanced **integrated disease surveillance**, with remarkable results for disease prevention and response. Timely investigation, targeted public health measures and coordinated action with health authorities enabled the UN to respond to 1,346 disease alerts and manage 239 outbreaks of communicable diseases. Over 20,500 dengue cases in Sindh were effectively managed, and dengue transmission in Rawalpindi, Punjab, was controlled through prompt treatment, resulting in zero dengue-related deaths. The malaria surveillance system recorded 283,000 confirmed cases. With UN support, malaria treatment reached 75% of populations in endemic areas, up from 52% in 2020 – reflecting improvements in case management, timely diagnosis and treatment. Tuberculosis (TB) treatment coverage rose to 74% from 48% in 2020. The UN-backed Stop TB Partnership procured medicines and equipment worth US\$3.68 million for Pakistan's National TB Programme, and distributed grants of US\$1.16 million to local NGOs and CSOs to screen and refer people for treatment. Support for the National Hepatitis C Elimination Campaign included facilitating the donation and transportation of direct-acting antivirals from Egypt. Progress gained pace on the prevention, control and elimination of neglected

tropical diseases, with two leprosy control projects completed and deworming interventions reaching 45 million children. The UN supported the Government to launch the multi-sectoral One Health initiative, a forward-looking approach to pandemic preparedness that will improve capacities to detect, prevent and respond to zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and public health emergencies.

With UN assistance, four **HIV** testing campaigns in high-burden areas of Sindh and Punjab identified and referred 3,915 cases for treatment, and sensitized 700,000 people on prevention and safe injection practices. The development of the National HIV/AIDS Advocacy and Communication Strategy is a major step towards reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV. The UN procured lifesaving anti-retroviral diagnostics and opiate agonist maintenance treatment medications for the national HIV response, and trained 430 healthcare providers to prevent mother-to-child transmission and treat children living with HIV. Support for community-based organizations expanded prevention services, reaching 430,303 members of key populations with HIV prevention packages, including transgender persons, high-risk men and women sex workers. Collaboration with the Government of Sindh advanced pre-exposure prophylaxis – marking a leap forward for Pakistan's HIV response by increasing access to HIV prevention tools. National and provincial authorities institutionalized **non-communicable disease (NCD)** prevention and management within primary healthcare with UN support, enhancing capacities to address cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer. Training boosted the readiness of the healthcare workforce, bolstered by national hypertension guidelines and a tobacco control toolkit. Diagnostic equipment enabled early detection and the continuity of care, while awareness campaigns promoted NCD prevention. As work continued on a National Mental Health Policy, training doctors, teachers and officials laid the foundation for a coordinated mental health response in Pakistan Administered Kashmir.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

9.4 million women, newborns, children, adolescents and vulnerable groups benefitted from integrated primary healthcare



99 districts implemented MNCH aligned with the Essential Package of Health Services, up from **0 districts** in 2021, reflecting transformative service expansion



Deworming interventions reached **45 million children**



430,300+ members of key populations were protected by HIV prevention packages



■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

3.9
million children
& women
accessed lifesaving integrated
nutrition and health services
through Benazir Nashonuma

304,138
children were treated for
severe acute malnutrition

4.82
million people
(host community members and
Afghan refugees) received
lifesaving services and
medicines during emergencies

450,000
flood-affected people
received food aid and
cash assistance

IMPACT 
Improved nutrition systems and services

Improved nutrition outcomes testify to the transformative impact of sustained UN support. For example, the prevalence of stunting has fallen below 30% in Punjab thanks to government-led, UN-supported multi-sectoral programmes and nutrition services. The Benazir Nashonuma Programme continued delivering lifesaving integrated nutrition, health and social behaviour change services with UN assistance – benefitting 3.9 million women and children across 158 districts through 542 facilitation centres. Stunting prevalence is 20% lower among 6-month-olds and 6.4 percentage points lower among 2-year-olds who participated in Nashonuma compared to other children in their age groups. Nationwide, 138,000 severely malnourished children with medical complications received treatment, as did 304,138 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Over 37.3 million children received two rounds of Vitamin A supplementation, 722,869 adolescent girls received iron and folic acid supplements, and 668,502 pregnant women received multiple micronutrient supplements through UN support for government efforts to expand child, adolescent and maternal nutrition services. In Balochistan, community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) services expanded treatment coverage to 42% (up from 35% in 2022), while a cash-for-food security pilot in Jamshoro, Sindh, showcased an innovative model for addressing vulnerability and improving diets. Key family care practices were adopted across 122 districts (up from 13 in 2021), and nutrition actions were linked to social protection in 157 districts – measures that will transform children’s nutrition, survival and growth.

Policy development and strengthened nutrition data systems set the stage for further improvements. Evidence on the drivers of adolescent malnutrition informed the development of a National Strategy on Anaemia Reduction among Adolescents Girls with the support of the UN and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. With UN assistance, provincial governments developed

Integrating action across sectors, amplifying results

Cross-sectoral integration is the most striking, and most effective, feature of UN support for Pakistan in 2025. Strengthened health, nutrition, WASH, education and social protection systems converged to improve child survival, early childhood development and community well-being. Education initiatives integrating WASH, climate resilience and digital transformation enhanced the continuity and quality of learning. Nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive social protection enabled recovery in flood-affected districts. By convening partners, providing technical expertise and piloting scalable solutions, the UN supported Pakistan to transition from fragmented interventions to integrated, inclusive, climate-resilient and sustainable systems. Scaled-up, integrated service delivery translated system-level reforms into measurable gains in access to, and the utilization of, essential services – especially for women, children, adolescents and vulnerable groups. **Investing in integrated basic social services is not a cost – it is a catalyst for resilience.** By investing in these services, Pakistan is investing in its people. A healthy, well-nourished, educated and protected population is the backbone of productivity and sustainability. Every dollar channelled into enhancing systems and service delivery multiplies in return – saving lives, reducing future costs and fuelling prosperity.

legislation on breastfeeding and child nutrition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh, while mobilizing domestic funds and leveraging global financing mechanisms like the Child Nutrition Fund to ensure sustainability. Nutrition was **institutionalized within key national frameworks** – including the National Health and Population Policy 2026–2035, the Early Childhood Development Policy and the National Disaster Management Plan – to guide coordinated, multi-sectoral action. Rolling out the DHIS 2 Nutrition Module in 72 districts, paired with capacity building, expanded the availability of data to inform decision-making.




REAL LIVES **SAFIA AND MEESUM'S STORY**

Transforming the future through better nutrition

Safia holds her breath as a health worker wraps a coloured tape around her son’s tiny arm. The measurement reads 12.6 cm – green. He has finally reached a healthy weight. Safia exhales in relief. *“When Meesum was born, he was so small that I feared I would lose him,”* Safia explains. *“I didn’t know what to feed him or how to help him grow.”* At the Benazir Nashonuma Programme facilitation centre in Babber Store village in Kotri, Sindh, she learned all this and more. Each visit brought specialized nutritious food and transformed her understanding of nutrition through sessions on breastfeeding, complementary feeding and hygiene. *“I used to believe goat’s milk was best for newborns,”* says Safia. *“Now I know the first milk, colostrum, protects a baby for life.”*

Launched under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and supported by WFP, Nashonuma pairs cash assistance with nutritious food, maternal health services and behaviour change communication. The principle is simple but effective: combine these elements, and transformation follows. *“We see mothers becoming more confident,”* says Rida Zainab, a facilitation centre worker. *“They start asking questions, making better food choices, and encouraging others to join.”* The programme has reached 3.7 million mothers and children across Pakistan, with remarkable results. The prevalence of stunting is 6.4 percentage points lower among children under-2 who have participated in the programme. Thanks to Benazir Nashonuma, millions of mothers and children like Safia and Meesum are thriving.

 Above: A family shares a nutritious meal prepared with fortified flour fortified with local WFP-supported *chakki* mills © WFP/Dilawar Khan
Below: Safia and her children play after receiving nutrition support through the Benazir Nashonuma Programme © WFP/Anam Abbas



2 ZERO HUNGER  **3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 

“ We see mothers becoming more confident. They start asking questions, making better food choices, and encouraging others to join.”

- Rida Zainab, Facilitation Centre Worker



📷 Above: Varsha and her sibling smile as they drink safe water from a water collection point installed with UN support. © UNOPS
Below: Varsha and other children read together. Clean water in their homes has paved the way back to learning for children in their community © UNOPS

REAL LIVES VARSHA'S STORY

Clean water transforms lives and learning

"Fetching water from so far away from home took a lot of time and strength," says 13-year-old Varsha. Every morning, she and her family used to walk 3–4 kilometres to fetch water, carrying back the heavy drums on their heads. The water wasn't clean, but it was all there was. "Because of this, I could not go to school regularly," she explains. "Even though I got sick, I still drank that water because we had no other choice."

Varsha lives in the district of Umerkot, Sindh – one of Pakistan's poorest and most water-stressed regions. Here, access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation has long been a daily struggle. But today, life looks very different for Varsha and thousands of others in surrounding communities. With funding from the United States, UNOPS supported local authorities to upgrade critical infrastructure – improving access to clean water for more than 300,000 people in Umerkot and Tank. They upgraded drinking water supply schemes, built distribution networks and installed water collection points, bringing safe water directly to communities. Establishing a water testing laboratory ensures water quality monitoring and prevents water-borne illnesses – benefiting 164,000 people. *"Now, clean drinking water is available at our doorstep," says Varsha, smiling. "I feel the change. I go to school regularly and on time. I have time to study and play with my friends, and I feel healthy."* Her story shows the ripple effects of access to clean water: it opens doors to education, health, dignity and hope.



- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

“ Now, clean drinking water is available at our doorstep. I feel the change. I go to school regularly. I have time to study and play with my friends.”

- Varsha, student in Umerkot, Sindh

The UN **embedded nutrition in emergency response and preparedness** actions, prioritizing children and women. As part of the rapid large-scale emergency response to severe floods, 450,000 affected people received 1,820 metric tonnes of food aid and PKR934 million (US\$3.3 million) in cash assistance. A Food Security and Livelihood Assessment, and an acute malnutrition assessment in flood-affected areas of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, generated timely data to guide geographic targeting and adaptive responses. Integrating nutrition in climate risk management, anticipatory action and early warning mechanisms strengthened resilience in high-risk communities.

Public-private partnerships advanced **food fortification and the local production of specialized nutritious food**, increasing availability at scale. UN support strengthened provincial food systems – from assisting post harvest silo management in Sindh to strengthening the wheat flour fortification capacities of 150 small-scale (*chakki*) and large mills in Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir. Awareness raising and e-vouchers for fortified flour benefitted 15,000 families in Islamabad, Punjab and Balochistan. A blend of UN-backed financing and government-led efforts helped a domestic ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) supplier start meeting local needs – reducing dependence on imports and setting the stage for scaling up domestic supply. **Advocacy** efforts engaged parliamentarians, media professionals and religious leaders in establishing support systems for breastfeeding, and involved young people in initiatives to transform nutrition and food systems, including in school environments.

IMPACT Expanded WASH systems and services

The UN supported government partners to **improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** by strengthening systems and service delivery, including in disaster-affected areas.

As a result, 1.48 million people gained access to basic WASH services, as did 858,000 people in humanitarian settings. Providing WASH supplies to 667,100 disaster-affected people reduced public health risks, such as waterborne diseases. In Sindh and South Punjab, 536,285 people received timely, integrated multi-sectoral assistance – including climate resilience support for 56,476 people that reinforced community capacities to withstand shocks. Efforts to eliminate open defecation advanced disease prevention in 510 communities, benefitting 872,109 people and leading to the first district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Bannu) being declared “open defecation-free”.

Improving **WASH infrastructure** at health facilities through solar-powered water filtration systems benefitted 1 million people in climate change- and crisis-affected districts. Resilient infrastructure at 135 schools and 38 health facilities contributed to the continuity of education, especially for girls, while protecting patients and health workers. In 318 locations across Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, UN initiatives enhanced water supply schemes, built WASH infrastructure in education facilities, and worked with private sector partners to “solarize” public facilities – bolstering their climate resilience and functionality. Solarizing three hospitals in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will cut emissions by 1,000 tonnes of CO₂eq, while saving US\$400,000 in annual electricity costs. Over 173,000 people in Umerkot and Tank, Sindh, gained access to clean drinking water as UN initiatives with provincial and local authorities built and rehabilitated sustainable, low-maintenance water supply schemes. Sanitation and solid waste management interventions benefitted 25,000 refugees and host community members by repairing sewers and setting up garbage collection points. In Southern Punjab, 260 community infrastructure schemes improved access to WASH facilities for 54,054 people.

Policy frameworks developed with UN support laid the foundation for **strong climate-resilient WASH systems**, including Punjab's Climate Resilient WASH Sector Development Plan 2025–2035 and Balochistan's Climate

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

1.48 million people gained access to basic WASH services, as did **858,000 people** in humanitarian settings

667,110 disaster-affected people received essential WASH supplies, reducing public health risks like waterborne diseases

The solarization of 3 hospitals will cut emissions by **1,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent**

872,100 people benefitted from efforts to eliminate open defecation

■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

70,620

out-of-school adolescents

returned to education through ALPs



729,440

children & youths

(51% girls) accessed learning and skilling opportunities



Enrolment increased by

45%

thanks to a school meals programme in Balochistan



49,290

refugee children

(41% girls) were supported to access primary education



Resilient WASH Sector Plan, WASH Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan, and district WASH climate-risk profiles. The institutionalization of the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASHFIT) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enhanced infection prevention and control at health facilities. With UN support, urban and peri-urban communities contributed to participatory settlement and climate-resilient WASH planning. In Gwadar and Lasbela, Balochistan, 500 community-led schemes boosted access to safely-managed, climate-resilient WASH services. Community engagement and awareness sessions sensitized 22,000 refugees and host community members on climate-resilient WASH services. Operationalizing a water testing laboratory in Umerkot, Sindh, and assistance for upgrading laboratories nationwide, improved water quality testing and water safety.

IMPACT

Enhanced education systems and services

With UN support, federal and provincial governments **strengthened education systems and expanded access to quality learning.** Enhancing provincial Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) and dashboards informed data-driven planning, while Joint Education Sector Reviews laid the foundation for strong education plans. Balochistan integrated equity, inclusion, environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience into draft education policies, plans and teacher development frameworks. Policy dialogue on climate-responsive education reforms aimed to safeguard learning continuity and promote the inclusion of marginalized groups.

With direct UN assistance, 729,445 children and youth (51% girls) gained **access to learning and skilling** opportunities, and 418,637 children to early grade learning. Flexible accelerated learning pathways (ALP) enabled 70,625 out-of-school adolescents and 1,189 refugee girls to return to education. An initiative with the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation expanded access to learning in remote areas via

140 interactive radio instruction programmes, 30 thematic programmes and 300 public service messages. The UN continued advocating for refugee children's right to education, and supported 49,292 refugee children (41% girls) to access primary education, and 4,881 refugees (46% girls) and 3,000 host community members to access secondary education.

Building the capacities of 39,355 educators (50% women) and engaging over 75,990 community members enhanced the quality of education and ensured local ownership of education initiatives and reforms. For example, building the capacities of 70 master trainers and 1,422 teachers (49% women) in 20 districts improved learning outcomes for 85,320 primary school students (48% girls). Training 3,188 community members on child protection, gender-based violence, mental health and psychosocial support advanced inclusive learning in refugee and host communities. Community engagement through Parent-Teacher Councils improved retention, proving that local ownership is the strongest buffer against school dropouts. Enhancing the capacities of 120 teachers and officials led to the application of global citizenship education (GCED) and education for sustainable development (ESD) pedagogies, with 10 model schools pioneering ESD practices. With UN support, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Directorate of Education trained 900 teachers (56% women) and established 600 early childhood education classrooms, securing quality early learning for 130,222 children (55% girls). In Sindh, training 155 officials improved school management, while 55,000 students and 1,500 teachers benefitted from content-based learning cycles. The launch of a Teachers' Continuous Professional Development Portal bolstered system-wide impact. Engaging parents, community leaders and 3,000 primary teachers advanced inclusive, gender-responsive **life skills-based education** (LSBE) in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. In Sindh, mainstreaming LSBE across government institutions fostered more inclusive learning environments for learners with disabilities. In Islamabad and Rawalpindi, LSBE and HIV prevention measures increased 1,007 transgender learners' resilience and preparedness for lifelong learning.



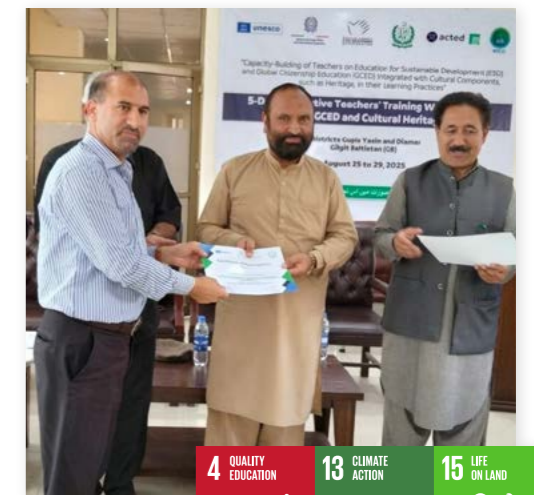
REAL LIVES HUSSAIN'S STORY

Above: Children in Dargai Refugee Village collect water from taps installed with UN support © UNHCR/Waseem Ahmad
Below: Mr Hussain receives his certificate for taking part in UN-supported GCED, ESD and cultural heritage training © UNESCO

Empowering students as environmental and heritage stewards

Amidst the peaks of Gupis-Yasin, Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr Hussain is creating a vibrant hub of sustainability. His story shows us how capacity building plants the seeds of change – and how this change can grow to empower communities. It began when Mr Hussain, Head Teacher of the Government Girls Middle School (GGMS) Tause, attended an intensive capacity building course – part of UNESCO's Radio Education Project, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The course was revelatory, deepening his understanding of global citizenship education, cultural heritage and education for sustainable development. Bridging theory with practice, he explored Pakistan's heritage during an exposure visit to Peshawar. Inspired, he brought these lessons back to his students.

Now under Mr Hussain's leadership, GGMS Tause is empowering students to protect the planet. They have built a school greenhouse, using fertilizers made from recycled waste to grow fresh organic vegetables that keep them nourished and healthy. The school doesn't just teach students the value of recycling, it shows them – introducing an eco-friendly waste disposal system with separate bins for plastic, paper and organic waste. To preserve local identity, students have curated a "museum corner" displaying handicrafts, tools and jewellery. The results of these innovations extend far beyond the classroom. Students are more creative and socially responsible, taking up the mantle of stewards of their heritage and the environment.



“ GGMS Tause proves that with dedicated leadership and the right support, even the most remote schools can lead the way to a sustainable future. **”**



📷 Above: Muzzamil is back in school thanks to the Integrated Education Management Information System, which helps ensure that no child is left behind. ©UNICEF/Roham Below: Muzzamil, his fellow students and their teacher celebrate being back at in school in Haripur © UNICEF/Roham

REAL LIVES MUZZAMIL'S STORY

Digital systems give every child a chance to learn

Two years ago, **Muzzamil Hussain's** parents came to a difficult decision. They could no longer afford the private school he attended in Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They had to pull him out of school. At just 13, Muzzamil quietly disappeared from the classroom. No one in his village thought he would return. That changed when his name appeared in the Integrated Education Management Information System (IEMIS) during a routine data update. Staff at the District Education Department saw that Muzzamil wasn't enrolled anywhere. They traced his record, contacted his family, and referred him to the nearest government school.

Muzzamil's return to education is a direct result of IEMIS – a system supported by UNICEF and the Global Partnership for Education that tracks everything from enrolment and attendance to infrastructure and resources. Through it, teachers can track students who miss school, and make sure that no child falls through the cracks. IEMIS also helps manage resources, revolutionizing evidence-based planning. *"We can see real-time gaps – whether a school needs more teachers, furniture, or repairs,"* explains Sardar Abdul Qayyum, Deputy District Education Officer. *"Budgeting and planning are no longer guesswork. Decisions are backed by accurate data."* Back in the classroom, Muzzamil is excited to continue his studies. He enjoys biology and hopes to be a teacher one day. Now, he has the chance to – thanks to data-driven solutions like IEMIS helping him, and millions of children, stay in school.



“ I am happy to be back in school. Education is my chance to build a better future and become a teacher one day.

- Muzzamil, student in Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

A **school meals** programme with the Government of Balochistan improved 20,861 students' nutrition and education – boosting enrolment by 45% and attendance by 15%. Conditional cash stipends helped 11,000 girls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts stay in school. Solarizing education facilities ensured the continuity of learning for 96,230 children during emergencies, as did emergency **infrastructure upgrades** for 78,887 children (43% girls). Investments in digital infrastructure supported system preparedness, while training 176 teachers and head teachers on artificial intelligence (AI) in Islamabad equipped them to use emerging technologies for teaching, learning and school leadership. In Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Administered Kashmir, setting up 80 smart classrooms in public primary schools for girls leveraged digital technologies for quality learning. UN initiatives also championed **youth engagement**, with 79,397 young people participating in policy dialogues and initiatives to advance climate action. Education and skills development programmes enhanced pathways to employment, entrepreneurship and civic participation for 310,808 adolescents and youth, as did training for 110 transgender learners on market-relevant vocational skills.

IMPACT Inclusive, shock-responsive social protection

UN support continued for **inclusive, shock-responsive social protection systems**. Pakistan joined Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions as a pathfinder country, signalling government commitment to integrated employment and social protection policies, increasing social protection coverage for vulnerable groups, and promoting formalization as a pathway to decent work. The digitalization of a coordinated singular beneficiary registry expanded the reach of social protection schemes to more than 800,000 beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The provincial government adopted a pioneering Social Protection Strategy with UN assistance, informed by a Social Protection Mapping Study that

pinpointed opportunities to strengthen social security for vulnerable groups, including women and youth. Capacity building strengthened monitoring and evaluation, including training 60 master trainers to oversee quality assurance among 500 field coordinators of large-scale beneficiary surveys. The UN supported Provincial Employees' Social Security Institutions to expand service coverage for vulnerable groups, including informal and trans-provincial workers, while improving the adequacy of social insurance benefits for secured workers. Frontline child protection services grew stronger across provinces with the operationalization of 42 district-level Child Protection Units.

Overall, 111,937 people directly benefitted from **UN-supported protection interventions**, including integrated social protection and livelihoods assistance, nutrition support and child protection. Emergency cash, food and multi-purpose assistance enabled disaster-affected households to survive and recover from severe floods. For example, multi-purpose cash assistance helped 13,650 people internally displaced by climate shocks meet their essential needs with dignity and flexibility. In Khairpur, Sindh, anticipatory cash assistance bolstered resilience among 2,200 households, benefitting 15,107 people. UN initiatives connected 7,000 households to social welfare schemes, Zakat and the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), including 150 families supported to secure Computerized National Identity Cards in brick kiln communities – a prerequisite for accessing social protection – and 5,000 households engaged in cash-for-work in the aftermath of major floods. The Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project protected communities from hunger by setting up seven food banks, delivering wheat grain to 9,993 households, and providing assets to 55,614 BISP families. With the support of the National Poverty Graduation Programme, 56% of beneficiary women graduated out of poverty. Legal assistance for 10,296 vulnerable people helped them access social protection entitlements. The UN also continued to deliver critical protection support for refugees through targeted material assistance.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

39,355 educations & 75,990 community members were engaged to enhance the quality and local ownership of education

34,200 people (49% women) received multi-purpose cash assistance, including people affected by disasters and climate shocks

111,930 people benefitted from integrated UN-supported protection interventions

Digitalization expanded the reach of social protection services to **800,000 beneficiaries**



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

AGENCIES

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

KEY SDGS

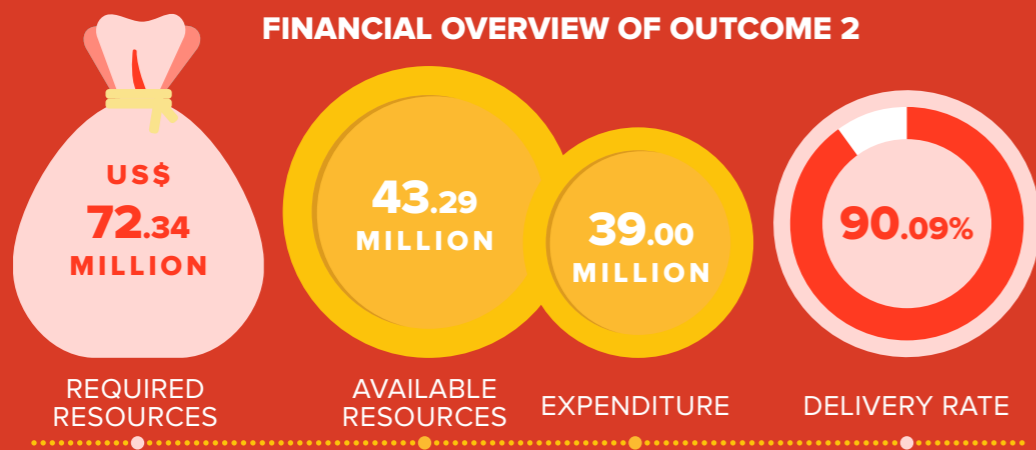


TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACTS ACHIEVED WITH UN SUPPORT

IMPROVED MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EQUALITY COMMITMENTS	STRONGER GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES AND FINANCING	INCREASED EFFORTS TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	GREATER PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND VULNERABLE GROUPS	MORE WOMEN ARE ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED

Photos (left to right): © UN Women; © UNDP; © ITC; © UNICEF/Fahad Ahmed; © UN Women

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF OUTCOME 2



Above: A woman officer conducts improved water quality testing in Gilgit-Baltistan in the context of the UN-supported Water for Development project © UNDP
Below: Ambia teaches Sakina, Farah, Nourzia, Farzana and Aliaa jewellery-making in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa © UNICEF/Simran

REAL LIVES AMBIA'S STORY

Crafting dreams: Empowering women, building resilience

Five young women sit together, focused on the intricate details of the beautiful pieces in their hands. They are learning how to make jewellery from **Ambia Zaib** in the warmth of her home in Dagai village, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's district of Nowshera. Ambia, a trained jeweller, watches their progress with pride.

Ambia's journey here has not been easy. With just her husband's modest salary, the family could not afford medical treatment for two of their four sons who have disabilities. They couldn't go to the nearest government school, where classes are on the third floor. "I started stitching, but we still couldn't make ends meet," she explains. Ambia's life changed when she was selected for a UNICEF-supported jewellery training programme, part of the Netherlands-UNICEF Partnership for Migration and Displacement. The training gave her the opportunity to learn a new craft and provided her with a starter kit, something she couldn't afford on her own.

Since the training, Ambia's income has tripled. She now earns PKR 15,000 PKR (US\$55) in addition to the PKR 6,000 (US\$21.50) she made from stitching. "I don't have to depend on anyone anymore. I can provide for my children, buy what they need, and feel proud of what I have achieved," says Ambia. She shares her skills, teaching other women to make jewellery and encouraging them to seek financial independence. "I would love to see a fully dedicated [training] centre so girls can learn these skills and don't have to struggle like me."



“

My message to other women is to not be afraid. There is nothing stopping you looking for opportunities that can help improve your life.”

- Ambia, trained jeweller and entrepreneur

IMPACT 

Improved monitoring and implementation of gender equality commitments

In 2025, the UN supported government institutions to **strengthen gender data systems**. This improved the monitoring of Pakistan's gender equality commitments and contributed to better informed, more gender-responsive decision-making. With UN assistance, the National Commission on the Status of Women continued to operationalize the National Gender Data Portal, which streamlined provincial-to-national data flows and consolidated administrative and sectoral gender data for policymaking and reporting. Sub-national capacity building improved the production, validation, analysis and submission of sex-disaggregated datasets to the portal.

The National Gender Parity Framework, developed with UN support, standardized indicators, approaches and methodologies across institutions, enabling consistent gender analysis to inform planning. In Sindh, the UN supported the provincial Bureau of Statistics to upgrade the SDGs Gender Portal and integrate gender indicators into the province's SDG framework. Federal and provincial institutions adopted integrated, gender-responsive data governance and performance management systems aligned with the standards of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Building on these gains, the UN assisted efforts to **strengthen systems using gender data and analysis**. Gender pay gap analysis informed minimum wage-setting and labour code reforms in Punjab and Sindh, while a federal Wage Reform Roadmap advanced the equal wage agenda. Mapping in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa pinpointed opportunities for empowering women in construction and enterprise development. A gender review of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act and a draft gender-sensitization module strengthened rights-based responses to cybercrime and digital exclusion.

IMPACT 

Strengthened gender-responsive policies and financing

UN support contributed to increasingly **gender-responsive policies and financing mechanisms**. Key milestones achieved with UN assistance include the approval of a national framework on ending child marriage, the enactment of Child Marriage Restraint Acts in Islamabad Capital Territory and Balochistan, the adoption of Islamabad's Domestic Violence Act, and the development of sexual violence response frameworks in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Reforms of Punjab's labour code strengthened protection against violence and harassment at work, while amendments to Balochistan's Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act enhanced survivor-centred safeguards.

A National Assembly resolution on so-called "honour" killings signalled parliamentary commitment to ending gender-based violence. A national roadmap for the formalization of SMEs and informal workers, including home-based workers, embedded gender considerations into decent work reforms.

The UN supported an **enabling environment for gender-responsive public and private financing** by strengthening the State Bank of Pakistan's capacity to improve women's financial literacy, access to financial services, and gender-responsive financial policies and practices. Training equipped 58 Gender Focal Persons across 33 ministries and departments to advance gender-responsive budgeting, and integrate women's and child rights into planning and monitoring systems.

IMPACT 

Increased efforts to end gender-based violence (GBV)

UN support **accelerated action to prevent and respond to gender-based violence**. Four new Anti-Rape Crisis Cells – operationalized with UN assistance in Islamabad Capital Territory, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh – provided vital medical, reporting, counselling and support services for survivors.

Upgrading Sindh's Women Helpline (1094) improved accessibility and data security, as did the integration of a database of GBV cases within Darul Aman shelters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa into government systems. Standardized GBV data-sharing protocols enabled systematic analysis to improve services while ensuring data protection. UN-supported Cash and Voucher Assistance enabled 629 women GBV survivors in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to access medication, legal aid and transportation – safely and with dignity.


As our world becomes increasingly digital, so too do the spaces and means for perpetrating gender-based violence. Technology and online spaces are increasingly being weaponized to attack women and girls. With UN assistance, the Government of Pakistan devised a coordinated national response to **technology-facilitated gender-based violence** (TFGBV) response, anchored in a National Strategy and a Technical Working Group under the Ministry of Human Rights. These efforts formalized efforts to address TFGBV within the Government's policy framework – strengthening coordination, clarifying roles and enhancing pathways for reporting, investigation, supporting survivors, and positioning digital safety within broader gender equality efforts. A national diagnostic study identified gaps in digital safety to inform policy action.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

58 million people were engaged by awareness campaigns on GBV, child marriage and survivor-centred justice 

2,800 Outreach Volunteers (46% women) reached **38,000** refugees and asylum-seekers with GBV information and referrals 

2,000 Union and Village Council officials were trained on age verification to prevent child marriage 


58 Gender Focal Persons were trained to advance gender-responsive budgeting and gender mainstreaming 

2,770 women were supported to claim their inheritance and property rights 

5,400 survivors of trafficking, child labour and forced labour accessed support via the National Referral Mechanism, after **1,000 officials** were trained to identify, refer and assist survivors 

4 Anti-Rape Crisis Cells operationalized with UN support provided vital services to survivors 



 UN efforts across Pakistan are bridging the digital divide by supporting digital connectivity among rural women © ITC



© Above: Thanks to her family, friends and the UN-supported Aghaaz Centre, Samavya is healing from traumatic burns © UNFPA Below: With the support of youth-friendly safe spaces like the Aghaaz Centre, young people like Samavya are thriving © UNFPA

REAL LIVES SAMAVYA'S STORY

Finding the will to rise again at youth-friendly safe spaces

Samavya is a bright student, pursuing a degree in nutrition at the College of Home Economics, University of Peshawar. But one tragic day changed everything. A devastating accident left the 19-year-old and two of her cousins with severe burns on their faces and hands. One of her cousins did not survive. The physical pain was unbearable. The emotional scars ran even deeper. *"Most days, I feel uncertain and vulnerable – like my confidence has just slipped away,"* explains Samavya. Her family and friends were a light in the darkness.

When she discovered the Aghaaz Centre right on her college campus, she found another beacon of hope. Established by UNFPA with support from the Government of the Netherlands, the centre is a safe space where young people receive support – with everything from their mental health to GBV, SRHR and social inclusion. *"Finding out about the Aghaaz Centre felt like a blessing. I found the courage to ask the facilitator for psychological sessions,"* says Samavya. *"Going somewhere else would have felt overwhelming, but this space made me feel safe and hopeful."* As she began to heal, Samavya turned to art. *"It helps me express what words often can't,"* she says. "Every brushstroke gives voice to what's inside me." Samavya believes that safe spaces like the Aghaaz Centre are life-changing, especially for girls who cannot easily seek psychological help elsewhere. *"Establishing spaces like this means everything,"* she reflects. *"I believe this is the beginning of something better – something healing."*



“ Establishing spaces like the Aghaaz Centre means everything. I believe this is the beginning of something better – something healing.”

- Samavya, student and artist

UN-backed advocacy and digital campaigns reached over 2.6 million people, raising awareness and shifting public discourse on the growing threat of violence against women and girls facilitated by emerging technologies. UN support also enabled the National Assembly's Gender Mainstreaming Committee to convene its first public hearing on TFGBV, setting the stage for greater parliamentary oversight.

Targeted training **enhanced GBV prevention and response capacities**. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, the UN strengthened the capacities of 152 officials on domestic violence legislation and survivor-centred approaches, including survivor-centred medico-legal standards. Training 232 justice and health professionals in both provinces, alongside 107 officials in Sindh, advanced the implementation of the Anti-Rape Act 2021. In all three provinces, training 2,000 Union and Village Council officials, including Nikah Registrars, improved age verification and oversight mechanisms to prevent child marriage.

Nationwide, capacity building equipped 1,000 officials to identify and assist victims of trafficking, child labour and forced labour through the National Referral Mechanism, which linked 5,400 survivors to support services. With UN support, GBV case management curricula were embedded at three universities and 37 master trainers cascaded training on GBV case management guidelines to standardize frontline service delivery. UN **awareness campaigns** on GBV, child marriage and survivor-centred justice reached over 58 million people, while community sessions sensitized 1,900 members of high-risk and vulnerable groups.

The UN continued to advocate for the **inclusion of refugees and displaced populations in national service delivery systems**, including GBV prevention and response services. Over 2,800 Outreach Volunteers (46% women) reached 38,000 refugees and asylum-seekers – disseminating verified information, raising awareness of GBV, identifying protection

concerns, referring cases for assistance, and channelling community feedback to inform responses. Despite operational constraints, UN efforts strengthened GBV referral mechanisms and ensured the continuity of community-based protection activities through Women and Girls Safe Spaces and the Girls Shine programme.

IMPACT  **Increased participation and leadership of women, girls and transgender persons**

The UN championed **women's, girls' and transgender persons' rights, participation and leadership** at all levels of society. Strengthening the capacities of 711 parliamentarians (65% women) advanced gender-responsive governance and pro-women legislation. Support for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Ombudsperson Office strengthened the implementation of legislation on women's inheritance and property rights, enabling 2,770 women to claim their entitlements. Leadership initiatives prepared women lawyers and police officers to progress to senior roles and join peace missions.

In Karachi and Lahore, women joined works councils in 200 ready-made garment factories – advancing women's representation, decision-making and labour rights. Through 350 community consultations, including 50 with women and transgender groups, participants influenced local governance priorities. UN support for 72 community-led initiatives (50% on women's empowerment) bolstered refugees' resilience, including by engaging women's peer groups and committees for persons with disabilities.

Over 200 girls benefitted from UN leadership programmes with the Pakistan Girls Guide Association, while training engaged 16,000 girl guides and mass awareness campaigns promoted HPV vaccination to reduce risks of cervical cancer among adolescent girls.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

50 women- and transgender-led MSMEs



received micro-grants, putting them on the path to create **1,000+** jobs



16,000 girl guides

engaged in training and

200 girls were empowered by leadership programmes



Women joined works councils in **200** factories – boosting women's participation in decision-making



250 factories developed gender equality action plans



■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

989
women farmers formed savings and credit groups that mobilized collective savings of **PKR 2.6 million**

2,500
women are on the path to economic independence thanks to enterprise development support

13,000
women entrepreneurs were empowered by training on climate-smart agriculture, value addition and access to finance

10,000
women benefited from income-generation activities and services via 40 Women Resource Centres

The multi-stakeholder *Ba-Ikhtiar Mustaqbil, Ba-Ikhtiar Pakistan* Alliance was established to advocate for girls' rights. At the same time, the Boys for Gender Equality Forum mobilized 200 adolescent boys to challenge harmful gender norms. The Youth Climate Action Initiative empowered 25 young leaders (68% women) to blaze a trail as climate activists. In another pioneering move, a national hockey tournament organized with UN support empowered young women from diverse backgrounds across the country to participate visibly and confidently in a male-dominated sport.

IMPACT



More women and vulnerable groups are economically empowered

UN initiatives promoted the **economic empowerment of women and vulnerable groups** nationwide. With UN support, 250 factories developed gender equality action plans, and 200 enterprises adopted policies for violence and harassment free workplaces – crucial steps to improve women's recruitment, retention, skills development and career progression. Six collective bargaining agreements were negotiated with provisions to combat workplace violence, and the Pakistan Workers' Federation established a Grievance Committee on GBV in Begampura, Lahore. These mechanisms will help protect workers' rights and enable them to seek redress.

SME and micro-enterprise grant windows operationalized with UN assistance expanded **access to finance**, enabling 50 women- and transgender-led MSMEs to access micro-grants – supporting their transition from informality to sustainability. In Balochistan, 2,500 women are on the path to economic independence thanks to WE-LED training, cash transfers, mentoring for enterprise development, and the establishment of 23 community-run centres.

UN initiatives strengthened **rural women's livelihoods** in the districts of Gwadar and Lasbela by providing productive assets to 8,500 people (70% women), vocational training for 400 women, and sensitizing 36,000 women and girls on nutrition, hygiene and climate change. More than 10,000 women benefitted from 40 Women Resource Centres, poverty graduation support, assets and skills training – strengthening their economic inclusion, entrepreneurship and decision-making. Overall, UN initiatives in these districts of Balochistan, as well as in South Punjab and through the National Poverty Graduation Programme, 77,000 ultra-poor and vulnerable women received productive assets and livelihood packages, enabling them to start or strengthen income-generating activities.

In Sindh and Balochistan, training on climate-smart agriculture, access to finance and market linkages empowered 13,000 women entrepreneurs and agricultural producers. Nearly 580 women-led businesses were formally registered, and 300 Farmer Marketing Collectives amplified rural women's market access.

A **digital inclusion** initiative by the UN in partnership with Nokia equipped 26 women micro-entrepreneurs in Lahore with the skills to engage with e-commerce platforms and grow their businesses. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, training enabled 989 women farmers to access digital tools and services, tap into markets, and form savings and credit groups that mobilized PKR 2.6 million in collective savings. Assistive technologies like prosthetic limbs helped women with disabilities in Sindh restore their livelihoods. Engaging 341 women entrepreneurs in training, digital startup roundtables and the Digital Tech Summit fostered pathways to success for women-led MSMEs.

16 Days of Activism 2025

UNiTE to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls



REAL LIVES NADIA'S STORY

Anti-Rape Crisis Cells transform support for survivors

© Above: Young women take part in an event marking 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence in Pakistan, organized with UN support © UNDP
Below: Anti-Rape Crisis Cells operate within government hospitals and are linked to police reporting centres © UN Women

One afternoon, a neighbour forced his way into Nadia's* home in Karachi and assaulted her. *"I was paralysed by fear and blacked out,"* she recalls. Nadia woke up in hospital. Her parents brought her to Pakistan's first Anti-Rape Crisis Cell, established with the support of UN Women and the United States Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL). The centre provides medical treatment, counselling, legal guidance and forensic support, all under one roof, 24 hours a day. *"For the first time since the attack, I felt I wasn't alone. The Anti-Rape Crisis Cell gave me my voice back,"* explains Nadia. *"I have the strength to demand justice – not just for me, but for every woman who has been silenced."*

With INL's support, UN Women has helped the Government of Pakistan develop implementation procedures for Anti-Rape Crisis Cells nationwide. What began as a single centre in Karachi has now evolved into a lifeline for hundreds of survivors. Six Anti-Rape Crisis Cells – in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore (two sites), Multan and Rawalpindi – operate within government hospitals and are linked to police reporting centres. Nadia's attacker was arrested and charged under the Anti-Rape Act 2021. The proceedings are ongoing, but she feels in control of her life again. She has returned to teaching and become an advocate for other survivors, guiding them towards support and justice. *"No woman should ever endure what I went through. But if they do, I want them to know they are not alone,"* says Nadia. **Name changed to protect the survivor's identity.*



“The Anti-Rape Crisis Cell gave me my voice back. I have the strength to demand justice – not just for me, but for every woman who has been silenced.”

- Nadia*, teacher and GBV survivor



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

AGENCIES

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

KEY SDGS



TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACTS ACHIEVED WITH UN SUPPORT



STRONGER SYSTEMS ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION



NATURAL HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS ARE BETTER PROTECTED



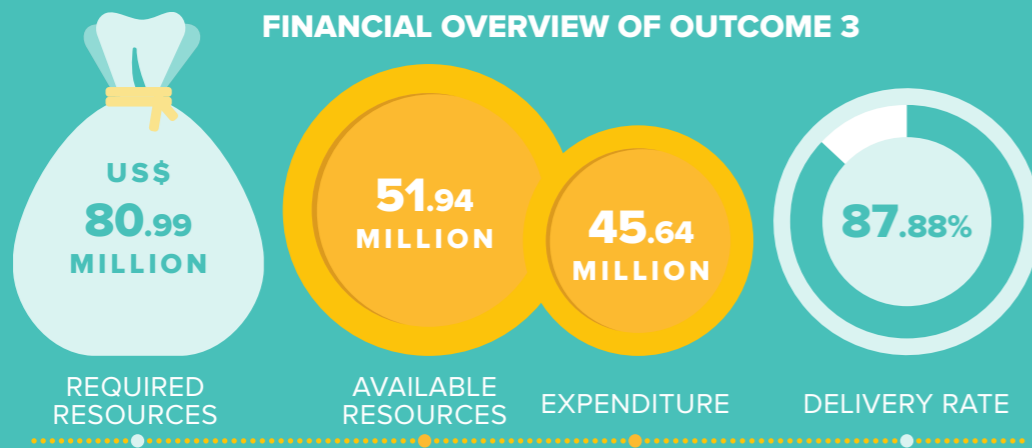
IMPROVED WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



MARINE ECOSYSTEMS ARE BETTER PROTECTED

Photos (left to right): © UNDP; © UNDP; © UNICEF/Juan Haro; © WHO

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF OUTCOME 3



Above: Flood-affected families receive relief kits with UN support, including tents, blankets, kitchen sets, and hygiene items for women and girls © IOM/Ovais Ahmed
Below: Habib-un-Nabi tragically lost 18 family members in flash floods that levelled his village © IOM/Ovais Ahmed

REAL LIVES HABIB'S STORY

Facing the tragic human cost of the climate crisis

"We had never seen anything like this," says 35-year-old **Habib-un-Nabi**, a teacher from Bishnoi village in Buner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. His words carry the weight of grief. Habib lost 18 family members in a single day, including his parents and brother. Hundreds died in the province under boulders and debris when flash floods came crashing down the slopes, sweeping away homes and lives in a matter of minutes. Those who survived barely had time to mourn. "We were too busy trying to dig out others, to help whoever we could," Habib recalls.

While local communities mobilized to support one another, IOM began humanitarian operations in flood-affected areas across Pakistan – from the mountains of the north to the plains of Punjab, from the rugged plateau of Balochistan to the coast of Sindh. In Naseer Khan Lolai, a village in Kashmore, Sindh, 65-year-old Ali Gohar has lived through many floods, but none as devastating as this one. Entire homes collapsed, cattle were swept away. When IOM arrived with relief kits and anticipatory cash assistance, it was the first time many villagers had ever received outside help. It worked with partners under the UK Aid-supported BRAVE South initiative and through the Common Pipeline, a shared humanitarian logistics system. Between August and September 2025, IOM distributed nearly 14,000 family relief kits of food, kitchen sets, and hygiene supplies for women and girls. The deadly floods of 2025 show clearly that investing in climate resilience is not an option – it is an urgent necessity for Pakistan, and the world.



“

We had never seen anything like this. We were too busy trying to dig out others, to help whoever we could.”

- Habib-un-Nabi, teacher and flood survivor in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

IMPACT



Stronger systems accelerate climate action

Strong **climate governance systems** are vital to establish and maintain institutional readiness for climate action. That is why the UN in Pakistan continued to prioritize high-impact policy support in 2025, strengthening **national and sub-national systems and frameworks for climate action** and environmental sustainability. With UN assistance, Pakistan developed and submitted its third Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0) – a vital framework with concrete targets and measures to ensure that adapting to climate change, protecting the environment and reducing emissions are built into, and coordinated across, sectors.

Other **major frameworks** developed with UN support will also contribute to these goals, including the National Action Roadmap to Reduce Plastic Pollution, the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy and the Karachi Climate Action Plan. The submission of datasets under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer enhanced systems to reduce environmental degradation. This ensured Pakistan's continued compliance with the Protocol by phasing-out ozone depleting substances, bolstered by UN support for environmentally-friendly alternatives in the manufacturing sector.

The UN supported **gender-responsive climate governance** by enhancing decision-makers' capacities to institutionalize

gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation in climate and disaster management frameworks. The Deluge and Droughts study helped put the plight of women and girls affected by climate change firmly on the national agenda. Three policy briefs translated its findings into concrete policy and operational guidance to bolster SRH and GBV service delivery systems during emergencies – from the district to the national levels. Young climate activists proposed bold ideas for action through a UN-supported Youth Climate Residency, while the Gender Climate Awards celebrated women leaders – centring the voices of women, youth and marginalized groups for sustainable climate action.

Pakistan strengthened **biodiversity governance** with UN assistance, including a series of system-wide assessments covering national and sub-national policies, institutions, regulatory gaps, expenditure and financing needs, alongside workshops to improve planning and policy alignment nationwide. These efforts contributed to a new biodiversity finance portfolio, the integration of biodiversity financing into national planning, and a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – the foundations for whole-of-government and whole-of-society engagement in biodiversity conservation.

Policy progress also bolstered **national systems for food safety**, including a Strategic Action Plan informed by the National Food Control System Assessment, and a Strategic National Action Plan to improve phytosanitary measures.

With UN support, Pakistan's National, Provincial and District Disaster Management Authorities strengthened **disaster preparedness and climate risk management systems** – boosting resilience to climate risks. In Balochistan, the UN helped develop Multi Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (MHVRA) guidelines, an anticipatory action-based contingency plan for the district of Nushki, and a District Emergency Operations Cell to oversee and enhance early warning systems.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, technical support and capacity building for 200 officials improved anticipatory action planning, including Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments of Karak and Charsadda. Plans were developed to protect 2.65 million people in these districts, alongside an Anticipatory Action Protocol for the district of Dera Ismail Khan. Improving early warning capacity in Shangla and Buner strengthened localized risk management – measures that will benefit 1.6 million people.

Progress advanced on **integrating migration considerations into climate policies** following capacity building for over 240 officials and the establishment of a Climate Change and Human Mobility Synergy Group under the Ministry of Climate Change.

IMPACT



Natural habitats and ecosystems are better protected

UN support contributed to **ecosystem restoration and community resilience** across Pakistan. Localized frameworks developed with UN assistance laid the foundations for community stewardship of critical natural habitats. Examples include Ecosystem Management Plans in three districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, four participatory Forest Landscape Restoration Plans, and 215 Climate Resilient Settlement Development Plans to guide localized, nature sensitive solutions to land degradation, risks to water resources and ecosystem stress.

With UN assistance, **community-driven conservation and preparedness** actions gained pace. Restoring 34,400 hectares of chilgoza pine forests through sustainable forest management plans and restoration practices safeguarded critical habitats while sequestering 1.92 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. Assisting the formation of 30 Green Committees in Sindh created local governance structures to protect the environment. At the same time, building 1,500 fuel-efficient stoves at the community level reduced pressure on forest resources. Training 900 people (55% women) across 30 villages, introducing drip irrigation and setting up 25 nurseries advanced climate-smart agriculture and reforestation.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

215
Climate Resilient Settlement Development Plans guided localized, nature-sensitive solutions

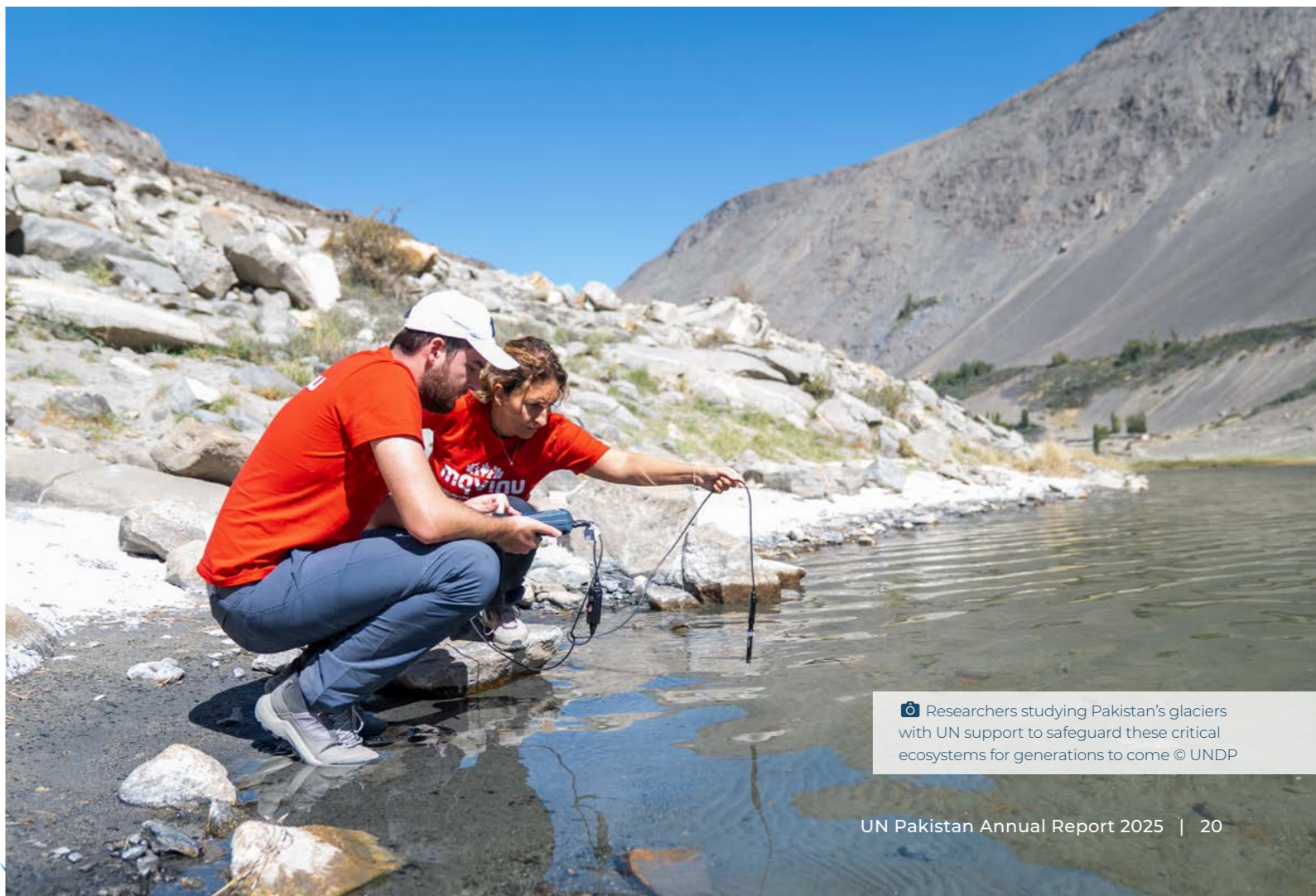
Expanding irrigation infrastructure across **50,000 acres** in Gilgit-Baltistan strengthened climate-resilient agriculture

734,000
flood-affected people in Punjab's hardest hit districts received lifesaving support

240
officials were trained to integrate migration considerations into climate adaptation policies

34,400 hectares of chilgoza pine forests were restored, sequestering **1.92 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent**

900 people (55% women) were trained to advance climate-smart agriculture in Sindh



📷 Researchers studying Pakistan's glaciers with UN support to safeguard these critical ecosystems for generations to come © UNDP



Above: With the UN-based Green Career Launchpad's support, students in Gilgit have formed a "Green Youth Movement Club" and organize clean-up drives © UNDP
Below: Muhammad Aqeel has started a his own small business after training at the Green Career Launchpad's © UNDP

REAL LIVES AQEEL'S AND NAJMAL'S STORIES

Turning climate action into green careers, and a green future

What if climate action could become a career? Thanks to the **Green Career Launchpad**, it can. Rolled out by UNDP in partnership with the Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme, the Launchpad at the University of Baltistan is turning climate resilience into practical, employable skills. "Earlier, the options were limited. Women became teachers, men became engineers," says Maria Akbar, Lecturer in Tourism and Hospitality. "Now, students see opportunities they never imagined."

At the Launchpad, classroom learning meets entrepreneurship, career counselling and real-world exposure, opening pathways to green jobs. More than 300 students have already passed through its doors. For Muhammad Aqeel, it sparked a small business producing locally-inspired chocolate. "I earn a respectable income doing something creative, something that connects to our local resources," Aqeel explains. For Najmal Hassan Syed, the Launchpad created a pathway into digital climate advocacy. "It didn't just give me skills," Najmal says. "It gave me direction." Young people like them are now leading community clean-up campaigns, awareness raising and green initiatives through student-led clubs. With a Green Incubation Centre on campus and digital platforms linking students to green careers, a regional ecosystem is forming. Inclusive, just and people-centred climate action is becoming a reality. At the Green Career Launchpad, young people are not just preparing for green jobs. They are shaping a green future.



“Students are discovering whole new worlds – sustainability in tourism, climate entrepreneurship, green technology.”

- Maria Akbar, Lecturer, University of Baltistan

Training women farmers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also bolstered climate-resilient agriculture, as did expanding irrigation infrastructure across 50,000 acres in Gilgit-Baltistan. Installing a hydrometric radar station and two automatic weather stations improved ecosystem monitoring. Similar gains emerged in South Punjab with the installation of 8 weather stations.

In Balochistan, equipping 60 Village Disaster Management and Early Warning Committees with early warning kits boosted community preparedness. In the districts of Gwadar and Lasbela, the UN enhanced adaptive capacity by supporting 40 climate-integrated Union Council Development Plans and 700 climate-resilient community infrastructure schemes, mainstreaming climate-responsive approaches in poverty graduation programmes, training 15,000 community members and planting 30,000 trees.

To protect ecosystems, communities and workers, the UN supported **stronger environmental safeguards** across a range of sectors. Following training and technical assistance, 100 textile mills adopted better waste and chemical management processes. Similarly, 20 factories adopted environmental compliance action plans involving energy conservation and the adoption of clean solar energy. In the major cities of Karachi and Lahore, UN initiatives equipped 200 master trainers to improve community-level effluent management near industrial estates.

Work began on 10 incinerator plants to advance environmentally sustainable medical waste management. This infrastructure will play a decisive role in protecting the environment, health workers, patients and surrounding communities. In Gilgit-Baltistan, the UN contributed to eco-tourism planning through feasibility studies in the Thalay Valley, leading to the design of a sustainable eco-guesthouse.

IMPACT



Improved water and natural resource management

National and provincial authorities strengthened **water management systems** with UN assistance. In Balochistan, the UN supported the creation of regulatory structures like the Water Resources Commission and River Basin Committees. Assessments informed the province's draft Water Resources Management Bill and water conservation planning. Destination Improvement and Management Plans for Ramsar lakes in Sindh paved the way for the conservation-oriented management of water, natural and cultural assets.

Work continued on a Water Policy in Gilgit-Baltistan, where four new laboratories and training for 151 technicians (52% women) enhanced diagnostics to improve water safety, plant health and zoonotic disease prevention. In Punjab, 50 Agriculture, Climate and Water Bulletins enhanced planning capacities, bolstered by training for 694 officials and 400 farmers (25% women) on climate-smart, water-efficient practices. Strengthening the capacities of 150 stakeholders with the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources to bridge the gap between scientific research and water policy implementation.

UN efforts also improved **water management and access at the community level**. UN tools like WAPOR used remote sensing to estimate crop irrigation requirements, informing government water budgeting and allocations in Punjab. Spring-water recharge, groundwater management and water system rehabilitation interventions began across Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan. Water use became more sustainable in 25 villages in Sindh, where UN initiatives installed hand-pumps, latrines, and enhanced water supply and drainage schemes – benefitting 94% of residents.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

700
climate-resilient community infrastructure schemes and training for

15,000
community members in Balochistan enhanced local adaptive capacity

4.2 million people will benefit from improved climate risk management and early warning capacities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

100 textile mills adopted improved waste and chemical management processes

60 Village Disaster Management & Early Warning Committees in Balochistan strengthened community preparedness

■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

1,090

officials and farmers were trained to advance water-efficient practices in Punjab



10,000

people benefited from climate-resilient housing and integrated WASH services in Gilgit-Baltistan



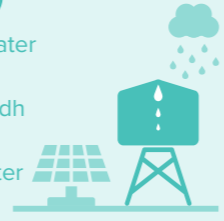
\$8 million

was pledged by the Government of Sindh to scale up climate-resilient WASH and settlement infrastructure



1,500

solar lights and water infrastructure in 150 villages in Sindh improved energy efficiency and water management



📷 Eco-tourism in northern Pakistan © UNDP

Sindh's provincial government pledged the equivalent of US\$8 million to scale up this model of climate-resilient WASH and settlement infrastructure. Other UN initiatives built multi-purpose water ponds in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as water storage tanks, solar water pumps and 1,500 solar lights in 150 villages in Sindh – enhancing energy efficiency and water management. In displacement affected areas of Gilgit Baltistan, UN support for climate resilient housing and integrated WASH services benefited nearly 10,000 people.

IMPACT



Marine ecosystems are better protected

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2025–2035 – formulated with UN support through an inclusive nationwide consultation process – established a **unified vision for the conservation of marine and freshwater ecosystems**, responsible fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture. The approval of Balochistan's Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2025–2035 advanced these goals across the province. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the UN helped map high-potential aquaculture zones.

UN initiatives spearheaded the **community-led protection of coastal and delta ecosystems**. In the Indus deltaic districts of Thatta and Sujawal in Sindh, integrated WASH, drainage and wastewater improvements reduced flood risks and made downstream ecosystems healthier. In Balochistan's districts of Gwadar and Lasbela, climate-resilient planning, strengthened community institutions, diversified livelihoods and afforestation protected the Indus Delta's marine ecosystems. Environmental and occupational safeguards improved in high-risk maritime industries with UN support, including green recycling plans at 10 shipyards. Training equipped ship-breaking workers to reduce health and environmental risks, as did knowledge exchange with Turkish facilities for officials and shipyard owners.



📷 Above: Women and children fetch water in flood-affected Geokaloi village in Sindh © UNICEF/Vlad Sokhin Below: Sadjang Zubair, Construction Management Engineer, oversees construction at a new medical waste incinerator facility in Balochistan @UNOPS

REAL LIVES SADJANG'S STORY

Medical waste management protects people and planet

"When I first started working at the incinerator facility construction site in Turbat, I realized how essential this project is for our communities," says Sadjang Zubair, UNOPS Construction Management Engineer. Hospitals and healthcare facilities in Pakistan generate roughly 250,000 tonnes of medical waste each year. When it isn't properly disposed of, this waste contaminates the land, pollutes water sources and lets off hazardous emissions. *"Improper disposal is an environmental issue,"* says Sadjang, it is also *"a direct threat to health workers, patients and surrounding communities."*

This is why UNOPS – under a **pioneering initiative** funded by the Global Fund, and implemented with the Common Management Unit and the Ministry of Health Services, Regulations and Coordination – is strengthening medical waste management in public health facilities nationwide. In 2025, it contributed to building five incinerator facilities in some of Pakistan's most remote and underserved districts. *"This isn't just construction work,"* explains Sadjang. *"It's about delivering life-saving solutions to communities like my own. With these modern incinerators, hospital waste, including infectious materials and sharps, will be safely destroyed, significantly reducing health risks and protecting our environment."* The initiative champions inclusivity, empowering women engineers like Sadjang. *"It shows young women in our communities that they, too, can take on leadership roles in engineering and help deliver life-saving solutions for Pakistan,"* she says.



“

Improper disposal is an environmental issue [and] a direct threat to health workers, patients and surrounding communities.”

- Sadjang, Construction Management Engineer



SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK

AGENCIES

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

KEY SDGS



TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACTS ACHIEVED WITH UN SUPPORT

STRENGTHENED FRAMEWORKS ADVANCE DECENT WORK	PROGRESS ON AN ENABLING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT	ENHANCED SKILLS, OPPORTUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS	PROGRESS ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND REDUCING INEQUALITIES	PROGRESS ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND PREVENTING EXPLOITATION

Photos (left to right): © ILO, © UNDP, © UNHCR, © UN Women, © FAO

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF OUTCOME 4



REAL LIVES HAFEEZA MAI'S STORY

Amplifying the voices of women cotton workers

"I longed for education, but cotton-picking became my life," says 45-year-old Hafeeza Mai. Like so many people in Southern Punjab, poverty forced her into child labour. "We worked long hours in the fields, getting injured and exposed to chemicals, but we were expected to stay silent and keep working." Hafeeza learned that she did not have to stay silent – that she had a voice, and the power to use it – when she attended training sessions supported by the ILO's RISE for Impact project, funded by INDITEX. "Awareness came only after we connected with the ILO. We learned basic safety measures and our rights," Hafeeza. "We also learned to organize and realized that one person alone cannot bring change. Together, the women cotton pickers formed a union, and for the first time, I felt real hope." She became determined to act. "I lost my childhood to the fields. I did not want the next generation to lose theirs."

Today, Hafeeza Mai is the elected President of a trade union representing more than 500 cotton workers – most of whom are women. "When wages are denied or someone feels unsafe, they come to me," she says. Through the union, Hafeeza empowers women to raise concerns collectively, claim their rights, challenge unsafe practices and violence – at home and at work – and protect their children from child labour. Leading by example, Hafeeza ensured that her own daughters returned to school. "I guide the women to educate their children," she explains. "My message to them is simple: know your rights and speak up for them."

Above: Hafeeza Mai with members of her trade union, most of whom are women. Together, they are blazing a trail for cotton workers' rights in Punjab © ILO
Below: As President of a trade union, Hafeeza empowers workers to claim their rights © ILO



“

I did not have a voice when I was young. Now, as head of a trade union, I use my voice so others don't have to live in silence.”

- Hafeeza Mai, Trade Union Leader

IMPACT 

Strengthened policy frameworks advance decent work

With UN support, government stakeholders **strengthened policy frameworks to advance decent work**. The National Roadmap for the Formalization of SMEs and Workers will enable informal workers and small enterprises to transition to the formal economy by simplifying business registration, improving worker protection and expanding social security. By integrating just transitions into its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), the Government committed to strengthening workers' and employers' capacities to adopt climate-resilient processes. Government reports to the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations outlined how its recommendations have been implemented to uphold labour rights. At the provincial level, authorities approved 21 plans, regulations and policies to enhance business environments and agri-business.

UN research and analysis contributed to dialogue on decent work, innovation, sustainable enterprises, development finance and SDG acceleration – including three issues of [Development Advocate Pakistan](#) that reached 160,000 stakeholders. The National Human Development Report informed a Digital Action Plan to advance digital inclusion, data governance, and AI readiness among MSMEs and emerging sectors.

The UN-supported Pakistan Business Task Force led an industry readiness survey to assess the capacity of members of the Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP). The EFP, in turn, launched a new service to help businesses adopt sustainable chemicals management practices, reduce their carbon footprint and improve resource efficiency.

IMPACT 

Progress on an enabling environment for businesses

The UN supported stakeholders to foster an **enabling business environment** for job-rich sectors and MSMEs. This included training 500 officials on SDG financing and assisting the Ministry of Climate Change to prepare a US\$2 billion portfolio of 10 SDG-aligned investment projects – enhancing government readiness to mobilize domestic and international financing. Blended public-private investments exceeding EUR 9 million enabled enterprise expansion, while UN engagement with the private sector contributed to strengthening rural value chains. Enterprise financing mechanisms provided micro-grants to 220 MSMEs (25% women-led). By the end of end 2026, this pipeline is expected to support 600–700 micro-entrepreneurs and generate over 2,000 jobs. A financial landscape study informed the design and launch of a blended finance guarantee scheme in partnership with financial sector institutions.

The scheme will mobilize PKR 200 million to expand access to finance for 1,000 MSMEs. By combining concessional finance, guarantees, technical assistance and advisory services, the scheme will expand access to finance for underserved entrepreneurs, thereby fostering enterprise development and decent job creation. Through the UN's GRASP initiative, SMEs accessed US\$4.17 million in loans and matching grants, while training enhanced the capacities of 1,926 SMEs and producers on business management, food safety and quality standards. A partial credit guarantee scheme for farmers enabled 3,589 members of Village Action Committees (27% women and 19% youth) to access subsidies and financial products, many for the first time. Access to capital through the Enterprise Development Fund helped 67 entrepreneurs develop their businesses, create 460 new jobs and sustain 550 existing jobs for host community members and refugees.

In flood-affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 253 women-led SMEs accessed interest-free microfinance loans to expand their businesses. Building the financial capacities of 3,060 refugees equipped them to engage with formal financial systems. In Gilgit-Baltistan, the UN-supported Economic Transformation Initiative brought 1,983 farmers (27% women) into the formal financial system for the first time through a partial credit guarantee scheme.

With UN support, SMEs increased their **exports** to the United Kingdom and European Union by US\$1.57 million (50% for women-led SMEs), creating and sustaining 17,457 jobs. More than 1,500 entrepreneurs benefitted from business development services and an e-commerce platform that boosted market access.

IMPACT 

Enhanced skills, opportunities and livelihoods

UN support for **skills strengthening** advanced decent work, entrepreneurship and business development across Pakistan. A green skills anticipation survey identified the skills required for a just, green transition. The UN trained a cadre of master trainers to build these capacities across key sectors. SCORE training helped 50 textile and auto-part factories improve **working conditions, productivity and green transition skills**. Following training and advisory support through initiatives like Better Work, 250 factories – that collectively employ 8,000 workers – enhanced working conditions, strengthened environmental compliance systems, and expanded the use of clean energy and resource-efficient technologies.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

\$2 billion portfolio 
of 10 SDG-aligned investment projects enhanced government readiness to mobilize financing

Exports to the UK and EU by UN-supported SMEs increased by **\$1.57 million** 

147 trade organizations participated in a green skills anticipation survey to inform a just, green transition 

3,589 farmers (27% women and 19% youth) accessed finance through a partial credit guarantee scheme 

PKR 200 million was mobilized by a blended finance guarantee scheme to expand access to finance for **1,000 MSMEs** 

220 MSMEs (25% women-led) received micro-grants to grow their businesses 

67 entrepreneurs who received support to access finance created and sustained **1,010 jobs** 



After taking part in UN-supported training sessions, Abdul Rehman and his fellow workers formed and registered Pakistan's first trade union of plastic value chain workers in Sahiwal, Punjab © ILO



REAL LIVES AFSHAN'S STORY

Empowering women in business with access to finance

📷 Above: With UN support, Afshan is growing her business in the male-dominated packaging industry © IOM/Saad Rizwan
Below: Afshan explains her business set-up to two new women she's on-boarding onto her team © IOM/Saad Rizwan

Afshan is a trailblazer in more ways than one. As the only woman entrepreneur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's packaging industry, she is growing her business in a sector traditionally dominated by men. Her company, FastMove Packages, allows customers to place personalized orders entirely online. Delivering straight to customers' doorsteps also makes it easier for women to access custom packaging services. But growing a business is not easy, especially not for women in Pakistan who struggle to access finance. "Although I've been in this industry for the past five years, I was struggling with a manual setup that significantly affected production quality and efficiency," says Afshan. "I had to think twice before accepting large orders."

With support from the European Union, IOM's Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) gave Afshan the injection of finance she needed. An EDF grant helped her purchase two new machines. These streamlined the production process by consolidating 2-3 steps into one – drastically reducing time and boosting efficiency. "Before the grant, FastMove Packages produced around 2,000 cotton items per day," explains Afshan. "Now, with the new machinery, our production capacity has soared to 10,000 items per day." The company's growth has created eight new jobs – including two positions for women and four for Afghan nationals. Afshan's story shows that women can thrive in any industry – and when they do, they contribute to economic growth and empowerment in their communities.



- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

“With the new machinery, our production capacity has soared to 10,000 items per day – a remarkable 400% increase.”

- Afshan, owner of FastMove Packages

Training 2,120 people (70% women) on **in-demand vocational and industrial skills** in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enabled them to access decent work, pursue self-employment, diversify income streams and start small businesses. Similar gains emerged in both provinces and Balochistan after 2,900 young people (65% women) were equipped with market-relevant skills in diverse trades – from solar technology to beautician services, embroidery, motorcycle repair and digital marketing. All of the 1,760 young people (67% women), including 20 transgender persons, trained on digital skills successfully registered on freelancing platforms and began earning from online work.

UN initiatives with government and NGO partners increased **refugees' access to technical and vocational training** in early 2025, before being cut short by operational challenges. Over 3,500 refugees gained market-oriented in-demand skills, while 223 trainees accessed on-the-job training and internships – enhancing their employability, income generation, and readiness to start or expand small enterprises. To move beyond skills acquisition to sustainable self-reliance – that is, to move from learning to earning – refugee-led enterprises received 2,881 start-up grants and productive asset packages. These efforts aimed to translate training into tangible income generation opportunities.

UN initiatives supported **climate-resilient livelihoods** by linking enterprise development with adaptation-oriented sectors like aquaculture, agrifood processing, renewable energy, recycling, eco-friendly materials and artisanal production, with a focus on opportunities for women. Skills development benefitted 500 entrepreneurs in these sectors, while enterprise awareness activities sensitized 15,000 people in flood-affected communities. In-kind and capacity building support enabled 24,650 crisis-affected people to restore their agricultural livelihoods and small businesses.

In Gwadar and Lasbela, Balochistan, UN initiatives strengthened livelihoods by providing productive assets to 8,500 ultra-poor households, vocational training for 850 youths, and generating short-term employment in community infrastructure projects. Over 20,000 fisherfolk accessed livelihood support, bolstered by the establishment of fisheries cooperatives that enhanced collective income generation and access to markets.

Support for handicraft value chains enabled 200 women artisans to access markets and progress to higher-earning activities. In South Punjab, livelihood and social protection linkages created pathways to decent work for youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) in 25 cotton-farming families.

IMPACT Progress on women's empowerment and reducing inequalities

With UN support, the Governments of Punjab and Sindh enhanced **decent work for women and vulnerable groups** by setting minimum wages for women in agriculture and domestic workers. Labour codes in both provinces were strengthened to address gender pay disparities, while training 280 labour officials advanced the enforcement of legal provisions on gender equality and non-discrimination. Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Committees were established to address discrimination, violations of women's labour rights, child labour and forced labour.

UN research enabled advocacy on women's empowerment through **family-friendly workplace policies** and investments in care work. A **national gender pay gap report** informed efforts to reduce pay inequality.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

- 250 factories** improved working conditions, environmental compliance systems and the use of clean energy, benefitting **8,000 workers**
- 36,933 rural women** were organized into **1,706** Village Organizations, bolstering the resilience and sustainability of their livelihoods
- 2,900** young people (65% women) gained skills in high-demand trades
- 1,500** entrepreneurs benefitted from business development services and an e-commerce platform

■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

24,650

crisis-affected people were supported to restore their agricultural livelihoods and small businesses



22,000

people benefitted from interventions to end child and forced labour



150

cotton-farming families were trained to curb exploitation in the rural economy



2,881

refugee-led enterprises received start-up grants to move towards self-reliance



A decent work diagnostic identified ways to improve the quality of formal and informal jobs, while health sector studies highlighted decent work gaps in community services. The Women's Economic and Leadership Development initiative enhanced the financial decision-making capacities of 55 mid-career women in the public, private and development sectors. A range of other UN initiatives also advanced rural women's economic empowerment across Pakistan. In Southern Punjab, 36,933 women were organized into 1,706 Village Organizations, as were 7,388 women who formed 65 Producer Companies in rural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 10,000 women who benefitted from 40 Women Resource Centres in Balochistan. These efforts enabled women to collectively advocate for and claim their rights, while bolstering the resilience and sustainability of their livelihoods.

IMPACT



Progress on fundamental rights at work and preventing exploitation

UN support contributed to stronger **national and sub-national systems to end child labour**. Child Labour Surveys were completed and disseminated in Balochistan, Sindh and Islamabad Capital Territory, providing vital data for decision-making on protecting children from exploitation. Evidence from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Child Labour Survey directly informed the revision of the provincial Child Labour Policy. In Sindh, surveys on child and bonded labour informed the provincial Child Labour Action Plan and policy measures to prevent exploitation. Assisting the development of Balochistan's Child Labour Action Plan, as well as costed district level action plans in Quetta and Sujawal, Sindh, enhanced local capacities to plan, prioritize and resource measures to prevent and address children's exploitation.

UN advocacy contributed to the creation of Islamabad Capital Territory's Council on Child Labour, creating an institutional mechanism for coordinated action. Over 22,000 men and women benefitted from UN interventions on **ending child and forced labour, promoting gender equality, and ensuring freedom of association** across sectors. These range from the ready-made garments sector to agriculture, brick kilns, auto-parts, construction supply chains and surgical equipment.

The UN promoted the **application of fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW)** across Pakistan, including in 300 ready-made garment factories in Punjab and Sindh, and six ship-breaking yards in Balochistan. These efforts strengthened workers' formal employment contracts, covering wages, working hours, occupational safety and health (OSH), leave entitlements and social protection.

Promoting FPRW in cotton farming communities in Punjab, including championing legal protection for agricultural workers, advanced the broader goal of curbing exploitation in the rural economy. Training 150 families in cotton farming in both Punjab and Sindh advanced further gains, bolstered by the creation of community groups to report violations and community-level grievance mechanisms to provide resource and mediation services.



REAL LIVES NASIR'S AND MEHBOOBA'S STORIES

Digital skills empower entrepreneurs to grow their businesses

When small businesses thrive, so do communities. But many entrepreneurs in Balochistan lack the enterprise development and digital skills to grow their businesses. The ITC's Refugees & Trade Programme is changing that. With the support of the Visa Foundation, it delivers training for host communities and refugees – equipping them with market-ready digital skills and building a common interest in a shared economic future. For host community member **Jamal Nasir**, the training was a game-changer for his printing and graphic design business. He learned to build his online presence and use effective marketing strategies. *"The results were immediate,"* says Nasir. *"I saw a surge in engagement and viewership like never before."* In no time, a leading event centre took notice. *"They placed a major order for the Quetta Food Festival, commissioning my business to brand food stalls, design banners, and install streamers across the city,"* Nasir explains. *"Not only did it boost my business financially, it also gave me the confidence to explore even bigger opportunities."*

"Today, my business is flourishing," says **Mehbooba**, a training participant and Afghan refugee. She has used the digital skills she gained to grow her tailoring business. *"What once seemed like small steps – creating a brand, engaging online, and using digital marketing – turned into powerful tools that helped me expand my reach,"* she explains. *"This experience proved to me that with the right training and skills, young women entrepreneurs like me can turn dreams into reality."*

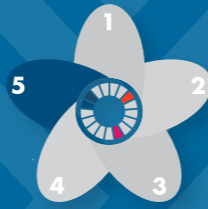
📷 Above: Garment workers at a factory participating in the UN-supported Better Work programme that is enhancing working conditions and competitiveness © ILO
Below: Jamal Nasir cuts out a printed banner in his workshop. After UN-supported digital skills training, his business is thriving © ITC



“

This experience proved to me that with the right training and skills, young women entrepreneurs like me can turn dreams into reality.”

- Mehbooba, entrepreneur



GOVERNANCE

AGENCIES

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

KEY SDGS



TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACTS ACHIEVED WITH UN SUPPORT



STRONGER INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS ADVANCE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



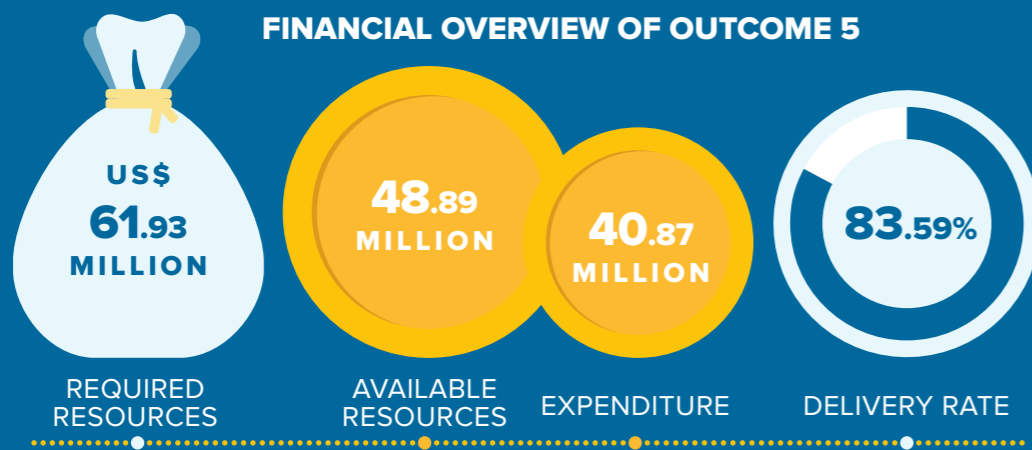
JUSTICE SYSTEMS BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND ACCESSIBLE



MORE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THEIR RIGHTS AND ADVANCE SOCIAL COHESION

Photos (left to right): © UNDP; © UNDP; © UNODC

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF OUTCOME 5



REAL LIVES JALAL'S STORY

Reshaping justice for persons with disabilities

"When you realize at a young age that others can do what you can't, it shakes your confidence," says **Jalal Khan**. Born in Sibi, Balochistan, Jalal grew up in a world that wasn't built for persons with disabilities. Classrooms had no ramps. Teachers had no training. Systems lacked understanding. Against the odds, with the support of his parents and aunt, Jalal earned degrees in economics, computer science and international relations. But education did not guarantee opportunity. Despite a job quota for persons with disabilities, "in reality, we were competing with everyone else, without support," he explains. Discrimination, inaccessible spaces, and weak implementation of disability rights seemed insurmountable, until a community awareness session supported by UNDP under the EU-funded Deliver Justice Project changed everything.

"For the first time, we learned about our legal rights," Jalal recalls. "That knowledge gave us power." With guidance from a trained lawyer, Jalal and others filed a petition in the Balochistan High Court to demand implementation of the Persons with Disability Act, 2017 – the first legal action of its kind led by persons with disabilities in the province. Today, Jalal serves as a Disability Focal Person, advocating for inclusion and accountability across Balochistan. Through the Deliver Justice Project, more than 7,700 people in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now understand their rights and can access justice. They are changing lives and systems – ensuring the law is not just written, but lived.

Above: Jalal Khan has joined forces with other persons with disabilities to demand the implementation of disability inclusion legislation in Balochistan © UNDP
Below: Jalal takes part in a UN-supported session that inspired him to champion the rights of persons with disabilities © UNDP



“

This petition will not only bring justice to us. It will help every person with disability who comes after us to never face the challenges we faced.

- **Jalal, advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities**

IMPACT



Stronger institutions and systems advance democratic governance

In 2025, the UN supported **inclusive, responsive and future-ready governance** across Pakistan. Under the Prime Minister's Strategic Reforms Roadmap, the UN assisted the launch of 12 roadmaps across priority sectors, including finance, privatization, energy and commerce. The roadmap approach **institutionalized structured, results-focused reform management**, facilitating policy shifts such as tariff liberalization, the abolition of export surcharges, increased revenue mobilization and greater fiscal discipline – and ultimately contributing to macroeconomic stabilization.

Data-driven performance frameworks strengthened institutions by enabling them to move from ad hoc interventions towards systematic institutional reform. UN tools like the Inclusive Governance Capacity Index provided structured diagnostics of institutional gaps – supporting ministries and departments to prioritize corrective actions, benchmark progress, align resource allocations with reform objectives, and strengthen accountability by linking objectives to measurable indicators.

Digital systems facilitated further institutional modernization and effectiveness. The Integrated Decision

Support System at Sindh's Provincial Disaster Management Authority boosted inter-agency emergency coordination by swapping manual for digital reporting. By enabling real-time, data-driven decision-making, the system improved anticipatory planning and transparency in disaster response. At the federal level, the Aid Effectiveness Dashboard provided a unified view of external assistance by consolidating development financing data across ministries. This enhanced fiscal oversight, reduced fragmentation in donor reporting, and improved alignment between external financing and national development priorities.

UN support **enhanced Pakistan's data ecosystem**, accelerating increasingly responsive, inclusive and evidence-based policymaking. The finalization of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, data governance frameworks and provincial coordination mechanisms bolstered standards for the production, management and use of data, enhancing coherence across statistical systems. To assist the strategy's implementation, the UN strengthened the capacities of 500 officials on demographic analysis, AI-assisted sampling, data visualization and strategic communication.

Institutional **resilience to digital threats** increased following training for 200 election and parliamentary officials, equipping them to address AI governance challenges and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Supporting the development of a National AI Strategy 2025 fostered capacities for responsible AI integration across public institutions.

Targeted training on the National Gender Data Portal equipped 23 federal and provincial institutions to systematically collect, analyse and use **gender-disaggregated data** for evidence-based policymaking and reporting. Capacity building also paved the way for improved inter-departmental coordination and coherent service delivery, including training for over 500 federal and provincial officials on SDG prioritization, results-based planning, financing for development and gender mainstreaming. Human Development Index simulation exercises modelled real-time scenarios, helping policymakers' understand how targeted investments in education, health and livelihoods can fast-track sustainable development.

With UN support, Pakistan strengthened the **effectiveness, inclusivity and data integrity of social protection systems**. The Integrated Beneficiary Registry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa marks a major structural milestone. Covering 800,000 beneficiaries, the registry consolidates fragmented programme databases into a single centralized, interoperable platform. The platform reduces duplication, makes it easier to verify eligibility, enhances fiscal efficiency, and facilitates

coordination between departments delivering cash transfers, health benefits and other social assistance schemes. Policymakers can now accurately identify vulnerable groups, such as low-income and women-headed households, and allocate resources equitably to meet their needs, including during emergencies.

Complementary reforms modernized a foundational building block of good governance – **civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems**. With UN support, reformed CRVS systems became operational in four model districts in Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan, bolstered by capacity building for 140 frontline health, local government and registration staff.

Service delivery is poised to improve further following the formulation of a CRVS Reform Bill in Sindh, and the development of a health-interoperable national birth registration model with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and provincial departments. More than 50 health facilities rolled out NADRA's Birth Notification and Registration Tool. By introducing real-time digital birth and death notifications, the tool's use made birth registration more efficient, swift and transparent. These reforms expanded access to legal identity documents, which are a prerequisite for accessing essential services.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

12 roadmaps

advanced reform management and macroeconomic stabilization



2.7 million people

were reached by the "Unboxing Pakistan" podcast, raising awareness of human rights, development challenges and people-led solutions



Case referrals increased by **70%** after UN-supported capacity building on border management



5,000

law enforcement personnel were trained on combatting terrorism



106,000 refugees and asylum-seekers

accessed legal aid and counselling through UN-backed Advice and Legal Aid Centres



800,000 people

will benefit from enhanced social protection through the Integrated Beneficiary Registry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Participants at a media awareness session on responsible and ethical journalism organized with FIA. The training helped media professionals rethink how to report on human trafficking and migrant smuggling accurately and ethically, with a focus on the dignity of survivors © UNODC



📷 Above: A woman lawyer takes part in the UN-supported Moot Court Competition to strengthen practical legal skills in Balochistan © UNDP
Below: Shehla escaped from an abusive marriage and is rebuilding her life with the support of the UN's Access to Justice initiative © UNDP/Muhammad Omer Hayat

REAL LIVES SHEHLA'S STORY

Justice paves the way for protection, dignity and hope

"They used to beat me quite often," Shehla says quietly. For years, she endured violence at the hands of her husband, himself battling addiction, and her in-laws. As a Christian woman in Pakistan, leaving her marriage felt impossible. Divorce carries heavy social and religious stigma, and her family urged silence. "They told me to forgive. But no one understood I was fighting for my life." The fight intensified when Shehla and her husband tested positive for HIV at a community centre in Lahore, Punjab. "The day I got my result, my heart stopped," she recalls. Though her daughters tested negative, fear followed her home.

The turning point came when Shehla was connected to UNDP's Access to Justice (A2J) initiative, receiving free legal aid and counselling. She was told something she had never heard before: you have rights. "Those words gave me strength," she says. "With their support, I stood in court and wasn't alone." Despite the stigma, Shehla secured a divorce. Rebuilding her life was not easy, but she found work, remarried and welcomed a baby boy born HIV-negative thanks to life-saving medication. "Our home is simple," she smiles, "but it is safe and full of hope."

Since its launch, UNDP's Access to Justice initiative has supported more than 3,100 marginalized individuals – including people living with HIV, transgender persons and survivors of domestic violence – to access the justice and protection they need to live with dignity.



“ For the first time, someone listened to me without judgment. The legal aid officers sat with me, heard my story, and told me: you have rights.”
- Shehla, domestic violence survivor

IMPACT

Justice systems become more efficient and accessible

Justice systems in Pakistan grew stronger in 2025 with UN support, bolstered by legislative progress. Operational efficiency is expected to improve with the approval of a rule of law modernization plan, valued at PKR 632 million. The endorsement of five criminal justice Acts in Balochistan are another important step towards modernizing investigation, prosecution and judicial procedures, as is the establishment of the province's Forensic Science Agency. The development of Pakistan's first National Action Plan 2026–2030 to counter the smuggling of migrants marks a decisive move towards dismantling smuggling networks and better protecting vulnerable migrants.

Child-sensitive justice reforms advanced the implementation and oversight of Pakistan's Juvenile Justice System Act. These landmark reforms include the creation of the first National Coordination Committee on justice for children, as well as the introduction of trauma-informed, non-punitive approaches for children and youth who have been exploited by extremist groups.

UN-supported **digitalization made operations more efficient across the justice chain**. The Case Assignment and Management System digitized more than 18,000 cases across over 40 institutions, improving coordination, transparency and case resolution timelines. Integrated systems were operationalized across the police, prosecution services, courts and prisons, including the integration of prosecution case-flow management with prison information systems in Punjab. In Balochistan, a centralized Prison Management Information System became operational across 13 prisons. At the same time, 20 smart police stations in the province introduced digital complaint and citizen feedback mechanisms – improving transparency and accelerating case processing.

Two e-courts set up in prisons in Sindh facilitated anti-terrorism proceedings through electronic case management and digital evidence presentation. A centralized database of victims of terrorism enabled timely assistance for their families by integrating data from multiple institutions, supported by Standard Operating Procedures and a dedicated funding mechanism.

Capacity building honed the skills and knowledge of justice sector actors, enabling them to translate institutional and legislative progress into results on the ground. The UN trained more than 5,000 law enforcement personnel (26% women), equipping them to fight organized crime, counter terrorism, improve border management and implement criminal justice reforms more effectively. Case referrals and assistance increased by 70% following UN-supported capacity building on border management for 42 Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officers, police and civil society representatives. National coordination on migration governance improved following the launch of the UN Migration Network, alongside training for 100 FIA officers, and the establishment of a dedicated Border Management Wing and an Inter-Agency Task Force to combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

Building the capacities of 2,500 justice actors on human rights, juvenile justice and gender-responsive standards translated into improved courtroom practices and victim protection. The application of international refugee protection principles gained pace after capacity building for over 1,600 law enforcement personnel, judges, prosecutors and civil society representatives. Justice departments also became better able to address cases of gender-based violence following capacity building for 456 officials. In Punjab, training 150 officials on minority rights, interfaith harmony and mediation advanced the inclusive delivery of justice services.

Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

18,000
cases
were digitized through the Case Assignment and Management System – improving coordination, transparency and case resolution

2,500
justice actors
were trained to advance human rights and juvenile justice by improving courtroom practices and victim protection

3,000
survivors of trafficking accessed protection and reintegration services

1,700
women were supported to access essential services like legal aid

■ Key results achieved with UN support: In numbers

5 mediation centres

in Balochistan reduced case resolution times from years to

2-3 weeks



5,000 people

were engaged by stabilization initiatives, fostering social cohesion among climate change- and conflict-affected communities



32

UN-supported civil society projects engaged communities in preventing violent extremism



7,000 workers

were sensitized on labour rights



UN support **expanded access to justice**, including for groups at most at risk of being left behind. In a complex environment, 106,000 refugees and asylum-seekers accessed legal aid and counselling services through Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) supported by the UN. The National Referral Mechanism linked over 5,000 victims of trafficking in persons to support services, while 3,000 survivors accessed protection and reintegration assistance through the UN-supported Victim Reception and Facilitation Centre in Taftan.

Four new Anti-Rape Crisis Cells operationalized with UN assistance provided integrated medico-legal, psychosocial and referral services to survivors. These pioneering centres advanced the survivor-centred implementation of Pakistan's Anti-Rape Act, enhancing **GBV survivors' access to justice** and indispensable support. With the assistance of other UN initiatives, 1,700 women survivors of gender-based violence also accessed essential services, including legal aid. Gender-responsive infrastructure upgrades – including women's complaint cells, family courts, day care centres and spaces for women lawyers – made justice facilities safer and more accessible for 3,650 women, including justice sector professionals and women seeking legal services.

Strengthening **grievance redress mechanisms** made access to justice more inclusive, particularly benefitting women, persons with disabilities, transgender individuals and other vulnerable groups. In Punjab, community-level grievance mechanisms enhanced protection against violence and harassment at work. In Balochistan, five mediation centres resolved 70% of 871 registered cases, reducing case resolution times from several years to just 2-3 weeks. The model's success demonstrates the scalability of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms as cost-effective tools for expanding access to justice.

IMPACT

More people understand their rights and champion social cohesion

UN advocacy and outreach **made people across Pakistan aware of their rights, and increasingly able to exercise them**. Consultations to inform the National Action Plan on Human Rights, and strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Human Rights and provincial departments, reinforced institutional accountability for human rights commitments. The UN-supported "Unboxing Pakistan" podcast reached 2.7 million people, raising awareness of rights, development challenges and people-led solutions. Consultations with 120 workers', employers' and government representatives, combined with awareness campaigns reaching 7,000 workers, strengthened understandings of labour rights. Community engagement catalysed positive shifts in social norms, including sessions that sensitized more than 2,200 people (75% women) on ending violence against women and girls.

Communities became actively engaged in **preventing radicalization and violent extremism** through 32 civil society projects implemented with UN assistance. Four thematic networks brought together 130 civil society organizations to spearhead coordinated, locally-driven responses to violent extremism. These efforts enhanced community resilience and social cohesion, while reducing vulnerability to extremist narratives. In Gwadar, Balochistan, and Khyber, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stabilization initiatives also fostered social cohesion among climate-affected and conflict-prone communities, engaging 5,000 community members, students, teachers and officials.



Above: Women take part in a UN-supported community-led action planning consultation to inform local priorities in Taj Abad, Peshawar © UN Habitat
Below: Sumaiya, UNHCR Helpline Agent, receiving calls from Afghan refugees © UNHCR/Hyejin Lee

REAL LIVES SUMAIYA'S STORY

A helpline becomes a lifeline for refugees

"What will happen to us?" "Is it true they will deport us?" "We don't want to go. How can I live in Afghanistan?" Sumaiya, a UNHCR Helpline Agent, responds to questions like these every day. She and a multilingual team of 40 agents each receive between 30 and 60 calls daily from refugees and asylum-seekers across Pakistan. Sumaiya refers the callers to UNHCR services, provides guidance and shares practical information. Through her voice, hundreds of refugees and asylum-seekers find clarity, safety, or at the very least, someone who will listen. Following the Government of Pakistan's decision to proceed with its Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan, over 1 million people have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan since 2023. Movement restrictions prevent those who remain from accessing UNHCR offices or partner locations. Support continues through the helpline (0800 86677) with funding from the European Union and other donors.

Many callers seek help in clarifying rumours – misinformation about deportation or false promises of resettlement in exchange for money. A large number are women without a male head of household. They are mothers with young children, widows, single women who have built their lives in Pakistan, but now fear everything could change overnight. The helpline is the only bridge between them and accurate information, between fear and clarity. "It protects them," Sumaiya explains, "it is the only door many refugees can open." It is a lifeline in uncertain times.



“ If the helpline didn't exist, so many people would be cheated, misled, or terrified for no reason. Our work reaches the people who need it most. **”**

- Sumaiya, UNHCR Helpline Agent

SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Partnerships are at the heart of the UN's work in Pakistan. If 2025 has taught us anything, it has taught us that strong partnerships, coordinated policy support, and sustained efforts to mobilize financing aligned with national priorities are vital to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

That is why, throughout 2025, the UN family in Pakistan, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and with coordination support from the Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), worked closely with government authorities, development partners, international financial institutions and other key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda.

These partnerships reflect the **UN's value proposition in Pakistan** – one that is grounded in country ownership, delivers results at scale, and leverages innovations and investments to achieve sustainable development for all, and leave no one behind.

In 2025, the UN played an important role in supporting partnerships and policy engagement for the **transformation of food systems**. Agriculture, nutrition and food security play a central role in Pakistan's sustainable development trajectory. Under the Joint SDG Fund-supported Food Systems Transformation initiative, the UN family worked with government counterparts, research institutions, and other stakeholders to identify policy pathways for improving nutrition outcomes, strengthening climate resilience in agriculture, and promoting sustainable food production systems.

This work included analytical assessments of key policy drivers across the food system – from agricultural subsidies to water management, fertilizer use and trade policies – alongside stakeholder engagement that identified actionable reforms and investment priorities.

The UN supported government-led efforts to translate **climate and energy** ambitions into actionable investment pathways. In collaboration with partners including the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), the UN in Pakistan supported the Government's development of an Energy Transition and Investment Plan (ETIP).

This will contribute to operationalizing Pakistan's climate commitments by strengthening integrated energy planning and identifying the priority investments needed to accelerate the country's transition toward a more sustainable and resilient energy system.

Through policy dialogue, technical engagement and coordination support, the UN family facilitated collaboration between ministries, development partners and international initiatives working on energy transition and climate action. The UN also continued to advocate for increased climate-risk financing, as well as supporting South-South exchanges and regional collaboration on social protection.

Another important area of partnership focused on supporting Pakistan's **digital transformation** agenda, including emerging national discussions on digital innovation and artificial intelligence. The Resident Coordinator's Office facilitated engagement between the Government, UN agencies and regional partners to mobilize technical expertise and support the development of a strategic approach to digital transformation, with a focus on bridging the digital divide so that no one is left behind.

With the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the UN co hosted the pioneering Data Festival 2025 – a national platform celebrating **data innovation**, evidence-driven policy and inclusive digital transformation. This collaboration brought together government institutions, UN agencies, academia and development partners to showcase cutting edge data tools and strengthen the culture of data use for national planning. The festival highlighted the shared commitment of the Bureau and the UN to better quality data, greater transparency and data-driven decision making that responds to real needs across Pakistan.



LESSONS LEARNED



Strong, nationally-owned systems drive results

Across sectors, strengthening systems enables them to identify needs, offer higher quality services and reach more underserved people. National and sub-national ownership – supported by evidence-based planning – makes systems more sustainable, resilient and accountable. This is what transforms policy ambitions into real impact. Health and nutrition results in 2025 testify to the power of strong systems that are able to deliver services and improve outcomes, especially for vulnerable women and children. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are powerful: We are stronger together – that is the lesson that resounds across outcome areas in 2025. Collaboration with federal and provincial authorities, development and implementing partners is the common thread that connects every result presented in this report. From progress on ending polio to enhancing climate resilience, collective, coordinated action turned pledges on paper into tangible improvements in people's lives.

Integrated approaches yield gains across sectors

Sustained progress requires multi-sectoral action – particularly linking health, nutrition, food systems, WASH, education, rural livelihood opportunities, climate resilience and social protection. Integrated platforms are key to reaching the most marginalized and improving outcomes across people's life course, especially in fragile and climate change-affected settings.

Mainstreaming climate resilience is not optional, it is essential

Climate shocks increasingly threaten development gains, in Pakistan and around the world. Embedding climate resilience, risk analysis and shock-responsive mechanisms into planning – across sectors, from health to WASH, nutrition, education, social protection, food security and sustainable livelihoods – enables the continuity of services even in the darkest of times, and protects vulnerable communities from regressing during crises.

Data systems are vital for effective targeting, responsiveness and accountability

Strengthening information systems to collect, monitor, interpret and analyse data is essential to diagnose problems and make decisions that respond to them effectively. Better data means better targeting, which helps systems, services and programmes reach those most in need. It is equally necessary for tracking progress, pinpointing gaps, and building confidence and trust – among communities, institutions and donors.

Evidence-driven resource mobilization has also proven critical for securing investments and sustaining partnerships.

Community engagement secures sustainability

Community ownership and local participation – whether in WASH service management, child protection, education, rural livelihoods, climate adaptation or championing gender equality and social cohesion – is a major success factor. It enhances acceptance, transparency, accountability and long-term sustainability, particularly for marginalized groups, women, refugees and communities on the frontlines of climate change. By working with local implementing partners, frontline workers and outreach volunteers, UN initiatives were able to reach remote and underserved areas, while tapping into community feedback to inform programming. For example, leveraging Parent Teacher Councils proved that local ownership is the strongest buffer against school dropouts and the primary driver of girls' participation in education.

Quality is as important as coverage

Expanding coverage alone does not guarantee better outcomes. Whether in health and nutrition services, classroom learning, water and sanitation, climate resilience, decent work and good governance – quality standards and institutional capacities are essential to ensure that greater access to services translates into improved well-being.

Digital solutions have potential, but they require enabling conditions

Digital tools have immense potential – from enhancing learning for students to helping justice systems run smoothly. But this potential can only be realized when it is matched with enabling infrastructure at the community and institutional levels. This is vital to ensure that inclusive digital solutions close, rather than widen, the digital divide, and that users are able to use these tools effectively.

Flexible financing and coordination mechanisms are game-changers

Especially during crises, flexible funding and strong coordination mechanisms are vital for timely responses. In 2025, these were two consistent factors that enabled the continuity of essential services, bringing together UN agencies and partners to reach those most in need, most notably during severe floods. Linking funding requests to evidence-based plans enabled the mobilization of critical resources.

WORKING TOGETHER AS ONE

UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

In 2025, the UN in Pakistan worked together more cohesively and effectively than ever. As “One UN”, embodying the spirit of UN system reform, UN entities integrated and coordinated their work to increase its coherence, multiply its transformative impact, and address the intertwined facets of development simultaneously.

BUSINESS EFFICIENCIES



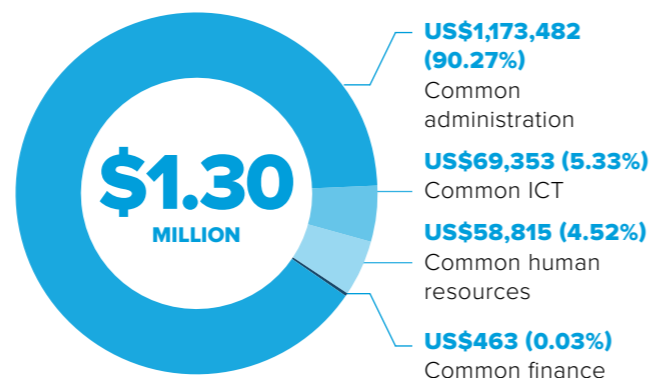
On the operations front, the UN in Pakistan enhanced efficiency by continuing to implement its **Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0**. This system-wide framework delivers on the global UN Efficiency Agenda by enabling joint business operations, eliminating duplication, leveraging collective bargaining power and maximizing economies of scale. In 2025, the strategy’s implementation led to major cost savings – totalling US\$1.30 million thanks to efficiencies in common administration, human resources and ICT services. As in previous years, common administration services accounted for the largest share of savings (US\$1.17 million).

Looking back on data from the past five years reveals how **operational efficiency** has gone from strength to strength with the BOS 2.0. Since the UN began implementing the strategy in Pakistan in 2021, it has achieved more than US\$5.2 million in cumulative efficiency gains – reflecting the impact of shared services, optimized resource utilization and inter-agency collaboration on efficient operations. The BOS 2.0 framework strengthened core service lines in 2025: administration, human resources, procurement, ICT and finance. Common administration services delivered substantial efficiencies through streamlined shared service arrangements. Common long-term agreements (LTAs) for security, transport, air travel, fuel supply and premises management continued reducing duplication while improving predictability and service quality. Agencies’ increased reliance on shared contracts demonstrates growing confidence in centralized operational support mechanisms. Shared connectivity solutions and consolidated vendor management further improved cost efficiency and service reliability across duty stations.

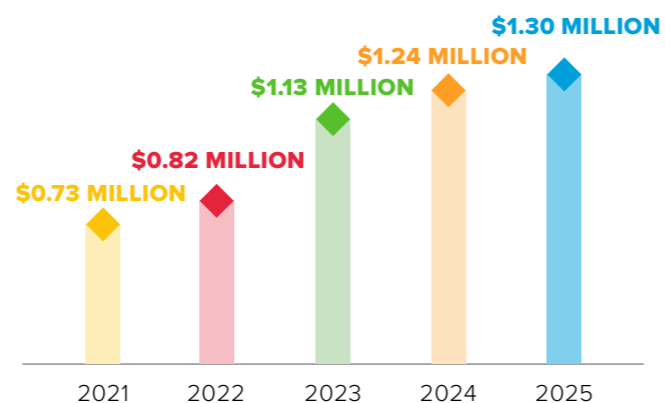
In partnership with the DCO Regional Office, the UN Country Team in Pakistan organized **joint occupational safety and health (OSH) training**. This helped harmonize compliance and safety practices, while collaborating with regional offices bolstered technical quality and inter-agency coherence. The UN implemented disability inclusion measures and continued to ensure that procurement processes complied with standards on safeguarding and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

In 2025, a major milestone was achieved by the Budget and Finance Working Group, which successfully secured **blanket advance and withholding tax exemptions** for all UN entities operating in Pakistan. This exemption, secured for the first time, will generate significant annual savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars across the UN system. This, in turn, will boost financial efficiency and reduce the overall cost of goods and services procured in Pakistan. The transition to the **Common Back Office (CBO)** in 2026 presents an opportunity to further consolidate efficiencies, standardize service delivery, and enhance alignment with UNSDCF objectives. The UN in Pakistan will continue to work closely with regional offices to enhance capacities, improve service quality, and maintain strong operational foundations during the transition period.

COST AVOIDANCE REPORTED IN 2025



OVERALL EFFICIENCY GAINS, 2021–2025



EFFICIENCIES BY COMMON SERVICE LINE, 2021–2025

Service line	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Common administration	601,426	660,721	984,250	1,119,909	1,173,482
Common finance	2,059	1,007	9,140	1,234	463
Common human resources	22,698	36,297	35,042	36,623	58,815
Common ICT	107,626	118,519	96,778	88,084	69,353

COMMUNICATING AS ONE



“Communicating as one” brought the public closer to the UN’s work across Pakistan in 2025. It also meant the UN spoke with one voice – ensuring coherent messaging and consistent advocacy across channels to reflect credibility and build trust. From opinion pieces (op-eds) and articles by the Resident Coordinator and other UN representatives in the print media, to major events, awareness raising campaigns, quarterly briefings for Member States, and social media posts, videos and graphics on sustainable development issues – the UN used all these tools and more to amplify the reach of its messages.

Press releases and social media outreach documenting humanitarian relief operations in Parachinar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, laid bare both on the human cost of the climate crisis and the UN’s support for Pakistan in mitigating its impact. So did a range of videos by UN agencies from the frontlines of devastating floods in Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab. The two “Breathe Pakistan” climate conferences organized in partnership with the Dawn Media shone a light on shared regional emergencies: climate change and air pollution. UN representatives and partners participated in dynamic panel discussions that brought proposed actionable solutions to mitigate the impacts on the most vulnerable – in Pakistan and across South Asia. At the Lahore Literary Festival (LLF), a curated panel on climate action kept resilience firmly on the national radar, while other events highlighted the pivotal role of culture, the creative arts and activists in championing sustainable development, and an information stall showcased UN initiatives and the SDGs they contribute to. “The UN comes to LLF” social media campaign expanded the reach of these messages in collaboration with artists and influencers.

What does the UN really do in Pakistan? A new podcast series, **#AskTheUN**, helped the public find out. The Resident Coordinator and UN representatives came together to answer questions from people across the country on everything from climate change to vaccines, from women’s rights to rural development.



Videos © UN Pakistan

Videos of the Resident Coordinator’s missions across Pakistan took viewers along with him – giving them a window into the UN’s work and partnerships in action, running the gamut from **pioneering renewable energy solutions** and **tackling glacial melt**, to **celebrating diverse cultural heritage**, combatting gender-based violence and protecting refugees. Episodes of a new series, **#UNToldPakistan**, uncovered hidden gems of Pakistan’s culture, resilience and communities – stories most people never knew, but need to hear.

International days raised awareness of sustainable development priorities and how the UN is working with Pakistan to achieve them – none more so than UN Day 2025. Honouring 80 years of the United Nations, the day was a celebration of hope, unity and action under the theme “Building Our Future Together”. Receptions in Islamabad and Lahore brought together government officials, diplomats, donors and the private sector, while public **UN Day celebrations** in Lahore drew 15,000 people together through interactive stalls set up by UN agencies, a careers’ booth set up by the Human Resources Working Group, activities for children, live podcasts and musical concerts. In the week leading up to UN Day, the UN organized events across Pakistan – from tree planting drives in Karachi and Quetta, to information stalls in Peshawar and Quetta, and gatherings with provincial government representatives and private sector partners in all provincial capitals. Across the board, participants marked 80 years since the UN Charter came into force – with its promise of a peaceful world in which all people live in dignity and equality. They took away the resounding message that the Charter’s values have not aged a day – they are as relevant now as they were eight decades ago, and they remain just as worth striving for.

UN agencies came together to jointly commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence with events in five cities (Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar), an **art exhibition** in Islamabad, and a dedicated social media campaign. Joint advocacy, policy dialogue and awareness raising activities galvanized support for rights-based solutions to violence against women and girls, including **technology-facilitated gender-based violence**, hand-in-hand with civil society partners, government officials, academia, educators and youth leaders.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2025



In 2025, the mid-point of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework's (2023–2027) implementation in Pakistan, the UN's required budget was US\$944.98 million. Of this sum, available resources of US\$740.39 million were obtained, indicating a financing gap of US\$204.58 million. The UN made the most of available resources, with expenditure totalling US\$696.36 million – reflecting an impressive, highly efficient overall delivery rate of 94.05%.

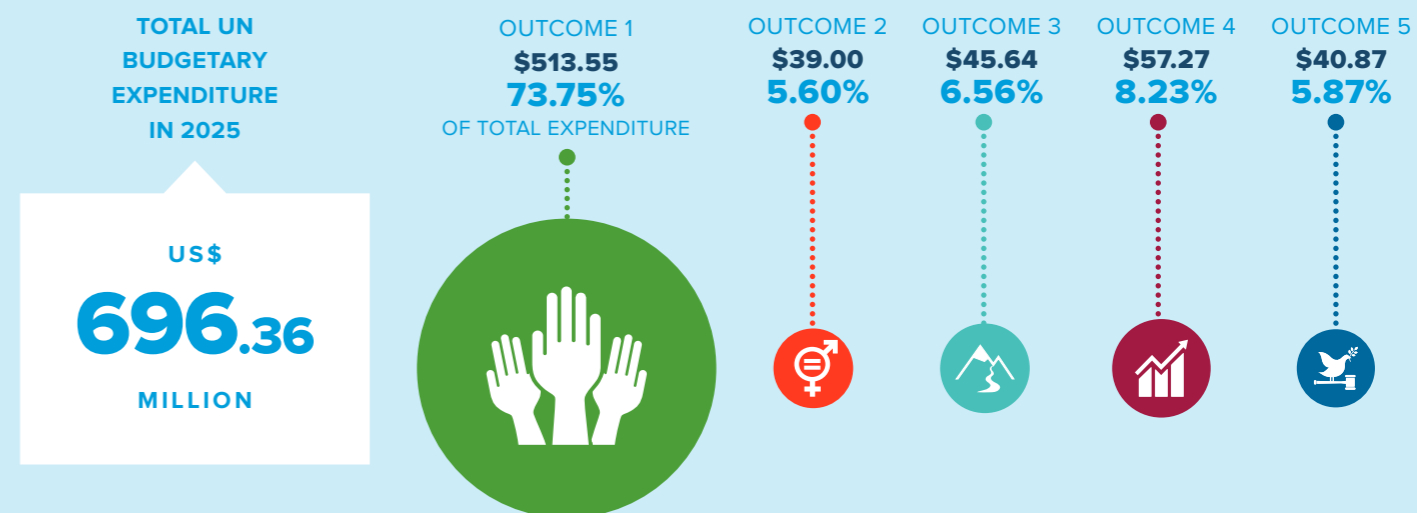
The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) managed a separate humanitarian budget from different funding streams, from which it disbursed funds to UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for humanitarian action across Pakistan in 2025. Funds for the humanitarian budget are not included in this section.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW BY UNSDCF OUTCOMES IN 2025

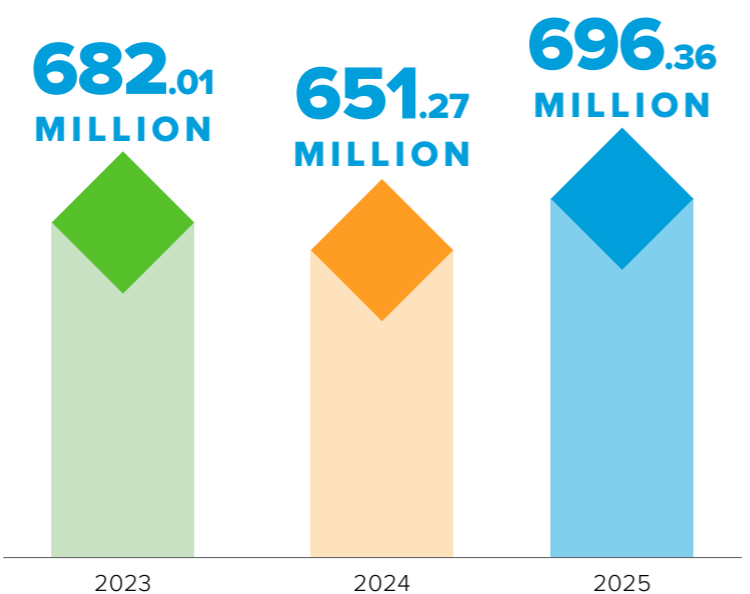


EXPENDITURE BY OUTCOMES IN 2025

UNSDCF outcome	Required resources/ budget (US\$)	Available resources (US\$) [a]	Expenditure (US\$) [e]	Delivery rate [100*e/a]
1 Basic Social Services	635,726,349	534,183,539	513,553,463	96.14%
2 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	72,345,983	43,297,253	39,008,412	90.09%
3 Climate Change and the Environment	80,999,322	51,946,035	45,649,906	87.88%
4 Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth and Decent Work	93,973,979	62,076,954	57,278,216	92.27%
5 Governance	61,938,556	48,893,562	40,870,565	83.59%
Total in 2025	944,984,189	740,397,343	696,360,562	94.05%



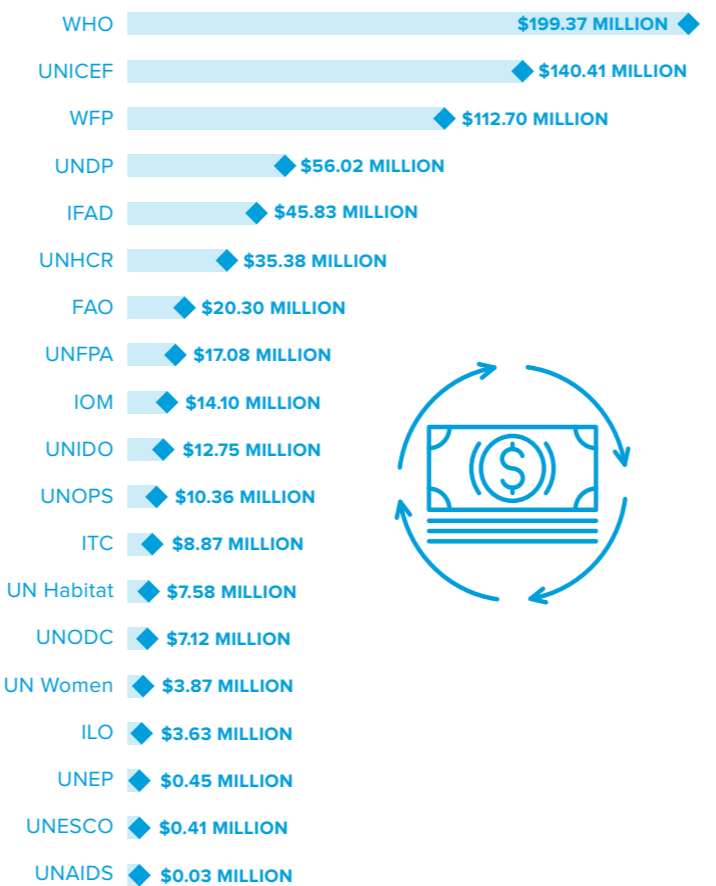
YEAR-ON-YEAR TRENDS IN EXPENDITURE, 2023-2025



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW BY UN AGENCY IN 2025

UN agency in Pakistan	Required resources (US\$)	Available resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)
FAO	25,505,146	23,997,044	20,302,338
IFAD	49,177,577	47,873,564	45,838,324
ILO	11,503,000	5,013,907	3,639,907
IOM	39,463,590	15,481,943	14,103,280
ITC	8,874,678	8,874,678	8,874,678
UNAIDS	75,000	65,000	38,157
UNDP	69,400,736	60,862,526	56,028,464
UNEP	1,286,242	577,367	454,266
UNESCO	2,375,198	2,185,849	416,749
UNFPA	20,064,594	17,450,048	17,087,299
UN Habitat	10,075,032	8,013,226	7,589,917
UNHCR	95,508,355	36,567,493	35,382,004
UNICEF	174,591,416	140,412,333	140,411,332
UNIDO	21,055,172	12,755,172	12,754,195
UNODC	16,210,986	11,615,988	7,124,741
UNOPS	14,560,892	14,560,892	10,367,466
UN Women	12,154,984	3,889,892	3,871,936
WFP	162,554,766	129,325,514	112,700,967
WHO	210,546,825	200,874,907	199,374,542

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE BY UN AGENCY IN 2025



Children play in the snow in winter in Upper Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa © UNICEF/Asim Khan

CHAPTER 3

A SHARED PATH FORWARD

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

In 2026, the UN will continue working with our partners to deliver results for the people of Pakistan – guided above all by the principle of leaving no one behind, and reaching those farthest behind first. As we enter the last mile to achieve the SDGs by 2030, we must move from aspirations to actions. Household survey data published in 2025 clearly reveals that progress is not just possible, but achievable when we invest in systems and capacities to deliver quality services like healthcare and education. But it also underscores how fragile development gains can be, with deterioration on many fronts, including poverty and food security. The evidence shows us how much farther Pakistan must go, and how much faster, to turn sustainable development into a lived reality for everyone.

The UN will remain by Pakistan's side as a trusted partner – providing technical expertise, high-level policy support, people-centred solutions and participatory approaches that catalyse progress in every area of our Cooperation Framework – from basic services like healthcare and nutrition, water and sanitation, education and social protection, to gender equality and women's empowerment, climate action and environmental sustainability, decent work and sustainable growth, and underlying every area, good governance.

In 2026, the UN in Pakistan will continue working towards the outcomes of the UNSDCF

1 OUTCOME BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES	2 OUTCOME GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	3 OUTCOME CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	4 OUTCOME SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK	5 OUTCOME GOVERNANCE
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ACRONYMS

COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBV	gender-based violence
GDP	gross domestic product
HIES	Household Integrated Economic Survey
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRP	Government of Pakistan Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PKR	Pakistani rupee
RC/HC	United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR	sexual and reproductive health and rights
UHC	universal health coverage
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement 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
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
US\$	United States dollar
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

© Landscape in northern Pakistan © UNDP



UNITED NATIONS
PAKISTAN اقوام متحدہ پاکستان



UN PAKISTAN
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2025

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