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“A weather station at Burche, a 3-hour hike from Bagrot Valley, Gilgit.

Four such stations have been installed around the valley to monitor changes through the GLOF project. Due to climate change, melting glaciers create lakes that can overflow and cause tremendous devastation to lives and property. Automated weather stations measure all the important surface weather conditions and are installed in locations vulnerable to glacial lake flooding. The data gathered by the weather stations is analyzed to pre-empt any climatic threats. During the pilot phase of UNDP’s Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)-I project, four of these stations were installed at different points in the valley through the support of the Adaptation Fund.

Photo © Jamil Aichtar
ACRONYMS

AcLab  UNDP Innovation-Accelerator Lab
COVID-19  Coronavirus Disease 2019
GB  Gilgit-Baltistan
KP  Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MPI  Multi-dimensional Poverty Index
NADRA  National Database and Registration Authority
NDC  Nationaly Determined Contributions
NHDR  National Human Development Report
PPE  Personal Protective Equipment
SDGs  Sustainable Development Goals
SIP  Social Innovation Platform
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF  United Nations Children’s Fund

FOREWORD

Noor Ahmed  Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs  Government of Pakistan

The longstanding partnership between the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA), Government of Pakistan and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has enabled us to address many of the country’s COVID-19 pandemic related challenges this year. Together, we have continued to work on important initiatives for sustainable development and transformational change.

The pandemic had an immediate and detrimental impact on business as usual, and we were forced to confront the sustainability of existing processes. With UNDP’s support, the Government of Pakistan developed a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and Response Framework which made the basis of the Government’s response plan to the pandemic. Similarly, a COVID-19 Secretariat was established at the Planning Commission for a coordinated response and evidence-based socio-economic interventions. We will continue our highly valued partnership with the UNDP to enhance existing technologies, capacities and alternate work processes at several key agencies.
INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 posed challenges unlike any the world has experienced before. These ranged from the direct impacts of the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which overwhelmed health care systems, to enforced changes in ways of working, to the economic impacts on large parts of the global and national economy, including major job losses and increased poverty. More than one year into the pandemic, the impacts have been devastating for Pakistan’s most vulnerable people, and concerted, focused and persistent efforts are needed to overcome setbacks and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNDP is a key partner of the Government of Pakistan in the response to COVID-19. In the early phases of the pandemic, we collaborated with our sister agencies in the United Nations to conduct a rapid assessment of socioeconomic impacts, with recommendations for the Government to address the implications of the pandemic on Pakistan’s most vulnerable. This, along with UNDP’s support for a COVID-19 Secretariat established in the Planning Department and business continuity planning to key ministries, was critical to ensuring a coordinated and effective social protection response in 2020. As this report will show, UNDP was able to rapidly design and implement programmes to support the national response, including through improved access to health care via telemedicine, communication and supplies for infection prevention and control, and helplines to address stigma, discrimination and provide mental health support.

Like all other organizations, UNDP faced the challenge of providing support to government and communities where face-to-face interaction was severely limited. I am proud that our team stepped up to this challenge, engaging in innovative approaches to remote working to continue our regular programmes all over the country with local communities and government counterparts, while responding to COVID-19 and spreading information on preventing its spread and helping maintain essential services to the highest standard possible.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had important gender dimensions, and previous advances towards gender equality have suffered. I am particularly proud that, despite the pandemic, UNDP Pakistan was awarded bronze-level certification for the Gender Equality Seal, celebrating significant progress towards gender equality.

Amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic, it was thanks to our partners’ commitment and support that we maintained momentum in all of UNDP’s focus areas.
This is also the year that UNDP’s country support platform, Pakistan’s SDG Units – which bring together innovation, smart policymaking and new investment tools to design and deliver integrated solutions to SDGs – came into its own. UNDP Pakistan is proud to be one of the global pioneers of the Social Innovation Platform approach to development. This approach responds to the needs of these extraordinary times to reimagine development initiatives not as simple projects to be implemented, but as complex, multi-layered portfolios which draw directly on deep and honest conversations with people at grassroots level and mobilize partnerships to respond directly to the needs prioritized by local communities.

As we all look forward to the world’s emergence from the pandemic, we must not forget that an even greater challenge still remains: the fight against climate change. This global, national and individual imperative is becoming more and more urgent, and both adaptation and mitigation measures must be accelerated. As one of the places most vulnerable to climate change globally, Pakistan has made a number of innovative advances on both fronts, and plans to showcase these on World Environment Day 2021, hosted by Pakistan, as well as at COP26, hosted by the United Kingdom. UNDP is proud to continue to support Pakistan’s efforts to implement sustainable, climate-conscious development and disaster preparedness. A notable example is the disaster prevention work related to possible glacier lake outbursts in the Karakoram and Himalayan regions caused by climate change.

I would like to thank all UNDP staff, government counterparts and partners for their enduring efforts during a challenging time. Despite the turmoil of the past year, we remain committed to working closely with government, the private sector, communities and all stakeholders towards achieving our ultimate goal: a future of peace, development and human rights for all, where no one is left behind.

Knut Ostby
Resident Representative
UNDP Pakistan
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

13,339 women and girls in the Merged Areas participated in 509 face-to-face sessions to engage in dialogue on local governance.

1.5 million records of the KP Bar Council were digitized, improving accountability for 20,000 lawyers.

Access to capital and economic opportunities was enhanced through the first land settlement exercise in the Merged Areas since 1944.

132,715 women were registered as voters for the first time in 2020.

Human Rights Information Management System was established, digitizing data management, collection and reporting at local level, and expanded access to first provinces.

6,500 people, including 2,204 women, gained a better understanding of law through 398 legal awareness sessions.

Election Commission of Pakistan was supported to develop strategic plans to implement its Strategic Plan and pilot projects on Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010.

A streamlined model for preventing violent extremism was institutionalized, setting benchmarks for community stabilization programmes.

CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

319,639 people gained improved connectivity and better access to services and markets with basic infrastructure — from water supplies to roads to irrigation schemes. Most of those who benefited — 60 percent — are women.

1,000 female doctors and nurses were trained to provide remote health services during the pandemic.

5,987 young people promoted tolerance and volunteerism in their communities.

1,683 aspiring women entrepreneurs received online training on marketable computer skills; 822 women set up online businesses.

05 eco-friendly camping pod villages in KP promoted tourism and local livelihoods.
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

14,500 impoverished people, 9,000 youth, 6,000 women and 320 people living with disabilities accessed UNDP-supported health services in GB.

1.3 million hectares of protected land will come under improved management following the development of management and operational plans for the Central Karakoram and Deosai National Parks in GB.

18 districts in KP and Gilgit-Baltistan established volunteer watch groups to monitor glacial melt.

Pakistan’s NDC ambitions supported by UNDP and other partners, including NDC Secretariat established at the Global Change Impact Study Centre.

218,998 hectares of forest land in Sindh and Punjab were delineated by the Survey of Pakistan, creating an avenue for future conservation efforts.

DEVELOPMENT POLICY

COVID-19 Secretariat established at Planning Commission to provide data, analytics and technical services support to government, and country level COVID-19 Social Economic Impact Assessment as a primary policymaking resource to aid the response strategy.

SDG localization was enhanced through preparation of SDG frameworks and key government policy documents: Balochistan Comprehensive Development and Growth Strategy, District Localization Plans for MPI-poor districts.

Evidence-based research: 3 issues of Development Advocate Pakistan released; NHDR 2020 on inequality finalized.

National Economic Council Sub-Committee on SDGs established, with support from the Federal SDG Unit.

SDG dashboard was developed to strengthen SDG monitoring, reporting on 80 indicators at national, provincial and district levels, with an index to track progress over time.

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics digitized and conducted the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement survey with UNDP technological support, improving efficiency and data accuracy.


Urban Development and Resilience interventions piloted for water conservation and recycling in hospitality sector, religious institutions and urban forests.
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Institutions and development in the Merged Areas

The challenges raised by the merger of the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have shown the need for strategic reforms and institutional strengthening to successfully integrate systems and processes. UNDP works with the Government of KP to build government capacities to plan, communicate and implement critical reforms, such as developing a budgetary framework for local government and creating an evidence base for development and economic activities.

In 2020, UNDP technical support for the merger was primarily undertaken through dedicated support units designed to standardize and mainstream administrative functions in the Merged Areas. This included the extension of KP’s financial management system to the Merged Areas, improving oversight, reporting and decision-making, and leading to more efficient and effective public sector planning. Financial monitoring has also been extended to the Merged Areas Finance Secretariat. Protocols have been put in place with UNDP support, ensuring effective system-based internal controls, strong management oversight and reporting specifically on the Merged Areas, real-time budget execution reports for responsive decision-making, and improved measures for managing annual development planning and public sector development programmes.

Access to capital and economic opportunities was enhanced through the first land settlement exercise in the Merged Areas since 1944.

Research to underpin reform included the Tribal Baremert study and a baseline study for the Tribal Decade Strategy.
13,339 women and girls in the Merged Areas participated in 509 face-to-face sessions to engage in dialogue on local governance.

702 village and neighbour councils were profiled for informed development planning.

The completion of a large-scale Village and Neighbourhood Council profiling exercise, with full government ownership and in partnership with the Institute of Management Sciences, will provide the information required to shape needs-based, community-led development priorities. Technologically assisted mapping was piloted in two villages through UNDP’s Act Lab.

To promote awareness and ownership amongst community members, especially women and youth, the KP Government was assisted to hire local government ambassadors to engage communities in the reforms process. With UNDP support, the KP Government conducted citizen polling through robocalls and text messaging in partnership with VIAMO.

Rule of law in KP and Balochistan

In Pakistan’s KP and Balochistan provinces, UNDP provides support for infrastructure development, builds capacity, upgrades equipment and helps institute standard operating procedures to build rule of law institutions. This cohesive, strategic support will contribute to improved state-citizen trust — the focus of UNDP’s long-running partnership with law enforcement agencies, particularly in KP.

In 2020 the Prosecution Training Academy in Peshawar and the Joint Police Training Centre benefited from improved infrastructure supported by UNDP. Women’s dormitories are now operational for the Anti-Narcotics Force and model police stations constructed with support from the Government of Japan provide community-focused services in the Merged Areas. The programme has been extended to Balochistan, with training provided to the Police Training Centre in Quetta.

Through UNDP, 70 staff from 14 women’s development organizations in KP were trained on legal empowerment, role of women development organizations, record-keeping and community mobilization. These organizations have been working with UNDP partner organizations in the Merged Areas to raise awareness.

Five model police stations were constructed to provide community-focused services in the Merged Areas.

KP Bar Council increased the membership of the Women Lawyers’ Forum from 100 to 160.

1.5 million records of the KP Bar Council were digitized, improving accountability for 20,000 lawyers.

6,500 people, including 2,204 women, gained a better understanding of law through 388 legal awareness sessions.

In all seven Merged Area jurisdictions, separate seating spaces for women litigants were established.
Human rights and peacebuilding

Robust systems that protect human rights and monitor abuses are essential to democratic governance. In Pakistan, UNDP builds federal and provincial capacity to protect the rights of all citizens.

In all four provinces, an information management system is now tracking human rights violations, with support from strategically placed technical experts in the Ministry of Human Rights and provincial departments, and in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. UNDP also supported the development of a plan to engage the private sector to prevent human rights abuses.

The National Commission for Human Rights advanced its efforts to receive Grade A status from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions with UNDP assistance.

With UNDP support, the Resident Coordinator led the revitalization of the UN Human Rights Task Force and the establishment of an Informal Human Rights Working Group to build synergy around rights-based development.

Through psychosocial support, livelihood skills training and developing the capacity of civil society, UNDP contributed to disengaging 200 women in Swat and Multan from violent extremism and to rehabilitate them into society. This also contributed to the development of a civilian-led model to prevent violent extremism for institutionalization across national and sub-national governments, and moving from an individual-focused to a whole-of-community approach.

In KP, Sindh and Punjab UNDP provided opportunities for youth to earn meaningful livelihoods, receive psychosocial support, training and sensitization to disengage from violent extremism, secure and institutionalize across national and sub-national governments, and moving from an individual-focused to a whole-of-community approach.

Public services and representation

UNDP helps government strengthen its core functions and deliver public services more effectively by identifying institutional and human resource gaps in public services via technical assistance for the Establishment Division, surveys of public perceptions, and by helping the Prime Minister’s Task Force on Austerity and Restructuring to initiate performance-based agreements for government departments.


With strengthened institutional capacity, the Election Commission of Pakistan has developed the mandate, scope and framework for the Federal Election Academy and trained staff to conduct free and fair elections. In 2020, the commission developed updated training materials with UNDP support, to guide boundary delimitation for elections in Punjab, KP and Sindh, local government elections in Punjab and KP, and for the Cantonment Board Elections.

Historically, Pakistan has had amongst the lowest levels of political participation globally. In 2020, UNDP efforts led to direct registration of 1,327,215 women to vote, contributing to the addition of over 1.8 million women to the electoral roll in coordination with the Election Commission of Pakistan and the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) by facilitating women obtain national identity cards and conducting a nationwide awareness campaign. With UNDP technical support, the Election Commission of Pakistan’s Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group has engaged constructively with civil society, women, persons with disabilities and the transgender community.

In 2020, women members of the Pakistani Assembly drafted and revised the rules of the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus through a UNDP collaboration with the assembly’s Secretariat.

As they look ahead to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments are planning for economic recovery. In KP, the evidence-based Azm-e-Nau plan has been shaped by policy briefs developed with technical support from UNDP.

Human Rights Information Management System digitized data management, collection and reporting at federal level, and was replicated across all four provinces.


200 women in Swat and Multan were disengaged from violent extremism and rehabilitated into society.

A civilian-led model for preventing violent extremism was institutionalized, setting benchmark for community stabilization programmes.

Citizen Perception Surveys in KP and Punjab showed the gaps that remain to be filled in governance and service delivery.

Election Commission of Pakistan was supported to develop activity plans to implement its Strategic Plan and train officials on Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010.

With UNDP support, the Government of KP prepared 15 policy briefs and notes to shape the Azm-e-Nau COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

132,715 women were registered as voters for the first time in 2020.
IN FOCUS

“I always feel saddened, whenever I report on violent incidents and deaths due to decades-long land disputes.”

Nabi Jan, a journalist from Lower Kurrum in the Merged Areas, reflects on the realities of a region where land records are not kept. Now, with UNDP support, land settlements are finally being documented.

“If my land record is sorted, I can start commercial activities here since it will have legal binding. We can build factories and markets without any fear of tribal feuds.”

Shah Fahad, from Khyber, believes that sustainable economic activity will become possible once land holdings are demarcated and recorded.

The updated records are being geolocated and digitized so anyone can access them. Communities are fully involved in the process of land settlement to safeguard against disputes.

“Great to see Australia’s project with UNDP Pakistan empowering women leaders in Swat. Australia is pleased to support these inspiring women as they strive for positive change, economic inclusion, peace and security through education and advocacy in their communities.”

Dr Geoffrey Shaw
Australian High Commissioner

“Our partnership with UNDP has been pivotal in exploring and pursuing stability in the Newly Merged Districts of Pakistan. With a citizen-focused strategy, the partnership has enabled contextualized interventions and informed the KP government of real-time issues as well as priorities on ground, and established key links and structures to support relevant institutions and, subsequently, to strengthen government response.”

Chris Phillips
Senior Responsible Officer, CSSD Stabilisation Programme, CSSD-FCO

“USAID is working closely with the Government of Pakistan and the KP provincial government to improve the lives of KP citizens. In recent years, the province has faced a variety of challenges, including conflict, flooding, chronic low literacy, a high infant mortality rate, and low per capita income. Additionally, the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, now the Merged Areas, into KP in 2018 has also brought administrative challenges.

To address these issues, USAID and the Government of Pakistan, through our partner UNDP, are expanding service delivery, improving economic opportunities, and encouraging citizens to strive for a peaceful and prosperous future. Each day this partnership yields new opportunities. For example, the mapping of civic facilities in hundreds of villages and neighbourhood councils has led to better-informed and more efficient resource allocations. Additionally, the digitization of land records facilitates businesses operations, new investments, and prevents future conflict. This partnership continues to play an important role in bringing much-needed peace and economic prosperity to the region.”

USAID Pakistan
“The Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has benefited from the long-term partnership with UNDP, which has been instrumental in providing technical support to the Members and the Secretariat, significantly improving legislative business. This was exemplified during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, when UNDP supported the business continuity of the Assembly through the provision of virtual communication platforms and providing a genesis for future readiness by conducting research and prevailing dialogue through a business continuity assessment study and production of a guide for the conduct and oversight roles of parliamentary committees during times of crisis.”

Mahmood Jan
Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

“The German Federal Foreign Office is pleased to be supporting UNDP Pakistan and its partners in the Government of Pakistan. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 in 2020, important progress was made over the last year, including in the establishment of a national Human Rights Information Management System and the development of a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, under the leadership of the Ministry of Human Rights. These initiatives serve to strengthen Pakistan’s human rights mechanisms, treaty body reporting capacity and have generated new discussions on and hopefully a stronger commitment to the protection and respect for human rights in all business activities, an area of particular importance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

H.E. Bernhard Schlagheck
German Ambassador to Pakistan

“Our mission is to tackle poverty and ensure that the UK is a force for good in the world. Our work with UNDP in the Newly Merged Areas is a good example of dealing with the most complex, intractable, and challenging of issues. The historic merger of the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas into KP promised an opportunity to address 70 years of underdevelopment. We have been able to support the development of new institutions, and development at the local level inspite of the challenges posed by the pandemic. We have supported the development of a post-crisis economic recovery plan as well as studies on the business and investor market. Through our work with the UNDP, UK Aid remains committed to the progress, prosperity, and stability of Pakistan.”

Sarah Cooper
Governance Group Head FCDO
Resilient communities in the Merged Areas

As the Merged Areas rebuild after years of insecurity, UNDP continues to support provincial institutions and district authorities in Kursam and Oskozel to create opportunities to flourish.

Every individual has a role to play in integrating the Merged Areas into the wider economy and society. In 2020, UNDP convened religious leaders and community organizers to bring girls to school, breaking traditional barriers against girls’ education.

As new roads come to link villages to markets, and workers to cities such as Peshawar, local economies begin to be revived.

In historically conservative areas, girls and women have a chance to flourish through education, access to services, and the formation of women’s organizations to amplify their voices.

Infrastructure improves women’s lives. With good roads, it becomes possible for women to travel quickly to health facilities. Clean water closer to home reduces women’s workload, since fetching water far from the home is their responsibility. Girls are less likely to drop out of education if their schools have boundary walls and women’s toilets.

4,500 girls are now learning in safe, conducive environments with UNDP-provided furniture, learning materials, trained teachers and parent-teacher committees for 30 schools.

From education to irrigation, 323,783 women improved access to essential services.

319,639 people gained improved connectivity and better access to services and markets with basic infrastructure — from water supplies to roads to irrigation schemes. Most of those who benefited – 60 percent – are women.
Economic landscapes

Varient economic landscapes in the Merged Areas can create sustainable prosperity for marginalized communities. Private sector investments are being enhanced through a UNDP partnership with the Small Medium Enterprise Development Authority to establish the Economic Cooperation and Development Forum, while a UNDP-supported Business Environment and Market Assessment Study has expanded the knowledge horizon on the economic landscape.

After the famous Bara Cattle Market reopened in the Merged Areas, improved services and support for business development is enhancing economic activity. During the first high season in 2020, business estimated at Rs 9 million took place in the rehabilitated market following UNDP-supported improvements. All contactable beneficiaries of business grants are now running successful businesses.

Women constitute a vast, under-utilized pool of Pakistani talent and drive. Access to microfinance, business grants, innovation training and vocational skills training supports women’s entrepreneurship and creates new opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

UNDP makes it easier for women to travel to work safely and independently, through motorcycle training, and a smartphone app to ensure safety. Telemedicine training for female doctors and nurses enables women to access essential health care despite the COVID-19 pandemic. After the pandemic ends, this is a model of how quality services can be provided at low cost, even in remote areas of Pakistan.

Investments in the future

An investment in youth is an investment in the future. Young people are testing efforts at youth empowerment through UNDP-supported innovation challenges for tolerance and volunteerism, and leadership initiatives on women, peace and security in KP, Sindh and Balochistan. Youth also led the National Youth Forum in 2020, hosted by UNDP and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), with national decision-makers present to hear and act on youth concerns.

With livelihood training and psychological counselling, young offenders can be steered into becoming productive members of society. Young aspiring entrepreneurs from KP and Sindh benefit from online training and receive help to apply for subsidized business loans through UNDP’s Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme, in a partnership with the Prime Minister’s Kamyab Jawan Programme.

In KP, UNDP is working with the government to develop the province’s vast potential for eco-tourism through establishment of camping villages that will create livelihoods for young people and local businesses.


- 5,987 young people promoted tolerance and volunteerism in their communities.
- 1,683 aspiring women entrepreneurs received online training on marketable computer skills; 822 women set up online businesses.
- 187 prisoners under 20 received livelihood training and psychological counselling.
- Through legal aid to 25 young prisoners involved in petty crimes, two were acquitted, and 19 were released on bail or were pending bail payment.
IN FOCUS

“... This incubation programme has taught me how to think like an entrepreneur.”

Maham, from North Waziristan district, participated in a UNDP-supported business incubator which offers entrepreneurship training to young women and men from three of the Merged Areas.

“We can’t go out. Schools, colleges and universities are closed and there is a fear of contracting the deadly virus as well. In such a bleak time, being able to participate in this programme felt like a wonderful opportunity.”

Nineteen-year-old Jamaima is receiving online training and mentoring through the business incubator. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, trainings switched to an online platform, enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to access support to develop their business plans from home.

Participants who develop practical, scalable business ideas receive small grants, and mentorship with experts and successful entrepreneurs.

“The Government of Sindh is fully committed to the Sustainable Development Goals. Our resolve is manifested in the form of a youth-centric intervention with UNDP-Pakistan under the name of Youth Education Employment Empowerment Project. The Sindh Education Foundation, on behalf of the Government of Sindh, combines accessible and quality education, youth employment, and empowerment in a holistic manner. As we are faced with multiple and ever evolving challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there could not have been a more pressing time to explore synergies and address the crisis together.”

Abdul Kabir Kazi
Managing Director, Sindh Education Foundation, Government of Sindh

“Half of the population in Pakistan are women, however, young women are not given the same opportunities to participate in the economic activities of the country. If women are given equal education and job opportunities, it will increase the economic growth of Pakistan as a whole, and as such everyone will benefit. The Norwegian Embassy is therefore supporting UNDP and contributing to the improvement of lives of young men and women here in Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.”

Vigdis Halvorsen
First Secretary – Head of Development Cooperation, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad

“UNFPA and UNDP have been working in partnership on youth development, youth-led policy framework, inclusion of gender minorities and advancing gender equality. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the collective efforts enhanced capacities of young leaders on sexual and reproductive health rights and gender-based violence and for young journalists to better respond to fake news. Technical assistance in terms of data management, strategic communications and epidemiology was also provided to the Ministry of National Health Services to expedite the government’s response to the pandemic in Pakistan. Furthermore, women safe spaces were established in Sindh and Balochistan which enabled them to access psychosocial assistance. To ensure inclusion of transgender community in the relief assistance, UNDP and UNFPA collaborated with the Ministry of Human Rights to conduct rapid assessment and supported the most vulnerable transgender community members in Islamabad Capital Territory.”

UNFPA Pakistan
WHERE WE WORKED IN 2020

Country Office - Islamabad
Sub Offices - Peshawar and Quetta

Colour guide: Project Implementing Districts

DISCLAIMER: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR: The grey colour of the representation of this area refers to the state of Jammu & Kashmir is yet to be decided through a peaceful resolution under the Joint Working Group for the Settlement of the Outstanding Issues between India and Pakistan.

DEVELOPMENT POLICY: Development Policy Unit works with the federal and all provincial governments, partners and citizens in shaping policy to plan, finance and monitor equitable implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Communities and livelihoods

As climate change impacts begin to take hold across Pakistan with increasing severity, ecotourism initiatives provide an avenue towards youth employment and sustainable livelihoods for affected communities while protecting the natural environment.

In mountainous Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), where communities are particularly at risk, UNDP strengthens essential health services. Alongside GB, communities in vulnerable areas of Chakwal (Punjab), Dera Ismail Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Thar (Sindh) now have access to safe drinking water, off-season vegetables and fuel-efficient stoves.

These measures are particularly beneficial for women and girls, who are most at risk from indoor air pollution and are responsible for collecting household water.

Forests and natural environments

Sustainable management can preserve Pakistan’s rapidly dwindling forest cover while protecting local livelihoods. Provincial governments are developing and implementing holistic tools and approaches that consider climate change and ecosystems, while creating sustainable livelihoods.

Punjab now has a provincial forest policy considering climate change and biodiversity conservation and three land management plans for integrated management of natural resources, while in GB, vulnerable high mountain ecosystems are also protected by management plans. With UNDP support, government bodies are identifying and designating forest lands for future protection.
Governments in KP, Punjab and Sindh are implementing wide-ranging conservation initiatives which have regenerated dwindling forests, rehabilitated forests and soil, and improved forest monitoring.

In Skardu, two projects to irrigate formerly barren land and convert it into farmland is providing alternative livelihood options and improving the economic conditions of communities.

In 2020, biodiversity measures were implemented in three provinces, with Chini in northern Punjab designated as a national park, Kapran and Siran identified as high-value conservation areas, and a hog deer breeding centre established in Sindh.

A partnership with the National University of Science and Technology has led to the development of a prototype system to detect illegal logging and deforestation even in remote areas by analysing audio signals.

In 2020, the Ministry of Climate Change safely disposed of 286 megatons of persistent organic pollutants from across Pakistan.

UNDP joined the private sector CORE alliance to eliminate packaging waste.

### National commitments to fight climate change

Pakistan is among the 10 countries which have been worst affected by climate change in the past decade. Climate Change is a huge development challenge as well as an environmental challenge. Apart from the global impact, it is hitting the poorest and the most vulnerable first and hardest.

In the runup to the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow, United Kingdom, the Ministry of Climate Change enhanced Pakistan’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to global warming mitigation targets under the Climate Promise and Climate Action Enhancement Package, with support from UNDP and Germany. The ministry has established an NDC Secretariat at the Global Change Impact Study Centre, a technical subsidiary of the Ministry of Climate Change, with UNDP’s support. UNDP is now supporting a survey to engage Pakistan’s youth on climate change and the development of a roadmap to implement Pakistan’s NDCs.

UNDP supported the technical analysis and national survey of charging station locations, which led to the promotion and implementation of the electric vehicle policy, in partnership with the National Fuel Efficiency and Conservation Authority. UNDP also supports the government to analyse and estimate emissions of polluting refrigerant gases, and to assess the impacts of phasing them out.

A new partnership with Unilever on solid waste management in Rahim Yar Khan (Punjab) was also established. The completed baseline and experimentation studies are now being used to develop a project proposal.

Punjab province developed its Forest Policy considering climate change and biodiversity conservation.

Conservation efforts in KP, Sindh and Punjab have brought 24,703 hectares of land under sustainable practices.

32,782 hectares in Punjab, Sindh and KP have been designated for biodiversity conservation measures.

1.3 million hectares of protected land will come under improved management following the development of management and operational plans for the Central Karakoram and Deosai National Parks in GB.

218,998 hectares of forest land in Sindh and Punjab were delineated by the Survey of Pakistan, creating an avenue for future conservation efforts.

NDC Secretariat established at Global Change Impact Study Centre.

Pakistan’s NDC ambitions are being enhanced with UNDP support.
Preparing for disasters

When governments plan for disaster risk reduction, they can protect the lives and livelihoods of the millions of Pakistanis who are vulnerable to climate change impacts.

In 2020, UNDP assisted the National Disaster Management Authority to review, analyse and develop policies and plans, and to prepare recommendations to align its work across Pakistan with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the SDGs.

At provincial and district levels, institutional frameworks are being strengthened through support for developing and reviewing specific, contextualized plans for vulnerable districts. With UNDP support, institutional disaster response capacities have been improved, district officials trained to carry out Early Recovery Needs Assessments, and district emergency operation centres equipped with essential IT and communication equipment to respond quickly and effectively when disaster strikes.

These will be linked with an early warning system designed by UNDP and regional experts in partnership with the Pakistan Meteorological Department, which is intended to be rolled out in 2021.

A Climate Change Cell has now been established at the Ministry of Climate Change, while five Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Cells and Hazard Watch Groups are operational in KP and eight in GB.

Early warning systems are being procured for installation in mountainous regions of KP and G3, where District Emergency Response Centres have been strengthened with rescue, relief, and response equipment. Volunteer groups linked to early warning systems are now monitoring glaciers for signs of sudden, potentially catastrophic melting.

To enhance disaster preparedness in Pakistan’s coastal areas, national tsunami guidelines have been drafted and a comprehensive earthquake and tsunami risk assessment of Karachi’s coastal belt initiated, with an international training workshop on Tsunami Early Warning Standard Operating Procedures organized through a partnership between UNDP and UNESCO.

In each of three provincial hackathons held in Punjab, KP and Sindh, 70 youth participants developed disaster risk reduction ideas and prototypes related to climate change induced disasters, local attacks and COVID-19.

Five vulnerable districts were protected through disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation plans developed in collaboration with Provincial and District Disaster Management Authorities in KP (Chitral and Dera Ismail Khan), Sindh (Dadu and Tharparkar) and Punjab (Lahore).

143 district officials were trained on Early Recovery Needs Assessment in four Sindh districts, Dadu, Tharparkar, Ghotki and Kashmore.

Nine District Emergency Operation Centres in Sindh (Ghotki, Kashmore, Tharparkar, Dadu, Punjab Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Jhang), and KP (Dera Ismail Khan and Chitral) were strengthened by providing IT and communication equipment.

In 30 coastal communities of Malir, West Karachi and Gwadar, Village Disaster Management Committees were established, and 879 youth volunteers (283 men, 496 women) gained knowledge and skills for emergency response through training.

In mountainous areas of 18 districts in KP and GB, communities established volunteer watch groups to monitor glacial melt.

210 women in coastal communities enhanced their skills for better livelihoods through UNDP’s support and training.
IN FOCUS

“I had to burn wood three times a day for cooking, heating water, and making bread. The direct heat used to burn my hands. It was also very difficult to breathe due to the smoke.”

Bani recalls the health impacts of traditional bukhari stoves which she, like many other women living in mountainous GB, relied on for cooking and heating.

As part of the Central Karakorum National Park Management System, UNDP piloted the provision of 200 locally designed fuel-efficient stoves to reduce the harmful effects of indoor wood burning. The new stoves have halved the amount of wood burnt for household purposes from 160 kg of logs a week to only 80 kg of wood chips and small branches, helping to reduce tree felling for fuel.

“We are happy with this stove, as now we can breathe clean air inside our homes throughout the year.”

“After decades-long Italian presence in Gilgit-Baltistan, meant to contributing to a local institutions’ system for ecosystems awareness and scientific management, benefiting remote communities, AICS has decided to partnering with UNDP Pakistan, after financing successful environment studies, to enhancing a participatory approach towards institutional and communities’ governance of natural resources leading to better livelihoods for women, youth and marginalized groups in environment-friendly way, based on protected areas Management Plans. Our next step together is meant to complete the glaciers’ inventory started through our joint Debt Swap initiatives. We believe that, through this partnership, UNDP’s world mandate on governance will facilitate a better grasp and spread of Pakistan’s potential and need for responsible approaches, in the field of climate change.”

Emanuela Benini
Director
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) Islamabad

“The Government of Japan is committed to engaging in the project to bolster disaster-prevention countermeasures by utilizing knowledge and expertise acquired by the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11 March, 2011.”

Ishii Kensuke
Economic Counsellor/Head of Economic and Development Section, Embassy of Japan

“This Coca-Cola and UNDP have been long standing partners for most of our markets globally, and in Pakistan we take pride in our close collaboration with UNDP on water stewardship, innovative techniques to recycle plastics and policy development with relevant government agencies. UNDP’s stellar performance in administering our water replenishment portfolio has earned us the status of a water-positive region by replenishing over 3 billion litres back to local communities.”

Fahad Ashraf
General Manager and Vice President, The Coca-Cola European Partnership, Pakistan & Afghanistan Region
DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Road to sustainable development

Agenda 2030 to achieve the SDGs is a roadmap for ensuring that all Pakistanis enjoy prosperity, opportunity and peace by 2030. Yet in Pakistan and across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a major setback to achieving these goals.

In 2020, the National Economic Council’s Sub-Committee on SDGs was established with support from the Federal SDG Unit, demonstrating national ownership of SDG implementation. This provides high-level political leadership to guide Pakistan on the road to sustainable development.

National SDG localization efforts have been deepened at federal and provincial levels through the preparation of SDG frameworks and key policy documents.

Keeping in view the limited fiscal space available on SDG financing, an Expenditure Tracking System is now being put in place in the Financial Accounting and Budgeting System of the Office of the Controller-General of Accounts. This has enabled the government to track and report development and current expenditures related to the SDGs at national and sub-national levels. A similar exercise was conducted in Sindh with the provincial finance department’s public finance management team.

To explore additional opportunities for SDG financing, a sub-committee on innovative financing was established by the Ministry of

SDG localization was enhanced through preparation of SDG frameworks and key government policy documents: Balochistan Comprehensive Development and Growth Strategy, District Localization Plans for MPI poor districts.

Planning. Proposals and analysis related to green sukuk and debt swap have been presented to the Ministry of Finance and the Economic Affairs Division for further deliberation and implementation.

Data for development

UNDP’s human development reports are snapshots of the state of human wellbeing, going beyond monetary measures to investigate the deeper factors that influence people’s opportunities to live better lives.

In 2020, UNDP finalized Pakistan’s National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2020, which was published in 2021. The report investigates inequalities of income and opportunity through extensive statistical analysis and consultations with marginalized groups including women, the transgender community, persons with disabilities, refugees and displaced persons, youth who are not in education, employment and training, and many more.

Research on youth, regional connectivity, and the peace and development nexus has been highlighted through the publication of three issues of Development Advocate Pakistan.

An SDG dashboard is now in place to improve monitoring, reporting on indicators and tracking progress across time.

This will be linked with other key reporting systems. With UNDP technological support, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics digitized and conducted the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement survey with improved efficiency and data accuracy.

The KP SDG Unit reviewed administrative data to assess its potential to fill SDG-related data gaps, and instituted a management information system to improve reporting and analysis. Eighteen additional SDG indicators have been identified for monitoring through administrative data.

A country-level COVID-19 socioeconomic impact assessment supported by UNDP became the foremost policymaking resource for government and development partners on developing the COVID-19 response strategy and programme responses. This framework includes a Vulnerability Index modeled on the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) calculated by UNDP, with the support of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.

Cities of the future

As more Pakistanis become urban dwellers, UNDP draws on global experiences and expertise to help build sustainable, liveable and vibrant cities. UNDP’s Pakistan office is participating in a regional project to match the issues faced by cities in Asia-Pacific with smart, sustainable private sector solutions.

In 2020, UNDP piloted urban development and resilience interventions for water conservation and recycling and urban forests, as well as on sustainable urbanization, urban planning, municipal finance and energy efficiency.

Twelve teams competed to find solutions to water scarcity in Islamabad at a Hackathon and Challenge Competition organized with UNDP support. This resulted in the installation of smart meters and 155 “plug and play” water optimizers at an Islamabad hotel.

Rawalpindi, a city of over 2 million people adjacent to Islamabad, is also initiating an urban platform, and is developing an urban resilience strategy and exploring digital solutions for efficient water management with UNDP support. A pre-feasibility study on rainwater harvesting was conducted, showing the way forward for water conservation and management in this water-stressed city.
Pakistan’s richest and poorest citizens inhabit very different worlds. In 2020, UNDP completed the Pakistan NHDR to highlight these gaps and show the country’s severe inequalities from a multidimensional perspective.

The NHDR 2020 follows the launch of UNDP’s global Human Development Report 2020, *The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene*, which illustrates that people who have more are able to better capture the benefits of nature and push the costs onto those with less. To this end, the Human Development Report aims to dismantle “the gross imbalances of power and opportunity that prevent change” in the world today.

The Pakistan NHDR 2020 has similar goals, looking at power differentials through a socioeconomic perspective. It shows that inequality is not just about wealth: Pakistanis are also affected by inequality of opportunity, human development and outcome.

Based on national and provincial statistical analysis and consultations with people across Pakistan, the report highlights three key drivers of inequality:

- **Power**: Privileged groups that make use of loopholes, networks, and policies for their benefit.
- **People**: Deeply embedded belief systems that encourage bias against social identities like race, gender, religion, or caste, among others.
- **Policy**: Systems and strategies that are either ineffective, or at odds with the principles of social justice.

As the report shows, these key drivers of inequality intersect to create two different Pakistanis – of the Haves and Have-Nots. It recommends a reform agenda that can serve as a blueprint to put the country on the road to an equal Pakistan.

“The successful implementation of the SDGs requires establishing phase-wise priorities and setting of realistic targets. Parliaments must make sure that implementation is on track and can be recalibrated in light of evidence and public feedback. We extend our hand towards achieving the 2030 Agenda in collaboration with UNDP.”

**Pir Mujeeb ul Haque**
Member of Provincial Assembly,
Convener Parliamentary Task Force, Sindh

“Achieving the SDGs should be the prime objective of our policies and plans. Special attention in the new Initiatives/programmes of the government must be given to SDG attainment through pro-poor growth, poverty alleviation, and creation of productive assets. The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is very pleased with its strong partnership with UNDP and its commitment to achieve the SDGs.”

**Muhammad Bakhtiar Khan**
Director General, Sustainable Development Unit, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

“We are thankful to UNDP for their valuable technical support to institutionalize Agenda 2030. Competing in the Decade of Action, we need to go the extra mile to enhance the visibility, effectiveness, and impact of our concerted efforts at the grass roots level across Punjab.”

**Imran Sikandar Baloch**
Secretary Planning & Development Board, Government of Punjab
INNOVATION

UNDP Innovation-Accelerator Lab (AccLab) is a strategic innovation support unit at the centre of UNDP programming. The Lab is a safe learning space which collaborates with projects and partners to field test new programming and use innovative tools such as systems thinking, design and experimentation.

Pakistan is one of three countries in Asia-Pacific selected by UNDP Headquarters, to test the Social Innovation Platform (SIP) approach. Social Innovation Platforms is an approach that works like an integration engine, bringing together a variety of actors, methods and interconnected actions to allow experimental and systemic approach to address the SDGs. The model aims to replace traditional linear project design.

In partnership with Agirre Lehendakaritza Centre, Ballstan Foundation and IMAGO, UNDP is using the SIP approach to explore socio-economic challenges emerging as a result of COVID-19 in Hushley Valley, GB and to test the effectiveness of the SIP methodology. We have developed a portfolio of experiments targeting local food systems to increase economic opportunities in the community. Testing on the ground is underway.

Looking Ahead
We will disseminate learnings from Hushley valley on using SIP to local government, private sector and local stakeholders and scale the approach into country office programmes.

Testing circular economy model through plastic waste management

AcLab partnered with the Environment and Climate Change team, UNDP Regional Innovation Centre and Unilever to explore how Pakistan can rethink its relationship with plastics by testing new economic models and move towards a circular economy model.

Using the Systemic Design approach, the Lab has developed a portfolio of experiments that test solutions at different points in the system from community behaviour to economic incentives in Rahim Yar Khan.

Our first experiment in collaboration with Unilever: ECCU is with Project Procurement International (PP) to create an economic model where the cost of non-recyclable plastic is made through money earned from selling recyclable plastic. The results from these experiments will provide us field-tested and systemic insights on effective solutions to developing a larger programme and policy on plastic waste and circular economy.

Digital transformation

AcLab and UNDP’s units developed UNDP’s first digital transformation portfolio for the Government of Pakistan following consultations with 15 ministries and over 50 stakeholders from government, private sector and the development community.

The portfolio aims to improve governance through digital interventions and to formally develop the growing digital transformation portfolio. UNDP has also conducted a digital maturity assessment in parallel to prioritize digital interventions using data-driven approach.

Looking Ahead
UNDP has signed an MoU with Unilever to test a circular plastic waste management model in Rahim Yar Khan city and will scale up the programme based on tested results.

With UNDP support, priority interventions have been identified and endorsed by the prime minister of Pakistan. The programme will be operationalized in 2021.
As the pandemic hit, the UNDP AcclLab reimagined what a new normal could look like using the Weak Signals Radar method. The Radar was published on our innovation website. The approach maps out emerging trends, solutions and ideas that may become significant in the future. These signals can help policymakers plan for the future, today.

The Radar visualises the post-Covid-19 landscape from public policy to urban spaces. The Radar signals are segmented under key themes: Governance, Policy and Politics, Infrastructure and Urbanism, Lifestyle and Work (behavioral lens), Industry and Production, and Economics. In each segmented, key trends and solutions are mapped. At the core, the Radar shows immediate signals and patterns, the further you move, the more long-term signals are mapped.

A year since the Radar was created, some of the indicators have become a reality. For instance, debate on moving towards a circular economy is strong; a move towards hybrid work environments is a reality; e-governance is mainstreaming and mental health is a major issue globally as a result of COVID-19. The Radar also enabled the Lab to support country office projects to initiate new areas of programming in green jobs and digital transformation.

"Qatar Fund for Development is continuously seeking to expand partnerships that adopt innovative and disruptive approaches to tackle development challenges more effectively and efficiently and achieve the SDGs. Qatar Fund is thrilled to see the Accelerator Labs Network expanding to more countries, in particular Pakistan where the initiative has already reached countless milestones and addressed major challenges through plastic waste management and digital transformation. The great achievements of the Labs are proof of the power of locally sourced, locally empowered by the collective, global intelligence of the Labs. Today, the initiative has created the fastest learning network in development."

H.E. Khalifa bin Jassem Al-Kuwari
Director General of the Qatar Fund for Development
GLOBAL VISION
NATIONAL SOLUTIONS

Achieving Agenda 2030

星级 With support from the Federal SDG Unit, a Sub-Committee on the SDGs was established at the National Economic Council, showcasing national ownership of SDG implementation.

星级 National SDG localization efforts were amplified at federal and provincial levels through the preparation of SDG frameworks and government policy documents relating to the economic growth and social protection sectors.

星级 With UNDP technical policy support, the Prime Minister’s Kamyala Jahan Programme provides technical livelihood skills and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people, a movement for green development, and youth civic engagement.

星级 The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is working with UNDP to equip students at religious seminaries (masjads) towards mainstream learning, enabling them to become equal and productive citizens of Pakistan.

星级 GB communities have reliable access to clean drinking water.

星级 132,718 more women are now registered on the electoral rolls through a UNDP partnership with the Election Commission of Pakistan and NADRA.
UNDP supports efficient and responsive governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

- The Ministry of Human Rights operationalized the first nationwide human rights information management system.
- The Election Commission of Pakistan implemented its Strategic Plan (2019–2023), Elections Act, 2017, and published its Annual Report to increase accountability to the public and strengthen parliamentary oversight.

UNDP supports nature-based solutions for development.

- In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, KP and GB, people living in fragile ecosystems developed and applied integrated approaches to managing forests and conserving biodiversity and other natural resources while building socio-economic prosperity.

UNDP supports women’s empowerment and gender equality

- In the Merged Areas, 13,339 women and girls were involved in face-to-face discussions to shape local governance systems, in a region with strong traditions against women’s participation in public life.
- Women were supported to enter public spaces safely and confidently through the development of a Women’s Safety App and training to ride motorcycles.

UNDP supports crisis prevention and increased resilience

- With UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNDP applied a three-track approach to recovery based on evolving needs of crisis-affected populations. This ensured improved livelihoods, food security, social cohesion and better access to basic services and community infrastructure for people in KP’s Merged Areas.
- UNDP strengthened early warning systems to protect people in coastal areas at risk of tsunami, and those in mountainous areas at risk of glacial/ landslide outburst floods.

UNDP supports clean, affordable energy

- UNDP engaged with vertical trust funds such as the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund, as well as multilateral and bilateral donors, to address climate change challenges, conserve natural resources, shift towards renewable energy and enhance government’s preparedness for disasters.

UNDP supports efforts to keep people out of poverty

- Women, young people and members of marginalized communities enhanced their skills and ability to build sustainable livelihoods through training, capacity development and small grants.
- Renewed economic activity at the Baura Cattle Market in the Merged Areas following rehabilitation support led to business estimated at Rs. 9 million during the Eid festival.
RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Results

To understand how the COVID-19 pandemic affected Pakistan, and how best to maintain progress towards sustainable development, a country-level COVID-19 Social Economic Impact Assessment was conducted. This served as the foremost policymaking resource for Government and development partners in their COVID-19 response strategy and programme responses. Business continuity support to key ministries helped them maintain service delivery, even during pandemic lockdowns.

A COVID-19 Secretariat was established at the Planning Commission on the request of the Government of Pakistan and provided data, analytics and technical services support to government for the formulation of COVID-19 response and mitigation strategies.

The Government of KP developed its three-year Azm-e-Nau Economic Recovery Plan to chart the way out of the COVID-19 crisis, with UNDP support.

Through a teledicine platform, 4,500 medical professionals and junior doctors in 60 intensive care units were linked with critical care specialists who provided expert advice on patient care during the pandemic.

In the Merged Areas, a range of methods were used to communicate effectively with 114,157 people, including 47,380 women, on how to protect themselves and their communities against COVID-19. In a region where hygiene facilities are often limited, UNDP installed 150 water tanks for handwashing and distributed information on preventing infection.

20,181 people affected by COVID-19 were helped to address stigma, discrimination and mental health issues via toll-free helplines established the federal government and in Sindh and Balochistan. In Sindh, UNDP also supported establishment of a referral system for survivors of gender-based violence.

A transgender protection centre in Islamabad was supported by UNDP to provide physical and mental health assistance, and 120 relief packages, to this marginalized community.

Using teledicine

4,500 medical professionals in intensive care units were linked with critical care specialists for advice on COVID-19 care.

114,157 people in the Merged Areas learned how to protect themselves from COVID-19.

20,181 people affected by COVID-19 accessed advice on addressing stigma and mental health issues through helplines.

“We have embarked on this critical mission to fight COVID-19 because we are frontline health workers. But we cannot win this battle against the virus without sufficient protection. Shortage of PPE had created a critical situation where not only were we at risk but were also risking the lives of those around us.”

Muhammad Sharif, a health care worker in Balochistan’s Mastung district describes the urgent need for personal protective equipment (PPE) in the efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to treat those affected. With UNDP support, Sharif and his colleagues in Balochistan have been assured of an adequate supply of PPE, enabling them to continue their lifesaving work in the midst of a global pandemic.
LOOKING AHEAD

The COVID-19 pandemic which started in 2020 laid bare fundamental weaknesses in governance, and the severe vulnerabilities experienced by Pakistanis. In the year to come, UNDP will learn from this important lesson and provide the evidence-based policy and technical support that will guide policy decisions for sustainable development.

We will build on the COVID-19 response programme in Pakistan to advance progress towards the SDGs with a green recovery and greater economic inclusion through skills-building, job creation and initiatives to address inequality. We will drive down on efforts to achieve the SDGs by preparing actionable SDG acceleration plans for districts which rank low on the MPI. We will help government develop an SDG costing framework, promote innovative financing mechanisms such as social impact funds, green sukuk and debt swaps, and create an SDG investment map to attract domestic and overseas investment.

We will enhance inclusive governance and strengthen the rule of law and access to justice in Balochistan, as well as in GB and the merged Areas of KP. In the merged Areas of KP, we will help develop local governance mechanisms around conflict resolution, land resettlement and peace building. In the merged Areas and Balochistan, we will re-establish community organizations and build trust in local governments to prevent conflict and violent extremism by rehabilitating the basic infrastructure on which communities depend, and by improving economic futures through skills training and business grants.

We will promote cross-border cooperation and regional connectivity by expanding the economic stabilization, inclusion and resilience programme, both geographically (to border districts in Balochistan and KP) and programmatically (to include trade regulatory systems, and infrastructural mechanisms as platforms for cross-border cooperation and regional connectivity). We will scale up ongoing urban development and resilience interventions in collaboration with the UNDP Regional Hub in Bangkok, and explore partnerships with governments, private sector, academia and civil society.

We will promote Pakistan’s efforts to build climate change resilience by supporting effective implementation of the NDCs. A key part of this will be through boosting the implementation of the Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding (GLOF) programme. We will also build partnerships to develop and effectively implement a Blue Economy Policy Framework in Pakistan, helping protect its precious marine resources and the communities that depend on them.

We will contribute to the vision of a Digital Pakistan through our innovation portfolio, focusing on e-services such as citizen registration, digital payments, access to social services, a police portal and improved ease of doing business.
RESOURCES

2020 expenditure by source of funds (in US$)

- USAID: $8,748,301
- GEF: $4,908,250
- JAPAN: $4,502,760
- GEF CLIMATE FUND: $6,531,441
- MPTF: $3,872,940
- INL: $2,613,490
- UK FCO: $1,621,678
- FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE: $1,494,595
- Dfid: $1,239,693
- Germany: $1,004,811
- Norway: $914,775
- Italy: $461,350
- UNFPA: $407,819
- GIZ: $292,830
- FAO: $246,967
- UNDP + OTHERS: $14,662,698

US$ 42.5 MILLION
2020
To help countries to achieve sustainable development by eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development and building resilience to crises and shocks.

UNDP's vision for its Strategic Plan, 2018–2021