

Pakistan Crisis Report 2023-24



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Introduction

Pakistan is a beautiful country located in South Asia. It has a coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman and is bordered by Afghanistan, China, India, and Iran. The geography of Pakistan is diverse with the Thar Desert in the east and the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges in the north. Geographically, it is also conveniently located to be a part of the global market in South Asia.

The government system is a federal parliamentary republic; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Pakistan has a mixed economic system with a combination of free-market activity and government intervention. Pakistan is a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Pakistan has a population of 184 million people. Religion is very relevant in all regions of the country with an estimated 96 percent of people being Sunni or Shia Muslim. This is important to be aware of when creating programs and systems for development throughout the country because religion affects many lifestyle factors including education as well as social norms (2022, 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom).



(2023). Map of Pakistan, South Asia. *One World-Nations Online*.

Pakistan is currently facing significant challenges across various areas. These challenges include a combination of low economic growth and high inflation, leading to ongoing poverty and unemployment. Energy shortages are causing difficulties for citizens, businesses, and agriculture. Social indicators reveal deficiencies in education, health, population management, gender equality, and social services. The country's law and order situation poses a critical threat to security and the economy. The long-standing fight against terrorism and extremism has resulted in substantial social, economic, and human costs. Additionally, adverse external factors such as climate change, global economic and energy crises, fragility in the global financial system, and stagnation in import demand from developed countries and aid

flows further compound the challenges. To address these issues, there is a need for a consensus-based national vision and a comprehensive strategy that embraces the future based on "The Pakistani Dream," which was fundamental to the movement for the creation of Pakistan. The ultimate goal is for Pakistan to become one of the world's ten largest economies by 2047, marking the centennial year of its independence. Despite the numerous challenges faced, recent internal and external developments offer reasons for optimism in Pakistan.



Zahid, M. (2018). 11 Natural Wonders In Pakistan That Should Be On Your Bucket List. *Culture Trip*.

While our country has shown respectable economic growth and developed significant infrastructure, we acknowledge it still lags behind in human and social capital development and national unity. These challenges may seem daunting, but the Pakistani nation has overcome tremendous odds in the past. Despite skepticism, the country was created and survived its early years due to shared moral purpose and dedicated leadership. To accelerate economic growth, immediate action is needed to unlock the full potential of Pakistan's human resources while creating an enabling environment that sustains inclusive and indigenous growth. (Pakistan2025 vision,

Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)
Pakistan is a country that is still striving to reach its full potential. We have seen how much development in Pakistan can improve during the years 2001 through 2008 when we were able to greatly decrease poverty rates in our country. As you will see throughout this report, Pakistan is home to very driven and inspirational communities that have the ability to make systematic change in the country. We understand that there are serious challenges that inhibit development today and there is no easy solution. However, if we take the correct measures and plan accordingly during these uncertain times, Pakistan can continue to strengthen its economy, decrease inequality and recover from the devastating natural disasters our country has experienced. This report demonstrates our future goals for combating these development issues and increasing the quality of life for all people. Through strong local and national government support and a willingness to challenge systematic beliefs within communities, a sustainable future is possible for Pakistan.



Khurram Husain, Published October 16, 2022, Dawn Newspaper

Economy

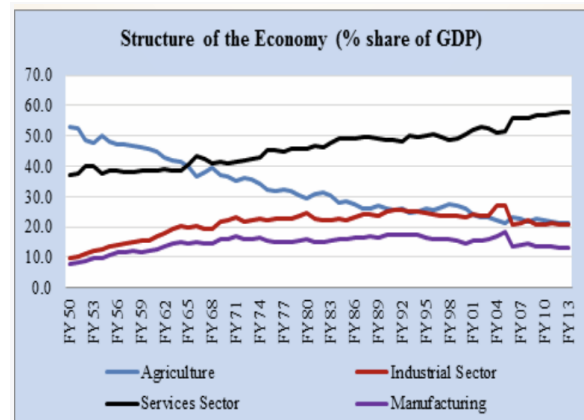
According to a World Bank report on the macro poverty outlook for Pakistan, the poverty rate is expected to increase to 37.2% in 2022-23 if social spending does not increase. Poor households are heavily dependent on agriculture, manufacturing and construction industries are going to face economic shocks. The report also highlights a decline in official remittance inflows by 11.1%, partly due to the exchange rate cap favoring informal non-banking channels which will reduce households' ability to cope with these economic shocks.

The report emphasizes that Pakistan's economy is under stress, characterized by low foreign reserves and high inflation. The country has experienced a decline in activity due to various factors, including policy tightening, flood impacts, import controls, high borrowing and fuel costs, low confidence, and political uncertainty. (World Bank, 2023)

In order to fully comprehend the economic situation in Pakistan right now, we need to take a brief look at its economic history, changes and

challenges it has faced over the years since its creation.

Although in 1947, Pakistan started with a weak economy and lacked industrial infrastructure, during the 1960s, the country experienced rapid economic growth. Sadly, this growth was stopped by the wars in 1965 and 1971. While Pakistan has made progress since then we believe it has not fully reached its potential or initial expectations. (Pakistan2025 vision, Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)

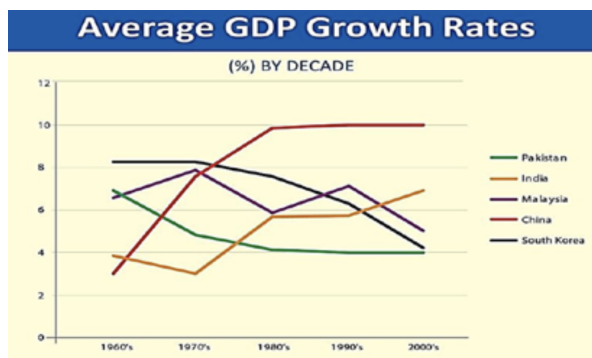


(Pakistan2025 vision, Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)

Over the past six decades, Pakistan's economy has transformed from an agrarian-based economy to one mainly led by the services sector. Currently, the services sector contributes 57.7% to the country's GDP, a significant increase from 38% in 1960. On the other hand, the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP has declined from 46% to 21.4%, while the industrial sector

(excluding manufacturing) has grown from 16% to 20.9%. Despite policy support, the manufacturing sector has not shown significant improvement and only contributes 13.2% to GDP.

Though there has been a shift in our economic focus, agriculture still remains the largest employment sector, employing 43% of the workforce (compared to 65.3% in 1950). Employment in the services sector has grown from 25% to 37%, while the industrial sector's employment share (including manufacturing and non-manufacturing) has increased from 10% to 20%. (Pakistan2025 vision, Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)



(Pakistan2025 vision, Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)

Historically, Pakistan has experienced varying GDP growth rates. Average annual growth rates were 6.8% in the 1960s, 4.8% in the 1970s, 6.5% in the 1980s, 4.6% in the 1990s, and 4.9% in the 2000s. However, in recent years, the average growth rate has slowed to

3.2%. During periods of geo-strategic importance, the economy saw improved growth due to liberal aid inflows, while in other periods, the economy struggled to keep up with the pace of development. (Pakistan2025 vision, Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)

Covid-19 Pandemic

Moving on to more recent global challenges, Pakistan's economy has also been adversely impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic in case of jobs, businesses, and global trade. No one can deny the crucial role exports play in providing jobs, boosting productivity, generating foreign currency, and offering opportunities in the global marketplace. Due to the pandemic, our country experienced a notable decline in exports. In order to get back in the global market and recover our economy, we need to ease import restrictions to enhance competitiveness, promote exports proactively using online platforms, assisting firms in complying with international standards, and upgrading the regulatory environment to support the growth of service exports, particularly in IT and IT-enabled services. We contend that increasing and improving our exports in order to get back to the global market is essential for

our growth and development. (Varel, 2020)

The flood and economy



Rina Saeed Khan Published September 16, 2022

Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. (explained in detail in the “Environmental crises” section). The most recent natural catastrophe was the Summer-2022 flooding which affected an estimated 33 million people and resulted in US\$14.9 billion in damages and US\$15.2 billion in economic losses. (Ahmed, 2022)

This all came at a time when our economy was already facing challenges in restoring macroeconomic and fiscal stability. The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) supplement report, titled 'Asian Development Outlook 2022 Supplement,' predicted that the combination of the flood disruption, significant damage, tight monetary policies, high inflation, and an unfavorable global environment would contribute to a slowdown in our Gross

Domestic Product (GDP) growth. (Dawn, 2022)

We need the global donors and organizations to acknowledge this hazard in our area and implement plans to empower our infrastructure systems against such tragic catastrophes.

Russia-Ukraine War

Additionally, the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine poses a risk to Pakistan's positive economic outlook. The prolonged conflict raised the international oil and food prices, disrupted world trade, affected imports and exports, and increased inflationary pressures. Fuel imports, such as oil, gas, and coal have a significant impact on our import bill and the prices of various goods and services. Volatility in fuel prices contributes to inflation, interest rate fluctuations, and exchange rate volatility. (Khaleeq Kiani, 2022)

In addition, We are aware of our shortcomings in dealing with such adverse shocks in fuel prices. We lack a risk management framework that would buffer such threats. We are also concerned about the fiscal discipline at the provincial levels and are aiming to improve it to reduce the overall consolidated fiscal deficit. Moreover, we are also considering the growing number and size of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), which have incurred

losses and excessive debt, requiring costly government bailouts. The fiscal cost of running such SOEs has worsened our government's financial position. (Khaleeq Kiani, 2022)

Political Uncertainty

The experiences of countries such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, China, India, and Turkey have demonstrated the crucial role of political stability and policy continuity in development. These countries have demonstrated that development cannot occur in a state of instability and chaos. Unfortunately, political instability is one of the biggest domestic issues in Pakistan leading to macroeconomic imbalances. To address the potential imbalances, our government may need to implement certain measures. These measures typically involve monetary tightening and fiscal consolidation. Monetary tightening refers to the process of increasing interest rates and reducing the money supply in the economy. Fiscal consolidation, on the other hand, involves measures taken by the government to reduce its budget deficit and control public spending. It often includes cutting back on government expenditures, increasing taxes, or both. However, these measures can have an impact on economic growth. They may lead to a slowdown in economic activity, as they can reduce consumer

spending, investment, and overall economic demand. (Pakistan2025 vision, Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)

Needs for Aid

There is no doubt that Pakistan has made progress in certain areas, and there are strategies available to address remaining risks. There is a tremendous need for a risk management strategy under the Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms to bring discipline, transparency, and credibility to the budget cycle and create buffers to counter risks. Plus, The development process in Pakistan requires diversifying its economy and technology. We need to address the shortage of highly educated personnel in the science and technology sectors. Entrepreneurship must be fostered in a competitive and incentivized environment. Shortcomings in education, technological upgrading, and industrial diversification deters our country from economic growth. (Education is seen as a threat to elite interests, particularly in agriculture, hindering progress.) Technological development requires associated industrial policies and partnerships with businesses. (Weiss, 2013)

As mentioned before, Pakistan's economy suffers from detrimental macroeconomic imbalances due to

political uncertainty in the country. However, the good news is currently we have a positive indication of increased maturity among political leaders from different parties. There is also a national consensus on economic and national security agendas. By continuing this process, Pakistan can achieve prolonged periods of political and economic stability, which will greatly impact economic growth, income generation and human development.

To ensure credibility and sustained implementation, strong political commitment is necessary for the reform agenda. We suggest such key elements in the agenda:

1. Allowing the exchange rate to be determined by the market, in other words, the value of the Pakistani rupee should be determined by the supply and demand dynamics in the foreign exchange while aligning the fiscal and monetary policies in a way that supports each other's objectives and promotes overall economic stability.
2. Increasing domestic revenue through harmonizing the General Sales Tax (GST), eliminating tax exemptions, and improving asset and property taxation.
3. Controlling and improving the quality of public spending, including reducing subsidies, cutting discretionary recurrent

expenditures, reviewing federal development spending related to provincial mandates, clarifying service delivery responsibilities between provincial and federal governments, and implementing pension reforms.

4. Implementing structural reforms to enhance investment, competitiveness, and productivity, including trade and business regulatory reforms aimed at removing distortions.
(Pakistan2025 vision, Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)

It is worth mentioning that the ninth review of the IMF program in our country was delayed for two months due to disagreements between the PML-N-led government and IMF over certain conditions. Since then, despite our efforts to seek assistance from friendly countries, we have not received the necessary support yet and our government's action has been highly limited. We have high hopes that the negotiations with (IMF) regarding the completion of a \$7 billion loan program will be successful, and the staff-level agreement will be signed soon. Our government is under pressure to implement measures to reach an agreement with the IMF, as the country's reserves are decreasing to a dangerous level. The completion of the ninth review

of the loan program would not only lead to a disbursement of \$1.2 billion to us but also unlock inflows from friendly countries. (“ Pakistan needs significantly more financing for successful bailout review: IMF,2023)

Considering the unique characteristics of Pakistan and its potential in further economic growth, we argue the global donor agencies to contemplate Pakistan's economy and cooperate with us in promoting the “Pakistani dream” again.

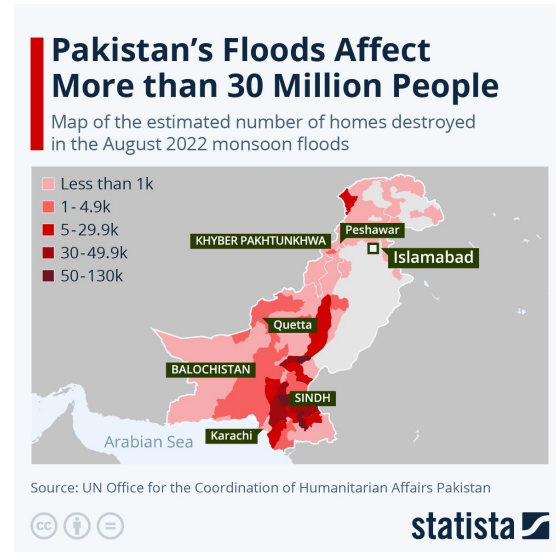


Young Sindh women pose for a 'selfie' as they attend a Sindh Cultural festival in Karachi.
— AFP

Environmental Crisis in Pakistan

Pakistan has been affected directly by the results of climate change causing an environmental crisis that include air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, pesticide misuse, soil erosion, natural disasters, desertification and most detrimental the floods.

According to the 2020 edition of the environmental performance index (EPI) ranking released by Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, Pakistan ranks 142 with an EPI score of 33.1, an increase of 6.1 over a 10-year period. It ranked 180 in terms of air quality. The climatic changes and global warming are one of the most alarming issues risking millions of lives across the country. The major reasons for these environmental issues are carbon emissions, population explosion, and deforestation around the globe. These are serious environmental problems that Pakistan is facing, and they are getting worse as the country's economy expands and the population grows. Although some NGOs and government departments have taken initiatives to stop environmental degradation, Pakistan's environmental issues still remain.



UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Pakistan- Statista

The majority of Pakistan's industrial sectors, for example fishing and agriculture, which account for more than one-fourth of the output and two-fifths of employment in Pakistan, are highly dependent on the country's natural resources. In order to sustain economic growth there is a high demand on already scarce natural resources. According to the World Bank, 70% of Pakistan's population live in rural areas and are already stricken by high poverty levels. The World Bank report in 2013 stated that Pakistan's top environmental issues include air pollution, inadequate supply of uncontaminated drinking water, noise pollution and the health deterioration of urban and rural populations due to pollution. These environmental concerns not only harm Pakistani citizens but also pose a serious threat to the country's economy. The report also stated that the increase in industrialization, urbanization and

motorization will inevitably worsen this problem.



Pakistan floods: The government and civilian volunteers work to deliver relief : NPR

Water and sanitation

Pakistan is classified as a water stressed nation. There are seven main rivers that enter Pakistan from upper riparian states, including the Kabul River that enters from Afghanistan, and the Indus River, Jhelum River, Chenab River, Ravi River, and Sutlej River that enter from India. Among these, the Ravi and Sutlej are diverted in upstream India, for which consumptive use was awarded to India under the Indus Waters Treaty signed in 1960 by India and Pakistan. Canal networks from the Indus (main stem), Jhelum River, and Chenab River supply water throughout the agricultural plains in Punjab and in Sindh, while the rest of the country has very little access to other fresh water.

Lower flows due to the Indus Waters Treaty, as well as diversion to canals, means that lower dilution flows are available within the rivers of

Pakistan. On the other hand, water pollution generation is increasing largely due to the growing economy and population, and lack of water treatment. The sources for water pollution include the overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the dumping of industrial effluent into lakes and rivers, untreated sewage being dumped into rivers and the ocean, and contaminated pipelines being used to transport water. The contamination of fresh drinking water makes it harder for people to find clean water supplies and increases the prevalence of waterborne diseases. We need systematic plans and education methods to combat these issues. Consequently, most of the reported health problems in Pakistan are either a direct or indirect result of polluted water. 45% of infant deaths are due to diarrhea and 60% to overall waterborne diseases (World Bank).

Air Pollution

The megacities of Pakistan, such as Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi, face the issue of noise pollution. The main source of this pollution is the traffic noise caused by buses, cars, trucks, rickshaws and water tankers.

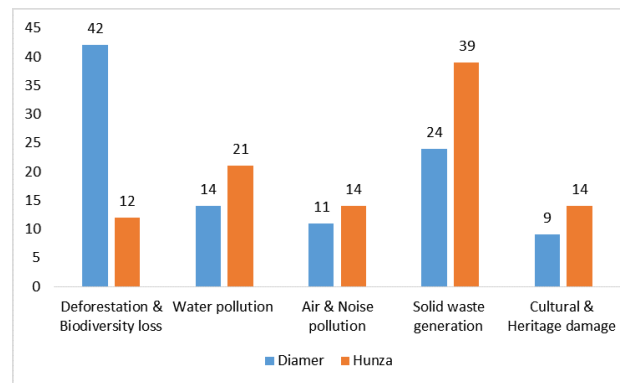


Fearing court sanctions, Pakistan starts tackling its air pollution problems: Scroll.in

From the University of Medical and Health Sciences they have concluded that in Pakistan, the traffic noise levels limit as laid down by National Environment Quality standards, Environmental Protection Agency is 85 dB. Air pollution is a growing environmental problem in most major cities of Pakistan. According to a World Bank report, Karachi's urban air pollution is among the most severe in the world and it engenders significant damages to human health and the economy. The inefficient use of energy, an increase in the number of vehicles used daily, an increase in unregulated industrial emissions and the burning of garbage and plastic have contributed the most to air pollution in urban areas. According to a recent study, the Sindh Environment Protection Department claims that the average level of pollution in big cities is approximately four times higher than the World Health Organisation's limits. These emissions have detrimental effects, including respiratory diseases, reduced visibility, loss of vegetation and an effect on the

growth of plants. Pakistan needs a plan to regulate the pollution levels.

One of the greatest contributors to air pollution is industrial activity. The inadequate air emission treatments and lack of regulatory control over industrial activity has contributed to the deterioration of ambient air quality in major cities. In addition, the common practice of burning massive amounts of solid waste, including plastic and rubber, on street corners by the public, releases toxic gasses, which are extremely harmful for residents in the area.



Environmental issues in the districts of Diامر & Hunza | Scientific Diagram

Strategies and Solutions for Air Pollution

In 2018, a young entrepreneur in Karachi, Abid Omar, launched the Pakistan Air Quality Initiative to monitor air quality in Pakistan's big cities. The project aims to increase the availability of air quality data in Pakistan and make citizens more aware of the health impacts of air pollution. The US State

Department has set up three high-quality air quality monitoring stations at three locations in Pakistan. Some strategies that can be used to effectively manage Pakistan's urban air pollution problems include the advancements to road design and improvement of transport sustainability, and a conversion to clean fuel energy alternatives.

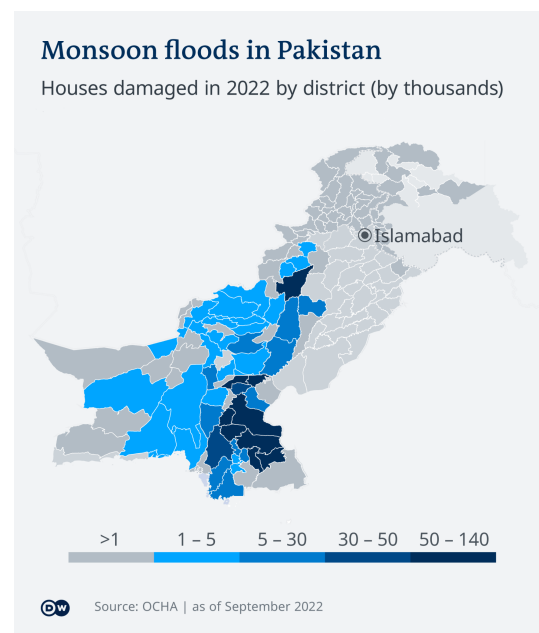
Energy Crisis

January 24, 2023 darkness engulfed Pakistan as its aging power grid strained to meet the country's demand for electricity. The massive outage was the latest in a series of blackouts that have become a chronic symptom of Pakistan's ailing and climate-vulnerable economy, under duress from devastating natural disasters, a colossal debt load, and the mounting risk of sovereign default. The electricity grid, established prior to Pakistan's 1947 independence and largely constructed in the 1960s, is suffering from a dangerous lack of maintenance and investment. Pakistan is also running low on the imported fossil fuels that power the grid, with prices skyrocketing since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. (Berman)

Pakistan Floods and Earthquakes

Climate change is a contributing factor to the severity of the 2010

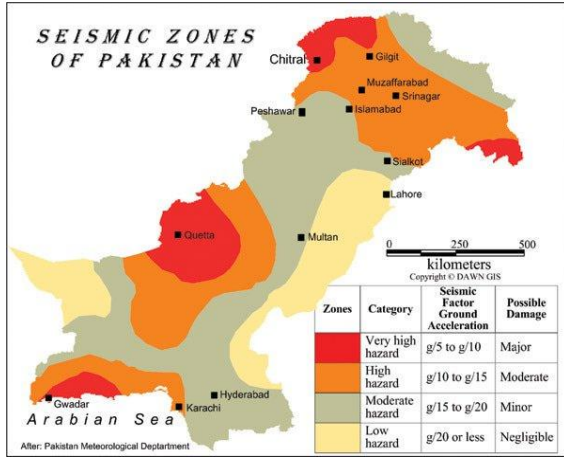
Pakistan floods. The climate of Pakistan has changed over the past several decades, with significant impacts on the environment and people. In addition to increased heat, drought and extreme weather in parts of the country, the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas has impacted some of the important rivers of Pakistan. Between 1999 and 2018, Pakistan ranked 5th in the countries affected by extreme weather caused by climate change (Eckstein, Global Climate Risk Index).



Monsoon floods in Pakistan- OCHA

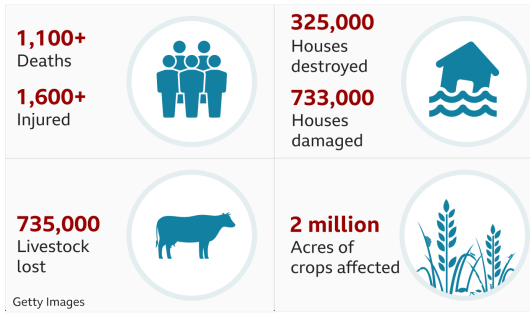
Due to Pakistan's diverse land and climatic conditions, it is prone to different forms of natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, droughts, cyclones and hurricanes. A disaster management report claims that the provinces of Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan are vulnerable seismic

regions and hence highly susceptible to earthquakes, while Sindh and Punjab constantly suffer from floods because they are low-lying areas.



Some of the worst natural disasters that Pakistan has faced include the 1935 Quetta earthquake when around 60,000 people were killed, the 1950 floods when an estimated 2900 people died and 900,000 people were left homeless, the 1974 Hunza earthquake where around 5300 people were killed, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake that killed at least 73,000 and affected more than 1.5 million people, and the 2010 floods, where 20 million people were affected. (DAWN).

Pakistan floods situation report



Source: Pakistan Government, UN, 30 Aug 2022

Pakistan floods situation report- BBC

The government has expressed concern about environmental threats to economic growth and social development and since the early 1990s has addressed environmental concerns with new legislation and institutions such as the Pakistan Environment Protection Council. However, foreign lenders provide most environmental protection funds, and only 0.04 percent of the government's development budget goes to environmental protection. The government's ability to enforce environmental regulations is limited, and private industries often lack the funds to meet environmental standards established by international trade organizations. The government of Pakistan starts a new campaign with Clean and Green Pakistan to tackle these environmental issues.



The Anatomy of Pakistan's 2022 Floods – The Diplomat

Clean Green Champion Program

An initiative named Clean Green Pakistan was launched in 2019 by the Government of Pakistan. The idea of the initiative was to hold a competition between cities of Pakistan in cleanliness and greenery. A web portal was launched where citizens can get registered and report their activities to earn points. Citizens would also be awarded medals when they reach a certain threshold of points.

Billion Tree Tsunami

As a response to the effects of global warming, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government launched the Billion Tree Tsunami in 2014. Through its Billion Tree Tsunami, Pakistan has restored 350,000 hectares of forest and degraded land to surpass its Bonn Challenge commitment. Through effective promotion and extension services, the project aims to improve the ecosystems of classified forests, private

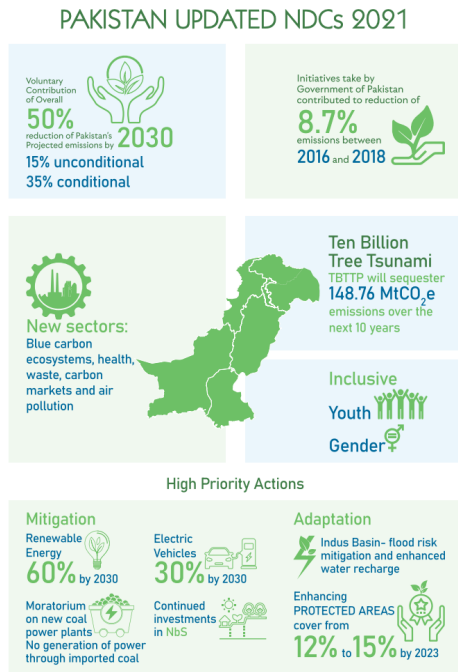
wastelands, and farmlands, and as such will involve working closely with community members and stakeholders to ensure their meaningful participation in the project. During the past year, it has planted three-quarters of a billion trees as part of a "tree tsunami" intended to reverse forest conditions deterioration. Project completion occurred ahead of schedule in August 2017.



Billion Tree Tsunami- Stats

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Since 2017 USAID's efforts have helped Pakistan prevent 55 million tons of carbon emissions. This has helped Pakistan achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030.



Pakistan NDC commits to halving emissions, finance key | The Third Pole

Climate Smart Agriculture

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will launch a new, five-year Climate Smart Agriculture program in Pakistan in 2023 to strengthen the resilience of Pakistani farming communities facing climate change. The activity will facilitate climate-smart farm management practices, increase the use of digital technology, and help grow Pakistani agricultural technology firms.

National Conservation Strategy

The Conservation Strategy Report has three explicit objectives: conservation of natural resources,

promotion of sustainable development, and improvement of efficiency in the use and management of resources. It sees itself as a "call for action" addressed to central and provincial governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local communities, and individuals.

The primary agricultural nonpoint source pollutants are nutrients, sediment, animal wastes, pesticides, and salts. Agricultural nonpoint sources enter surface water through direct surface runoff or through seepage to groundwater that discharges to a surface water outlet. Various farming activities result in the erosion of soil particles. The sediment produced by erosion can damage fish habitat and wetlands, and often transports excess agricultural chemicals resulting in contaminated runoff. This runoff, in turn, affects changes to aquatic habitat such as temperature increases and decreased oxygen. The most common sources of excess nutrients in surface water from nonpoint sources are chemical fertilizers and manure from animal facilities. Such nutrients cause eutrophication in surface water. Pesticides used for pest control in agricultural operations can also contaminate surface as well as ground-water resources. Return flows, runoff, and leach ate from irrigated lands may transport sediment, nutrients, salts, and other materials. Finally, improper

grazing practices in riparian areas, as well as upland areas, can also cause water quality degradation. The development of Pakistan is viewed as a multigenerational enterprise.

In seeking to transform attitudes and practices, the National Conservation Strategy recognizes that two key changes in values are needed: the restoration of the conservation ethic derived from Islamic moral values, called Qantas, and the revival of community spirit and responsibility, Haqooq ul Ibad. The National Conservation Strategy Report recommends fourteen program areas for priority implementation: maintaining soils in croplands, increasing efficiency of irrigation, protecting watersheds, supporting forestry and plantations, restoring rangelands and improving livestock, protecting water bodies and sustaining fisheries, conserving biodiversity, increasing energy efficiency, developing and deploying renewable resources, preventing or decreasing pollution, managing urban wastes, supporting institutions to manage common resources, integrating population and environmental programs, and preserving the cultural heritage. It identifies sixty-eight specific programs in these areas, each with a long-term goal and expected outputs and physical investments required within ten years. Special attention has been paid to the potential roles of environmental NGOs,

women's organizations, and international NGOs in working with the government in its conservation efforts.

Recommendations from the National Conservation Strategy Report are incorporated in the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1993–98).

Climate and Clean Air Coalition

A Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) partner since 2017, Pakistan has received support for activities in the bricks, household energy, agriculture, and waste sectors. In 2021, Pakistan started work with the CCAC on national planning for short-lived climate pollutant mitigation. The National Transport Policy of Pakistan, announced in 2018, outlines eight key policy objectives for the country's transport sector, including fostering sustainable urban development and preserving the environment. Actions such as improving fuel standards, promoting sustainable modes of transport, and implementing a regulatory framework will be used to achieve these objectives. Together with the UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), the CCAC is carrying out activities in Pakistan to help reduce pollution.



The Climate of Pakistan - About Pakistan

Environmental Aid, Planning and Development

Pakistan has been combating each of these environmental issues for decades. Without global aid there is no possibility for Pakistani programs to continue to fight this crisis. Pakistan needs a systematic environmental plan to combat the floods, earthquakes, land

degradation, energy crisis, sanitation and more. As a country we are aware of the problems and with $\frac{1}{3}$ of our country being under water it is of utmost importance to see how these environmental disasters are harming this country's people, land, economy, and society. This is an opportunity for environmental aid to implement goals, humanitarian action and financial need to existing programs. With this a global push to influence our government to spend more resources on environmental restoration. Pakistan needs additions to the aid that has already been eradicated including financial resources, written agreements, goals and humanitain aid to effectively calm the environmental crisis.

Gender Inequalities and Education

Gender Inequality in Pakistan

According to the Global Gender Gap Index, Pakistan is ranked the second lowest in the world for gender inequality and is also the 6th most populated country (Gender Equality). Women are underrepresented in the workforce with a 34 percent wage gap between men and women (UN Women Pakistan). This is a result of the inability for women to access education and the social norms in the country. This inequality forces women to depend on men in their lives for financial security.

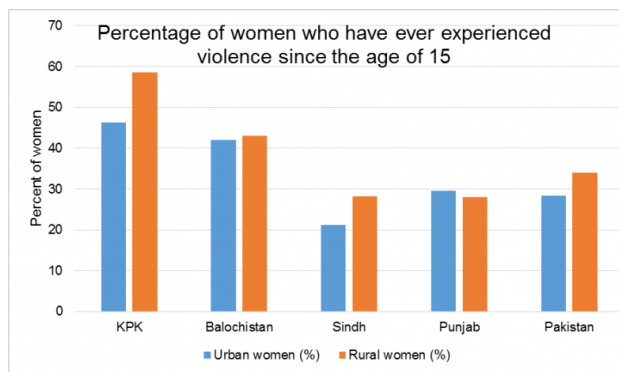


Table showing how many women face violence in different provinces in Pakistan and that women in rural areas are disproportionately affected by this violence. Haider, M. (2014). The Continued Abuse of Pushtun Women. Dawn.

Women face a lot of violence, oftentimes from their husbands or other family members. It is not uncommon for women to experience sexual violence, domestic abuse and in its extreme, honor killings. The UN did a report that

showed that 34 percent of women who had been married had experienced abuse from their husbands. They also emphasized that 50 percent of these women did not seek help against the violence (UN Women Pakistan).

In Pakistan many people believe that a woman's role is to get married, and take care of household responsibilities. Some interpretations of Islam promote the idea that a woman is the property of a man which causes extreme gender inequality (Brightman, 2015).

National Gender Policy Framework

The Pakistani government recently passed the National Gender Policy Framework, which is an act to prevent rape and Domestic Violence Against Women. This law has many objectives that help to empower women in society. They aim to implement inclusive policies within the government and provide education for women that will give them skills they can use to make an income in society. They also made the goal to create more job opportunities for women in environments where they feel safe and create strong security systems to make sure that this is implemented. The last goal of the National Gender Policy Framework emphasizes adequate sanitation in places where women are receiving education so that this does not hinder their ability to learn (Usman, 2022). Creating this law is

a step in the right direction for gender equality in the country.

Barriers in Education for Women

Overall, enrollment in school for both men and women has been increasing in Pakistan, however these numbers are still very low and women are significantly less likely to receive an education than men. The Malala Fund describes how only 13 percent of girls in Pakistan reach 9th grade (Pakistan has made significant progress for girls' education in the last decade — but 12 million girls are out of school, with only 13% of girls reaching grade nine). There are many circumstances where young girls do not have access to schools or do not feel comfortable in the environment in which they are expected to learn. Educating women is one of the first steps to improving the overall gender equality for women in Pakistan.

Inadequate Infrastructure

Poor infrastructure in schools disproportionately affects girls' education. The 2018 WaterAid report explains that only 1 in 3 schools in Pakistan have any restrooms for the students to use. People have to walk out into the fields to use the bathroom which causes young girls a lot of fear and anxiety about things like getting molested or being bitten by snakes. Many girls will go home from school and not return to their classes for the rest

of the day due to this inadequate sanitation. Girls who are on their periods will also miss up to weeks of school at a time because they do not have sanitary resources at school to feel safe and comfortable. This causes many students to even drop out of school when they start puberty. (Quddus, 2022)



A School in Nawabshah where the school buildings are no longer safe to have class in so students sit outside.
Hasan, S. (2014). Schools with no students, students without schools. *Dawn*.

Success in Gwadar

Gwadar is a rural city in the Balochistan Province of Pakistan. Many people living in this region are very poor and there are very low numbers of women being educated. The Beijing-based China Foundation for Peace and Development created a solution for this lack of education by building the China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School. China also had motivation to support development in this region because it is part of the Belt and Road Initiative. The school has about 15 qualified teachers and 550 girls enrolled. It is now a middle school and

was recently expanded in 2020 (China Funded School in Gwadar Providing Free Education to 550 Girl Students from Low-Income Families, 2023). Gwadar now meets the UN Global Goal for educating Women (News Desk, 2023). This is an example of how aid can be effective in communities facing poverty and implementing similar programs where girls can get an education would help improve equality in Pakistan.

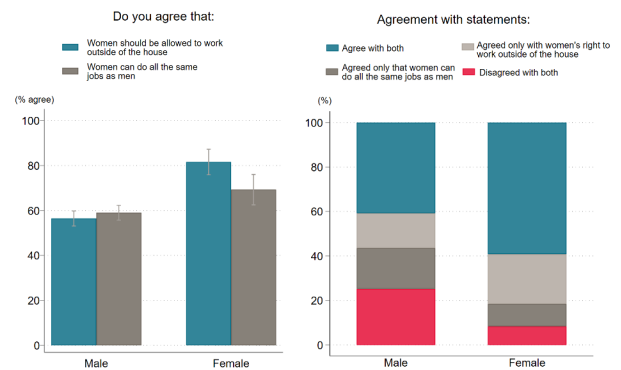


Map showing Pakistan’s provinces and we can see that Gwadar is located in the very south of Balochistan. (2021) Maps of Pakistan. *World Atlas*.

Social Norms of Marriage

Marriage is seen as a very important role for women in society. Families begin saving up money for a girl's dowry as soon as she is born. Often times, this means that they are not able to pay for girls to get an education since they are prioritizing preparation for marriage (Noureen, 2015). Marriage is valued so much in society that many girls will drop out of school to get married which prevents them from

completing their education. Lack of education also exacerbates the issue of child marriage because many girls are not aware of their rights and do not have the power to make decisions for themselves or their family. Educating women is extremely important to helping girls feel empowered and confident in themselves and in their beliefs (Munir, 2022).



Graph showing the presence of gender inequality in Pakistan. Minardi, A., et al. (2021). Promoting Gender Equality in Pakistan Means Tackling Both Real and Misperceived Gender Norms. *Center for Global Development*.

Lack of Government Involvement

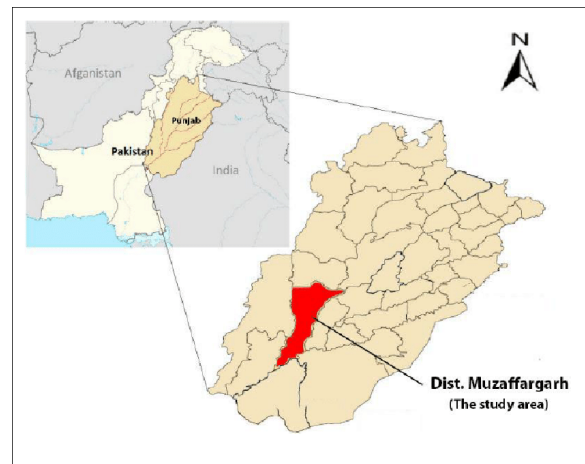
According to the Malala Fund, the government only uses 6 percent of the country's GDP for education (Pakistan has made significant progress for girls’ education in the last decade — but 12 million girls are out of school, with only 13% of girls reaching grade nine). The government in Pakistan has created a policy that ensures quality education however, many girls do not have access to or cannot afford to attend government schools which forces them to rely on cheaper private schools. Regulations on schools are not established nationwide,

therefore the quality of education varies greatly depending on where a person lives. People who live in rural communities are far more disadvantaged when it comes to access to schools. More funding for education is also necessary in order to have well trained teachers. Increasing the number of female teachers could also encourage more girls to get an education in a more supportive environment (Shall I Feed My Daughter, or Educate Her?, 2018).



China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School
Shakeel S. Pak-China Government School: A New Hope for the
Girls of Gwadar. *Youlin Magazine*.

Umme Kalsoom's Programs



Visual of where Muzaffargarh is geographically.
Khan, N. Figure 1. *Research Gate*.

The Social Youth Council of Patriots (SYCP) is a program that was developed by Umme Kalsoom who is now also the executive director of it. This program was based in Punjab, Pakistan and aims to improve education accessibility for girls. A grant from the Malala Fund in 2019 allowed Kalsoom to create a program that was similar to the first, in the region of Muzaffargarh. There are many aspects to this program that have been very impactful for girls' access to education. Firstly, it focuses on bringing together government officials and community members to discuss how schools can be made more accessible for young girls. Kalsoom has also worked on training counselors to observe schools and identify some of the key factors that prevent girls from being successful in classrooms. Implementing evening classes in schools is another part of this

program that could be very influential on girls' education. Many girls are expected to work and help their family during the day so this could make it possible for them to still attend classes. There is also a focus on improving sanitation in schools and the quality of training for teachers, which is addressed by lobbying the government. This could affect policy changes and make a difference in sanitary regulations around the country. After implementing this program in Muzaffargarh, Kalsoom hopes to continue implementing similar programs in other provinces in Pakistan and continue making a difference for girls all over the country (Umme Kalsoom Seyal).



Umme kalsoom Seyal. *Malala Fund*

Sex Education and Family Planning



HER Pakistan: Leading Menstrual Movement in Pakistan. *HER.*

Puberty continues to be a barrier for girls' education in Pakistan. Educating people about what periods are and making period products accessible to girls who cannot afford them is necessary to reaching gender equality in the country.

HER

HER Pakistan is an international organization run by women to educate young girls on what to expect during puberty and fight against stigmas that exist about menstruation. They have programs that teach students along with their teachers and parents about sexual health as well as period product drives to make sanitary products available to girls. They also advise the government to make policies that involve menstrual health. The organization's website provides a quote by one of the teachers that has been impacted by the HER programs. Bakhtwar says "I really appreciate that HER Pakistan is changing

the idea that a woman's body is associated with shame. This idea is so deep rooted that girls are embarrassed to carry sanitary napkins and underwear with them. I am happy that this session was able to break stereotypes and help girls appreciate their bodies.” HER has had a big impact on many women’s lives in Pakistan and will continue to break social norms and stigma about reproductive health (HER Pakistan).

Jhpiego

The UNFPA describes that Pakistan has very high rates of maternal and child death. They work with governments in Pakistan to help integrate reproductive health information into their health

provider training. Jhpiego is another organization that is making a big impact on women’s health in Islamabad, Pakistan as well as many other countries around the world. They work with the UNFPA in Pakistan to help medical centers be more prepared to help pregnant women and make different types of contraceptives more available. They also train health professionals on how and when to use different contraceptive methods. These medical professionals attempt to reach more women in Pakistan by going to people’s homes and discussing contraception and family planning. Jhpiego is reaching an increasing number of families and making a big difference in reproductive health around Pakistan (Jhpiego).

Conclusion

Pakistan is confronted with a significant economic, environmental and social crisis. However, We are determined to address these problems and take actions to resolve them in the best possible way. In the economy section, we aim to increase our GDP growth rate, reduce poverty level, and decrease the inflation rate. Moreover, we aspire to decrease inequality through education for everyone in Pakistan and decrease mortality rates for mothers and children by making reproductive healthcare more accessible. We also strive to restore regions that have been hit with devastating natural disasters and decrease the effects it has had on communities.

We are optimistic in our ability to enhance the quality of life for people all over Pakistan and hopefully, with the help of international donors we will be able to reach more populations and make a greater difference in the world we all are living in. We look forward to your support in creating a better economy, environment and education system in Pakistan.



AFP Published January 6, 2017, Dawn Newspaper



(Pakistan2025 vision, Ministry of planning, development and reform, Government of Pakistan)

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