Pakistan’s road freight transportation system relies mainly on trucks that are more than 30 years old and are highly inefficient. An estimated 293,000 freight trucks were operating on Pakistan’s roads in 2005.

Pakistan Sustainable Transport

Pakistan’s recent economic growth has been accompanied by higher incomes and affluence, an increase in private vehicle ownership, and a significant increase in road freight traffic. The country also has one of the most urbanised populations in Asia with an estimated 57.14 urban citizens in 2008, representing 35 percent of the population.

At the same time, there has been little investment in public transportation and inefficient and outdated commercial vehicles continue to operate in urban areas, raising pollution levels and increase public safety risks.

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Faced with overcrowded roadways, increasing commute times, and higher levels of air pollution, provincial and city governments are increasingly demanding economically viable and energy efficient transportation alternatives.

Pakistan Sustainable Transport (PAKSTRAN) is an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility. It provides technical assistance to reduce the growth of energy consumption and related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Pakistan’s transport sector, while improving urban environmental conditions and trade competitiveness.

**Expected results**

- Punjab and Sindh provinces will have operational and sustainable urban transport systems.
- Freight transport trucks will be more fuel efficient.
- The project will increase public awareness and institutional knowledge about sustainable transport.

**What’s next?**

- The project will take a holistic approach to energy efficiency in the trucking industry by introducing innovative financial mechanisms, strengthening institutions and regulations, and reducing fuel consumption.
- Route feasibility studies and passenger load assessments have been initiated in Punjab province.
- The project will also raise awareness of issues related to sustainable urban transport and commercial vehicle fuel efficiency through targeted publicity campaigns and will support curriculum development in technical and academic institutions.

**Where we work**

**Objective**

- PAKSTRAN will improve urban environmental conditions – including air quality, urban mobility and city aesthetics – and enhance energy security.