

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Community Resilience

Building resilience to conflicts and disasters is at the very heart of UNDP's work. UNDP helps to strengthen development gains by helping governments and communities prepare and respond to crisis and mitigate the risks they pose; addressing the underlying causes of violence and supporting livelihoods.

Community resilience refers to the ability of any given community to utilise local resources to respond constructively to unexpected changes in their lives. A resilient community is one where healthy and engaged individuals participate actively in a welcoming, sustainable environment that has strong links to neighbouring communities and the government.

When crisis affects a population that is vulnerable due to poverty, social and economic inequalities or ethnic and religious tensions, their weakened coping mechanisms and resilience are tested to the maximum. The regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Balochistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) host some of the poorest people in Pakistan, lagging behind other provinces across a wide range of social and economic indicators.

The combined effects of multiple crises lead to development reversals that severely undermine Pakistan's ability to meet national development targets and, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



MATTERS OF FACT

- Poverty levels reduced by **5** percent in target areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan since 2010
- **60,000** people have come together in nearly **2,410** community organizations, including **879** women's organizations
- A total of **4,096** individuals have been trained in employable skills in the target districts of KP and Balochistan
- **15** percent increase in household incomes of more than **4,000** people due to skills enhancement efforts
- **756,000** people in KP and Balochistan benefitted from projects rehabilitating local irrigation channels and farm-to-market projects and village roads
- More than **937,500** people including **484,186** women benefitted from local infrastructure projects that helped restore and rehabilitate community infrastructure in the crisis affected Swat District
- **585** local infrastructure projects were carried out, including road and drainage channel improvements
- **48** disaster management authorities trained at the national and sub-national levels
- More than **126,000** people participated in flood protection measures in Balochistan and KP

UNDP in Pakistan invests in pro-poor development initiatives to help strengthen community resilience in our priority areas of KP, FATA and Balochistan. We strengthen efforts towards building resilience so that individuals and communities could more readily overcome economic and development setbacks caused by natural and man-made disasters and crises. Our focus on strengthening community resilience contributes to longer term development goals, such as livelihood creation and the increased legitimacy of the state through improved public institutions and services.

We help communities identify and analyse their development needs and train them to find sustainable solutions for those needs. Our approach places

communities at the forefront of the decision-making process. All our work is community-led and helps raise the living standards of communities by focusing on providing health, education and livelihood facilities, building infrastructure and fostering local economies. In all our projects 5-10 percent of the cost is being shared by the communities themselves.

Community empowerment

UNDP works to foster community dialogue and planning by helping to create official entities to represent the interests of the community. In many areas, this is achieved by creating separate community organizations for men and women. Once formed, these organizations receive training on community empowerment, project management and oversight.

Women's organizations play a central role in empowering women in the community. Women are trained to manage financial resources which helps improve living conditions in their households. On many occasions the needs identified by the women's community organizations are more responsive to the needs of children and vulnerable groups in the community.

Expanding basic community infrastructure and access to social services

Based on community needs assessments, communities are trained as they carry out the construction of basic community infrastructure. While the scope of the infrastructure varies from one community to another, expanding basic infrastructure, education and health facilities remain key priorities.

UNDP helps with the expansion of community infrastructure and improves living conditions by providing access to basic services and local markets, enhancing food security and promoting livelihoods. This also contributes to poverty reduction in the long term.

Promoting sustainable livelihoods

UNDP works with communities, households and diverse local and international partners to build capacities for sustainable livelihoods – particularly through improving conditions for employment creation and income earning opportunities.

UNDP helps communities fill their skills gaps and improves livelihoods by providing training and skill development

programmes in agriculture, water management, irrigation and sewing. Special emphasis is placed on targeting vulnerable groups, widows and female headed households. Links to local markets are secured to ensure sustainability of livelihoods, jumpstart local economies and prevent people from slipping back into poverty once the programme is completed.

Disaster risk management

UNDP works to strengthen the institutional capacities of national, provincial and district disaster management authorities with hazard and risk identification maps and by establishing early warning systems; it increases community resilience by providing tools for preparedness, evacuation, mitigation and recovery plans; and it supports institutions and communities in reducing risks by developing incentives to encourage flood and earthquake resistant construction in accordance with the building codes of Pakistan.

UNDP guides policy, trains communities and integrates risk reduction strategies into national development plans.

Preventing armed violence

UNDP's work in preventing armed violence involves working with local communities and governments to set up ways to manage disputes through inclusive participation and dialogue. Our work on armed violence prevention focuses on the identification of specific drivers of armed violence and conflict in KP and FATA.

We support national and local institutions and leadership in their efforts to help advance Government policies to address armed violence at the provincial and national levels. Communities work in close coordination with local governments to improve policy development to address armed violence. We empower vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth, to participate in decision-making and building collective skills for a more resilient society.

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4th Floor, Serena Business Complex
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May 2014

